

**Forest Restoration and Stewardship Fund**





## **EcoForesters announces Forest Restoration and Stewardship Fund to benefit local Land Trusts**

(Asheville, NC)—Local forestry nonprofit EcoForesters is pleased to announce the formation of fund that will benefit conservation lands. Together with the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina and industry partners, a fund was created to increase the capacity for Land Trusts to stewards their forests. The Forest Restoration and Stewardship (FOREST) fund was initiated by EcoForesters in response to the growing need for controlling non-native invasive species and the funding shortfall for stewardship often felt by conservation land trusts. This partnership with local industry will help value nature and its role in the success of the region



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**Forestry. Conservation. Education.**



# Why we must value nature

- Current economic system does not value a tree until it is harvested
- Economic development depends on healthy forests
- Natural services provided by trees
  - Clean water
  - Climate change mitigation
  - Wildlife habitat
  - Sustainable products
  - Improved respiratory health
  - Outdoor recreation
  - Soil stabilization
  - Scenic beauty







Foothills Conservancy Oak Hill Community Forest

## Value through stewardship

Restoring forests makes them stronger and better prepared to withstand disturbances that come with the more common weather events, like drought and flooding, and the onslaught of invasive species. We can no longer manage forests by benign neglect, nor by outdated methods.





# What businesses rely on healthy forests?

**Forest Products-** renewable sources of paper and wood are necessary

**Brewing** – Plentiful, clean water is made possible by forested watersheds

**Outdoor recreation** – Hiking, boating, hunting, and camping happen in the woods

**Tourism** – Forests make the region attractive for people to visit

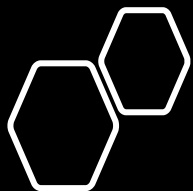
**Real Estate** – People choose the mountains for the scenic beauty and recreation experiences

**Hotels** – accommodate the flow of people that share in the beauty of the region



## How was it funded?

The FOREST fund was funded in part by a generous grant from The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC). Grant funding from CFWNC provided a match incentive for industry to support forest stewardship and begin to quantify the impact healthy forests have on their bottom line.



# Industry Partners

Businesses generously matched the initial investment.

These partners appreciate the value healthy forests bring their businesses by investing in natural services.





# How will the FOREST fund work?

Local land trust will apply for match funding in support of forest stewardship projects

Those trusts awarded grants will be assisted in the planning of stewardship project that will include:

- Project planning and coordination
- Access to best management practices and other resources
- Assessment and plan of action for forest stewardship in proposed area
- Herbicide and labor to treat proposed conservation target
- Mapped work area and follow up recommendations





# Questions about the FOREST fund?

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