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NOTE: *Media who wish a tour of the KBDJ quarry site should contact Kirsten Voinis*

**WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP
WITH INDUSTRIAL ASPHALT AND KBDJ**

Austin Company Seeking National Wildlife Habitat Council Certification at KBDJ quarry in Hays County

SILVER SPRING, MD—The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) announced today that it has partnered with Industrial Asphalt, Inc., and KBDJ of Austin to help enhance wildlife habitats. Industrial Asphalt, Inc., an asphalt and limestone manufacturing company, plans to seek certification of its KBDJ limestone quarry near Buda in Hays County through WHC's *Corporate Wildlife Habitat Certification/International Accreditation Program*.

“The Wildlife Habitat Council will celebrate in its 20th anniversary in 2008 with more than 100 corporations voluntarily managing their facilities on more than 2 million acres of land for the benefit of wildlife and conservation education,” said Robert Johnson, WHC president. “Our corporate members are the leaders in industry who have gone beyond regulatory compliance and integrated responsible environmental management into the core values of everyday business practices. We are pleased that Industrial Asphalt and KBDJ have joined WHC as they demonstrate their commitment to join this distinguished group of companies in managing their lands to support sustainable ecosystems for the benefit of society.”

“Industrial Asphalt and KBDJ believe it is possible to do business in a manner that is ecologically sensitive,” said Jill Shackelford, president of Industrial Asphalt. “While the State of Texas and its transportation future depend on quality grade limestone like the aggregate produced at our KBDJ site, we are committed to preserving and protecting the wildlife and the natural beauty of the property. Industrial Asphalt and KBDJ are excited to begin our partnership with the Wildlife Habitat Council, and we look forward to working on environmental projects with our neighboring community.”

Industrial Asphalt/KBDJ will initiate various wildlife habitat enhancement projects on the site, which will continue throughout the next year as the site works toward applying for WHC certification. The company also is preparing to conduct an inventory of the plants and animals that inhabit the site.

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Industrial Asphalt/KBDJ have three projects planned or underway:

- Three bat houses already have been installed at the KBDJ site to attract these important pollinators. Placement of the houses followed recommendations to ensure food and cover for the bats. An estimated 100 million bats each spring migrate from Mexico to Texas, and many roost and breed in Central Texas. Bats provide seed dispersal and cross-pollination for many plant species as well as control insect populations.
- Buffers will be set aside and left natural and undisturbed to preserve native vegetation. The buffers serve as the location for the bat houses and will be used for future education projects.
- Invasive plant species on the site are being investigated, and plans are to control at least one species, kudzu, a fast-growing vine from Asia, which threatens the ecosystem by competing with native species for water.

“As we learn more by working with the Wildlife Habitat Council, we hope to partner with schools and organizations in Hays County on additional projects that will allow us, together, to enhance our community’s natural surroundings,” Shackelford said.

Since 1990, the Wildlife Habitat Council has certified more than 408 sites worldwide. The certification program recognizes outstanding wildlife habitat management and environmental education efforts at corporate sites, and offers third-party validation of the benefits of such programs. Certification requirements are strict and require that sites apply for periodic renewal.

ABOUT THE WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL

The Wildlife Habitat Council is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable environment. More than 2.4 million acres in 48 states, Puerto Rico and 16 other countries are managed for wildlife through WHC-assisted projects. For more information, visit WHC online at www.wildlifehc.org.

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