

Senate Resolution 181

By: Senator Tolleson of the 20th

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit upon being named the  
2 Georgia Forestry Commission 2014 Southern Unit of the Year; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, the mission of the Georgia Forestry Commission is "to provide leadership,  
4 service, and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources"; and

5 WHEREAS, one forestry unit is selected each year as Georgia Forestry Commission's  
6 Southern Unit of the Year based on various measures of accomplishments that are  
7 determined by members of the Georgia Forestry Commission's leadership; and

8 WHEREAS, the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit's most notable achievements include the  
9 following: assisting on 2,050 acres of prescribed burning; plowing 631 miles of firebreaks  
10 with 100 percent BMP implementation; assisting homeowners with over 88 home risk  
11 assessments; completing renovations for both the Coffee and Atkinson offices as well as  
12 buildings on the Dixon State Forest; having 100 percent participation in the Career  
13 Development Increments program; and reading of 280 agricultural well meters by unit  
14 personnel during the year; and

15 WHEREAS, the forestry unit maintained outstanding wildfire protection of Coffee and  
16 Atkinson County's 382,892 forested acres and responded to 73 wildfires that burned a total  
17 of 258 acres for an average fire size of 3.5 acres; and

18 WHEREAS, due to the outstanding accomplishments of the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit  
19 in the year 2014, the unit was selected as Georgia Forestry Commission's Southern Unit of  
20 the Year; and

21 WHEREAS, the recognized forestry unit consists of dedicated Georgia Forestry Commission  
22 professionals Ranger Jimmy (Darwin) Corbitt, Ranger Derek Harper, Ranger Kevin Pittman,

23 Ranger Shawn Spikes, Ranger Trey Spivey, and Supplemental Firefighter 3 William Greene,  
24 serving under the leadership of Chief Ranger/Forest Technician James Foster Smith, Jr.; and

25 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit are a clear indication  
26 of the dedication and team work present in the unit, the ability of the unit to establish and  
27 maintain mutually beneficial relationships with local partners, and the consistently high level  
28 of forestry services provided by the unit over the course of many years; and

29 WHEREAS, the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit brings great pride to the citizens of Coffee  
30 and Atkinson Counties, the Satilla District, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and the entire  
31 State of Georgia.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
33 commend the Coffee-Atkinson Forestry Unit for being named the 2014 Southern Unit of the  
34 Year.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
36 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to Chief Ranger/Forest  
37 Technician James Foster Smith, Jr.