

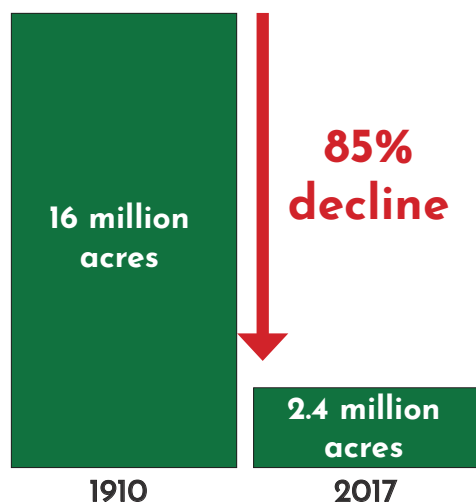
SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY & AFRICAN AMERICAN LAND RETENTION NETWORK



MISSION: To create a sustainable system of support for African American forest owners that significantly increases the value of African American owned forests, land retention, and asset development.

FORESTRY SUPPORTS LAND RETENTION

AFRICAN AMERICAN OWNED LAND:



Source: U.S. Census of Agriculture



The estimated \$14 billion asset represented by remaining African American-owned rural land is an important existing source of rural wealth.

THE VALUE OF FORESTS

Most African American landowners have owned their family land for generations. Therefore, their land management decisions are sometimes driven by family legacy rather than economic factors. Without realizing any value from their land, however, the property faces risk of becoming a liability, rather than asset. African Americans have faced additional challenges due to: heirs' property, smaller land holdings, and mistrust of the forest industry and federal programs.

Enter **sustainable forestry** - a way for landowners to maintain their deep ties to the land, create wealth, and keep their land in the family.

“ SFLR has set a new standard of conducting outreach, programs, and resource delivery to African American forestland owners in the Southeast. In all the states where the program is implemented, landowners involved in the program are getting better access to services, resources, and other opportunities such as forest management planning, forestry practices, financial resources, markets, estate planning, and heir's property resolution support.”

*Amadou Diop, Outreach Liaison,
State & Private Forestry, U.S. Forest Service,
Southern Regional Office*

“ The program will bring African American families together to solve two perplexing problems - wealth creation and land retention. For me, it's about the future of the Lacey family, our property, and our grandchildren.”

Jerry Lacey, Leader, LRLEAN

“ The SFLR network and its leaders embody innovation, creativity, and results. They have forged relationships, developed trust, found solutions, and broken down barriers, all with the goal to create wealth for African American landowners. SFLR has been and will continue to be successful thanks to the leaders' vision, passion, and tenacity, and our committed landowner network.”

*Alicia Cramer, Senior Vice President,
U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities*

THE NETWORK

In 2012, the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Network (SFLR) was launched by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (the Endowment) in partnership with two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies: the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Forest Service. The goal was to help landowners address heirs' property and land retention issues and understand the value of responsibly managing forest land. Since then, additional supporters have included The JPB Foundation and the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation. The SFLR network has been recognized with multiple national awards for its approach and success over the years.

ANCHOR ORGANIZATIONS

- VIRGINIA: BLACK FAMILY LAND TRUST
- NORTH CAROLINA: THE ROANOKE CENTER/ROANOKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
- SOUTH CAROLINA: CENTER FOR HEIRS' PROPERTY PRESERVATION
- GEORGIA: MCINTOSH SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (MCINTOSH SEED)
- ALABAMA: LIMITED RESOURCE LANDOWNER EDUCATION AND ASSISTANCE NETWORK (LRLEAN)
- MISSISSIPPI: WINSTON COUNTY SELF-HELP COOPERATIVE
- ARKANSAS: UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS PINE BLUFF KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY
- TEXAS: PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

SUCCESS SNAPSHOT*

PARTICIPANTS: 1,600 LANDOWNERS

TOTAL ACRES OWNED: 104,235 ACRES

FORESTRY PRACTICES: 1,700

Forest enhancements including thinning, site preparation, and reforestation.

FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION: 250

Landowners getting forests certified to one or more forest sustainability certifications.

TIMBER SALES: 269

Landowners are assisted in selling timber.

FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLANS & SERVICES: 1,723

Forester services including forest management, conservation plans & tax reduction.

LAND TENURE SERVICES: 5,488

Legal services related to estate planning or clearing title.

*The total services are as of September 30, 2022

A MEASURABLE DIFFERENCE

“Using the value of land and timber without clear title as the base indicates that on lower productivity land, the improvement is about \$2,250 per acre and on 25- and 100-acre properties would create a total value increase of \$56,650 and \$226,600, respectively. On the higher productivity site, the per acre increase is about \$2,850, which indicates a \$71,175 and \$284,700 total value improvement for the 25- and 100-acre properties, respectively”.

- Forest2Market

“Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program - Measuring Success”
January 2020 Report

