

## Water Quality Award Presented to Lenoir Forester

*Pictured (left-to-right) are Gail Bledsoe, water quality and wetlands staff forester; Roger Miller, a Lenoir-based forester who received the award; and Sean Brogan, forest management program head.*



By Brian Haines  
Forest Resources

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources is proud to announce that Lenoir-based Water Quality Forester Roger Miller is the first recipient of the Moreland Gueth Water Quality Award.

The award honors Moreland Gueth, a forester who died of natural causes in 2008 after more than 22 years with the Division of Forest Resources. Gueth was known for his common sense approach to all of his jobs, including his assignments as a water quality and wetlands staff forester and the agency's training officer.

Miller earned the award because, like Gueth, he has a reputation being fair and dedicated when working with loggers, landowners and others, staff members said. Miller said he was surprised and honored to receive the award, as Gueth played a significant role in nurturing NCDNR's water quality program. The program has since become highly respected nationally.

"I spent many pleasurable days in the woods with Moreland and numerous less-pleasurable days with him finding solutions to problem situations," Miller said. "Moreland was not only a close colleague of mine, but I also considered him a close friend."

Miller attributes the honor to his years of experience. So do his colleagues.

"Roger is very deserving of this award," said Tommy Sports, assistant district forester in Lenoir. "I truly believe that Moreland will smile as he looks down and sees who is receiving it."

Sports describes Miller as a well-respected professional who puts in an honest day of hard work each day and is good at holding tailgate training sessions, instructing Pro-Logger courses, performing on-site water quality evaluations, and assisting landowners and loggers.

According to Miller, an average "good" workday is spent in the woods visiting several logging jobs with a county ranger, talking with loggers and their crew. They listen to the challenges associated with the weather, equipment breakdowns and the price the mills are paying. Ideally, the loggers have time to walk with them and discuss the best management practices that might help them protect water quality on their jobsite.

"For those of us that have had the opportunity and privilege to work with Roger as a water quality forester, you know your walking shoes better be laced up when his truck stops at your jobsite," Sports said. "He covers each tract thoroughly, pinpointing all problem

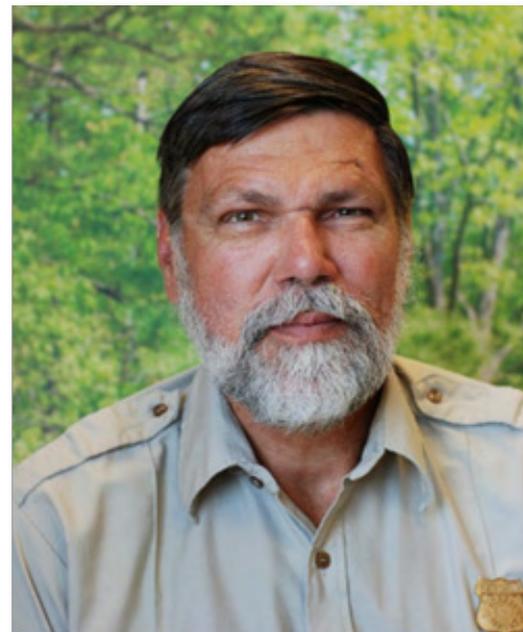
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locations as well as seeing what implementations are working to protect our water quality. His expertise in this field is both a welcomed sight and tail-dragging experience when he shows up on a logging job.”

Miller came to work for the Division of Forest Resources in 1978 after graduating from N.C. State University with a bachelor’s degree in Forest Management. He has held positions with the agency in Fairfield, Hillsborough and Lenoir. Miller had the opportunity to go into “upper management” but decided against it and said he’s never regretted the decision.

“Hands down, the thing I like most about my job is working outdoors,” he said. “That was one of the primary reasons I, and probably every other forester, went into the field of forestry. Since I feel the same way after 31 years, I must have made the right decision.”



Moreland Gueth

## Biologists Win Wildlife Management Excellence Award



*Charles Bennett, vice chairman of the commission, David Cobb, chief of the Division of Wildlife Management, Kacy Cook, land conservation biologist, and Gordon Myers, executive director of the commission, at a recent award presentation.*

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RALEIGH, N.C. (Nov. 12, 2010) - Two N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission biologists have been awarded the Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society’s 2010 Wildlife Management Excellence Award for the development and implementation of the Green Growth Toolbox helps communities conserve sensitive habitats and waterways while planning for growth and development.

Kacy Cook, Land Conservation Biologist, and Jacquelyn Wallace, former urban wildlife biologist, received the award for initiating, developing and implementing the toolbox beginning in 2006. The Green Growth Toolbox provides county and city planners with data on locations of sensitive species

and habitats, and information on how and why planners should incorporate habitat-friendly practices into development plans.

“The Green Growth Toolbox provides the data and recommendations to help bridge the information gap between biologists and land use planners,” said Jeff Marcus, Piedmont Wildlife Diversity supervisor for the commission. “The approach of the Green Growth Toolbox is to work with local governments, recognizing that economic development and population growth are often important priorities for local governments. It is a non-regulatory program that helps to inform the decision making of local

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governments. Jacquelyn and Kacy have demonstrated great vision and leadership in developing this program in a collaborative manner.”

NCWRC has partnered with Coastal Land Trust, Sustainable Sandhills, Sandhills Conservation Partnership, and Land of Sky Regional

Council to deliver Green Growth Toolbox workshops and technical guidance. Workshops have been provided to 25 communities in the state and Green Growth Toolbox recommendations have been incorporated into several land use plans, ordinances, and development permits. Funding

for this project has come from the Wildlife Conservation Society, State Wildlife Grants, and the N.C. Non-Game and Endangered Wildlife Fund.

For more information on the Green Growth Toolbox, visit [www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth](http://www.ncwildlife.org/greengrowth).

## Photonics Job Shadowing

On July 14, 2010, N.C. Division of Forest Resources Outreach Coordinator, Alton Perry participated in the Photonics job shadowing day. Photonics Leaders II is a two-year science and information technology program for rising tenth and eleventh grade students in North Carolina. Students study the physics of light and its technology applications. The program accepts about 60 students (with emphasis on underrepresented African-American, Hispanic and Native American students) and 60 teachers from rural counties within a 100-mile radius of Wake County. A feature of the program is that students spend a day with a professional in the field. Sophomores Charity Lackey and Kristin Fletcher accompanied Perry.

The day started at the Central Office in Raleigh where the students were introduced to members of the staff. Several staff members provided a brief description of the responsibilities for the section and their specific job responsibilities. Charity and Kristin met with the division’s non-point source pollution branch intern Stephanie Dolan to get a perspective of a college student in the field of natural resources. Afterwards, Perry and the students met with the Wake County Ranger Chris Frey and forester, Rob Robeson. The students were given the opportunity to go along on a forest examination. Chris and Rob discussed with the students how a forest management plan is prepared from collecting and interpreting the field data to formulating a forest management plan. Charity and Kristin learned how a forest management plan includes the management of trees, soil, water and wildlife. The students took part in using forestry tools to determine heights, diameters and ages of trees. After lunch the group visited Clemmons Educational State Forest. There, they met rangers Mike Huffman and Kevin Pittman. Mike and Kevin talked about management of the educational state forest and how it’s used to educate the public and school groups. The last stop of the day was with Dale Threatt-Taylor and Shelia Jones, with Wake County’s Soil and Water District staff to learn about soil and water conservation and environmental education.



## Mecklenburg County Hosts Russian Delegation



On June 20, 2010, the North Carolina Forest Service in Mecklenburg County hosted five Russian forestry delegates who were touring the United States to learn about forestry practices and laws in order to take them back and help make Russian forestry better. Russia contains 25 percent of the world's forested areas and bad logging practices are destroying one of Russia's greatest nature resource. County Forester Eddie Reese, Assistant County Ranger Roger Lamm and Stewardship Coordinator Les Hunter took the delegates on a tour of property in Mecklenburg County and discussed reforestation practices, water quality laws, fire control, herbicide usage, and forestry policies.

Forestry in Russia runs the entire gamut of climate, from the intensely harsh winters of Siberia to the more temperate climates of the Krasnoyarsk region in the south. Since Russia has been a state-owned country for so long, forestry was mainly controlled by the federal government until the fall of the Soviet Union. Now Russia has to start from scratch enacting forestry laws, training thousands of foresters and



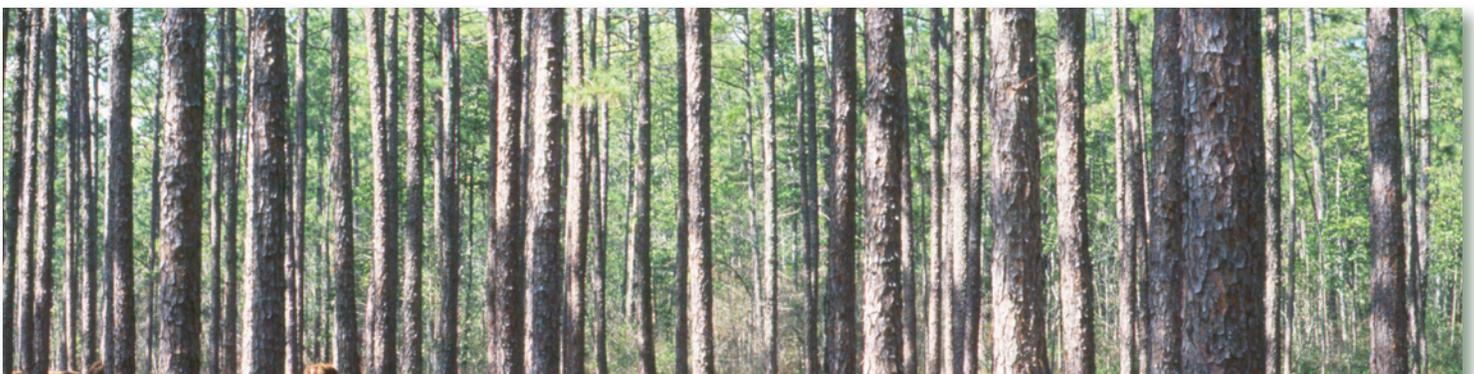
technicians, and regulating harvest practices on an enormous scale. Access to the Russian timber is limited and poor road construction techniques, followed by horrible harvesting operations, have left their cut areas decimated. The Russian people want to ensure they are practicing sustainable forestry and so reforestation practices are immensely important to them. Known as the "Forest Bread Basket" of Europe, Russia has an enormous potential to supply the world with wood far into the future.

Forest fires are a huge concern in Russia, where most of the area is not accessible by road. Also, Russia boasts the largest aerial tanker in the world, the Ilyushin-76TD. It is capable of dropping 11,000 gallons of water on roughly 27 acres in one pass with a gradual release. It can also drop all 11,000 gallons at one time on 13 acres.

County Forester Eddie Reese commented that "Russia has some of the last old growth forest in the world and it was a privilege to help inform them of some of the practice we do that could benefit them."

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## NRCS Longleaf Pine Initiative Available to Private Landowners



Longleaf pine forests once covered millions of acres throughout the Southeast. Today, only a few thousand acres of this vital habitat remains. To help sustain, enhance and restore longleaf pine forests, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Dave White announced recently the availability of more than \$12 million to help private landowners in nine states restore and manage longleaf pine. "The longleaf pine is one of our key native species; providing a home to hundreds of plant and animal species as well as being a tremendous economic resource," White said. "Restoring and expanding

this species is only made possible through voluntary partnerships with conservation-minded landowners who share our goal of healthy forests." Longleaf pine habitat can contain as many as 300 different species of groundcover plants per acre, and approximately 60 percent of the amphibian and reptile species found in the Southeast. Additionally, this forested habitat is home to at least 122 endangered or threatened plant and animal species including the fox squirrel, northern bobwhite, red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise. "We've taken great steps toward conserving

longleaf pine forests in North Carolina," said NRCS State Conservationist JB Martin Jr. "Through this initiative, and the great works of our landowners, we will be able to enhance and protect more of this essential habitat." The Longleaf Pine Initiative will incorporate technical and financial assistance, providing \$800,000 to help landowners in North Carolina improve habitat on agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest and Tribal land. Nine states are included in the Longleaf Pine Initiative: Alabama, Florida,

Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Approved participants will receive financial assistance for implementing conservation practices including planting longleaf pine, installing firebreaks, conducting prescribed burning and controlling invasive plants. Additional information on the Longleaf Pine Initiative, NRCS and our programs is available on our website at [www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov) or at your local USDA NRCS office.



## Forest Service And Partners To Conduct Longleaf Pine-Carbon Research On Military Bases In Three States

### Study to Answer Carbon Cycle Questions, Help Offset Emissions, and Promote Forest Health

U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station (SRS) scientists and university partners are beginning work on an innovative research project in three states that will help the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) better manage longleaf pine forests on military bases for absorbing climate-changing carbon dioxide and providing other ecological services.

SRS, Auburn University (the lead institution) and University of Florida researchers will conduct the five-year, \$2.4 million study on longleaf pine forests on Fort Polk in Louisiana, Fort Benning in Georgia, and Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Research organizers

say the study is the largest carbon sequestration assessment of longleaf pine ecosystems conducted on southern military bases.

"This project will give the defense department biologically based models that will improve the military's ability to manage longleaf pine forests for carbon sequestration, productivity and biodiversity, while promoting the health and restoration of these native ecosystems," said Kurt Johnsen, a plant physiologist in Research Triangle Park and SRS's principal investigator on the project. "In addition, the research will help answer larger questions about the carbon cycle in longleaf pine forests and provide valuable information that the federal government and others can use in offsetting carbon dioxide emissions."

Longleaf pine forests were once the largest temperate forest type in North America occupying up to 90 million acres across the South. Land clearing for crops and pastures, logging, turpentine operations, conversion to other southern pines, and the

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Charlie Peek - Division of Forest Resources

interruption of natural fire regimes reduced the longleaf forest to about 3 percent of its original range. Longleaf pine forests have a high potential to sequester carbon and there is a renewed interest in restoring longleaf pine for high-value wood products, pine straw production and wildlife benefits. Longleaf pine ecosystems, among the most diverse in temperate North America, provide habitat for threatened and endangered species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker.

The research is funded by DOD through the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP), an environmental research program. SERDP uses the latest science and technology to improve environmental performance, reduce costs, and enhance and sustain mission capabilities within DOD.

The study supports DOD's transition of forest management toward an ecological forestry model that balances military mission support with the maintenance of ecological services with a view toward offsetting facility carbon emissions.

Lisa Samuelson, a tree physiologist and director of the Center for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems at Auburn University, will direct the project. She will also lead an effort to quantify carbon in longleaf pine aboveground mass and root systems as well as other components of the 45,000 acres of longleaf pine ecosystems at Fort Polk, Fort Benning and Camp Lejeune. Besides intensive and extensive excavations of root systems of trees 5-to-50 years old, this work will also use ground-penetrating radar to measure root biomass. This research will help

answer questions about longleaf pine's ability to sequester carbon and allow researchers to predict longleaf carbon sequestration capabilities.

SRS scientists will lead efforts to quantify both longleaf pine root decomposition rates and the importance of black carbon (residue after biomass burning) in carbon sequestration. Longleaf pine is a fire-adapted species and frequent prescribed fire is integral to its successful management. Such fire deposits "black carbon" in the form of charcoal and soot - forms of carbon that persist for up to centuries in forest soil. SRS researchers John Butnor and Chris Maier are co-investigators on the study.

Tim Martin, a tree physiologist and director of the Carbon Resources Science Center at the University of Florida, and his colleagues will combine data

from the research project with SRS experimental forest data and published scientific literature to modify models that DOD land managers can use to manage their longleaf pine forest resource. The carbon cycle models will help forest managers simulate scenarios for young planted longleaf pine

stands and a single-tree-based model that can simulate older longleaf pine stands for trees between 40 years and 200 years old.

SRS is comprised of about 120 Forest Service scientists and several hundred support staff who conduct natural resource research

in 20 locations across 13 Southern states (Virginia to Texas). The Station's mission is "...to create the science and technology needed to sustain and enhance southern forest ecosystems and the benefits they provide." Learn more about SRS at: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/>

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## Forest Legacy Program Reaches 2 Million Acre Milestone in Protecting Threatened Private Forests

**USDA Forest Service, partnerships conserve private working forests from Hawaii to New Hampshire yielding multiple benefits**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23, 2010 - The U.S. Forest Service recently reached a milestone of protecting more than 2 million acres of private forests threatened by development. The Forest Service's Northeastern Area helped the agency reach the milestone when Ohio purchased a 15,494-acre property as the new Vinton Furnace State Experimental Forest about 90 miles south of Columbus.

"With more than half of the country's forests in private ownership, it is vital that we work with landowners to conserve our forests for the benefit of the environment and rural jobs," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "Through the success of the Forest Legacy Program, the (U.S.) Forest Service has demonstrated that through partnerships with states, conservation groups, landowners and forest industry, we can protect our forests for future generations."

The milestone was achieved through public-private partnership using federal and leveraged funds of about \$1.1 billion through the Forest Legacy program. The legacy program has leveraged the federal investment of more than 50 percent of project costs. To date, more than \$630 million has been contributed to these efforts through non-federal matching funds.

The Forest Legacy program works with private landowners, states and conservation groups to promote sustainable, working forests. In fiscal 2010, the program was funded at more than \$79 million to assist landowners across the country to conserve and manage their land while protecting environmentally important landscapes.

Roughly 57 percent of the nation's forests are privately owned yet the country has lost 15 million acres of private working forests in the last 10 years. An additional 22 million acres is projected to be at risk in the next decade.

"The Forest Legacy program has protected millions of acres of privately owned forests that could have easily been turned into strip malls and housing developments," said Tom Tidwell, chief of the U.S. Forest Service. "This program operates on a 'willing buyer, willing seller' principle for private landowners to promote environmental, social and economic benefits for all."

Work with hundreds of landowners during the past 20 years has created many forest legacy success stories, some of which include:

- The Moose Mountain Reservation in New Hampshire whose wood, water, wildlife, scenic and recreational values will be sustained and managed over the long term thanks to the Forest Legacy Program, the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and many others. Moose Mountain has been protected since 2006.
- The Blonquist family, third generation ranchers, entered into a conservation easement with the Forest Legacy Program that both protects their ranch and allows them to be part of a bigger conservation effort east of Park City; Six Feathers Ranch has been protected since 2005.

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- Wao Kele O’Puna is a 26,000-acre tract that is the last largest remaining expanse of low-land lava rainforest on the Big Island of Hawaii. This property was for many years the focus of struggle for native Hawaiians who sought to protect Wao Kele O’Puna from development so that they might retain access to the site to collect plants for native rituals and to visit burial sites. Wao Kele O’Puna was protected in 2007 and is now managed by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

The mission of the U.S. Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

## Woodland Steward Series Website Goes Live!



Are you a landowner seeking information about managing your land? Looking for guidance on woodland management, native landscaping, recreation or stewardship? Or are you a natural resource professional desiring to share this information with landowners?

The Woodland Steward Series website is just the source for you!

The Woodland Steward Series is a set of workshops designed to equip landowners with the tools and resources needed to manage their land, and the website has combined this information into a simple and convenient place: [www.woodlandstewardseries.org](http://www.woodlandstewardseries.org). Here you’ll find links to handouts shared with workshop participants, websites with detailed information on topics from soil to liability presentations given by speakers during the workshops, and agency contacts who can help you to implement your land management goals. You’ll find all this information and more under the “For Landowners” tab on the website. Continued page 9

The website is for landowners and natural resource professionals. It contains a wealth of information to share with local landowners. Plus, it includes all the training materials, including modifiable document templates, sample agendas and press releases, etc., necessary to host one or all four of the Woodland Steward Series workshops on topics relevant to your region. All these materials can be easily located and downloaded at the "For Trainers" tab at [www.woodlandstewardseries.org](http://www.woodlandstewardseries.org).

The Woodland Steward Series is an extension of the Biltmore Forest School, the first school of forestry in North America, opened by Carl Alwin Schenck in 1898 to help manage the vast holdings of George Vanderbilt in Asheville. The course has been sponsored by numerous agencies and organizations in North Carolina. The four main partners include the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association, N.C. Division of Forest Resources, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.

## EPA Recognizes the Benefits of Biomass Energy

Grants NAFO's petition to reconsider; outlines rulemaking and scientific inquiry

The screenshot shows the NAFO website's "Economic Impact Report" page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: Home, About NAFO, Media Center, Policy Issues, Legislative Action Center, and NAFO PAC. The NAFO logo is prominently displayed on the left. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- LATEST NEWS:** Contains three news items with "More" links. The first item discusses EPA policy consistency with renewable energy goals. The second mentions House votes on pesticide regulations. The third supports Secretary Vilsack's decision on wood in USDA programs.
- Economic Impact Report:** The central feature, including a map of the U.S. and a detailed pop-up for North Carolina. The pop-up data is as follows:
 

<b>Private Forest Acres:</b>	15,685,076
<b>Public Forest Acres:</b>	2,506,090
<b>Direct, Indirect, and Induced Jobs from Private Forests:</b>	187,515
<b>Direct, Indirect, and Induced Payroll from Private Forests (in thousands):</b>	\$6,117,180
<b>State Income and Severance Taxes from Private Forests (in thousands):</b>	\$385,696
<b>Sales from Private Forests (in thousands):</b>	\$13,912,663
<b>Economic Impact - Contribution to GDP from Private Forests (in thousands):</b>	\$13,912,663
- MEMBER LOG IN:** A search bar and a "MEMBER LOG IN" link.
- SIGN UP:** A section for receiving email updates.
- FORESTRY JOURNAL:** Contains two articles: "Markets for forest products are necessary to conserve the 57% of U.S. forests that are privately owned..." and "A ninth-generation tree farmer in Massachusetts explains why forest owners won't clear cut forests for biomass energy..."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency today granted the National Alliance of Forest Owners' petition to reconsider the treatment of biomass

carbon emissions under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration and Title V Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule (Tailoring Rule). Continued page 10

In doing so, the EPA announced that it will defer permit requirements for biomass energy production for a period of at least three years pending future consideration of the science and subsequent rulemaking. Dave Tenny, president and CEO of the National Alliance of Forest Owners, issued the following statement in response to today's announcement:

NAFO applauds EPA's action as a critical step toward recognizing the full carbon benefits of biomass as a leading source of renewable energy. The three-year moratorium is an appropriate response to NAFO's request. It will allow the EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to work with Congress, biomass producers and users, scientists and other interested parties to develop a science-based policy supporting a vibrant biomass energy sector for the long term without penalizing biomass energy production in the interim.

We appreciate that the EPA, USDA and the administration have heard our concerns that the Tailoring Rule included a sudden and unprecedented change in policy without appropriate public participation. Over 100 bipartisan members of Congress, numerous state officials, and over 100 respected scientists have expressed their concerns about the rule. All have urged EPA to appropriately recognize the carbon benefits of biomass energy in the Tailoring Rule to support renewable energy production, rural jobs and sound forest management.

NAFO agrees with EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson's assessment that "renewable, homegrown power sources are essential to our energy future, and an important step to cutting the pollution responsible for climate change." We also appreciate the important contributions of Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and key leaders in Congress. NAFO remains committed to working with the EPA, USDA, Congress and others to secure a policy recognizing the full carbon benefits of biomass energy while also supporting the important jobs and economic benefits it brings to rural communities.

It is now critical that we work together in the coming months on deliberate steps to support biomass energy production, remove uncertainty that harms investment and threatens jobs, support working forests and secure biomass as a strong, renewable, domestic energy source that will benefit our country long into the future.

#### Background

On May 13, 2010, EPA announced the Tailoring Rule and included greenhouse gas emissions from biomass energy in the permit program. On Aug. 3, 2010, NAFO submitted a petition asking the EPA to reconsider and defer the implementation of the Tailoring Rule's permitting requirements to biomass emissions. Today, in response to NAFO's petition, the EPA announced that the agency will complete an expedited rulemaking process by July 1, 2011, to defer for three years the application of the greenhouse gas permitting requirements for emissions from biomass-fired and other biogenic fuel sources. During the latter deferral period, EPA will seek independent scientific analysis on the issue and develop additional regulations as needed on the treatment of biomass carbon emissions under the Clean Air Act.

Pending completion of the expedited rulemaking, EPA will issue temporary guidance to the states advising them to treat biomass as Best Available Control Technology (BACT) when implementing the Tailoring Rule.

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NAFO is an organization of private forest owners committed to advancing federal policies that promote the economic and environmental values of privately-owned forests at the national level. NAFO membership encompasses more than 79 million acres of private forestland in 47 states. Private, working forests in the U.S. support 2.5 million jobs. [View NAFO's interactive map](#) to see the economic impact of America's working forests.





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## Wildlife Conservation Land Program Frequently Asked Questions

# FAQS

### What is the Wildlife Conservation Land Program?

The Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP) is a new program that allows landowners who have owned their property for at least five years and want to manage for protected wildlife species or priority wildlife habitats to apply for a reduced property tax assessment.

### Is the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP) the same thing as Wildlife Present Use Value (PUV)?

Technically there is no such thing as 'Wildlife PUV' but wildlife conservation land must be appraised and assessed as if it were classified under PUV as agricultural land. This may account for the name confusion. Currently, land enrolled in the N.C. Present-Use-Valuation (PUV) program and classified as agricultural, horticultural or forest land is assessed by counties at a reduced value. The WCLP is similar to PUV in that landowners must still apply to their county tax office for a property tax deferment but the WCLP is actually a completely separate program and is not part of PUV.

### Can anyone who wants to manage for wildlife apply for the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP)?

Only land with protected wildlife species or priority habitats will qualify.

### Explain protected wildlife species and priority habitats.

Protected wildlife species are those designated by the N.C. Wildlife Resource Commission (NCWRC)

as endangered (E), threatened (T), or special concern (SC). Six priority habitats have been identified as follows - longleaf pine forest, early successional habitat, small wetland community, stream and riparian zone, rock-outcrop, and bat cave.

### What if a landowner has forestland they want to enroll in the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP)?

Longleaf pine forests will qualify. Other forest types may qualify as wildlife conservation land if the forestland contains a protected wildlife species or a priority habitat type such as rock outcrop, stream and riparian zones, or bat caves. Forestland that does not contain a protected wildlife species or a priority habitat type will not qualify.

### What if a landowner has threatened and endangered plants on their property?

Having listed plant species will not qualify under the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP). Only land with protected animal species or priority habitats will qualify.

### Is there an acreage requirement under the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP)?

A landowner must have at least 20 contiguous qualifying acres. That means 20 acres of wildlife habitat designated as priority habitat or as habitat to conserve a protected wildlife species, not just 20 acres of land. Contiguous means that the qualifying habitat must be connected in a block of at least 20 acres, not just add up to 20 acres. There is also a maximum acreage limit. No more than 100 acres of an owner's land in a county may be classified as wildlife conservation land.

### Is there some kind of contract a landowner has to sign?

Wildlife conservation land must be managed under a written Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement (WHCA) with N.C. Wildlife Commission. The management agreement must document the presence of a protected wildlife species or the

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existence of one or more of the priority habitats and describe the management strategies in place or planned with appropriate timelines to ensure the continued existence of the protected species, the priority habitat or both.

**What happens once a landowner has an approved Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement?**

To request their property be assessed as wildlife conservation land, the landowner must submit an application to the county assessor's office during the regular listing period which is typically the month of January for the year in which the landowner desires the assessment. The county assessor will determine if the land qualifies for an assessment at a reduced value.

**How soon can a landowner apply?**

The WCLP will take effect for taxable years on or after July 1, 2010. Landowners may apply to their county for a reduced assessment of their land as wildlife conservation land during the regular listing period beginning January 1, 2010.

**What if a landowner wants to change over from Present Use**

**Value to the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP)?**

Landowners may enroll land currently receiving a reduced tax rate as agricultural, horticultural or forest land as wildlife conservation land without penalty provided the landowner meets all other requirements related to wildlife conservation land.

For land not currently enrolled in the PUV program, landowners must demonstrate to the county assessor and the NCWRC that the land has been used for the purpose outlined in the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Agreement for three years preceding Jan. 1 of the year for which the benefit is claimed.

**Where can landowners obtain more information on the Wildlife Conservation Land Program (WCLP)?**

The NCWRC has prepared a document called 'Introduction to the Wildlife Conservation Land Program'. To request a copy, obtain an 'Application for Wildlife Resources Commission Assistance', or if there are additional questions regarding the program, see [http://www.ncwildlife.org/Wildlife\\_Species\\_Con/WSC\\_Land\\_Program.htm](http://www.ncwildlife.org/Wildlife_Species_Con/WSC_Land_Program.htm) or contact the NCWRC headquarters in Raleigh at (919) 707-0050 and they will direct interested applicants to the appropriate field representative for their area.

## Updated Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2010 Tax Year

The U.S. Forest Service has released an updated version of its September 2010 Tax Tips bulletin, so it includes recent changes in Public Law 111-312, which was enacted Dec. 17,

2010. Like its predecessors, this new bulletin provides tax tips for woodland owners and their tax advisors in the preparation of the 2010 individual tax return.

To view this bulletin and other forestry-related tax information, visit the U.S. Forest Service's Cooperative Forestry website, <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/>.

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