



NEWS RELEASE

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Three individuals receive prestigious award for conservation work

MORGANTOWN, WV— A prestigious conservation and forest stewardship award will be presented at the 2011 West Virginia Conservation Partnership Conference October 24–26 in Charleston, WV.

Bob Lueckel, Field Representative for the U.S. Forest Service's Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry unit in Morgantown, will present the USDA *Two Chiefs' Partnership Award* to three recipients: West Virginia State Forester Randy Dye, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Forester Barbara McWhorter, and retired Monongahela National Forest Silviculturist Glen Juergens. The awardees have worked together as part of the West Virginia Forest Stewardship Partnership.

The *Two Chiefs' Partnership Award* recognizes people and teams that work collaboratively to support conservation and forest stewardship. The award recognizes the West Virginia Forest Stewardship Partnership for its teamwork to protect and manage West Virginia forest resources. Award winners are selected by the Chiefs of the U.S. Forest Service and USDA NRCS.

The partnership was chosen in the group award category because of the critical role it played in managing vegetation and soil on State and private lands as well as providing assistance to the Monongahela National Forest. The three agencies capitalized on each other's expertise to promote forest stewardship and maximize benefits from forests.

Dye has served as West Virginia's State Forester for the past 12 years. He is a native of Parkersburg, WV, and graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science degree in forest management in 1974. Dye began his forestry career in Lumberton, NC, with the Federal Paper Board. He then joined Georgia-Pacific Corporation in 1978 and worked in every State throughout the Southeastern United States before returning to West Virginia 1999.

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McWhorter has served as the State Forester for the USDA NRCS since 1996. She grew up in Verona, PA, and graduated from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science degree in forest management in 1983. After graduation, McWhorter worked for West Virginia University as a Forest Research Technologist for one year. She then accepted a position with the West Virginia Division of Forestry and worked as a Service Forester and Assistant District Forester. In 1988, McWhorter began work with the NRCS as a Soil Conservationist in Georgia. She returned to West Virginia with the NRCS in 1993.

Juergens recently retired as the Forest Silviculturist of the Monongahela National Forest. He graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1976 with a Bachelor's degree in forestry. He served in the U.S. Army from 1969–1972 and is a Vietnam veteran. Juergens also served as a Peace Corps Volunteer from 1977–1979 in Honduras. Juergens worked for the Forest Service for 30 years. In addition to working on the Monongahela National Forest, he worked on the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky and the Klamath National Forest in California. Juergens currently works as an independent forest management consultant in tropical forest management.

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