Sustainable Forestry & African American Land Retention Program
Broken Forestry Value Chain for African Americans

- Discrimination & Exploitation
- Heirs’ Property
- Broken Trust
- Access to knowledge and Resources
- Markets
Theory of Change

Goal: Stem African American land loss by increasing forest profitability and asset value.

Complement USDA outreach and forestry programs

“Networks of Support”
Build Trustworthiness

Forests and Land

Unleash USDA Assets
Theory of Change: Forestry + “The Asset – Land” Estate Planning and Clear Titles
The Networks
“Intellectual” – A system!
- Lead Nonprofits
- NRCS
- Forest Service
- Forestry Commissions
- Universities
- Extension Services
- Heirs’ Property Groups
- Loan Funds
- Forest Industries
- Private Foresters and Loggers
- Conservation organizations
- Land Trusts
Affirmatively address impacts of discrimination.
Use forest assets to build family and community wealth.
The Pilots

Coastal South Carolina Center for Heirs’ Property Preservation

Northeast North Carolina Roanoke Electric Coop Roanoke Center

West Alabama LRLEAN Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund
The Services –
“Natural”

- Heirs Property & Estate Plans
- Forest Management Plans
- Forestry Consulting
- Forestry Practices
- Loan Capital
- Market Access and Market Development
Two-Year Success Measures: Forward Movement for Forest Landowners

Heirs’ Property

Forestry Plans

Forestry Practices

Markets

USDA

Forest Service

NRCS

Center for Heirs’ Property Preservation

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities
Two-Year Outcomes (practices complete or in process)
Forward Movement for Forest Landowners

Heirs’ Property
- 135 Landowners Counseled
- 118 Wills and Estate Plans
- 26 Family Agreements

Forestry Plans
- 160 Forest Management Plans

Forestry Practices
- 157 EQIP Applications Supported
- $1 Million + EQIP Contracts
- 112 Thinning or Site Prep

Markets
- 76 Forest Certification
- 63 Timber Sales
- 14 Conservation Easements
Pilot Project Funding - “Financial”

$2.5 million from Endowment and USDA

$72,000 from SFI

$300,000+ from Local Matching
Phase 2 Funding

$2.2 million from Endowment (3 years)

$2.2 million partnership goal

$1 matching funds goal
Phase 2 Process

**Summer 2015**
- Renewal grants: performance & new plans
- Community and cluster projects

**Winter 2015**
- New grants based on RFP
- USDA Rural Development Partnership
- Job creation: landowners, foresters and forest technicians.
- Financial resources to landowner families
The Village – “Our System”

Our Region’s Current Wealth
“Anything will give up its secrets if you love it enough. Not only have I found that when I talk to the little flower or to the little peanut they will give up their secrets, but *I have found that when I silently commune with people they give up their secrets also – if you love them enough.*”

George Washington Carver