

Senate Resolution 196

By: Senator Tolleson of the 20th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit on being named the
2 Georgia Forestry Commission 2012 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, each year, one forestry unit is selected as the Georgia Forestry Commission's
6 Southern Unit of the Year based on various measures of accomplishment that are weighed
7 and voted upon by the Georgia Forestry Commission's leadership; and

8 WHEREAS, the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit's most notable achievements include
9 assisting on 2,486 acres of prescribed burning, plowing 173 miles of firebreaks, harrowing
10 328 miles, issuing 1,031 permits from the unit for 16,259 acres, selling and delivering
11 342,383 seedlings, delivering 34 educational programs in the community, publishing articles
12 in the local paper, judging two FFA Forestry Field Day events, including the State
13 Competition, and receiving 217 hours of training in FY12 on safety, equipment operation,
14 and environmental issues; and

15 WHEREAS, the forestry unit also maintained outstanding wildlife protection of Bleckley and
16 Pulaski County's 163,765 forested acres, responding to 132 wildfires that burned a total of
17 336 acres with an average fire size of 2.55 acres, which is nearly half of the state average of
18 4.98 acres; and

19 WHEREAS, due to the outstanding accomplishments of the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit
20 in the year 2012, the unit was selected as the Georgia Forestry Commission's Southern Unit
21 of the Year; and

22 WHEREAS, the recognized forestry unit consists of dedicated GFC Professionals Ranger 1
23 Kerry Smith, Ranger 1 Joey Gross, and Ranger 1 Sean Sills, now Central Response Center
24 manager, serving under the leadership of Chief Ranger David Brown; and

25 WHEREAS, the accomplishments of the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit are a clear
26 indication of the dedication and team work present at the unit, the ability of the unit to
27 establish and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with local partners, and the
28 consistently high level of forestry service provided by the unit over the course of many years.

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
30 commend the Bleckley/Pulaski Forestry Unit for being named the Georgia Forestry
31 Commission 2012 Southern Unit of the Year.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
33 to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to Chief Ranger David Brown.