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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Earth Day Initiative to Plant 10,000 Trees**

Columbus, Ohio – January 22, 2010 – Today, Buckeye Forest Council, Rainforest Action Network and Green Columbus announced a tree planting initiative for *Earth Day 2010: The Update*. The three organizations are teaming up to coordinate the planting of 10,000 trees on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> as part of the citywide Earth Day celebration. This total equates to one tree per each of the expected 10,000 volunteers that will be engaged in Earth Day related community service projects across central Ohio.

Using seed funds from the recently disbanded central Ohio chapter of Rainforest Action Network, Buckeye Forest Council is coordinating the planting of 10,000 trees at volunteer worksites across central Ohio. This initiative aims to supply volunteer labor to perform the planting and, where necessary, supply trees to organizations hosting *Earth Day 2010: The Update* worksites on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The goal of 10,000 trees was selected to equal one tree per Earth Day volunteer – since a healthy tree stores about 13 pounds of carbon annually, offsetting the amount produced by the average American in a calendar year. The remaining funding for the initiative is expected to come from company and individual donors, as well as from the Name a Tree program, a new opportunity to honor someone with a tree planting.

Any organization may host an Earth Day worksite, including environmental groups, community organizations, churches, schools and others. In addition to planting trees, common worksite activities involve community gardening, removing invasive species, cleaning up river banks and neighborhood beautification. Approximately 150 worksites will be needed to supply meaningful opportunities for 10,000 volunteers. Worksite registration is open now, and volunteer registration will begin in early March.

More information about the tree planting initiative and other aspects of the central Ohio Earth Day event can be found at [www.Update2010.org](http://www.Update2010.org).

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### About Buckeye Forest Council

The Buckeye Forest Council (BFC) is a membership-based, grassroots organization dedicated to protecting Ohio's native forests and their inhabitants. More information available at [www.buckeyeforestcouncil.org](http://www.buckeyeforestcouncil.org).

### About Rainforest Action Network

Rainforest Action Network (RAN) campaigns for the forests, their inhabitants and the natural systems that sustain life by transforming the global marketplace through education, grassroots organizing, and non-violent direct action. [www.ran.org](http://www.ran.org). The people behind RAN in central Ohio have reformed under the name B.A.B.E. ([www.BeABetterEarthling.com](http://www.BeABetterEarthling.com)), a network designed to inspire women to make the world a better place.

### About Green Columbus

Green Columbus exists to promote sustainable living in Central Ohio and globally by 1) providing forums for environmental groups, citizens and others to interact. 2) raising awareness about environmental issues and what can be done to address them, and 3) encouraging participation in action oriented green events. More information is available at [www.greenbus.org](http://www.greenbus.org).