



NEWS RELEASE

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Rural Development Awards \$30,000 Grant to Build Conservation Science Training Center

COLUMBUS, OHIO, Dec. 27, 2007 – Randall Hunt, state director for USDA Rural Development announced today approval of a \$30,000 grant to the International Center for the Preservation of Wild Animals, Inc. in Muskingum County, Ohio. The funding is from Rural Development's Community Facility Loan and Grant Program and will be used to help with construction of an on-site, 3,600 square foot Conservation Science Training Center.

"This is certainly one of those projects that will positively impact Ohio's national image in the preservation and management of wild animals and their habitats," said Hunt. "Our Community Facility Program brings additional funding options to organizations with projects designed to benefit Ohioans."

The training center will provide educational opportunities for students enrolled in higher-education institutions within Ohio's 29-county Appalachian Region. The total project cost \$700,000 with the balance of the funding coming from: \$250,000 from an Appalachian Regional Commission Grant, \$250,000 from an American Electric Power Foundation Grant, \$115,000 from a state Appalachian Regional Commission Grant, \$30,000 from the International Center for the Preservation of Wild Animals, Inc. and \$25,000 from Hocking College.

The Community Facility Program uses grants and loans to help communities develop essential facilities for public use. These facilities include libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.

Further information on rural programs is available by calling 614-255-2400, visiting a local USDA Rural Development office or by viewing USDA Rural Development's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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