A PROJECT TO PROTECT WATER RESOURCES IDENTIFYING AND ENABLING ENHANCED FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION

A McIntire-Stennis supported project

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Warnell School of Forestry & Natural Resources

Forestlands are an integral part of our ecosystem and economy. They provide wood products, habitat for land and water species, recreation, clean air and water, and mitigation against floods and droughts. Promoting forest practices that protect these services is an important national goal.

This project will investigate how enhanced forestry best practices (eBMPs) affect water quality and quantity, and also develop strategies to compensate and encourage forest landholders to implement these practices. This project supports regional cooperation between the forestry, conservation, and drinking-water sectors to enhance forested watershed protection that benefits environmental systems, recreation, fish and wildlife, water quality and local economies throughout the southeastern United States. Conserving, managing, and restoring forestlands are key to protecting the region's water resources.

COLLABORATION

This project will further advance partnerships in Georgia and the Southeast. We are building a network of NGOs and agencies, including:
• U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities
• Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water

40
Number of stakeholders who participated in a recent workshop to discuss social, ecological, and economic characteristics of the Upper Oconee watershed.

About McIntire-Stennis

The McIntire-Stennis program, a unique federal-state partnership, cultivates and delivers forestry and natural resource innovations for a better future. By advancing research and education that increases the understanding of emerging challenges and fosters the development of relevant solutions, the McIntire-Stennis program has ensured healthy resilient forests and communities and an exceptional natural resources workforce since 1962.

USDA

IMPACT

For communities, sediment removal is the highest-cost operation in drinking water treatment. Source-water protection is a priority for many water suppliers and holds great potential for impact.
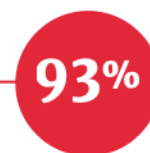
CLEAN
Sediment is often listed as the top pollutant of concern in Georgia's 303(d) list of impaired waters

MANAGE
Stream crossings, road runoff, firebreaks, and streamside management zones remain areas of concern

93% IMPLEMENT
93% of forestland managers correctly implement forestry BMPs.

Project Directors: Todd Rasmussen; *trasmuss@uga.edu*
C. Rhett Jackson; *rjackson@uga.edu*