

HEALTHY FORESTS = CLEAN WATER

Goals

- Southeastern forested watersheds are healthy
- Drinking water is safe and reliable
- Watershed stakeholders collaborate
- Funds exist to help land owners with long-term stewardship of forested watersheds

Funding



U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

-\$120,000

over 6 years



The Forest-Water connection

- Healthy, managed forests provide natural filtration of precipitation and storm runoff, resulting in cleaner water reaching drinking water treatment plants;
- Having healthy forests in key areas within a watershed can reduce sediment and contaminants reaching drinking water supplies, lowering treatment costs;
- Maintaining forest cover in key areas of a drinking water source watershed ensures safe, reliable drinking water for current and future generations.
- Healthy watersheds have many benefits including safe and reliable drinking water, forest resiliency, recreation, fish & wildlife, and strong economies and forest markets

What we're doing

- Organizing forests and drinking water forums and follow-up workshops in each partner state;
- Creating collaborative state and watershed partnerships with forestry and drinking water agencies & associations, municipal water suppliers, planners, conservation and recreation interests, academia, & corporate partners such as Duke Energy, Weyerhaeuser, & International Paper;
- Creating field positions in Arkansas, Georgia and South Carolina to support the partnership;
- Working with partners to secure funds to help interested forest owners conserve and better manage watersheds;
- Supporting efforts to compensate forest owners for managing and conserving forests that clean our drinking water.



Southeastern Partnership By The Numbers

14 Forests and Drinking Water Forums

in 8 states in 5 years

2,000 partners

in 8 states and 7 priority watersheds

\$1.5 million

invested in 6 years by US Forest Service and US Endowment for Forestry and Communities

7 watersheds

assisted with watershed and forestland stewardship and funding

7 videos

produced demonstrating the forest-water connection and being shared on YouTube

Watch them here: bit.ly/ForestsWater

15,000 acres

conserved in the Savannah River Watershed to benefit water quality and other values

\$1.5 million+

leveraged from state partners in 5 years