When Knowlton Johnson ’64 decided to donate a portion of his family’s timberlands to Clemson University, he had clear goals in mind: support future generations of Clemson students and maintain a sustainable timberland.

“Clemson seemed to be the perfect fit for preserving and enhancing this property. I knew that my education at the University was excellent. And, I was impressed with the enthusiasm of the faculty members,” says Johnson.

Today, as part of the Clemson Timberlands Legacy program, that 225-acre property is serving as a learning tool for students of forestry, management, natural resources, and wildlife and fisheries. Proceeds of scheduled timbering of the land will create a quasi-endowment in support of the University.

As Johnson says, “It is an opportunity to give back.” And it is an opportunity to make a difference.

The Will to Lead for Clemson

Because students and faculty are at the heart of everything we do at Clemson, our support for them is vital. The Will to Lead campaign is an effort to raise more than $1 billion in support of Clemson students and faculty, and the facilities and engaged learning opportunities needed to provide an exceptional education. This is the largest goal ever set by a public university with an alumni base of our size.

To date, more than $600 million has been raised providing 357 scholarships and fellowships to deserving students; funding 95 new endowed chairs, professorships and faculty support; increasing the reach of Creative Inquiry programs; and impacting more than one million square feet of new construction and renovation of facilities.
The Reality

Your gift to Clemson University has never been more vital. As the demand for a top-quality education grows along with the financial needs of the students and the University, your support can make the difference now and long into the future. The Clemson Timberlands Legacy program allows you to make a gift of timberlands that will be harvested for profit. That profit, in turn provides benefits for years to come.

How the Timberland Legacy Program Works

• Generous donors deed full title of harvestable timberland to Clemson through the Clemson University Real Estate Foundation (CUREF). Gifts typically should be of 50 acres or more.
• CUREF assumes responsibility for management, fees and taxes, and in turn receives the financial benefits of the timber harvests. The financial benefit of the gift is realized by the University when the timber is thinned and when it is ultimately harvested at maturity.
• The value of the gift (for purpose of naming opportunities) is based on the land’s harvest value minus fees and related costs, and is subject to the University’s naming rights guidelines. The closer the timberland is to harvest, the sooner the gift will be realized.
• A donation of timber plus cash will cover fees associated with managing the lands, allowing all the profits from the harvests to go to the program and increasing the funding of the gift.
• The donor may designate the gift or donate it without restrictions. Unrestricted giving allows University leadership the flexibility to answer immediate needs and special needs as they arise.
• Clemson will retain the right to sell any donated property if, at some point in the future, it becomes financially unviable.

The Impact

By donating timberland to Clemson, you support the University’s goals in many ways:
• Harvested timberland provides vital funds for student and faculty support through endowed scholarships, fellowships, professorships and chairs.
• Building on Clemson’s more than 75-year history of forestry management, the donated timberlands can provide a living classroom for students of wildlife management, forestry, water quality, wildlife and fisheries biology, and environmental and natural resources.
• Your gift provides economic development through its support to the state’s most valuable economic crop — timber. This industry provides 30,000 jobs and generates $17 billion for the state’s economy.

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