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## NWTF Bestows First Energy for Wildlife Achievement Award

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The National Wild Turkey Federation recently honored the South Central Indiana Rural Electric Membership Cooperative (SCI) for the outstanding efforts to improve wildlife habitat and promote conservation and our hunting heritage.

The NWTF presented SCI the inaugural Energy for Wildlife Achievement Award during the Federation's 30th annual Convention and Sport Show at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn.

Energy for Wildlife is a membership-based certification program for all energy companies with the primary goal of enhancing wildlife habitat on company-managed, -owned or -influenced lands. These lands include power line and gas rights of way, plant sites, forestlands and other properties.

"We felt like we should do something to show our appreciation for all of the work and dedication that SCI has shown through their Energy for Wildlife membership," said Jay Jordan, NWTF's Energy for Wildlife coordinator. "They've gone beyond our wildlife management expectations and have always supported NWTF's conservation programs. The folks at SCI have made this a partnership anyone would be proud to be a part of."

In 2003, SCI became a certified Energy for Wildlife member. Since joining the program, SCI's Right of Way department has planted more than 2,100 wildlife food source trees and bushes on company-managed land.

"There are thousands of acres of utility rights of ways across the country that are an untapped resource and should be managed for wildlife," said Larry Terrell, SCI right of way supervisor. "We understand it is very favorable to the public to be proactive for wildlife. But, we do it because we feel it is the right thing to do as good stewards of this valuable resource we influence in our little part of the world."



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Last year, SCI and part of the NWTF's Energy for Wildlife staff teamed up with a local troop of Boy Scouts of America on Earth Day to plant low-growing trees and bushes that benefit wildlife. That day, the troop planted 240 trees and bushes on the SCI right of way on the Ravinia Woods portion of the Yellowwood/Morgan Monroe State Forest.

The NWTF's Energy for Wildlife program staff works directly with energy companies to integrate wildlife management activities into their land management programs. When participating companies have implemented the wildlife component of their management plans, they will become a certified member of the program.

For more information about the NWTF's Achievement Award or other NWTF convention highlights, call (800) THE-NWTF, or go online at [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org).

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