



For Immediate Release

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## Funds to help launch comprehensive review

### Henry Luce Foundation gives CPC \$150,000 for native plant project

ST. LOUIS, Mo., (JULY 18, 2005) – The Center for Plant Conservation has received a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation that will help CPC launch an unprecedented and comprehensive review of native plants regulated under the Endangered Species Act.

The Luce Foundation awarded CPC a two-year \$150,000 grant that will serve as matching funds for a grant CPC received earlier from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. The two grants and other funds amount to nearly \$500,000 to conduct an independent analysis for the potential recovery of imperiled plants on federal and private lands nationwide.

“CPC is honored to receive these funds and is pleased to be able to move ahead with this project,” said Kathryn Kennedy, president and executive director of CPC. “We believe these summaries will illuminate the species where federal agencies can move forward efficiently to achieve recovery. We will also have a more realistic idea of the resources needed for both federal and private recovery programs. Sustaining this valuable biodiversity will benefit our entire nation.”

CPC is a nonprofit organization that has been working for more than 20 years to conserve and restore rare and imperiled native plants of the United States. Founded in 1984, CPC works with 33 leading botanical institutions to secure seed and plant material outside of native habitats, conduct monitoring and restoration work, maintain a comprehensive database and serve as a credible source of information about plant conservation.

Funds for the Recovery on Private and Public Lands Project will bring together botanists, conservationists and state and federal natural resources officials to share data on native plants for which they are responsible.

The goal of the project will help conservationists understand extinction risk and recovery potential for the nation’s native flora. An analysis of this size and scale has never been performed at a national level.

About 29 percent of the land area in the United States is under the jurisdiction of five major federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Forest Service. A study of native plants on public lands will be a cost-effective and integrated

solution to recovery projects. Maximizing recovery on federal lands reduces the cost of projects because the infrastructure to manage the land is already in place.

This study will provide a summary of which species are most dependent on private lands for recovery, support better priority setting for government agencies and planning for work on private lands.

The Henry Luce Foundation was established in 1936 by the co-founder and editor-in-chief of Time Inc., Henry R. Luce, who died in 1967. With assets of more than \$700 million, the foundation generously funds projects that include the interdisciplinary exploration of higher education; understanding between Asia and the United States; the study of religion and theology; scholarship in American art, opportunities for women in science and engineering; and environmental and public policy programs.

Additional support for the project has been provided by Chevron Texaco and the St. Louis-based Edward K. Love Conservation Foundation.

[www.centerforplantconservation.org](http://www.centerforplantconservation.org)