

WETLANDS & SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES: DID YOU KNOW?

Wetlands, especially wetland forests, are the “filters” of our natural systems that secure fresh drinking water for surrounding and downstream communities. They provide critical protection from dangerous flooding in vulnerable regions. Wetland forests rank among the most important in the nation for carbon sequestration and biodiversity.

DID YOU KNOW?

Two of the most expensive natural disasters of 2016 occurred in the US South.

Standing wetland forests safeguard communities from the worst impacts of climate change. By scaling up wetland forest protection, we can mitigate flooding and storm surges in our communities while creating local, sustainable, and equitable economies.



DID YOU KNOW?

Wetland forest destruction is a significant injustice, while wetland forest protection could be a justice solution.

Many communities of color, low income communities, and indigenous communities are living near **degraded or destroyed wetland forests** and are often the most impacted by pollution, flooding and poor water quality.

DID YOU KNOW?

Building a new forest economy is essential to a bright future.



Resilient communities should invest in nature and focus on non-extractive uses like recreation and ecotourism. Investing in standing wetlands is investing in our safety, safeguarding us from expensive recovery efforts.

DID YOU KNOW?

Biodiversity helps you enjoy the great outdoors

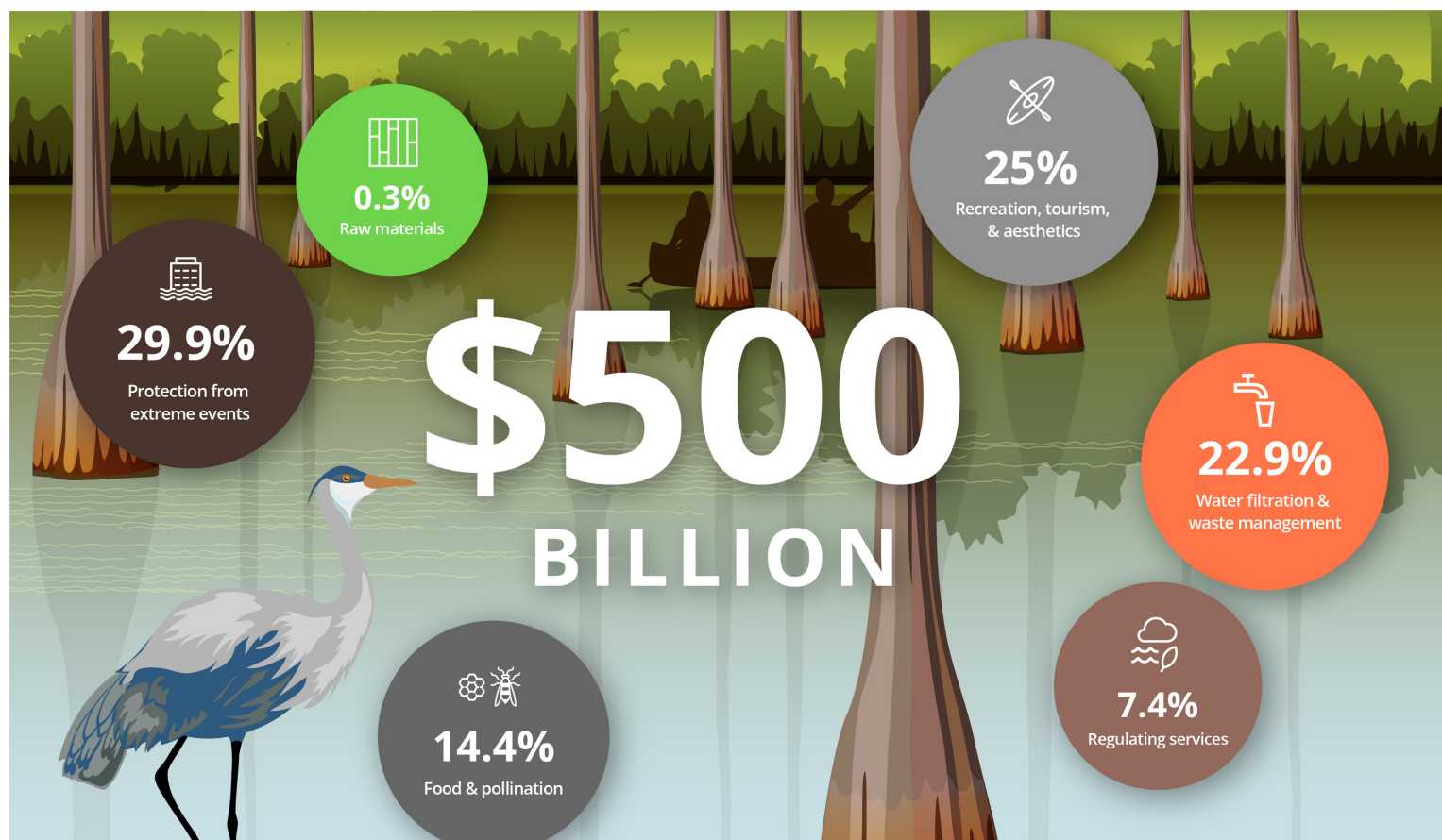
Healthy wetland forests are home to many species of plants and animals that **YOU** can enjoy – whether you want to hunt, fish, birdwatch, canoe, or just go for a walk.

DID YOU KNOW?

Wetland forests are worth over \$18,600 per acre, but continually logging wetland forests reduces their value to just \$1,200 per acre.

By shifting our focus from timber production to forest health, wetland forests increase in value over fifteen times! Wetland forests are worth more than \$500 billion. If we are more ecologically friendly, we could increase the value to almost \$550 billion.

HOW MUCH ARE WETLAND FORESTS WORTH?



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