



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FLINT HILLS RESOURCES, LP RECEIVES  
INTERNATIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION AWARD**

BALTIMORE, MD—Employees at Flint Hills Resources’s Pine Bend Refinery received international recognition today for their contributions to wildlife habitat conservation at the Wildlife Habitat Council’s (WHC) 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium, *Collaborations for Conservation<sup>SM</sup>: Maximizing Landscape Potential*. Flint Hills Resources, a subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc. demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship and increasing native biodiversity by achieving habitat recertification at the Pine Bend Refinery.

“When WHC was formed in 1988, the founders conceived a new and innovative concept of bringing together conservation and business. WHC assists corporate landowners in providing valuable wildlife habitat on their properties. Pioneering approaches to habitat management provide our members with the knowledge and tools to enhance and restore land, water and living resources. Congratulations to Flint Hills Resources for their commendable efforts towards the restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Through knowledge and passion, we can promote a greater understanding of the natural world,” said Bill Howard, WHC President.

Flint Hills Resources, L.P.’s Pine Bend Refinery is located across the highway from an area known as the Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area. Flint Hill’s property encompasses about 700 acres within the 1300 total acres of the Mississippi River Bluff tract. A subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc., Flint Hills owns approximately 3000 contingent acres, much of it dedicated as a buffer to the refinery.

A strong employee team has been extremely busy with a variety of different projects. In spring 2001, the team conducted a tree planting and replaced withered oaks that were originally planted in 2000. This forest management project is in conjunction with ongoing, intensive management of the invasive buckthorn that plagues many areas within Minnesota. In 2002, the team initiated further invasive species management by tackling garlic mustard within forested areas. The team, known as the “Pine Bend Natural Area Restoration Group,” also continued to manage their sand gravel prairie areas on the southern face of the bluffs. Activities included cutting back edges of the prairie openings, spraying cut stumps and brush-cutting and gathering seed for reseeding hard to reach areas. A successful prescribed burn of one section of the prairie was conducted in May, 2003.

The Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area includes 26 bluebird nest boxes, and the wildlife team recruited a ‘bluebird technical advisor’ to join the team and develop a monitoring program. Other species monitored include one kestrel nest box and one barred owl nest box. Additional components of the wildlife program include annual river cleanups, developing a new web page showcasing the wildlife and restoration program, acquiring team member badges and initiating a comprehensive cataloguing exercise of all species on-site.

The employee-led wildlife team at the site has built strong partnerships with many groups within the environmental community. Flint Hills developed a ‘Planting and Restoration Agreement’ with Friends of the Mississippi River

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and works closely with Great River Greening, both local conservation groups. Minnesota Native Landscapes, Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources have also assisted on the project.

Pine Bend Refinery was one of 130 sites recognized at the 2003 Symposium for creating a habitat program. Since 1990, WHC has certified 334 programs worldwide. The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

The Wildlife Habitat Council is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. More than 2 million acres in 48 states, Puerto Rico and 16 other countries are managed for wildlife through WHC-assisted projects. For more information, visit WHC online at [www.wildlifehc.org](http://www.wildlifehc.org).