

For Immediate Release:

Illinois Forestry Development Council, Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area, and Partners Accelerate Forest Management through Technology

The Illinois Forestry Development Council (IFDC) recently awarded the Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development Area (SRCD) and their partners, the Forest Restoration Support Team (FRST) and Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association (SIPBA), funding to execute technological updates for communicating the importance of forest management to private landowners, volunteers, and the public across southern Illinois and beyond. As part of the award, the SRCD was able to transition to an online reporting system for the FRST and SIPBA membership to streamline volunteer service hour reporting and donation submissions while also enabling regular outreach to members and the public about upcoming events, trainings, and volunteer opportunities. In addition to the new system, the award also supported the purchase of a camera and additional communication services that will be used to develop social media content on the importance of forest management and demonstration of different forest management actions to further spread the message of the importance of invasive species control and prescribed fire to the health of forests in the region and beyond.

The partnership is excited to highlight the new system for any interested volunteers from the public or members of the FRST and SIPBA in an upcoming event (combination virtual/in-person) to roll-out the new system, **June 25 at 1:00-2:00pm at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center** (354 IL-145 N, Simpson, IL 62985) (GPS: 37.4352995413156, -88.667444769312) or via Zoom with link provided by contacting Kevin Rohling, krohling@illinois.edu or 618-695-3383

