

Making Open Space Dollars Work for Wildlife

A Roundtable Discussion hosted by the Environmental Law Institute

Date:

Tuesday December 11, 2007

Location:

Environmental Law Institute
Main Conference Room
2000 L Street NW, Suite 620
Washington, DC 20036

Sponsored by:

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

URL:

<http://www2.eli.org/research/openspace.htm>

In 2001, Congress created the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and State Wildlife Grants Program to prevent wildlife from becoming endangered. As part of the effort, each state and territory developed a wildlife action plan to proactively conserve wildlife and critical habitat. Every state and territory submitted their plan to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for review and approval in October 2005. The development of the 56 state wildlife action plans is marshalling habitat conservation information to an extent unmatched by any prior planning effort. The plans have tremendous potential to inform and support state conservation efforts, including open space programs that have a direct or indirect focus on biodiversity and wildlife conservation. However, in many cases, state open space program managers are unaware of the wildlife action plans as a potentially powerful resource, or do not have a clear sense of how plans can inform acquisition decision-making.

With support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, ELI will convene approximately 25 diverse stakeholders involved in state open space and wildlife program administration for a one-day roundtable discussion in Washington, DC on Tuesday December 11, 2007. Goals of the meeting are to:

- Improve knowledge among state open space program staff of the state wildlife action plans.
- Improve knowledge among state wildlife program staff of existing state open space programs and activities.
- Identify shared opportunities to support state open space and wildlife protection.