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WALLACE WELCOMES RDS-FOREST SERVICE IRISH FORESTRY AWARDS 2007

Ms. Mary Wallace T.D., Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and Food with responsibility for forestry, welcomed the launch of this year's RDS-Forest Service Irish Forestry Awards on Thursday, 7 June 2007 and encouraged plantation owners to enter their forests into the competition.

These Awards represent a partnership between the Department of Agriculture and Food and the RDS who have been associated with forestry promotion since 1740.

The RDS-Forest Service Irish Forestry Awards 2007 consist of two categories - Farm Forestry and Bio-Diverse Forestry/Woodlands. There is also a special award to the forestry company whose work impresses the panel of judges most in the course of its adjudication of the entries in the two award categories. The Awards recognise and reward forest owners who are employing the basic principles of sustainable forest management on their properties.

Minister of State Wallace commented that "The award categories, Farm Forestry and Bio-diverse Forest/Woodland represent the core aspects of modern Irish Forestry. Our afforestation programme is today driven by farm forestry, with farmers now responsible for more than 90% of new planting". She encouraged forest owners to enter "to highlight their good work and the high standard of forestry in Ireland".

Further details on the RDS-Forest Service Forestry Awards may be obtained from the RDS.

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RDS-Forest Service Irish Forestry Awards

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