

Last Updated: 4.16.2015

PROJECT NAME

Naitonal Community Forest Service Center

ALIGNMENT WITH THEORY OF CHANGE

Community Capacity

INITIATIVE

Asset Creation

TYPE OF PROJECT

Pilot/Demonstration

TYPE OF INVESTMENT

Traditional

Impact

Grant

FUNDING

<u>Endowment</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>External</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Downstream</u>	<u>ALL TOTAL</u>
\$100,461		\$520,000	\$ 620,461		\$ 620,461

AWARDEES

The Conservation Fund

CHRONOLOGY

<u>Date Approved</u>		<u>Date Signed or Launched</u>	<u>Status</u>
<u>Board</u>	<u>CEO</u>		
11.4.2008		3.26.2009	
		12.31.2010	Complete

Project Overviews & Outcomes

For more than a decade, the nation has experienced the loss of place-based rural economies through downturns in forestry and agriculture, manufacturing jobs are being outsourced and forest land ownership patterns are changing at an accelerated rate. As a result, the nation’s forests, and the rural communities and economies that depend upon them, are at risk. Influencing ownership patterns and creating a national entity to provide technical, financial and human resources to communities interested in the purchase of community forests stands to increase the likelihood of these transactions to successfully take place. The project identified the resources as well as “place-based” opportunities (lands available for purchase in or around communities of high poverty) to acquire, own, conserve, and manage working forests. The project resulted in establishment of the specialized services function within The Conservation Fund for delivery at the national scale.

- Communication center on community forestry;
- A broad network of community forestry interest;
- Critical support to a three-state collaborative request for funding developed in partnership with state forestry agencies in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia;
- Community forest purchases in Michigan (incomplete) and California (complete);
- Exploratory stages for community forests in Washington, West Virginia, South Carolina, Montana, North Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia;
- GIS mapping that showed high potential for community forests in the South and Appalachia because of forestland ownership patterns;
- Research on new financing options for community forests;
- Participation in national community forestry policy networks;
- Service on USDA’s National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council; and
- Development of the Hoke Community Forest in North Carolina as a model of collaboration between local low-income communities and the Department of Defense.