

Lamar Comalander, Milliken Forestry Company, Inc.

Restoring and maintaining southern pine ecosystems, particularly longleaf pine, on public lands is the foundation of red-cockaded woodpecker recovery. However, doing so on private lands is no less important. In South Carolina we have a man who has dedicated 20 years of his life to this mission. His name is Lamar Comalander. Lamar works for Milliken Forestry Company, a consultant firm based in Columbia, South Carolina. Milliken manages over a million acres of private forest land for their clients in South Carolina and eastern Georgia. Many of these tracts harbor red-cockaded woodpeckers or contain habitat suitable for the species. This fact is testament to Lamar's love of longleaf pine, group and single-tree selection silviculture and prescribed fire. Lamar manages many of his clients' tracts for quail hunting, a use totally compatible with woodpecker conservation. Lamar has been South Carolina's safe harbor champion, enrolling almost 200,000 acres of his client's acreage in the program, a phenomenal success story. Lamar is to South Carolina quail plantation's what Leon Neel is to the Red Hills of Georgia quail plantations. Lamar's land management ethic should be an inspiration to all of us as we go about our daily business of red-cockaded woodpecker recovery. For your tremendous accomplishments at saving woodpeckers on private land and promoting the safe harbor program we are honored to present you this award. Thank you Lamar.