

DISASTER REFORESTATION ACT



Forest
Landowners



THE VAST IMPACTS OF GEORGIA'S FOREST LANDOWNERS

The environmental and economic benefits of a managed forest begin with the commitment, investment, and hard work of the landowner. Georgia's forest landowners are the unsung heroes who play a critical role in the state's economy, communities, and environment.

With active management by Georgia's landowners, the state's **22 million acres** of private forest contribute significantly to the economy and environmental health of its residents:

- ♦ **ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE** – Forestry's economic impact in Georgia is 3x the national revenues of Chick-fil-A (**\$36 billion** vs. \$10.5 billion).
- ♦ **JOB'S CREATED** – Georgia forestry supports 4x more jobs than the combined employees of all 35 universities and colleges in the state. (**148,000 jobs** vs. 37,000 jobs)
- ♦ **PAYCHECKS FOR FAMILIES** – Paychecks in the pockets of families employed by forestry total **\$4 billion**, which could buy **20,000 homes** annually.
- ♦ **FUNDING SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES** – **\$978 million** in taxes paid to the state by forestry jobs could pay the annual salaries of **17,000 teachers** in the Georgia school system.
- ♦ **GROWING OXYGEN** – Georgia's private forests produce enough oxygen for **153 million residents** each year.
- ♦ **FORESTS TO FAUCETS** – **52%** of Georgia's water supply flows from private forests. Additionally, **1 million residents** get more than half their drinking water from private forests.

WHETHER YOU CARE ABOUT DRINKING WATER, CLEAN AIR, OR ECONOMIC BENEFITS, TO SUSTAIN THESE BENEFITS, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF THE LANDOWNER AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HARVESTING TIMBER TO PROVIDE INCOME FOR THE CARETAKERS OF THE FORESTS.

For more information check out the [infographic of impacts of Georgia's private forests here](#).

Private Forests in Georgia Provide



148,000
Jobs

\$4
Billion
in Payroll

\$975
Million
in State
Taxes

DISASTER REFORESTATION ACT



Forest
Landowners



Georgia

“

Statements of Support

“The struggles with bureaucracy, clean-up, and replanting my family partners and I have gone through to re-establish our forest following Hurricane Michael has been the biggest challenge I have faced in all my years of owning forests. A state forester estimated our uninsured loss to \$550,000 in 30-year-old timber that had been carefully managed. Imagine our surprise when we found out we could not write-off this casualty loss on our Federal Income Tax. While we are on our way to recovering, currently cleaning up our last tract for a total of over 500 acres replanted over 3 years, we would like your assistance in avoiding this unfair tax treatment in future disasters. Please support the Disaster Reforestation Act in Congress.” – **Frank Grady, Georgia Landowner**

“Recent major disasters have made clear that we need a permanent, lasting solution in law to provide timberland owners with the resources they need to bounce back after disaster strikes. This solution is not only vital to keep the forest economy healthy but allow all 10 million Georgians to benefit from clean air, clean water, recreation, and the myriad of other ecological benefits our working forests provide us all.” – **Georgia Forestry Association**

“Providing the landowner the right to deduct the fair market value of their timber damage caused by a natural disaster is instrumental in managing the economic exposure to such a long-term crop. We are passionate investors in this sector and believe deeply in all value stemming from a healthy forest. Please thank Representative Carter for his leadership on this issue and for the forest industry as a whole.” – **Andy Barrs, Georgia Landowner**

“Natural disasters create havoc on healthy forests and timber supply, but more importantly on the lives of people who manage them. Often when disasters hit it is financially overwhelming for landowners like myself to get back on their feet and begin the recovery process. The Disaster Reforestation Act offers a helping hand for landowners to get their land back into production as quickly as possible.

– **Patrick Etheridge, Georgia Landowner**

“Our firm works with hundreds of clients that actively manage their timberlands. We have seen firsthand the damage and quantified the losses that occur when disaster strikes their properties. The current tax code is even more punitive in these tragic situations. H.R. 4210 helps family forest owners recover after natural disasters and will allow them to keep their forests in forests for future generations.

– **David Foil, Georgia Landowner**

“We as a nation expect a lot from private forest landowners while rarely compensating them. With congressional lawmakers looking at the country's millions of acres of private forests as a major solution to climate change, it is imperative that forest landowners have incentives to continue maintaining healthy, sustainable forests. That means, along with strong timber markets, having a tax code that allows private forest landowners to recover after natural disasters and that encourages replanting of trees.”

– **Troy Harris, Georgia Landowner**

DISASTER REFORESTATION ACT



Forest Landowners



Georgia

Statements of Support



“Please cosponsor HR 4210. This bill will help forest landowners like me to recover after a natural disaster by changing the tax code to permit the full value of the loss to be written off right after the event so that reforestation can go forward. The House Ag Committee left Forestry out of HR267, but this can be corrected if you help by cosponsoring the Disaster Reforestation Act. As you know, we get our share of hurricane and tornado weather in Southwest Georgia, so it seems that reforestation help is justified.” – **David Slonaker, Georgia Landowner**

“As a licensed forester with over 30 years of experience managing forestlands in Georgia. I've helped with recovery in numerous natural disasters with forestland owners (wind, fires, and flooding) and one of the biggest issues is only being able to recover the timber basis (for federal income tax purposes). With these events completely out of the landowner's control, having the ability to deduct a fair market basis is crucial as these owners attempt to recover.” - **Forest Landowner, Madison, GA**

“America's forest landowners have been waiting for this vital fix in the tax code and are appreciative of Representative Sewell and Carter's efforts to introduce the Disaster Reforestation Act. The legislation will not only help timber owners recover from natural disasters but will stimulate rural economies and support our nation's domestic timber supply.” – **Scott Jones, CEO, Forest Landowners Association and Georgia forest landowner**

RESOURCES

- [Disaster Reforestation Act Resources](#)
- [FLA Article: Still Picking Up the Pieces](#)
- [Wall Street Journal: Lumber Prices Are Soaring. Why Are Tree Growers Miserable?](#)

“For too long, forest landowners have had to deal with unnecessary tax challenges in the wake of natural disasters. This vital legislation would let private forest owners deduct pre-disaster timber values and make disaster recovery more achievable – a game-changer for the South. By helping forest owners retain and replant their forests more efficiently, we protect critical benefits to communities, the environment and our economy.” – **Scott Phillips, Chair of the Southern Group of State Foresters**

“The memory of the Hurricane Michael damage in 2018 in the Second District is vivid in my mind. We were fortunate to have minimal damage on our Mitchell County forest tracts but other members of my family suffered 60% losses of their trees. Please join Georgia delegation members in sponsoring this bill.” – **Linda Harp, Georgia Landowner**



Forest Landowners

For more information contact Katie Moss at kmoss@forestlandowners.com