



ROANOKE COOPERATIVE

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SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY AND LAND RETENTION PROJECT

MSU Learning Exchange Series
November 5, 2025

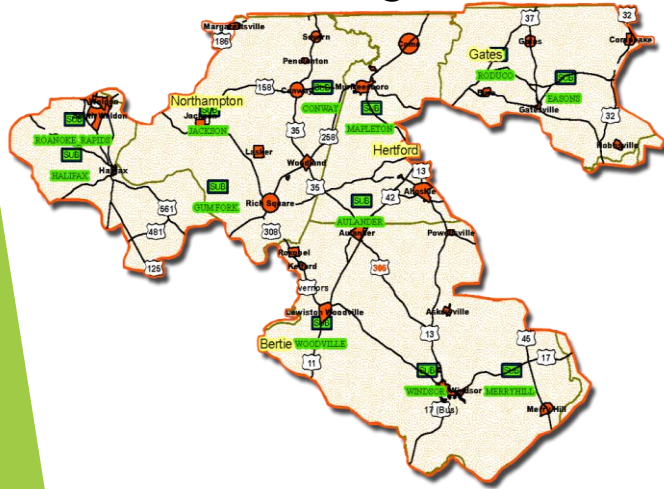




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Virginia



- ❖ Established in 1938 following the passage of the Rural Electrification Act (REA) in 1936
- ❖ Began services for 317 member owners bringing power to underserved areas.
- ❖ Roanoke Cooperative first energized its original 56 miles of line on May 29, 1939
- ❖ The system has expanded to over 2,000 miles of line and infrastructure
- ❖ Currently providing electrical service to 14,500 member owners
- ❖ Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton, Gates, Perquimans, and Chowan Counties





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Sustainable Forestry & African American Land Retention Project Partnership





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AFRICAN AMERICAN LAND LOSS

- ❖ 15 Million Acres 1910
- ❖ 2.4 Million Acres 1997 (4 Million in 2021 USDA Article)

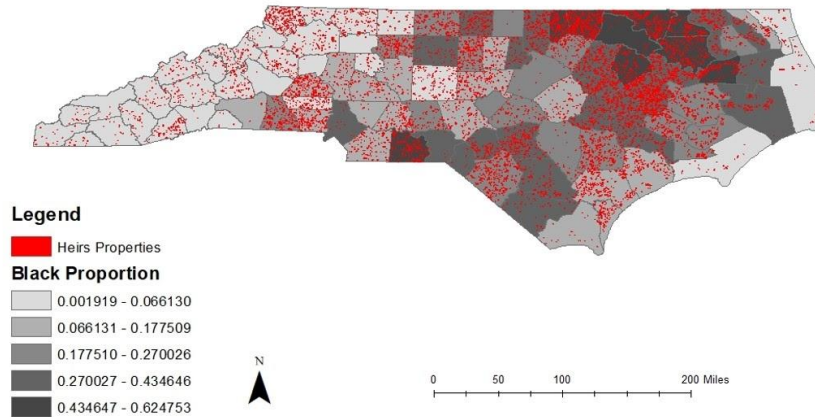




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Heirs' Property Across NC



*Wake Forest University Law School



Initial SFLR Project Sites

- ❖ Roanoke Cooperative, NC
- ❖ Center for Heirs Property, SC
- ❖ Limited Resource Landowner Education Assistance Network(LRLEAN) AL
- ❖ Federation of Southern Cooperatives
- ❖ Initial Sites Envisioned an SFLR Network



Photos: Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation



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- ❖ Roanoke Cooperative SFLRP Established in 2013
- ❖ Trusted Organization in the Community
- ❖ Focus on African American Forest Landowners
- ❖ Facilitate Engagement Between Landowners & Natural Resource Professionals and Agencies
- ❖ Assist Landowners Through the Technical and Financial Processes of Forest Management
- ❖ Connect Landowners to Attorneys and Other Succession/Estate Planning Resources (including Heirs' Property)
- ❖ Meet Roanoke Cooperative's mission "Concerns and Commitment to the Community's Needs" Regardless of Any Demographics





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Guidelines to Participate in Roanoke Cooperative's SFLR

- ❖ Property Located In Project Service Area
- ❖ Landowner Committed to Engagement of Resources
- ❖ Landowner Committed to Putting into Action Knowledge Gained and Technical Assistance Provided to Achieve Goals and Objectives
- ❖ Landowners not in Service Area Referred to Partners



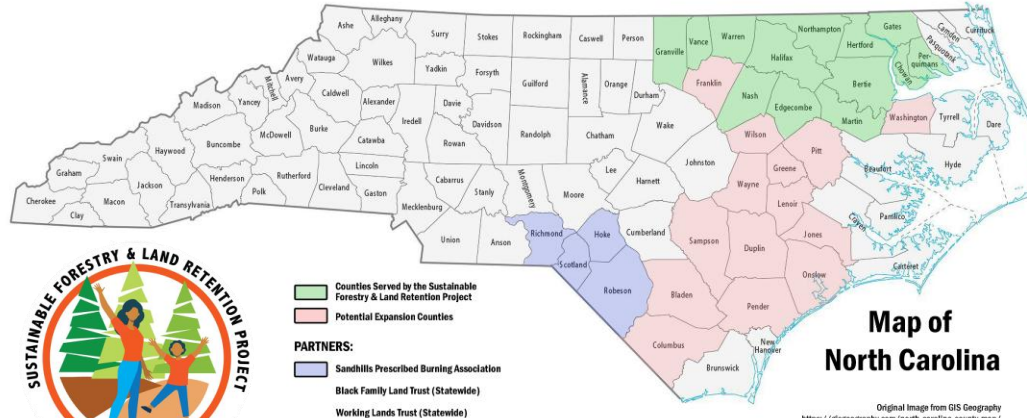


Project Counties

- ❖ Bertie
- ❖ Chowan
- ❖ Edgecombe
- ❖ Gates
- ❖ Granville
- ❖ Halifax
- ❖ Hertford
- ❖ Martin
- ❖ Nash
- ❖ Northampton
- ❖ Perquimans
- ❖ Warren
- ❖ Vance
- ❖ Franklin
- ❖ Wilson
- ❖ Washington

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PROJECT GOALS

Create family wealth, increase asset values, and land retention through sustainable forest management

- ❖ Access To Landowner Education
- ❖ Access To Technical Assistance For Forestry
- ❖ Access To Financial Assistance For Forestry
- ❖ Access To Succession Planning and Heirs' Property Resolution

“Sustaining Forests and Family Legacies”





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Landowner & Information & Education Workshops and Landowner Meetings

- ❖ Who to contact for technical assistance
- ❖ How to get a forest management plan
- ❖ Reforestation
- ❖ Consulting Foresters
- ❖ Timber Industry
- ❖ Financial Assistance
- ❖ Forest Health
- ❖ Estate Planning
- ❖ Carbon Markets
- ❖ Present Use Value Taxation
- ❖ Conservation Easements
- ❖ Agriculture and Forestry Taxation
- ❖ Wildlife Management
- ❖ Forest Certification





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Landowner Information & Education

❖ Succession Planning Education

- ❖ What is Heirs' Property
- ❖ Family Tree
- ❖ Wills, Limit Liability Corporation, Trust, etc.
- ❖ Conflict Resolution Training
- ❖ Access to Attorneys
- ❖ Financial Assistance





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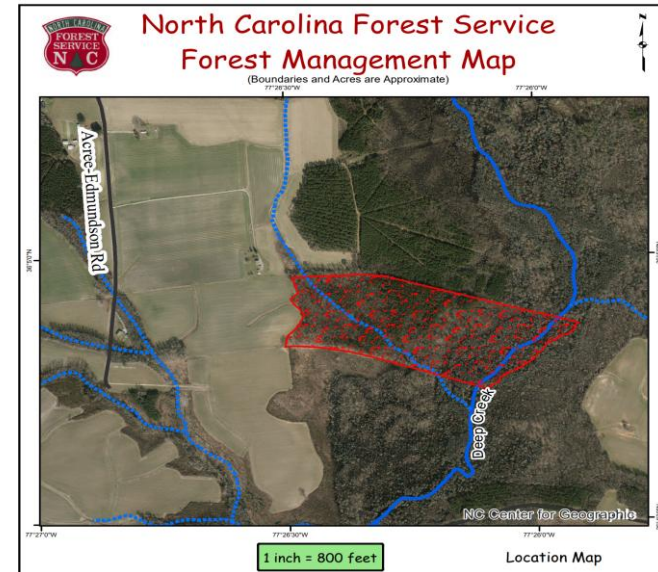
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Technical Assistance

Landowners enrolled in SFLRP

Staff Will :

- ❖ Schedule Landowner/Partner Meeting
- ❖ Assist With Guidance and Understanding Of Forest Management Plan
- ❖ Identify Cost Share Programs Available
- ❖ Assist with Cost Share Application Process
- ❖ Assist Locating Forestry Contractors/Consulting Foresters
- ❖ Follow Up With Landowner To Meet Contract Deadlines
- ❖ Answer Landowners' Questions/Provide Referrals
 - ❖ Outreach Specialist-Landowner Point of Contact





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Why Are Our Forests Important?

- ❖ Forests Provide Daily Needs
 - 4,000+ products come from trees
- ❖ Provides Clean Water(natural water filter)
- ❖ Reduces runoff and flooding
- ❖ Provides Shelter, Water, Food for Wildlife
- ❖ Stores Carbon Dioxide
- ❖ Provides Recreation(hiking, bird watching, ziplining)
- ❖ Provides Mental Relaxation and Spiritual Connections
- ❖ Forestry Contributes ~\$40 Billion to NC Economy (2023_NCSU Extension Forestry)



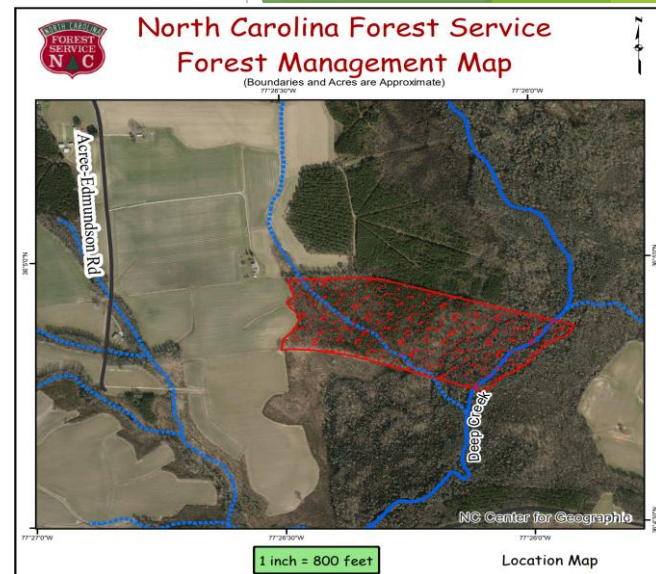


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Technical Assistance

- ❖ How to Obtain a Forest Management Plan
- ❖ Forest Management Plan
 - ❖ Provides Current Forest Conditions
 - ❖ Types of Trees in Your Forest
 - ❖ ID any Forest Insects or Diseases
 - ❖ Recommendations for Forest Management to Promote Healthy/Productive Forests
 - ❖ Addresses Water Quality
 - ❖ Provides Recommendations to Reach Landowner Goals





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Technical Assistance

Forest Management Plans May Recommend

- ❖ Reforestation(reseeding)
- ❖ Natural Regeneration(Pine or Hardwood)
- ❖ Site Preparation
 - Herbicide Application
 - Mechanical Practices
- ❖ Timber Stand Improvement Practices
 - Pre-commercial Thinning
 - Prescribed Fire
- ❖ Water Quality Guidelines
- ❖ Insect and Disease Control
- ❖ Wildlife Habitat Improvement Practices
- ❖ Afforestation(planting trees in agriculture fields)
- ❖ Silvopasture Practices(Trees in Pasture with livestock)





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Financial Assistance

Forest Management Plans Required for Financial Assistance

- ❖ Farm Service Agency(USDA FSA)
 - ❖ Conservation Reserve Program(CRP)
 - ❖ Farm#, Tract#
- ❖ Natural Resources Conservation Service(USDA NRCS)
 - ❖ Environmental Quality Incentives Program(EQIP)
 - ❖ Conservation Stewardship Program(CSP)
 - ❖ Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- ❖ North Carolina Forest Service
 - ❖ Site Preparation/Reseeding
 - ❖ Prescribed Fire
 - ❖ Pre-commercial Thinning
- ❖ Identify Economic Opportunities in Emerging Markets





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SFLRP 2025 Accomplishments

SFLRP Accomplishments

- ❖ 427 Landowners Participating
- ❖ ~\$1M Financial Assistance to Landowners, Through USDA, State Agencies, Foundations, Forest Industry
- ❖ ~30,000 Acres Under Management
- ❖ Duke Nicholas School of Environment Partnership
 - 8th Year, Forestry Master Students Develop FMP for SFLRP Landowners
- ❖ Additional to Forest Management
 - Landowners Created Other Economic Streams(i.e. niche produce Markets)
- ❖ Mentor to Other Landowners



SFLRP YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

- ❖ Youth “STEAM” Summit
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, Mathematics
- ❖ College and University Visits
- ❖ Career Pathways in Agriculture/Natural Resources

SAVE THE DATE August 7, 2025
Event Center, Rocky Mount NC





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Thanks to All Our Partners

- ❖ Black Family Land Trust
- ❖ JPB Foundation
- ❖ USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ❖ USDA Forest Service
- ❖ USDA Farm Service Agency
- ❖ American Forest Foundation
- ❖ The Conservation Fund
- ❖ NC Forest Service
- ❖ NC Department Of Agriculture
- ❖ NC State University Extension Forestry
- ❖ NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- ❖ NC Tree Farm Program
- ❖ NC Forestry Association
- ❖ Mount Olive University
- ❖ NC A & T State University
- ❖ Enviva, Domtar, West Rock, West Fraser



American Forest Foundation



U.S. Endowment
for Forestry and Communities

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of
Natural Resources





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THANK YOU!

Alton Perry

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“Sustaining Forests and Family Legacies”

