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**Administer the Distribution and Expenditure of Funds in the Endangered Species, Natural Area Preserve and Watchable Wildlife Account**

**Sec. 22a-271-1. Definitions as used in sections 22a-271-1, 22a-271-2 and 22a-271-3**

(1) "Account" means the endangered species, natural area preserves and watchable wildlife account established by section 22a-271 of the general statutes.

(2) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of environmental protection.

(3) "Endangered Species" means "endangered species" or "threatened species" as defined in section 26-304 of the general statutes.

(4) "Essential Habitat" means "essential habitat" as defined in section 26-304 of the general statutes.

(5) "Fiscal Year" is defined as the period July 1 through June 30 of each year.

(6) "Natural Area Preserve" means "natural area preserve" as defined in section 23-5b of the general statutes.

(7) "Nonharvested Wildlife" means any species of wildlife for which no open season for taking or hunting has been established by the general statutes or by the department of environmental protection.

(8) "Wildlife" means "wildlife" as defined in section 26-304 of the general statutes.

(Effective April 27, 1995)

**Sec. 22a-271-2. Distribution of funds in the account**

(a) The commissioner shall determine whether the funds deposited into the account shall be used for:

(1) the identification, protection, conservation or management of, or the development and production of materials or facilities providing information or education concerning, endangered species, natural area preserves or nonharvested wildlife; or

(2) the promotion of the income tax contribution system established under section 22a-271 and promotion of the account.

(Effective April 27, 1995)

**Sec. 22a-271-3. Expenditure of funds**

(a) The commissioner shall consider and shall expend funds in the account for one or more of the following purposes which may be undertaken by or for the department of environmental protection:

(1) research, pertaining to creating, conducting or updating new or existing inventories regarding endangered species, natural area preserves or nonharvested wildlife;

(2) gathering, preparing or disseminating information about endangered species, nonharvested wildlife, natural area preserves, or areas which may prove worthy of inclusion within a system of natural area preserves;

(3) conserving, protecting, restoring or enhancing any natural area preserve or the habitat used or inhabited by any endangered species or nonharvested wildlife;

(4) identifying, protecting, conserving, managing or monitoring any endangered species or nonharvested wildlife or ecological, scientific, educational, historical, economic, recreational or aesthetic value;

(5) educating the public about or providing access to endangered species, natural area preserves or nonharvested wildlife;

(6) identifying any species of wildlife or plant which has or could become endangered and identifying or studying the causes or reasons why such species of plant or wildlife has or may become endangered; or

(7) promotion of the income tax contribution system established under section 22a-271 and promotion of the account.

(b) After the close of each fiscal year, the commissioner shall prepare and maintain an accounting of how the funds in the account for the preceding fiscal year have been used.

(Effective April 27, 1995)