



# News Release

For more information, contact:  
Wendy Burnett  
478.751.3530  
[wburnett@gfc.state.ga.us](mailto:wburnett@gfc.state.ga.us)  
[GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

## **REGIONAL HONORS FOR LOCAL FORESTRY PROS**

Employees of the Georgia Forestry Commission's local Appling County Unit in the agency's South Region have been recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in serving Georgia citizens. The unit was named 2015 Southern Unit of the Year for furthering the agency's mission of providing "leadership, service and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources."

"These Georgia Forestry Commission professionals exemplify unwavering dedication and skill," said Georgia Forestry Commission Director, Robert Farris. "They were chosen as the best of the best for their work in wildfire prevention and suppression, forestry services, safety, and assisting with numerous special projects on vehicles and equipment."

The Georgia Forestry Commission annually acknowledges county units and state districts for meeting and exceeding measurable agency goals, including the number of miles of firebreaks plowed and harrowed, number of acres prescribe burned, wildfire reduction and education outreach. In January, the Georgia State Legislature presented a resolution honoring the Georgia Forestry Commission's Southern Unit winner at the state capitol.

The Appling County Unit led all other units in the South Region in workload per employee. The unit contained 32 wildfires that burned through 130 acres for an average wildfire size of four acres, which is 22% below its five year average. Seventy-seven prescribe burn assists were performed on 2152 acres, which is a 107% increase from the previous fiscal year. In addition, the unit's seed collections increased 337% and seedling sales rose 171% from the previous year.

"The ability of these professionals to work together with limited personnel resources and surpass the goals of the work group is tremendous," Farris said. "They take great pride in their jobs and are absolutely devoted to their co-workers and their fellow Georgians."

To learn more about the services of the Georgia Forestry Commission, visit [GaTrees.org](http://GaTrees.org).

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