



For Immediate Release

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

Helena – The Montana Wildlife Federation (MWF) is proud to announce that the Phil Tawney Hunters Conservation Endowment is accepting applications for its annual grants and scholarship programs. In the last ten years, the Endowment has awarded more than \$50,000 in scholarships and grants to further Montana's hunting, wildlife and outdoor heritage.

Established in 1998, the Endowment honors the late Phil Tawney, a fourth generation Montanan, lifetime sportsman and conservation leader. Tawney was dedicated to protecting Montana's fish and wildlife and their vulnerable habitats as he chased waterfowl in the Bitterroot Valley, elk in the Great Burn and Cinnabar Basin, and trout in the blue ribbon waters of the Big Hole River and Rock Creek. The Endowment was created to continue his legacy by educating the public about habitat and wildlife and involving young people in hunting and conservation.

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 grants and scholarships. The Endowment has made a significant contribution to fostering a conservation ethic in Montana."**

Project grants are available to 501(c)(3) groups to support one-year projects that involve young people in hunting and conservation, promote environmentally friendly wildlife habitats, support public policy changes to conserve habitat, and promote hunting ethics, fair chase, sustainable wildlife habitat values, and safety. Projects typically range from \$500 - \$5,000.

Scholarships are awarded to Montana college students who have major academic fields of study that relate to conservation, that exhibit a commitment to public hunting ethics and fair chase, and support values to perpetuate hunting through efforts to conserve habitats and wildlife. The scholarships provide \$1,000 to support any expenses related to the pursuit of a college degree.

In 2013, the Tawney Endowment awarded a total of \$4,250 to three students and two non-profit groups.

For information about the application process contact Dave Chadwick at MWF at 406-458-0227 or dchadwick@mtwf.org or contact Land Tawney at 406-829-3581 or landtawney1@gmail.com. *The deadline for grant and scholarship applications is January 18, 2014 with awards to be announced by March 1, 2014.*