



For Immediate Release
September 28, 2011

Montana Wildlife Federation and Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment Board Offers Grants and Scholarships

Helena – With the Oct 1 opening of the 2011 waterfowl season, the Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment of Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is proud to announce that it will begin accepting applications for its annual grants and scholarship programs. The Endowment, committed to furthering the state's hunting, wildlife and outdoor heritage has awarded nearly \$50,000 over the past seven-years since 2004.

Endowment grants for 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organizations are for one-year and submittals will be accepted for a range from \$500 to \$5,000; scholarships of \$1,000 are being offered to full-time college students.

Established in 1998, the Endowment honors the late Phil Tawney, a fourth generation Montanan, lifetime sportsman and conservation leader. The Endowment mission statement reflects Tawney's passion and commitment to protecting Montana fish and wildlife, habitat, and the future of hunting:

"To educate and inform the general public about hunting ethics, fair chase, and values to perpetuate the sport of the hunt through efforts to conserve habitat and wildlife; and to stimulate the recruitment, mentoring and involvement of youth in hunting and conservation activities.

Land Tawney, Phil's son and Endowment board officer said, "My mother, Robin Tawney Nichols, and I are proud that the hunting legacy my father felt so strongly about can be perpetuated as a living legacy through conservation project grants and scholarships. By awarding both grants and scholarships the Endowment has made and continues to make a significant contribution toward fostering a conservation ethic in Montana. Non-profit 'grant' applications that emphasize one or more of the following will be given highest consideration:

- Projects that focus on issues and education affecting youth;
- Projects and activities to stimulate the recruitment, mentoring and involvement of youth in hunting and conservation;
- Projects that focus on the interface between wildlife and hunting;
- Projects that focus on strategies to promote environmentally healthy wildlife habitats;
- Projects that focus on public policy changes to improve habitat conservation; and
- Projects that consider strategies to improve and promote hunting ethics, fair chase, sustainable wildlife and habitat values, and safety.

Tawney Endowment scholarships are awarded each year to Montana college students who have major academic fields of study that relate to conservation and that:

- Exhibit a commitment to general public hunting ethics and fair chase; and
- Support values to perpetuate the sport of the hunt through efforts to conserve habitats and wildlife.

In 2011, the Tawney Endowment awarded a combined total of \$9,000 to five students and four non-profit groups.

For information about the application process contact MWF at: mwf@mtwf.org; (800) 517-7256 (Jeff Hagener); or go to www.montanawildlife.org/Scholarships; or MWF, PO Box 1175, Helena, MT. 59624; or contact Land Tawney at tawney@nwf.org, (406)541-6733.

The deadline for grant and scholarship applications is January 20, 2012 with awards to be announced by March 1, 2012.