



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cutline information: Pictured from left: State Forester John Shannon, Minority Outreach Coordinator Evette Dixon, and Minority Outreach Technician Paul Watkins Jr.

Editor's note: Paul Watkins Jr. works out of the AFC Dallas County work center, and resides in Princeton near Carthage.

AFC Receives Two Chiefs' Partnership Award

LITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Forestry Commission was presented with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service Two Chiefs' Partnership Award on Sept. 9, 2008, in recognition of the collaborative outreach to limited resource and minority forest landowners in Arkansas. The Two Chiefs' Partnership Award recognizes outstanding partnerships in forest conservation work among Conservation Districts, State Foresters, the Forest Service and NRCS.

In Arkansas, NRCS, the Arkansas Forestry Commission, the Arkansas Resource Conservation and Development Council, and the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts worked together to improve conservation efforts to minority and limited resource forest landowners. This partnership created a staff position to further target minority communities, and developed a Revolving Loan Program for the cost share portion of the Forest Land Enhancement Program and Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program; reducing the financial burden for minority landowners who want to join those programs. Partners also created the Forestry for Women Program that provides forestry education to Arkansas' female landowners.

For more information about the Arkansas Forestry Commission and its programs, visit www.forestry.state.ar.us, or call 1-501-296-1940.

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The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.