



**SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY
AND AFRICAN AMERICAN
LAND RETENTION NETWORK**



Welcome to 2026! 🌱

We hope you had an incredible holiday season and are ready to take on 2026 with renewed energy, commitment, and strong partnerships. As we move into the new year, we're looking forward to continuing this work alongside our partners, landowners, and supporters across the region.

This year, we remain focused on collaboration, shared learning, and protecting African American landownership through sustainable forestry and land retention efforts.

With that being said, let's get started! Here's what's happening across the SFLR network as we kick off 2026.



Happy New Year!

As we step into 2026, I'm filled with gratitude and excitement for our network and the people who make this work possible. SFLR exists to protect African American landownership, strengthen sustainable forestry practices, and ensure that our families and communities can hold onto land for generations to come.

This network continues to show what's possible when we lead with collaboration, shared knowledge, and a deep respect for the land. As we move through this year, I encourage

each of us to stay engaged, lean into the resources available through this network, and support one another along the way. Together, we can build stronger land legacies and make 2026 a year of meaningful progress.

Warmly,
Bethaney



Event Recap: Winston County Self-Help Cooperative at the 2025 Southern Region Small Farms Outreach Conference

Our SFLR partner site, the **Winston County Self-Help Cooperative (WCSHC)**, participated in the 2025 Southern Region Small Farms Outreach Conference, held last month in Mobile, Alabama. This regional gathering brought together small farmers, landowners, and agricultural professionals to exchange ideas, address shared challenges, and explore strategies to strengthen farm viability and land stewardship.

Conference sessions covered timely and impactful topics such as Health, Wellness & Finance Strategies to Minimize Stress and Sustainable Agriculture Practices: Protecting the Land, Soil & Water. The event offered meaningful insights and practical tools that align closely with SFLR's mission to support sustainable forestry, land retention, and long-term resilience for African American landowners.

We encourage you to read more about the conference and its key takeaways.



[Read More Here](#)

Events On The Horizon



Roanoke Cooperative's Annual Landowner & Partner Convening

Our partner site, **Roanoke Cooperative's Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project** in North Carolina, will host its *Annual Landowner & Partner Convening* on **January 29, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**. This will be a virtual meeting and you're invited.

Join fellow landowners and partners to connect and celebrate the success of the Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project program.

To RSVP:

Call: 252-569-8114

Email: Whitney Jernigan at WJernigan@roanokecooperative.com

Closing Reflections

Thank you for being part of the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Network. We look forward to continuing this work together and making 2026 a year of growth, connection, and lasting impact.

With gratitude,
The SFLR Team

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