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Helena Woman Singled Out for Environmental Leadership *Honoree Receives Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship*

New York, NY, November 19, 2009-A Helena, Montana woman is the recipient of a national fellowship designed to advance the work of individuals with outstanding leadership potential to help shape a brighter environmental future.

Janet Ellis is one of 40 individuals nationwide selected as a 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellow. The *TogetherGreen* Fellowship offers specialized training in conservation planning and execution, the chance to work and share best practices with gifted conservation professionals, and assistance with project outreach and evaluation. Each Fellow receives \$10,000 towards a community-focused project to engage local residents in conserving land, water and energy, and contributing to greater environmental health.

For her fellowship, Ellis will work to protect some of Montana's most important wildlife habitat: streams and wetlands. These critical areas occupy less than 4% of the state, yet about *one-third* of the state's wildlife species depend upon these areas during their life cycles. Her *TogetherGreen* grant will support her work to assist local governments in their efforts to adopt stream protection measures. Ellis understands the science behind stream and wetland protection, as well as the pros and cons of various strategies used by Montana local governments to protect these areas. She has also worked with numerous local government officials around the state.

Ellis currently serves as Program Director for Montana Audubon. In that capacity she develops programs on issue advocacy and education, assists Audubon Society Chapters with projects, and represents environmental interests at the Montana Legislature.

"Janet is the kind of person who can make a real difference in the health of our environment and the quality of our future," said Audubon President John Flicker. "Each of our *TogetherGreen* Fellows demonstrates exceptional environmental understanding and commitment, combined with tremendous potential to inspire and lead others. Together, they represent the talented and diverse leadership the environmental community will need to tackle the huge challenges and opportunities confronting us now and in the years to come."

"I'm honored to be a *TogetherGreen* Fellow", said Ellis. "I have been working on stream protection issues for almost 20 years now. Receiving a *TogetherGreen* conservation fellowship will enable me to broaden my skills so that I become more effective in my conservation work. Living in a rural state like Montana, we don't always have the resources we need to support our work."

Ellis has been affiliated with Montana Audubon since early 1989. Half of the *TogetherGreen* Fellows come from within Audubon's far-reaching national network; the other half channel their environmental efforts through other organizations.

Ellis received her Bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Montana - Missoula. A dedicated conservationist, Ellis previously worked for Yellowstone and Zion National Parks as a naturalist and backcountry ranger.

A distinguished advisory committee-composed of conservation professionals and experts in environmental education, communications, outreach, and conservation planning-selected the fellowship beneficiaries from a competitive pool of scores of highly qualified individuals. Qualified applicants must have at least six years of experience in conservation, environmental education, policy, or environmental issues, as demonstrated through current and past work experience, academic studies related to conservation, and/or volunteer work. Candidates must have a passion for conservation, the desire to learn and grow, and demonstrate a proven ability in reaching previously unengaged audiences.

"We must engage the best and brightest leaders representing the broadest and most diverse communities in this country to solve our ever more complex conservation challenges," said Diane Wood, President, National Environmental Education Foundation. "*TogetherGreen* is a creative program that uncovers such leaders, nurtures their talents, supports their dedication to conservation, and holds them up to inspire others to follow."

A complete list of the 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellows can be found at www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows.

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About *TogetherGreen*

Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year *TogetherGreen* initiative in 2008 to build the promise of a greener, healthier future through innovation, leadership and volunteerism. To date, 80 environmental leaders-half from within Audubon and half from outside organizations-have received *TogetherGreen* Fellowships to protect land, water, and energy resources nationwide. For more information, visit www.togethergreen.org.

About Audubon

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our national network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world. Visit Audubon online at www.audubon.org.

About Toyota

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants. Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed more than \$464 million to philanthropic programs in the U.S. For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit www.toyota.com/community.