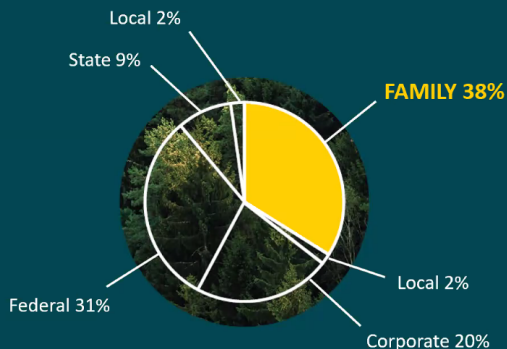




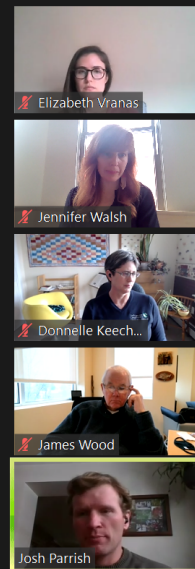
Family Forest Carbon Program

TGCC was pleased to welcome The Nature Conservancy and American Forests Foundation to its February 2021 Zoom Speaker Series. Donnelle Keech, Resilient Forest Program Director with The Nature Conservancy in Cumberland, Maryland; Josh Parrish, Director of The Nature Conservancy's American Forest Carbon Initiative (AFCI); and Elizabeth Vranas, Family Forest Carbon Program Manager with American Forests Foundation educated us on how the Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP) is unlocking the power carbon offset markets to improve forest health, fight climate change, benefit landowners and support local economies in our region.

Family-owned Forests are Key



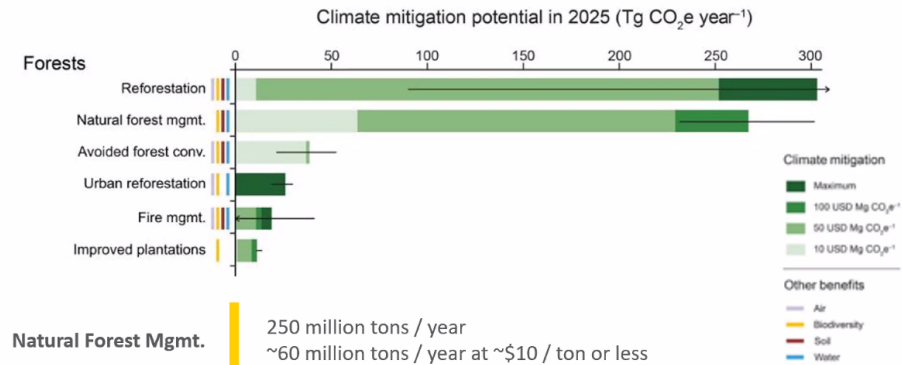
- Families and individuals own the largest portion of U.S. forests
- More than the federal government or corporations
- This ownership group is vital for achieving meaningful conservation impact at scale



The FFCP is a new program, created by the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, that brings together rural family forest owners and companies to address climate change. Across the U.S., families and individuals own the largest portion – 36% – of all forests, and this percentage is even higher in our region. Yet nearly all of these owners have been unable to access current carbon markets due to high upfront costs and complexity. FFCP overcomes these barriers, giving family forest owners an opportunity to bring in income from their land, in exchange for implementing sustainable forest practices that help sequester and store more carbon. A few interesting facts:

- FFCP aims to reach 20% of family-owned forest acres by 2030, in order to sequester at least 2 gigatons of additional CO₂ by the end of the century, while improving wildlife habitat, overall forest health, water quality and recreational spaces.
- FFCP pays landowners to implement specific practices rather than paying them for carbon sequestration and monitors carbon values on a landscape level using random sampling rather than monitoring carbon values on every property.
- FFCP is expanding to our region in 2021!
- https://www.familyforestcarbon.org/?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=tgcc

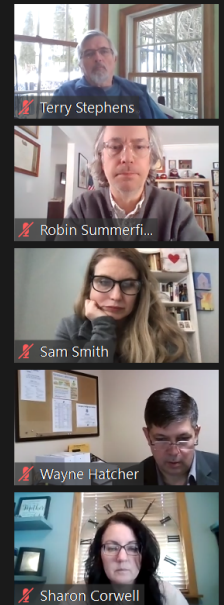
Climate Mitigation Potential, U.S., Land-Based



Climate mitigation potential and co-benefits of the different NCS pathways. Reproduced with permission from © PNAS

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

American Forest Foundation



Director's Report

- Our good work continues on the north/south corridor project with the help of our partners. As the 117th Congress gets underway, we are excited to have the opportunity to educate the White House and the Congress about the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) and its critical mission. The ADHS was created in 1965 to stimulate economic development by connecting isolated areas of Appalachia to the interstate system and the Nation's integrated transportation network. The project allows those isolated areas to benefit from greater access to the Region as well as to broader domestic and global markets. In all, 3,090 ADHS miles have been authorized by Congress and over 90% of them are now open to traffic. We are asking that they honor this 56 year old federal commitment by supporting our goal of completing in a timely manner the 10% of the ADHS that is yet to be built.
- As we further our mission to elevate our region and foster creativity, innovation and collaboration between our members and partners, we are excited to shine a light on your projects and initiatives in our monthly newsletter. If you have a story or update you'd like to share, please send me a note at jennifer@greatercc.org.

Upcoming Events

Governance Initiative Work Group –

Monday, March 8, 2:00, *Zoom*

I-68 Alliance – Wednesday, March 10, 2:00,
Zoom

Executive Committee – Thursday, March 11,
9:30, *Zoom*

N/S Core WG – Tuesday, March 16 & 30, 9:00,
Zoom

Energy Core WG – Wednesday, March 17 &
31, 9:30, *Zoom*

MDOT SHA Dist. 6 – Wednesday, March
17, 10:30, *Zoom*

Energy & Natural Resources – Thursday,
March 18, 10:00, *Zoom*

US Rt. 219 WG – Friday, March 26, 10:00,
Zoom