

Sea Turtle Conservancy Receives \$50,000 Grant from Wells Fargo-NFWF to Support Sea Turtle Lighting and Dune Enhancement

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Contact:

David Godfrey

david@conserveturtles.org

(352) 373-6441

Michelle Palomino

michelle.palomino@wellsfargo.com

305-523-2533

GAINESVILLE, FL (February, 25, 2013) - Sea Turtle Conservancy has received a \$50,000 grant from Wells Fargo-National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support its Sea Turtle Dune Lighting and Enhancement Project, just in time to kick off sea turtle nesting season, which starts on March 1st on Florida's east coast.

The project supports efforts to reduce the impacts of artificial lights on beaches where sea turtles nest. Beachfront lighting along nesting beaches discourages female sea turtles from nesting and disorients hatchlings, causing them to stray away from the ocean and decreasing their chances of survival.

The Sea Turtle Dune Lighting and Enhancement Project is focusing on beaches in central Florida, specifically in areas near the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge in Brevard County. More than 90% of sea turtle nesting occurs in Florida, and the Archie Carr Refuge hosts the largest loggerhead nesting population in the United States.

"This project will support a real, on-the-ground effort to reduce the impacts from beachfront artificial lights on nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings by working with private property owners to retrofit lights using the latest 'turtle-friendly' lighting technology," said David Godfrey, Sea Turtle Conservancy executive director. "A pilot of this project has already saved over 10,000 sea turtle hatchlings in Florida, so we are very excited to expand the project with the support of Wells Fargo."

The grant is part of a new program aimed at awarding \$15 million over the next five years to nonprofits focused on key environmental issues.

"Wells Fargo is pleased to support the efforts of Sea Turtle Conservancy," said Larisa Perry, Central Florida Regional President at Wells Fargo. "We are committed to helping preserve the environment and fostering a greater understanding of marine life and conservation within the Central Florida community."

Sea Turtle Conservancy was selected from among more than 500 requests submitted by local team members and nonprofits Wells Fargo identified as being in need of extra help with green revitalization projects.

In April 2012, Wells Fargo released a set of environmental commitments to be achieved by 2020. Part of this goal includes a \$100 million environmental grants commitment by 2020 to create a “greener” future for the communities they serve. Since 2006, Wells Fargo has provided more than \$11.7 billion in environmental finance, supporting sustainable buildings and renewable energy projects nationwide.

About Sea Turtle Conservancy: STC is an international nonprofit and the world's oldest marine turtle research and conservation organization. Founded in 1959, Sea Turtle Conservancy is dedicated to ensuring the survival of sea turtles through research, education, advocacy and the protection of natural habitats upon which they depend. Learn more at www.conserveturtles.org.

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A leader in reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions and building sustainably, Wells Fargo has been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Center for Corporate Climate Leadership, the Carbon Disclosure Project and the U.S. Green Building Council. Since 2006, Wells Fargo has provided more than \$11.7 billion in environmental finance, supporting sustainable buildings and renewable energy projects nationwide. This includes investments in more than 260 solar projects and 34 wind projects that generate enough clean renewable energy to power hundreds of thousands of American homes each year. The company is a member of the Ceres network of companies and was listed as one of the 2012 “Best Corporate Citizens” by Corporate Responsibility Magazine. For more information, please visit. www.wellsfargo.com/environment.

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