

April 8, 2004

Mr. John Martin  
Chairman  
Images for Conservation Fund  
2112 West University Dr., No. 108  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Dear John,

The Nature Conservancy is pleased to be associated with Images for Conservation Fund (ICF) and The Pro-Tour of Nature Photography, and we're particularly excited that the 2006 event will take place in the Texas Hill Country. The goals and objectives of the Pro-Tour are in keeping with the Conservancy's mission.

The mission of The Nature Conservancy:

**"To preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive"**

... is a great match with that of ICF:

**"Fostering art, education, wildlife conservation, economic development and natural history through the power of photography."**

Located in the Edwards Plateau Ecoregion in Central Texas, the Hill Country will provide a splendid venue, as this region is widely known as one of the most biologically diverse and scenic places in Texas and the nation. This diversity of plants and animals is in large part the result of the clean and plentiful natural water resources that provide habitat for unique aquatic species and feed the beloved creeks and rivers of the area. In addition, the variety of plant communities, the steep and rugged topography and the moderate climate provide ideal habitat for many migratory birds, mammals, snakes, lizards, insects and other species that will provide special interest for this competition.

The project offers a multilateral approach to achieving several positive outcomes for conservation. The Pro-Tour offers financial incentives for landowners to remain on the land, raises public awareness of the incredible diversity of native species, motivates landowners to maintain or enhance wildlife habitat, and leaves a legacy – both in habitat and in pictures – for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. It's an excellent opportunity to raise awareness among private landowners who desire to learn more about native Texas animals and plants. And finally, it celebrates the extraordinary richness of Texas' irreplaceable natural heritage.

The Pro-Tour of Nature Photography will provide focus on and attention to the Texas Hill Country as one of Texas' special places, as well as to both our organizations' goals for land conservation and the protection of wildlife habitat. We look forward to helping select the Hill Country lands that will be matched with Pro-Tour nature photographers.

As conservation partners, we proudly join with Images for Conservation Fund in planning for the successful inauguration of The Pro-Tour of Nature Photography.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Amaon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gary Amaon  
Edwards Plateau Ecoregional Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carter Smith". The signature is cursive, with a large, stylized "C" and "S".

Carter Smith  
Director of Conservation Programs