



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

110 S. Amity Road, Suite 300

Conway, Arkansas 72032

Tel.: 501/513-4470 Fax: 501/513-4480



February 8, 2013

Dear School Principals,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will observe Endangered Species Day on May 17, 2013. This represents the sixth year that Endangered Species Day celebrations have occurred in Arkansas, and the fourth year that we have hosted an Endangered Species Day Art Contest. Our contest last year was a huge success. We had 1,289 entries from 30 schools and 8 home schools. We encourage your school to participate in our fourth annual art contest. Endangered Species Day provides opportunities to celebrate our heritage of fish, wildlife, and plants and the ecosystems on which they depend. Endangered Species Day is an opportunity for people young and old to learn about the importance of protecting endangered species and everyday actions that people can take to help protect our nation's disappearing wildlife and their last remaining habitats. Protecting America's wildlife and plants today is a legacy we leave to our children and grandchildren, so that all Americans can experience the rich variety of native species that help define our nation.

This year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office is focusing greater attention on what we can do to promote youth education regarding the importance of protecting not only America's wildlife, plants, and their habitats but specifically what we can do to help protect these animals and plants and the places they live in Arkansas. Curriculum developed by the Endangered Species Coalition, a non-profit organization that works closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to celebrate Endangered Species Day, is also available on our internet site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>. Partners include the National Association of Biology Teachers and National Science Teachers Association among others. Curriculum developed by other environmental education programs such as Project WET and WILD and Project Learning Tree may compliment lessons focused on endangered species. Additionally, we are **providing endangered species teacher packets, coloring books, and other related information including specific information on Arkansas' endangered and threatened species and the places they live on our internet site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>.**

We formally request your support by disseminating this information to your teachers and encouraging their participation. Teachers of all disciplines are encouraged to participate. **To encourage our State's educators to help us promote Endangered Species Day, our office is sponsoring a state art contest. The requirements for the state art contest can be found on our internet site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>.** Art work will be evaluated based on the following age groups: 1) K – Grade 2, 2) Grades 3 – 6, 3) Grades 7 – 9, and 4) Grades 10 – 12. We will award 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place plaques for each age group. Entries must be postmarked by **April 12, 2013**. The 1<sup>st</sup> place through 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners in each category

also will receive \$100, \$50, and \$25 Acorn Naturalist Gift Cards, respectively, with their plaques. We will award an overall winner with a \$250 Acorn Naturalist Gift Card. We will work with local, regional, and state newspapers to recognize the winners.

Information and resources regarding this event are available on our web site at <http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/esday.html>. Teacher packets also may be picked up at our office (see address above). We appreciate your support and cooperation in promoting endangered species conservation. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Leone at 501-513-4472.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Boggs".

James Boggs  
Field Supervisor