



National Wild Turkey Federation Honors Sumter National Forest Wildlife Program

The Forest Wildlife Program helps with restoration and Wildlife Management Strategies.



Recipients of the Making Tracks Award-Donny Ray and Donna Ray (not pictured-Chris Holcomb and Tarri McKinney)

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) recently honored staff from the Sumter National Forest by giving them the 2008 National Making Tracks Award. This award recognizes people and projects that best incorporate conservation education, partnerships and active wild turkey management into ecosystem projects.

"Without the tremendous level of staff and partner commitment for habitat management, restoration efforts and wildlife management strategies would never succeed," said Anne Kiser, district ranger on the Long Cane Ranger District. "I am proud of their accomplishments and of the well-deserved award they received from the National Wild Turkey Federation."

The recipients-Chris Holcomb, Tarri McKinney Donna Ray and Donny Ray-were recognized for the Sumter Zone Wildlife Program (SZQP) which incorporates the above listed activities with other Forest Service actions such as ecosystem restoration, habitat management, conservation education and recreation management.

Additionally, the SZWP incorporates natural resource management by working with fire, recreation and timber to accomplish wildlife habitat goals. Providing hunting and fishing opportunities for youth and physically challenged hunters, the program builds new relationships and does an outstanding job leveraging funds for support.

Program partners include the NWTF, Quail Unlimited, SC Department of Natural Resources, and Ducks Unlimited among others.

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