



## Nacogdoches County

**JOE ENGLISH**

County Judge

Commissioners  
Jerry Don Williamson, Pct. 1  
Charles "Kilowatt" Thomson, Pct. 2

Shannon L. Burkley  
Court Assistant

Commissioners  
Jim Elder, Pct. 3  
Elton Milstead, Jr., Pct. 4

## PRESS RELEASE

**March 16, 2012**



### **Judge asks U.S. Forest Service to improve Shawnee Boat Ramp**

At a U.S. Forest Service Stewardship public meeting in Milam on March 14, 2012, Nacogdoches County Judge Joe English asked representatives from the U.S. Forest Service to perform the much needed improvements to the Shawnee Boat Ramp on the Angelina River.

The Forest Service is currently conducting public hearings asking for input from local communities on potential projects to be implemented with the sale of timber from the local National Forest Service properties of trees that are dying due to the most recent droughts. The sale of the timber under the Stewardship program would be used for local projects. In order to qualify, the projects must fall into one of the seven criteria. Road or trail maintenance on forest property, soil productivity/fish and wildlife obstructed fish passages, reduce wildfire hazards, removing vegetation and bio-mass projects, watershed restoration, restore and maintain wildlife habitats and control weeds negative to habitat.

The property and ramp is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. Much of the land was transferred to the Forest Service in exchange for national forest land flooded by the construction

of the Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Many of the locals sight the area as confusing and difficult to travel and conditions for getting lost are sometimes great. It is still used, however, by many in the community during white sand bass fishing season and observing bird life. Judge English stated it's important to the local community because the ramp is the public's only access to the river around National Forest service land on the Nacogdoches side and travelers would have to go to Lufkin if the ramp was not accessible to the community.