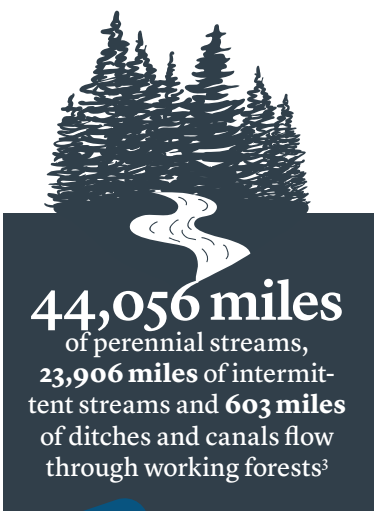


Nature's Water Filter

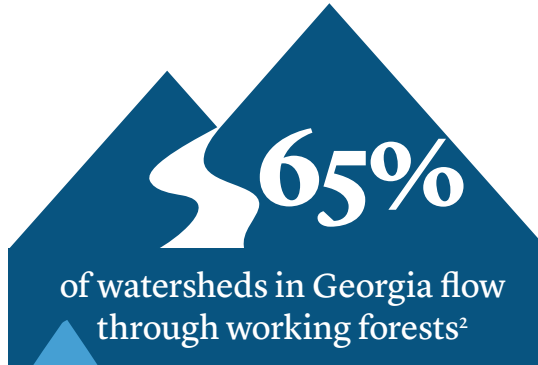
Did you know working forests are the most significant factor affecting water quality and quantity in Georgia?

Water is an increasingly valuable natural resource, and Georgia's private forest owners play a critical role in keeping it cool, clean, and abundant. Forests, which cover two-thirds of the land area in the state, help by absorbing rainwater and slowing it down to limit erosion. They also help by filtering out pollution that is collected as water flows over city streets and other sources of stress.

HERE ARE A FEW FACTS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT CLEAN WATER AND WORKING FORESTS:



44,056 miles of perennial streams, **23,906 miles** of intermittent streams and **603 miles** of ditches and canals flow through working forests³



65% of watersheds in Georgia flow through working forests²

BMPs

Best Management Practices

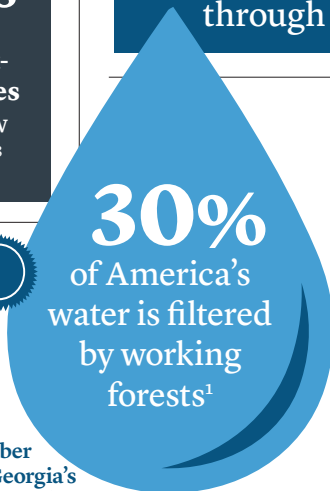
To minimize erosion and sedimentation from forestry practices, The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) promotes implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Since producing the first BMP manual in 1981, GFC has given more than 2,900 BMP education sessions to more than 93,000 people.

To learn more visit www.gatrees.org/forest-management/water-quality.



1,500

(approximately) loggers and timber processors are trained through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative's logger education programs, such as the Master Timber Harvester Program, to adhere to Georgia's Best Management Practices for Water.⁶



30% of America's water is filtered by working forests¹



20,000 gallons of water can be absorbed by a healthy forest during a heavy rain⁵

\$85.9 Billion in annual value is provided in storm water retention capacity by urban forests in Atlanta⁴

1) Georgia Environmental Protection Division, et. al (2005). *Water Quality in Georgia, 2004-2005*. Web: https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/Y2006_Chapters_1-3.pdf. Accessed: March 2018. 2) Georgia Forestry Commission (2014). *Georgia's Sustainable Forests: A Resource for All Georgians*. Web: www.gatrees.org/resources/publications/2013SustainabilityReportFinalLowRes.pdf. Accessed: March 2018. 3) Georgia Master Timber Harvester Program (2018). Web: <http://gamth.org/>. Accessed: March 2018. 4) U.S. Forest Service (2018). *Private Land*. Web: www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/private-land. Accessed: March 2018. 5) Southern Group of State Foresters (2018). *Benefits of Urban Trees*. Web: www.southernforests.org/urban/benefits-of-urban-trees. Accessed: March 2018. 6) American Forests (2001). *Urban ecosystem analysis Atlanta metro area, calculating the value of nature*. Washington, D.C.: American Forests.