



SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY
AND AFRICAN AMERICAN
LAND RETENTION NETWORK

The Collective Impact of SFLR Network

Michigan State University
Learning Exchange Series

Our Vision

We envision a world where African American and rural forest landowners are empowered to protect, control, and enhance their land assets through forestry and conservation –all while building a generational legacy of life on the land.

Our Mission

We exist to create a sustainable system of support for rural forest owners that significantly increases the value of privately-owned forests through sustainable forestry practices, land retention services, and technical assistance.

We are dedicated to continuing the legacy of environmental protection and stewardship which are part and parcel to African American and rural life.



Our Values

- **Landowners in the Center.** We exist to support African American forest and landowners. As we build partnerships, raise money, design programs, and amplify stories, our landowners' needs, hopes, and dreams are at the core of what we do.
- **Legacy Forward.** We are dedicated to thinking and acting with the long view in mind. We do not take shortcuts or rely on quick fixes. Our work is about sustainable, multigenerational impact.
- **Close the Knowledge Gap.** A lack of access to vital information is often a barrier to effective, timely decision-making for our landowners and communities. As such, we are dedicated to educating others, raising awareness, sharing information, and building our collective knowledge bank as a Network.
- **Windows, Not Doors.** Within the Network, we are committed to transparency in our decision-making, shedding light on the *how* and *why* of the choices we make. We are honest, we ask clarifying questions, and we're committed to building a culture of trust.
- **Many Branches, One Tree.** While we are composed of eight distinct community-based organizations, we are committed to working together in service of our shared mission. We work for the best of the collective *us*. When one of us succeeds, we all win. When one of us encounters challenges, we find solutions together.



Our Network / Sites

Our network is composed of 8 independent, community-based organizations including:

- Black Family Land Trust, *Virginia*
- Center for Heirs Property Preservation, *South Carolina*
- Roanoke Cooperative, *North Carolina*
- McIntosh Seed, *Georgia*
- Limited Resource Landowner Education & Assistance Network, *Alabama*
- Winston County Self Help Cooperative, *Mississippi*
- University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, *Arkansas*
- Texas Agriforestry Farmers, Ranchers, & Landowners, *Texas*

At the site level, these organizations offer the following support & services to landowners:



The Purpose of Being a Network

- **We can achieve more together than any one organization can achieve on its own.**
- **We're able to collaborate across the region to strengthen our work at the local level.**
 - Sharing best practices
 - Making connections
 - Getting support when faced with challenges
 - Building a community of practice
- **We're able to make decisions from a broader vantage point.**
- **We're better able to receive and deploy resources.**
- **We're able to tell a shared story of our communities and speak with one voice.**



Our Collective Impact in Numbers

- **Over the first 10 years (2013 - 2023) of SFLR's operations:**
 - **106000 acres in active management**
 - **2500 landowners supported through SFLR activities**
 - **1700 forestry services activated**
 - **Nearly 300 timber sales facilitated**
 - **Nearly 5500 land tenure services delivered**

*This does not include our numbers from 2024 & 2025.
Stay tuned for those updates!*



What Do We Do as Network

1

Fund

We raise funds to build the capacity of Network Sites and to close financial gaps in providing technical assistance to landowners.

2

Convene

We convene landowners, foresters, forestry sector & conservations leaders, policy advocates and collaborative partners.

3

Amplify

We amplify events and stories from across the Network sites, we amplify sustainable forestry best practices, and we amplify network-wide achievements.

4

Educate

We educate policymakers on how various state and federal policies impact the landowners in our communities.

What Do We Do as Network

1

Fund

We raise funds to build the capacity of Network Sites and to close financial gaps in providing technical assistance to landowners.

Capacity Building & Operational Support

Forestry Fund

What Do We Do as Network

2

Convene

We convene landowners, foresters, forestry sector & conservations leaders, policy advocates and collaborative partners.

Network Sites

Foresters

Regional Partners

Landowners

What Do We Do as Network

3

Amplify

We amplify events and stories from across the Network sites, we amplify sustainable forestry best practices, and we amplify network-wide achievements.

Podcast

Newsletter

Video Storytelling

Social Media

What Do We Do as Network

4

Educate

We educate partners and policy makers on how various policies & programs impact the landowners in our communities.

Forest Sector Partners & Collaborators

Policy Makers

Ambitions for the Future

- Strengthen our core identity as a **non-profit intermediary** dedicated to the flourishing of African American landowners, rural economies, and resilient working forests in the Southeast.
- **Expand our impact** into new states and counties, specifically in Texas, Tennessee, and Florida.
- **Refine our data-driven storytelling** through research and tech-enabled data collection.
- Partner with the public to continue **educating families about their role in managing and conserving** our private forestlands.



We Need Your Help!

- Spread the word about SFLR Network
- Follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, and Facebook
- Listen to our podcast, Roots to Resilience
- Partnering with us on events, seminars, or workshops
- Sign-Up for our Newsletter

Visit - www.sflrnetwork.org



The background features a solid orange color overlaid with several large, semi-transparent geometric shapes, including triangles and curved polygons. A faint, semi-transparent image of a forest with tall evergreen trees is visible in the upper right portion of the background.

Thank you.

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