



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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### **Kentucky Woodland Owners Association Recognizes Outstanding Service Forester *Central District's Steve Gray honored at annual meeting***

**FRANKFORT, Ky. – (April 1, 2011)** – Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF) employee Steve Gray received the Outstanding Service Forester Award from the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association (KWOA) during the annual meeting held at Carter Caves State Resort Park this week. Gray, who works in the Central District, has helped advance forest management through his work with private landowners for 30 years. He was selected by KWOA to receive the award based on his accomplishments in forestry management and long-time association with private landowners.

As district forester for KDF's Central District, Gray oversees all district functions and staff, provides technical assistance to woodland owners, prepares forest stewardship plans and inspects American Tree Farms for certification. Gray's responsibilities also include wildland fire suppression, conducting forestry education programs and assisting with timber harvest inspections.

"Steve is highly respected and appreciated by landowners throughout the Central District," said Dr. James Middleton. "I have worked with Steve for more than 20 years, and I have always found him to be professional and knowledgeable. The Central District is fortunate to have someone of his caliber."

Gray's district serves Allen, Barren, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Edmonson, Grayson, Hancock, Hardin, Hart, Jefferson, Larue, Meade, Nelson, Simpson, Spencer and Warren counties. Despite a demanding workload, he also makes time to work cooperatively with other resource agencies including the conservation districts, county extension,

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Services and Farm Services Agency.

“The Division of Forestry is fortunate to have the dedication, experience and leadership of employees like Gray who provide an invaluable service to landowners and who play an important role in protecting the health of our forest lands,” said Director Leah W. MacSwords.

KWOA is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1994 for the purpose of promoting the quality of our woodlands. The organization is controlled exclusively by independent Kentucky woodland owners whose goal is to help Kentucky forest landowners attain long-term value from their forestry operation while maintaining a healthy, beautiful forest. For more information about KWOA, visit <http://kwoa.net/index.htm>.

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