

# Clean water grows on these trees.

Okay, not technically, but forests do provide the cleanest water of any land use to keep drinking water safe and reliable.

## TOTAL SOUTHERN WATER SUPPLY

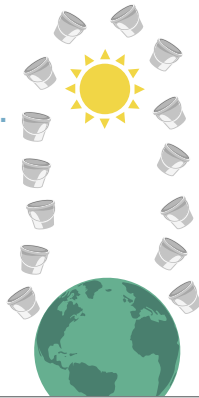
State & Private forests provide

# 44.3%

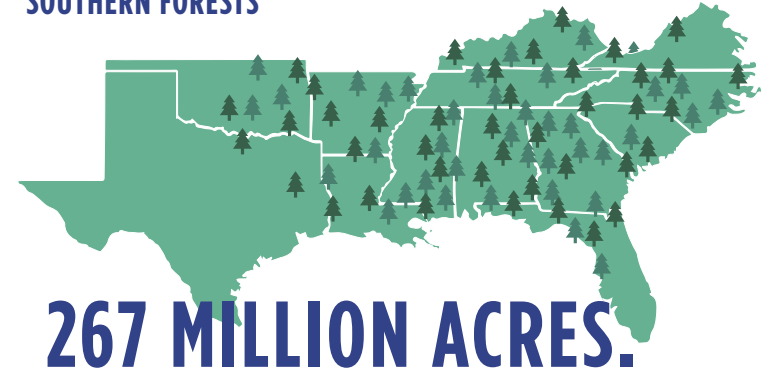
of the total water supply.

That's equal to **97.8 trillion gallons.**

HOW MUCH LIQUID IS THAT?  
That's enough water to fill a stack of five gallon buckets that would extend all the way to the sun & back **24 TIMES.**



## SOUTHERN FORESTS



## POPULATION SERVED

ALL FORESTS  
**113 MILLION PEOPLE**



STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTS  
**57 MILLION PEOPLE**



FEDERAL FORESTS  
**56 MILLION PEOPLE**



## THE CHALLENGE

Population is expected to increase more than **30%** over the next **40 years** compared to 2012 levels.

2052

## THE THREAT

**UP TO 23 MILLION ACRES** of our forests are forecasted to be converted to other uses by **2060.**



2012

## HEALTHY FORESTS ARE CRITICAL TO DRINKING WATER

Healthy, managed forests provide the cleanest water of any land use, and help keep drinking water safe, reliable, and affordable.



## FOREST STEWARDSHIP AND BMPs

Foresters work with landowners to develop forest stewardship plans and implement Best Management Practices that protect soil and water resources.



**“Our investments in healthy forests today lead to higher quality drinking water in our communities tomorrow.”**

David LaFrance, CEO of American Water Works Association  
Learn more by watching our video! <https://bit.ly/3f6jTK0>

## DRINKING WATER DEPENDS ON HEALTHY FORESTS

Contact for more information  
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Liu, Ning; Dobbs, G. Rebecca; Caldwell, Peter V.; Minal, Cheky Ford; Bolstad, Paul V.; Nelson, Stacy; Sun, Ge. 2020. Quantifying the role of State and private forest lands in providing surface drinking water supply for the Southern United States. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-248. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 405 p. Caldwell, P., Muldoon, C., Ford-Minial, C., Cohen, E., Krieger, S., Sun, G., McNulty, S., and Bolstad, P.V. 2014. Quantifying the role of National Forest system lands in providing surface drinking water supply for the Southern United States. General Technical Report SRS-197. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station. 135 p.