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Proclamation 8192—National Character Counts Week, 2007

October 19, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The greatness of a nation is measured not by power or wealth but by the character of its people. During National Character Counts Week, we underscore our dedication to promoting values for our young people and encourage all Americans to demonstrate good character.

As America's youth strive to become responsible adults, they carry with them the values and traditions they were taught as children. At home, parents and families can teach universal values such as respect, tolerance, self-restraint, fairness, and compassion. In the community, we all can set good examples and demonstrate the virtues of leadership, patriotism, and responsible citizenship. The members of our Armed Forces demonstrate the strength of America's character by answering the call of service to our Nation.

Through the Helping America's Youth initiative, caring adults are connected with at-risk youth so that they have a mentor and an example as they navigate the challenges young people face. By working together, we can give children the skill and habits they need to reach their full potential.

During National Character Counts Week and throughout the year, I urge all citizens to support the character development of our youth and make a difference in the lives of others. One way for all Americans to add to the character of our country is to volunteer to help a neighbor in need, and more information can be found at volunteer.gov. I encourage every American to serve a cause greater than themselves and set a positive example in their community.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 21 through October 27, 2007, as National Character Counts Week. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, parents, students, and all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:50 a.m., October 23, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 20, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on October 24.

Proclamation 8193—National Forest Products Week, 2007

October 19, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National Forest Products Week, we celebrate the rich blessings of our Nation's forests, and we recognize the important resources they provide to our communities and our economy.

Our Nation's forests supply vital products and create important employment opportunities. Trees provide wood to make homes, furniture, musical instruments, paper for books and newspapers, and packaging materials. These and other products are created

by the construction and manufacturing industries and provide economic security for many of our citizens.

All Americans have an obligation to protect the Earth and a responsibility to be good stewards of our land, and my Administration has made forest health a high priority. Under the Healthy Forest Initiative, we are helping to protect the American people, their communities, and the environment from potentially devastating wildfires. Together we can conserve our woodlands and help leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

Recognizing the importance of our forests in ensuring our Nation's well-being, the Congress, by Public Law 86–753 (36 U.S.C. 123), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the third Sunday in October of each year as "National Forest Products Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 21 through October 27, 2007, as National Forest Products Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

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Remarks at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, Maryland

October 20, 2007

The President. Listen, thank you all for coming. I appreciate the hospitality you've shown us here at Patuxent Research Refuge. I want to thank all the good folks who work here from the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the U.S. Geological Survey.

One of the things we've discussed here is a significant environmental challenge we face here in America, and that is, birds are losing the stopover habitats they need and depend on for their annual migrations. And therefore, I've come to discuss a strategy to enhance those habitats, without which many birds could become severely challenged.

To me, this is a national issue that requires national focus. And so I appreciate very much you all giving me a chance to describe our strategy and thanks for your—thanks for working for the country.

I am proud to be here with Laura, birdwatcher extraordinaire. I appreciate Secretary Dirk Kempthorne running our Interior Department. I do thank Wendy Paulson, who's joined us. She's on the board of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Some of the recommendations—or all the recommendations that I'm describing today were brought to our attention by Wendy and a friend of mine from Texas named Rusty Rose, both of whom serve on this important university lab—the board of the lab. I appreciate Judd Howell, the Director, who gave us a tour. And Brad, thank you very much for joining us.

I also want to thank George Fenwick—he's the president of the American Bird Conservancy—for joining us as well. Appreciate the staff members here who worked on this initiative. Thanks for your hard work and your—and bringing what I believe the American people will find is a commonsense policy that makes sense for our future.

I don't know if you know this or not, but each year, more than 800 species of migratory birds brave stiff winds, harsh weather, and numerous predators to fly thousands of miles. Their final destination is the warm climate of the American South or the Caribbean or Mexico, where they stay for the winter. These amazing travelers will then return to their breeding grounds in the north. And as they span these distances, they fascinate and bring joy to millions of our citizens. A lot of folks across the country love to watch birds.

For these migratory birds, surviving their long journey depends on a stopover habitat. That basically means they got to find a place