



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts:

Vanessa Kauffman, Wildlife Habitat Council, 301-588-8994, vkauffman@wildlifehc.org

Rich Tuttle, Flint Hills Resources, 361-242-8572

**FLINT HILLS RESOURCES CORPUS CHRISTI COMPLEX RECEIVES
INTERNATIONAL HABITAT CONSERVATION AWARD**

BALTIMORE, MD—Employees working with Flint Hills Resources Wildlife Learning Preserve in Corpus Christi, Texas today received international recognition for their wildlife habitat conservation efforts during the Wildlife Habitat Council's (WHC) 15th Anniversary Symposium, *Collaborations for ConservationSM: Maximizing Landscape Potential*. Flint Hills Resources demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship and increasing native biodiversity by achieving habitat recertification at the Wildlife Learning Preserve - Corpus Christi Complex.

“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 its commendable efforts to restore and enhance wildlife habitat. Through knowledge and passion, we can promote a greater understanding of the natural world,” said Bill Howard, WHC President.

The Flint Hills Resources Corpus Christi Complex includes a petroleum refinery and petrochemical plant sited upon 2,000 acres. The company has set aside a 130-acre tract – the Flint Hills Resources Wildlife Learning Preserve – managed by the Flint Hills Wildlife Council to protect and enhance the wetlands and wildlife habitat area. Flint Hills Resources utilizes the area to educate teachers and students, ranging from fifth grade to adults, about the principles of wetland ecology and wildlife habitat management. The Wildlife Preserve is sited among 650 acres of undeveloped buffer land east of the Corpus Christi West Facility.

The 22-member Wildlife Council, formed in 2000, has initiated and maintained a number of habitat enhancement projects. Flint Hills Resources received a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program in 2000 to restore water levels in wetlands on-site, construct nesting enhancements for whistling ducks and osprey, and create access improvements and interpretive hiking trails. The project results include restoring water levels and vegetative diversity at an 8.5-acre wetland pond, installing three nest boxes for whistling ducks, and constructing and installing a nest platform for osprey. In addition, the Wildlife Council constructed a visitor parking area, butterfly gardens, an interpretive walking trail and a footbridge.

The nearly mile-long trail guides employees and visitors through a variety of vegetation and habitats, including wetlands, mud flats, upland grasses and tamaulipan shrub. The Wildlife Council is also involved with planting trees, conducting bird inventories, installing signs, implementing a nest-monitoring program, identifying various wildflowers in the area, and identifying various types of butterflies in the area. In December 2000, Flint Hills Resources permanently protected the Wildlife Learning Preserve by placing the property under a conservation easement donated to the Coastal Bend Land Trust.

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8737 Colesville Road, Suite 800, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Tel: 301-588-8994 • Fax: 301-588-4629
www.wildlifehc.org • Whc@wildlife.org

Flint Hills Resources' Wildlife Learning Preserve at the Corpus Christi, Texas Complex was one of 130 sites recognized at the 2003 Symposium. Since 1990, WHC has certified 334 sites 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.

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