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Fish and Wildlife Service celebrates Endangered Species Day with partners in the community

Recovery Efforts for the Federally Endangered Short's Goldenrod in Kentucky

On May 16, 2008, The Southeast Region of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service celebrates Endangered Species Day. In every southeastern state, Service staff will join their conservation partners - State natural resources agencies, conservation organizations, businesses, and the public - to recognize the ongoing efforts and accomplishments being made on behalf of the Region's 322 federally listed species.

"Our celebration of Endangered Species Day is an opportunity to showcase success stories of partnership, vision, and dedication that have allowed us to make progress in recovering species such as the Short's goldenrod," said Sam. D. Hamilton, the Service's Southeast Regional Director. "The Day also provides great opportunities to host events educating people about endangered species, the threats they face, and what can be done to help them."

In Kentucky, the Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office will be partnering with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest, Southern Conservation Corp., the Federal Highways Administration, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to introduce approximately 200 plants of the federally endangered Short's goldenrod (*Solidago shortii*) at two sites in Harrison County. A population first established in 2006 near the Licking River in Claysville will be augmented with additional plants; and other plants will be placed at a nearby, protected site along Beaver Creek, a Licking River tributary. "The distribution of Short's goldenrod is currently limited to 13 small populations near the Licking River in northeastern Kentucky and 1 population in southern Indiana," noted Dr. Michael A. Floyd, Endangered Species Recovery Biologist with the Kentucky Field Office. "These plantings in Harrison County will help us recover the species by expanding its current range outside of the primary population, which occurs in the Blue Licks area of nearby Fleming, Nicholas, and Robertson counties."

"In Kentucky, we're fortunate to have the support of a broad array of partners that assist us with endangered species conservation," remarked Lee Andrews, State Field Office Supervisor for the Service's Ecological Services Field Office in Frankfort. "No single group or agency has the personnel or financial resources to undertake the work necessary to recover the Short's goldenrod." Andrews also singled out the recent contributions made by the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, Southern Conservation Corp, Federal Highways Administration, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to promote restoration efforts for the species, "These folks don't have to participate in this work. They do it willingly because they see the value in it."

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, is the federal law established to

provide for the conservation of the nation's endangered and threatened species, their habitat, and the ecosystems in which they depend. Kentucky was once home to at least 67 federally listed species; now only 42 of these species can be found in the state and some of these are nearly gone. Kentucky's listed species include 3 mammals, 3 birds, 5 fishes, 20 mussels (freshwater clams), 1 crustacean, 1 insect, and 9 plants. A current list can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/frankfort/>.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. U.S. Fish and Wildlife operations in Kentucky include the Kentucky Ecological Services Field Office in Frankfort, a Law Enforcement office in Louisville, the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery south of Jamestown, the Clarks River National Wildlife Refuge in Benton, and a portion of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

