

Out of the approximately 750 million acres of U.S. forests, more than 420 million acres are “working” forest, which provide timber for construction, as well as pulp and fiber for paper and packaging.¹ More than 45 million acres² are at risk of development due to short-term financial interests.

In the U.S., private working forests support 2.8 million jobs and contribute \$119 billion to the GDP.³

Forests filter more than half of our drinking water.⁴ They also serve as nature’s sponges by slowing and cleaning floodwaters which protect communities downstream.

Deforestation represents the second largest source of CO2 emissions on the planet.⁵ Restoring and protecting forests is one of the easiest and most effective ways to slow or reverse that trend.

Southern forests are known as the world’s wood basket (think trees instead of wheat). They produce more forest products than any other country in the world.⁶

Private US forests provide habitat for 60% of all 6,175 at-risk species.⁷

¹ U.S. Forest Service, 2010 Resources Planning Act Assessment.

² Society of American Foresters, “State of America’s Forests,” 2007 AND “Private Forests, Public Benefits,” USDA Report, 2009

³ NAFO Study, “The Economic Impact of Privately-Owned Forests in the United States,” June 2013.

⁴ American Forests, “Protecting Our Drinking Water,” April 2012.

⁵ “CO2 emissions from forest loss,” Nature.com, December 2009.

⁶ World Resources Institute - Southern Forests for the Future Project

⁷ http://www.fs.fed.us/openspace/pubs/nrs_2010_stein_001.pdf