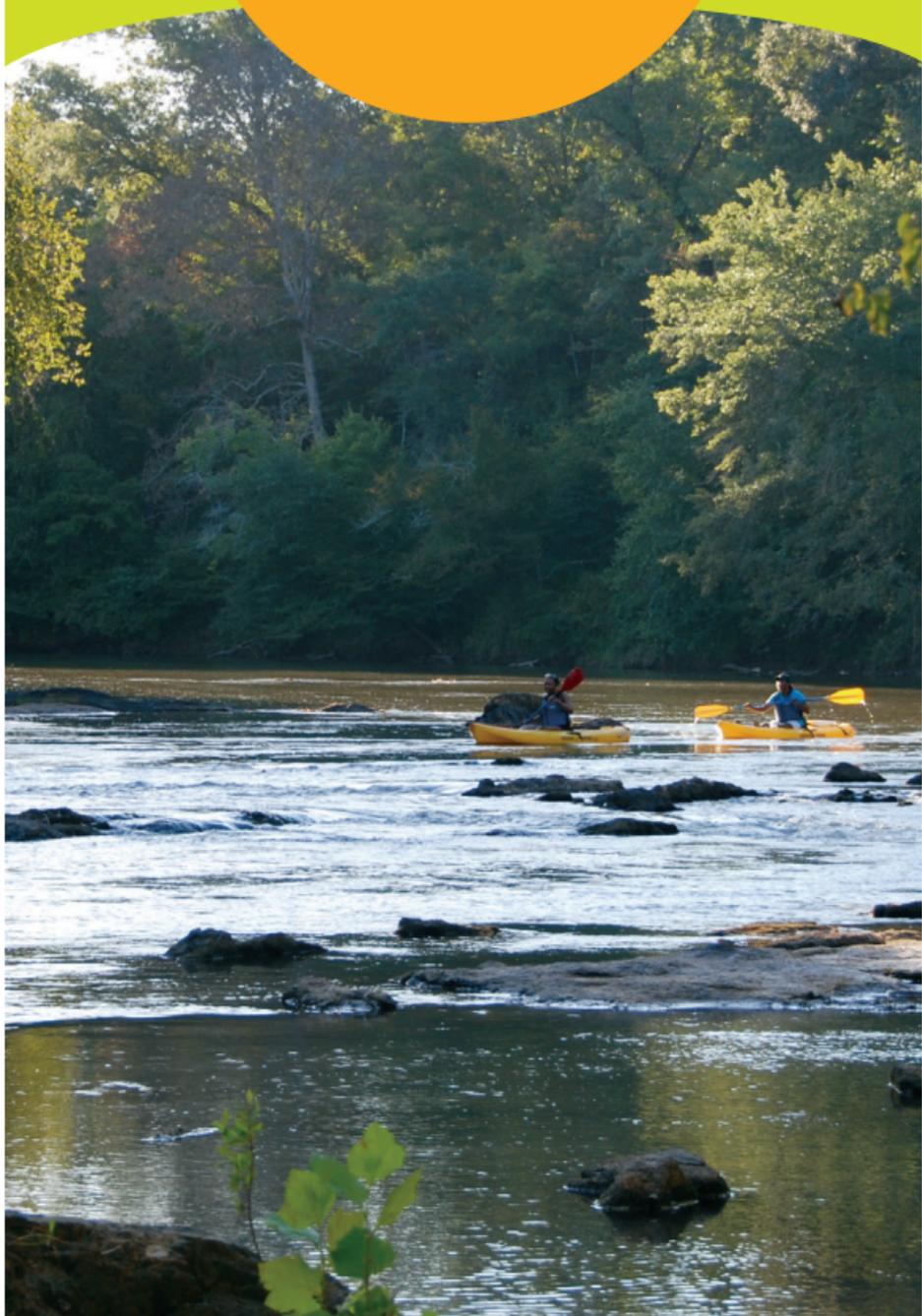




# Thirsty Trees!



Science  
You Can  
Use!

# Thirsty Trees!

## Why Should You Care About Thirsty Trees?

Climate change can have direct and indirect impacts on water resources. Direct impacts of climate change can be seen by the presence of more extreme weather events. Extreme weather events include heat waves, droughts, and floods. These extreme weather events have a direct impact on water quality and water supply. Trees absorb groundwater through their root systems. Some tree species may absorb more water than others, increasing the impact of heat waves and drought.

## Did You Know?

Forests and forest management impact our water resources. For example, forest management can change the number of trees in an area. The number of trees in an area influences how much rain is intercepted before reaching the ground. The number of trees also influences how much water evaporates. When water is scarce, trees must balance the amount of water they use with their need to photosynthesize. Some tree species require more water than others to remain healthy.

## What Are Scientists Doing to Help?

Scientists study how forest management, climate change, and streamflow interact. They compare different types of forest management with the amount of streamflow in mountain watersheds. By better understanding how forest management affects streamflow, scientists are able to recommend forest management practices that fit different climate futures. For example, scientists have discovered that softwoods, such as pine trees, absorb more groundwater than hardwoods, and therefore reduce streamflow. In areas with a lot of rain, softwoods may be the recommended species to plant. In areas with drought, planting hardwoods may be recommended.

## Take Action!

Protect water resources by using water wisely. Take shorter showers and turn off the faucet when not using water. Make sure all faucet leaks are fixed.

Take a tour of your local drinking water treatment plant. Plant native tree species that are suited to their environment. In areas with low rainfall, plant trees that need less water. In areas with high rainfall, plant thirsty trees!



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