



News Release

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Contact: Mary Beth Jarvis
Koch Industries, Inc.
316-828-3756

Vanessa Kauffman
Wildlife Habitat Council
301-588-8994

Koch Petroleum Group Refining Complexes Achieve Wildlife Habitat Council Certification for Environmental Initiatives

WICHITA, KS –Environmental conservation initiatives at two refining complexes owned by Koch Petroleum Group, L.P., have resulted in national certification by the Wildlife Habitat Council.

The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal. Koch's Corpus Christi and Pine Bend refineries were among 111 sites recognized at the WHC's 2001 symposium. Since 1990, WHC has certified 288 sites worldwide.

The two refineries, owned by Koch Petroleum Group, a subsidiary of Koch Industries, Inc., have been certified by the national Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) for demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship and increasing biodiversity.

The refineries, located in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Pine Bend, Minnesota, received the awards during the Wildlife Habitat Council's 13th Annual Symposium, "Science & Stewardship: Creating Greener Communities."

"Congratulations to Koch for its commendable efforts towards the enhancement of wildlife habitat," said Bill Howard, WHC president. "Companies and communities are working together to sustain natural resources through good stewardship and science-based, cooperative solutions. These ecosystem management techniques result in many benefits, including improved biodiversity, conservation and opportunities for environmental education programs."

Why the WHC certified Koch's Corpus Christi refinery

Koch's Corpus Christi complex is located on 2,000 acres about eight miles from downtown Corpus Christi. A 120-acre parcel of wetlands and brush, known as the Koch Wildlife Preserve, is located on land east of the facility. It is managed by the Koch Wildlife Council in partnership with the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation for the purpose of protecting and enhancing the wetlands and wildlife habitat.

The wildlife team engages in a number of wildlife habitat enhancement projects at the site. In 2000, the KWC team received a grant, which WHC administered, through the U.S. EPA's Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant Program. The objectives for the grant money was to restore water level at the wetlands, construct nesting enhancements for whistling ducks and osprey and

create access improvements and interpretative hiking trails. At the end of the project, the team successfully restored water levels and vegetation at an 8.5-acre wetland pond and installed three nest boxes for whistling ducks and a nest platform for osprey. They also constructed a visitor parking area, butterfly gardens, an interpretative walking trail and a footbridge. The nearly mile-long trail guides employees and visitors through a variety of vegetation and habitat including wetlands, mud flats, upland grasses and brush and provides numerous wildlife observation opportunities. The team is also planting trees, conducting bird inventories, installing signs, implementing a nest monitoring program and designing a pavilion for the visitor learning center where students and local groups meet to learn about and tour the site

Another project at the site involves creating partnerships with area educators including the Texas State Aquarium's Sea Camp Program, Adopt-A-Wetland Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Summer Camp Program and Teaching Environmental Science to educate local students on wetlands and ecology. Students take guided field trips to the site learning habitat monitoring techniques, including identifying animal tracks, seining the pond to identify and count fish, bird counts, mud sampling, water testing, nest monitoring and biodiversity sampling. Students learn the importance of habitat for wildlife, the functions of wetlands and conservation principles.

Why the WHC certified Koch's Pine Bend refinery

Koch's Pine Bend Refinery is located on more than XXXX acres with XXX acres available for wildlife habitat enhancement known as the Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area. The area contains native oak forest, native sand gravel prairie and old pasture. The wildlife team members began an initial restoration project, which will improve the health of the existing natural areas, while ensuring the long-term sustainability of rare species. This project will serve as a catalyst for restoring and protecting the entire Pine Bend area.

Numerous partners and volunteer groups came together in a coordinated effort to conduct restoration and management activities at the Pine Bend Bluffs Natural Area. In 2000, nearly 500 volunteers worked to remove exotic plants, harvest native prairie seed and plant native trees. The wildlife team meets regularly to remove exotics, mainly buckhorn and honeysuckle, and plant native seeds in the wildlife habitat area. The volunteers also participated in a small prairie planting on site.

Koch Petroleum Group is changing its name to Flint Hills Resources effective January 1, 2002. Wichita, Kansas-based Koch Industries owns a diverse group of companies engaged in trading, investment and operations worldwide. Koch Petroleum Group, L.P., a leading producer and trader of fuels and other petrochemical and commodity products. Koch Petroleum has approximately 900 employees at its 300,000 barrel-per-day refining complex in Corpus Christi, Texas; 750, at its 280,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Minnesota.