



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Shawnee
National
Forest

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shawnee National Forest Fills Middle Mississippi River Partnership Coordinator Position

January 14, 2008, Harrisburg, IL. Forest Supervisor Hurston A. Nicholas announced that Steve Widowski was selected as the Middle Mississippi River Partnership Coordinator. Steve brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in wildlife management, wetlands biology and partnerships to the position. He reported to the Supervisor's Office to begin his new job on January 7, 2008. Widowski, a career biologist, was most recently the Assistant District Ranger on the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District of the Forest.

In addition to the Forest, other partners in the Middle Mississippi River Partnership include Ducks Unlimited, the American Land Conservancy, Natural Resource Conservation Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation along with over a dozen other partners.

Steve will have the responsibility of developing, coordinating and cultivating partnership opportunities for activities within and adjacent to the Forest as part of implementing the natural resources program of work. He will be the primary contact for wetland and upland ecological restoration, carbon sequestration and carbon management on the Forest.

During his career, Steve has contributed extensively to two forest plan biological assessments for the Shawnee National Forest and worked on the forest plan for the Tahoe

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National Forest in Region 5. His accomplishments include developing proposals with many partners consisting of other federal agencies, state agencies, local agencies, special interest groups or organizations and educational institutions. Steve's passion for wildlife, especially wetland-dependent species, is untiring. He was most recently recognized when he received the prestigious Jack Adams Award for his dedication and career accomplishments as an agency wildlife biologist.

For more information, contact Nick Giannettino at (618) 253-7114.

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