



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reward Offered for Poaching of Threatened Louisiana Black Bear

(Feb. 8, 2010) — The Humane Society of the United States and The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust are offering a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for illegally shooting a black bear in Iberia Parish, La., in early January.

The Case:

According to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, a severely injured female Louisiana black bear was found on Coulee Road near Lydia on Jan. 10. The bear was so badly wounded that she had to be euthanized. A necropsy revealed that she had been shot. This is the seventh black bear killed in recent months in Louisiana.

“The loss of another adult female in her prime is a significant loss to bear recovery,” noted Maria Davidson, LDWF large carnivore program manager. “Setbacks like these are not only frustrating and costly, but they may also delay removal of the Louisiana black bear from the Endangered Species List.”

“The individual responsible for this callous poaching has an appalling disregard for both black bears and the laws that exist to protect this threatened and iconic species,” said Julia Breaux, The HSUS’ Louisiana state director. “The Humane Society of the United States applauds the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for their tireless work to find those responsible for this serious crime.”

Black bears are a threatened species in Louisiana. Killing one is a state and federal offense with up to \$25,000 in fines and potential jail time.

Poaching:

Every year, thousands of poachers are arrested nationwide; however, it is estimated that only 1 percent to 5 percent of poachers are caught. Poachers kill wildlife anytime, anywhere, and sometimes do so in particularly cruel ways.

The Investigators:

Anyone with information about the case is asked to call the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' 24-hour toll-free hotline at 1-800-442-2511. Callers may remain anonymous.

The HSUS Media Contact:

Liz Bergstrom, 240-751-0659, ebergstrom@humanesociety.org

The HSUS works to stop poaching across the country. Visit humanesociety.org/poaching for more information.

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization — backed by 11 million Americans, or one of every 28. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty — On the web at humanesociety.org.

Since 1993 the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, alone or in partnership with other conservation groups, has participated in the protection of more than 1.8 million acres of wildlife habitat in 37 states and seven foreign countries. On all properties owned by the Trust or protected by the Trust's conservation easement, both here and abroad, we prohibit recreational and commercial hunting and trapping and restrict logging and development. The Trust's commitment to these principles will never change as we continue to assist caring landowners to make their property permanent, safe homes for wildlife. Join our online community at wildlifelandtrust.org.

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