

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT PINE BLUFF

Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention (SFLR) Program

Keeping it in the Family



Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention Program



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1873

School of Agriculture, Fisheries and Human Sciences

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Kee your forestland in your family. Make it profitable for you and future generations. The “Keeping it in the Family” (KIITF) project will help you do just that.

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities has awarded the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Small Farm Program a three-year “Keeping it in the Family” project grant to help African American forestland owners maintain their forestland.

Called the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention (SFLR) Program, the project helps forest landowners manage their forestland for maximum production. It also helps landowners obtain clear titles to heir property.

A forester helps enrollees develop forestry management plans. The forester then recommends USDA conservation programs to help pay for installation of recommended practices.

Services Provided

- Forestry educational outreach meetings
- One-on-one forestry management and improvement assistance
- Free forestry management plans
- Financial assistance in installing forestry conservation practices
- Legal assistance in clearing titles to heir property
- A revolving loan fund to pay contractors while waiting for reimbursement
- Multifaceted approach to timber markets



The project is targeting six StrikeForce Counties in southern Arkansas: Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Little River, Nevada, Ouachita and Union.

Production Potential

A well-managed loblolly pine stand on a medium site can average 3.5 tons of wood per acre in one year, or when mature, in 35 years, 123 tons of wood. In comparison, an unmanaged stand may produce one ton of wood per acre per year or when mature in 50 years, 50 tons.

Accessing USDA programs to aid in the installment of forestry best management practices is pivotal to the success of the project. The goal of the project is to aid at least 20 forest landowners annually in qualifying for forestry assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention and Restoration Program.

Partners

Several agencies and organizations are working together to help African American forestry owners Keep it in the Family. They are:

- Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts
- Arkansas Forestry Commission
- Arkansas Land Community Development Corporation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Silas H. Hunt Community Development Corporation
- University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law
- University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Join the “Keeping it in the Family” team and make your forestland productive and keep it in your family.

Sign Up

Sign up as soon as possible. The project is only funded for three years. To enroll, contact:

- Dr. Henry English, head of the Small Farm Program, at (870) 575-7246 or englishh@uapb.edu
- Kandi Williams, SFLR outreach coordinator, at (903) 306-8663 or klwilliams4@gmail.com
- Joe Friend, forester, at (870) 500-8454 or Joe-friend@att.net.