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Press Release

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Red-tailed Hawk Burned in Plane Crash Dies

Itasca, IL – The Red-tailed Hawk that was burned in the January 23, 2010 plane crash in Sugar Grove, IL has died. Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation, who had been caring for the hawk since the evening of the tragic Sugar Grove plane crash that claimed the lives of two men, humanely euthanized the bird following the onset of significant medical complications.

Authorities were amazed that the hawk was alive and in relatively good condition after it was engulfed in a fire ball at the Sugar Grove crash site. The bird was provided with emergency medical care following the incident and had been improving prior to the onset of significant medical complications. "Phoenix was standing, eating solid food and was visual within two days of the crash. Barring complications, her prognosis for a full recovery and eventual release back to the wild was very good" stated Dawn Keller, Founder and President of Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Unfortunately, despite comprehensive medical care that addressed all aspects of Phoenix's injuries, she developed complications that were primarily respiratory in nature. She was euthanized after she failed to respond to medical treatments for those complications.

Flint Creek Wildlife admits over 3,200 injured and orphaned wild birds and mammals each year at its treatment centers in Barrington, Chicago and Itasca. Many animals admitted have injuries that require extensive medical care. "We've seen some amazing things," stated Keller, "from Red-tailed Hawks hit by trains to Red Fox hit by cars. We've had animals that have been unconscious for several days that have made a full recovery. These many examples of survival and incredible will to live give testament to the fact that animals can survive significant injuries. We just wish Phoenix had been one of them."

Flint Creek Wildlife extends deep sympathy to the families of the pilot and his passenger.

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation is a not-for-profit 501(c) 3 corporation dedicated to the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning fully rehabilitated wildlife to their natural habitat. Flint Creek Wildlife admits more than 3,200 injured and orphaned wild animals each year.

Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation relies solely on public funding and graciously accepts donations in order to support its lifesaving work. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, please visit the web site at www.flintcreekwildlife.org.

*Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education
Habitat and Species Conservation*