

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEW CONSERVATION GROUP COMBINES IMPROVING WILDLIFE HABITAT WITH ASSISTING TROUBLED ADOLESCENTS**

CANBY OREGON July 31, 2007 – Wilderness International Inc., a new conservation organization, founded and incorporated in Oregon, has hit on a winning combination that benefits both wildlife habitat and troubled youth within the community.

After a few months of planning with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff at the White River Wildlife Area (WRWA) near the town of Tygh Valley OR, Wilderness International Inc. completed their first habitat improvement project during the month of June. This project involved unearthing a cistern that for the last 30 years has collected water from a natural spring. The cistern then fed that water through a pipe system down the slope to a trough to provide water for the area's local wildlife. This had stopped working over the last few years due to the pipe getting clogged and then being damaged by a bear.

Wilderness International teamed up with a local organization that works with troubled youth. The two organizations worked through the approval process that allowed a group of teenage boys to travel out to the wildlife area in June. Mr. Russ Hall, Executive Director of Wilderness Intl. rented a van and drove the boys along with two counselors to Tygh Valley. Once there, they dug right in with the ODFW staff to uncover the cistern, clean it out and replace the pipe running to the trough.

Mr. Hall has nothing but praise for the boys and their work ethic. After the project was complete Hall said, "I was very pleased with the great attitude and hard work these young men provided on this project. It was very encouraging to listen as they worked and hear them talking about how excited they were to be experiencing the great outdoors. It was a successful day in several ways and I hope we can duplicate this many times over in the years to come."

Wilderness International has taken on the task of assisting WRWA in raising funds and building several ponds to enhance the arid habitat found at the wildlife area. They are currently in the fund raising phase of this project and this will continue through late winter. Then next spring they will be working with the WRWA staff and provide work parties to assist in building these ponds.

Wilderness International Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit conservation organization based out of Canby Oregon. Their focus is on wildlife habitat conservation and improvement, multi-media nature presentations, and outdoor adventures. In June they held their third annual fish and float trip down the John Day River in central Oregon. This trip has proven a big hit to all that have participated. Several members on their board of directors serve as whitewater guides on the Deschutes River also. For more information, or to learn how to get involved, go to their website at [www.wildernessintl.com](http://www.wildernessintl.com) or feel free to email them at [info@wildernessintl.com](mailto:info@wildernessintl.com).

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