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Contact:

Lisa Cox, USFWS, (760) 420-3175

Julie Pokrandt, River Partners, (530) 513-1089

Groundbreaking to Be Held for Otay Delta Habitat Restoration With Celebration of Girl Scout Silver Award Project

San Diego, Calif. – Together with community leaders and elected officials, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), River Partners and Girl Scout Troop #5912 will be celebrating the groundbreaking for the restoration of a portion of the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the completion of an educational wildlife mural. This effort to restore 55 acres of wildlife habitat has been funded in part by a generous \$100,000 donation from Walmart, as part of its Acres for America program. Other funding partners include the California Wildlife Conservation Board, the California Natural Resources Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the San Diego Foundation and the Resource Legacy Fund Foundation. Additionally, WILDCOAST and Friends of the Otay Valley Regional Park have led volunteer efforts to clean-up this critical site and support its restoration.

WHO: Representative for Mayor Jerry Sanders, City of San Diego
Councilmember Pamela Bensoussan, City of Chula Vista
Mayor Jim Janney, City of Imperial Beach
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Jo Dee C. Jacob, CEO of Girl Scouts, San Diego-Imperial Council
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
River Partners
Walmart
WILDCOAST

WHAT: Restoration Celebration and Mural Unveiling for the San Diego Bay NWR

WHEN: Saturday, July 14 at 9 a.m.

WHERE: The San Diego Bay NWR, South San Diego Bay Unit
525 Saturn Blvd., San Diego, CA 92154
(Behind the Home Depot in Southland Plaza Shopping Center)

VISUALS:

- Groundbreaking.
- Unveiling of wildlife mural created by a local Girl Scout Troop from San Ysidro and Imperial Beach as part of the process to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award.
- Tree planting with River Partners and volunteers from Home Depot and WILDCOAST.

About the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

Established by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation sustains, restores and enhances the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, it has awarded over 11,600 grants to more than 4,000 organizations and leveraged \$576 million in federal funds into \$2.1 billion for on-the-ground conservation. To learn more, visit www.nfwf.org.

About River Partners

Founded in 1998, River Partners' mission has been to create wildlife habitat for the benefit of people and the environment. The organization has been recognized with numerous awards, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Environmental Restoration Leadership Award in 2004, the Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award in 2005, among others. River Partners has a successful track record of implementing more than \$55 million in ecosystem restoration projects in critical floodplain areas. In this process the organization has installed more than one million trees and native plants and worked with virtually every state and federal agency involved in ecological restoration. Its work spans 11 watersheds in California, including the Sacramento-San Joaquin River System, San Diego's Otay River watershed, and the Lower Colorado River. River Partners is headquartered in Chico with offices in Modesto and San Diego County. For more information, visit www.riverpartners.org.

About the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge

The San Diego Bay NWR protects a rich diversity of endangered, threatened, migratory, and native species and their habitats in the midst of a highly urbanized coastal environment. Waterfowl and shorebirds over-winter or stop here to feed and rest as they migrate along the Pacific Flyway. Enhanced and restored wetlands provide new, high quality habitat for fish, birds, and coastal salt marsh plants, such as the endangered salt marsh bird's beak plant, or the Light-footed Clapper Rail. The San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge also provides the public with the opportunity to observe birds and wildlife in their native habitats and to enjoy and connect with the natural environment. Informative environmental education and interpretation programs expand the public's awareness of the richness of the wildlife resources of the Refuge. For more information, please visit www.fws.gov/sandiegorefuges/South_bay.htm.

About Girl Scouts San Diego

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is America's premier leadership development organization for girls. Through Girl Scouting, girls discover themselves, connect with others and take action to make the world a better place. Girl Scouts San Diego provides programs and activities for 42,000 girl and adult members, offers training for leaders, and maintains seven camps and program facilities. For more information, please visit www.sdgirlscouts.org.

About Walmart and Acres for America

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT) serves customers and members more than 200 million times per week at 10,130 retail units under 69 different banners in 27 countries. Since 2005, Walmart has worked with the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to establish Acres for America, a 10-year, \$35 million commitment to purchase and preserve one acre of wildlife habitat in the U.S. for every acre of land developed by the company. The program has protected critical habitats for birds, fish, plants and wildlife and far surpassed its original goals, becoming one of the country's most effective conservation partnerships. To date, Acres for America has invested in projects in 25 states and the District of Columbia, protecting nearly 680,000 acres. Additional information can be found at www.walmartstores.com.

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