

ENOREE RANGER DISTRICT SUMTER NATIONAL FOREST, SOUTH CAROLINA PRESENTED JOHN McGUIRE AWARD

On November 14, 2008, NAFSR Chairman George Leonard traveled to Whitmire, South Carolina to award the prestigious John McGuire Award to the Enoree Ranger District, Sumter National Forest. Chief Gail Kimbell, Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa, Forest Supervisor Jerome Thomas and NAFSR's Southeast Director Ralph Mumme joined George in the presentation to District Ranger Beth LeMaster.

The Award was presented to the Enoree Ranger District for their efforts in developing the Indian Creek Wildlife Habitat Restoration Initiative. In 2004, the District joined with numerous partners in an effort to provide habitat for grassland dependent species such as bobwhite quail and certain songbird species. The 16,000 acre project, involving National Forest System and private lands, focuses on the re-establishment of warm season bunch grasses and the eradication of the competing invasive species through practices such as thinning and burning.

The partners included the South Carolina DNR, SC State Forestry Commission, Wild Turkey Federation, Trout Unlimited, Clemson University, Quail Unlimited, NRCS, and numerous private landowners.

Chairman Leonard noted in his remarks that the Indian Creek Project showed the outstanding leadership of the District and the Forest in coordinating with all the partners involved in developing and implementing the project. Chairman Leonard made special mention of work with private landowners that allowed prescribed burning and habitat development over the entire landscape.



Chief Gail Kimbell, Regional Forester Liz Agpaoa, Forest Supervisor Jerome Thomas join NAFSR Chairman George Leonard in the presentation to District Ranger Beth LeMaster