

SUPPORT AFRICAN AMERICANS TO PROTECT THEIR FAMILY FORESTS AND THEIR LEGACIES

The Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Network (SFLR) helps African American landowners turn their family forests into sustainable economic assets. Most African American landowners have owned their family forests for generations without realizing any significant economic value.



JUSTICE FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY FOREST OWNERS

There is a legacy of mistrust of the forest industry and federal programs. Although African Americans amassed 15 million acres of land in the U.S. South between 1865 and 1919, today, 97% of those lands have been lost, according to the Land Trust Alliance. This was due to inadequate or non-existent legal representation, discrimination in lending practices by government and private institutions, unethical purchases, racism, and the Great Migration.

Our goal is to help landowners address heirs' property and land retention issues and understand the value of responsibly managing forest land. The loss of historic African American family land is endemic in the southeastern U.S., where past discrimination and economic factors have diminished the value and productivity of African American-owned forests. SFLR helps keep forests forested and in the family.

SFLR GETS RESULTS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY FOREST OWNERS AND COMMUNITIES

The SFLR network has assisted more than 1,400 landowners, who own a combined 102,000 acres, ensuring land assets remain held by historical landowners. The foundation for the network's success is the excellent work of African American-led community-based "anchor" organizations with strong connections to African American families and institutions.

These community organizations build relationships of trust, assist and educate landowners about opportunities, broker forestry services, and monitor landowner progress toward sustainable forest management. Their work has supported African American forest owners to retain their land and become advocates for sustainably managed forests with their neighbors.

HELP SFLR RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

African Americans have faced multi-faceted challenges linked to land ownership and forest management. Examples include heirs' property, title issues, smaller land holdings, and mistrust of the forest industry and federal programs. These issues place African American owned forests at risk of becoming estate tax liabilities rather than long term assets.

If you are interested in becoming part of a new, positive story about African American family forest owners, financially support SFLR. By providing a monetary donation to the SFLR network, you support African American landowners' family legacies for generations to come. Your contribution will enable SFLR to continue providing legal assistance, sustainable forestry guidance, network communications, and more.



ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND AFRICAN AMERICAN LAND RETENTION NETWORK

The SFLR network was launched in 2012 by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (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 African American landowners turn their forests into sustainable economic assets. The SFLR network has been recognized with multiple awards, including the USDA U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester's Honor Award for Delivering State and Private Forestry Programs in 2019; the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Secretary's Award for Public-Philanthropic Partnerships in 2018; and the USDA's highest honor, the Abraham Lincoln Award for protecting natural resources in 2016.

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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
- **TEXAS:** PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY



CONTACT US TO LEARN HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

We are committed to collaborating with African American family forest owners to build better lives for themselves and their communities. We look forward to hearing from you and working together to build a brighter future across the Southeast.

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WATCH "THE VALUE OF LAND"

