NWF: Moratorium Ruling Shows System Tilted in Big Oil's Favor

WASHINGTON, DC (June 22, 2010) – A federal judge in New Orleans today blocked President Obama's six month step-back from deepwater offshore drilling in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon disaster that killed 11 workers and spilled up to 127 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. The Obama administration immediately announced plans to appeal to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Larry Schweiger, president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, said today:

"What does it say about our system that even the president of the United States can't pause Big Oil's dangerous deepwater drilling? This ruling demonstrates that our entire system – from acquiescent regulators to apologetic members of Congress to a compliant judiciary – is tilted in Big Oil's favor.

"Big Oil will stop at nothing to exploit every last drop of America's natural resources. If oil companies won't take a step back to examine safety procedures now as millions of gallons of oil invade the Gulf's critical wetlands and pristine white sands, they never will.

"If one blowout costs thousands of jobs across the Gulf Coast, what destruction would another blowout bring as a direct result of this reckless decision?"

While litigant Hornbeck Offshore Services claims 10,000 jobs are impacted by the drilling moratorium, Moody's estimates that, even in the best case scenario, the BP oil disaster will cost 16,000 people their jobs along the Gulf Coast, along with more than $1 billion in gross domestic product.

***

The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

###

For Immediate Release: June 22, 2010

Contact:
Jeremy Symons, National Wildlife Federation, 202-306-7902 (cell), Symons@NWF.org
Miles Grant, National Wildlife Federation, 202-797-6855, GrantM@NWF.org