

# **SOUTHEASTERN PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTS & WATER - GEORGIA SUCCESSES**

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REFERENCE: *Proceedings of the 2017 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, held April 19-20, 2007, at the University of Georgia

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The Southeastern Partnership for Forests and Water (Partnership), funded by the US Forest Service and the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, brings the drinking water, forestry, and conservation sectors together to collaborate on watershed protection throughout the southeastern United States. Partnership goals include: • Maintain and expand healthy forests in drinking water watersheds • Initiate and develop working relationships between state and local agencies, Rural Water Associations, forestry interests and conservation groups • Identify watersheds and initiatives that have high potential for cooperative forest conservation, sound management and restoration • Explore pilot projects to implement creative watershed protection strategies such as Payment for Watershed Services and forestry best management practices, demonstrating the interdependence of healthy forests and drinking water In Georgia, the Partnership has identified three key watersheds for collaboration – Athens/Oconee River, Columbus/Middle Chattahoochee, and Savannah River Watershed. This presentation will detail collaborative projects in these three watersheds with a variety of partners at the local, state, and regional levels. Projects focus on forest landowner outreach and fundraising to achieve best management practices and forest land conservation to directly benefit drinking water.

*Program reference: 3.8.1*