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## **DCNR Announces Grants Available for Protecting Non-Game Species**

**Harrisburg, PA** - The Wild Resource Conservation Program is again accepting applications for grants to protect the state's native biodiversity.

The program, overseen by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, safeguards Pennsylvania's non-game animals, native plants and their habitat. Grant applications will be accepted in three areas: surveys, research, and conservation and management.

Among this year's grant priorities are projects focused on species that include the Northern goshawk, yellow lady's slipper and Chesapeake logperch. Applicants are encouraged to review the detailed list of priorities to ensure that their project fits this year's criteria.

"Our native species are facing more challenges today than ever before," said DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn. "Habitat loss, competition from invasive species, pollution, and the imminent threat of climate change mean that we must focus our resources on applied science and conservation projects that reduce or eliminate the effects of these stresses."

Launched in 1982, the program encourages and supports research and protection efforts to conserve Pennsylvania's diverse native wildlife resources, including bird and mammal species, amphibians and reptiles, insects and wild plants.

The grant round opened Aug. 1 and will close Sept. 28. Applications only will be accepted electronically through DCNR's online grant application system. To apply for a grant, or to learn more about the application process and this year's priorities, visit the DCNR website at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/>; choose Grants; then Wild Resource Conservation.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Terry Brady, 717-772-9101; tbrady@pa.gov

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