

Barbara McWhorter

Natural Resources Conservation Service - State Forester
Lewis County



Barbara's story

Barbara A. McWhorter was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She knew early on that she didn't want to live in a city and wanted a more rural lifestyle. She attended WVU in the early 1980s and found her passion in forestry. Barbara has served as the NRCS State Forester since 1996.

She has since devoted her career to advocating for the conservation of natural resources, and specifically, for forest resources as a renewable resource. Her knowledge of conservation education, technology development/training and conservation programs has been passed on to thousands of landowners.

Barbara developed the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) which has provided more than a million dollars of financial and technical assistance to hundreds of state woodlands. She was also the key developer of forestry skills materials used at the International Envirothon

Competitions hosted in WV. In addition, she was a collaborator on the creation of the WV Forest Stewardship Partnership, which is dedicated to managing vegetation and soil on state and private lands.

She also serves as an agency-provided Adjunct Professor with WVU's Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design.

Barbara is a WV Registered Professional Forester, member of National Association of Conservation Districts and Communications Chair of the Society of American Foresters. She is also a WV 4-H All-Star, was named the WV Forestry Association Forester of the Year in 2010 and also named a Distinguished Mountaineer in 2010. In 2013, she was presented with the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design Distinguished Alumni Award.

Barbara attends Homer United Methodist Church. She and her husband Ralph are parents to three sons.



“ Hard work is key to success. If you work hard enough, eventually you will achieve your goals. ”

- Barbara McWhorter

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