



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 19, 2014

Dear School Principals,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will observe Endangered Species Day on May 16, 2014. This represents the seventh year that Endangered Species Day celebrations have occurred in Arkansas, and the fifth year that we have hosted an Endangered Species Day Art Contest. Our contest over the past several years has been a huge success. We had 1,360 entries from 14 schools and 1 home school. We encourage your school to participate in our fifth 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 partnering with Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 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 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place plaques for each age group. Entries must be postmarked by **April 12, 2014**. The 1st place through 3rd 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>, and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission website at <http://www.naturalheritage.org>. We appreciate your support and cooperation in promoting endangered species conservation. If you have any questions, please contact Erin Leone at 501-513-4472 or Erin_Leone@fws.gov.

Sincerely,



James Boggs
Field Supervisor

THANK YOU to our partners for helping us with
The Arkansas 2014 Endangered Species Day Art Contest

