

# OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY

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July 24, 2017

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## **Oklahoma Forestry Services names Reforestation Programs Manager**

Oklahoma Forestry Services recently promoted Jeri Irby to Forest Regeneration and Tree Improvement Manager, with responsibility for the OFS Forest Regeneration and Tree Improvement Centers.

“We are pleased to have a forester on staff that is ready to step into this key role,” said George Geissler, state forester and director, Oklahoma Forestry Services. “This position is responsible for assessing the state’s reforestation needs and producing the trees best suited to thrive in Oklahoma.”

Serving as Education Coordinator with Oklahoma Forestry Services since 2012, Irby coordinated the environmental education program Project Learning Tree; directed youth forestry camp; developed and implemented forestry curriculum and managed outreach events throughout the state. Irby also serves as secretary/treasurer for the Oklahoma Division of the Society of American Foresters and is the recipient of the Ouachita Society of American Foresters Young Leadership Award.

Irby holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resource Conservation from Oklahoma State University, and a Master of Science degree in Land Resources and Environmental Science from Montana State University.

The Forest Regeneration Center, also known as the state nursery, grows trees and shrubs chosen for their adaptability to Oklahoma’s climate and environment. Seedlings are sold to landowners and others for reforestation, wildlife habitat development, erosion control, windbreaks, and a variety of other environmental purposes. The facility is located on 120 acres south of Norman in Goldsby.

The Tree Improvement Center conducts research, breeds and propagates genetically improved seeds to provide to the state nursery. Oklahoma Forestry Services collaborates with Oklahoma State University and Western Gulf Forest Tree Improvement Cooperative to continually evaluate and improve seed sources to increase seedling survivability and better plant health and production. The Tree Improvement Center is located on 160 acres in Idabel.

## **About Oklahoma Forestry Services**

Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, is committed to conserving, enhancing and protecting Oklahoma’s 12.5 million acres of forests and woodlands. Since 1925 Oklahoma Forestry Services has worked with individuals and communities throughout the state to create resilient landscapes, fire-adaptive communities and provide wildfire response. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the division also has regional offices in Goldsby, Broken Bow, Wilburton and Tahlequah. For more information, visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov>.

