

For Immediate Release

March 12, 2003

Contact: John Sewell

601-359-2916

Governor Musgrove Proclaims “Wildfire Prevention Month”

(Jackson, MS) – Citing Mississippi’s forests as our most valuable renewable resource, Governor Ronnie Musgrove has proclaimed “Wildfire Prevention Month” in Mississippi for March 2003.

“Our state is blessed with an abundance of rich forests that contribute so much to our economy, our tax revenue, and our basic way of life,” Musgrove said. “Most wildfires have historically occurred in March, so I want to encourage Mississippians to be careful in the forests and mindful of the importance of the forests to us all.”

Mississippi has more than 19 million acres of forests.

Last month, Musgrove sponsored a resolution at a meeting of the Southern Governors Association calling on Congress and President George Bush to enact financial incentives designed to support forest resources. The resolution was passed unanimously.

“We have a responsibility to ensure our natural resources are managed in a way that will continue to benefit the state for generations to come,” said Musgrove.

###