



NFWF

SOUTHERN
COMPANY



NRCS



Longleaf Stewardship Fund

Building on nearly a decade of investment to restore vanishing longleaf pine forests in the southeastern United States, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has established the **Longleaf Stewardship Fund**, a landmark public-private partnership that includes the U.S. Department of Defense, the USDA Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Southern Company. With the combined financial and technical resources of the group, the Fund will support accelerated restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem and implementation of the Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine, as part of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, while advancing the mission objectives of each of the partners.

Since 2004, the Longleaf Legacy Program, a partnership between NFWF and Southern Company, has invested nearly \$8.7 million into projects that will restore more than 82,000 acres of longleaf pine forest and the native species that rely on it. The Longleaf Stewardship Fund will build on the success of the Southern Company partnership and expand the restoration effort across longleaf pine's historic range.

The goals of the Longleaf Stewardship Fund are to:

- **Establish** and **enhance** longleaf pine forests
- **Restore** and **enhance** the understory
- **Support** the recovery of iconic and keystone species
- **Increase** technical assistance and outreach to private landowners
- **Strengthen** organizational capacity



Only a small fraction of the once-majestic longleaf pine forest remains.

The Fund's investments will target areas anchored by Department of Defense military bases, National Forests, Fish & Wildlife Service Refuges and state protected lands to expand existing longleaf habitat and establish large-scale healthy ecosystems. In addition, the Fund will support range-wide restoration projects, technical assistance to private landowners, and locally based partnerships dedicated to restoring longleaf pine. Investments will be made to achieve specific conservation outcomes, and success will be tracked to evaluate gains in healthy longleaf forest and the recovery of native wildlife.

In its first year, 16 projects in 7 states were selected for funding, totaling **nearly \$3 million**. It is anticipated that these projects will result in more than **11,000 acres of longleaf restored**, and more than **122,000 additional acres** of enhanced longleaf wildlife habitat. In addition, it is expected that more than **1,600 private landowners** will receive education and technical assistance related to longleaf restoration and available cost-share programs, with **235 entering into stewardship programs** on private lands.

For more information on the *Longleaf Stewardship Fund*, please visit www.nfwf.org/longleaf.

For more information on *America's Longleaf*, please visit www.americaslongleaf.org.



Longleaf Stewardship Fund

2012 Grant Recipients



NFWF



The Longleaf Stewardship Fund is a landmark public-private partnership that supports accelerated restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem through collaborative and result-oriented actions that contribute to the restoration goals in the Range-Wide Conservation Plan. In 2012, 16 projects across the historic longleaf range, including nine Significant Geographic Areas (SGA) or sites, have been selected to receive \$2.88 million, leveraging nearly \$4 million in grantee match. In total, these projects will restore more than 11,000 acres and enhance more than 122,000 additional acres of longleaf pine habitat.

North Carolina

<p>North Carolina Sandhills SGA</p>	<p>The Nature Conservancy, North Carolina, in partnership with the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partners and private landowners, will create a Longleaf Task Force to reintroduce growing-season fire regimes on priority buffer and connector lands in the North Carolina Sandhills, implementing 3,000 acres of prescribed burns and establishing 200 acres of longleaf within the Sandhills project area. This effort supports Department of Defense military training objectives at Fort Bragg by minimizing impacts on habitat management from incompatible development, and by facilitating population growth of species of concern away from military posts.</p>	<p>\$349,920</p>
<p>Onslow Bight SGA</p>	<p>The Nature Conservancy, North Carolina, along with NRCS, North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, North Carolina Division of Park and Recreation and North Carolina Coastal Land Trust, will boost prescribed burn management on at least 6,400 acres and will restore approximately 276 acres of longleaf pine within the Onslow Bight landscape. This project will support the red-cockaded woodpecker conservation efforts of partners through prescribed burning and longleaf establishment.</p>	<p>\$150,000</p>

South Carolina

<p>South Carolina Sandhills SGA</p>	<p>Chesterfield County Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with South Carolina Forestry Commission, Pee Dee Land Trust, NRCS, the Farm Service Agency, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and US Fish and Wildlife Service, will provide cost-share assistance to private landowners and establish 800 acres of longleaf in the Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership focus area. This will facilitate the ultimate goal: to decrease fragmentation on land buffering publically-owned lands in the focus area, creating wildlife corridors for longleaf dependent species.</p>	<p>\$150,000</p>
<p>Francis Marion National Forest SGA</p>	<p>The Nature Conservancy, South Carolina in cooperation with NRCS, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, South Carolina Partners for Restoration of Native Plant Communities, South Carolina Wildlife Federation, National Wild Turkey Federation and Charleston County Council, will create the Sewee to Santee Implementation Team to expand new private land longleaf installations by 1,000 acres and continue restoration work on 3,000 acres of lands surrounding Francis Marion National Forest, one of two landscapes designated for longleaf enhancement in President Obama's America's Great Outdoors initiative.</p>	<p>\$200,000</p>

Georgia

<p>Fort Stewart/Altamaha SGA</p>	<p>Georgia Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Department of Defense, the Georgia Land Trust and the Longleaf Alliance, will develop a longleaf implementation team, plant longleaf on 1,350 acres and prescribe burn on 5,000 acres of land in the Altamaha corridor and on Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) lands closer to Ft. Stewart. This project will help link protected ACUB lands with Ft. Stewart, creating corridors for species currently isolated on the base.</p>	<p>\$349,375</p>
----------------------------------	--	-------------------------

Altamaha-Ocmulgee River Corridor	Georgia Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, the Orianne Society and private landowners, will plant 310 acres of longleaf, restore groundcover on 215 acres and prescribe burn 3,100 acres in the upper Altamaha-Ocmulgee River corridor, complementing efforts taking place on the adjacent Fort Stewart/Altamaha Significant Geographic Area. This project will serve as a model for longleaf restoration efforts on private lands throughout the region, resulting in less isolation of quality habitats, mitigation of low-density residential sprawl and specifically benefitting the threatened indigo snake and gopher tortoise.	\$143,875
Florida		
Blackwater River, State Forest, Eglin Air Force Base, Conecuh National Forest SGA	Florida Forest Service, as part of the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership, will establish 900 acres of longleaf and prescribe burn over 59,000 acres in the Blackwater River, Pine Log, and Point Washington State Forests in the Florida Panhandle, increasing longleaf forest enhancements in the vital area between Eglin Air Force Base and the Conecuh National Forest. The goal is to ensure a sustainable longleaf pine forest with an uneven-aged forest structure, protecting land from natural disasters and providing habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers, fox squirrels and other game and non-game species.	\$300,000
Osceola National Forest SGA	Florida Forest Service, along with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, will plant over 500,000 longleaf seedlings and provide technical assistance and incentive payments to non-industrial private landowners near Osceola National Forest to encourage implementation of approved longleaf restoration practices on their lands. These efforts will increase acres and continuity of actively managed longleaf pine forests, leading to expanded public benefits in the form of ecosystem services and economic activity.	\$150,000
Alabama		
Southern Alabama	Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, Inc. in partnership with the Longleaf Alliance; USDA; the National Wildlife Federation; and Auburn, Tuskegee and Alabama A&M Universities, will provide outreach and technical assistance to over 150 limited-resource and socially disadvantaged landowners, impacting 2,000 acres through a mix of active longleaf leaf pine re-establishment and management.	\$75,843
Mississippi		
South-Central Mississippi	Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, coordinating with Wildlife Mississippi, Mississippi Forestry Commission, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wild Turkey Federation, Audubon and private landowners, will provide seedlings and cost-share assistance to plant nearly 642,000 longleaf pine trees on 1,180 acres of private lands in south-central Mississippi.	\$150,000
DeSoto National Forest/Camp Shelby SGA	The Nature Conservancy, Mississippi, will create a local coalition to determine longleaf restoration goals, burn 650 acres and plant longleaf on 200 acres on areas around DeSoto National Forest and Camp Shelby. Coalition partners include the US Forest Service; US Fish and Wildlife Service; NRCS; Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; Mississippi Forestry Commission; Mississippi State University Extension Service; University of Southern Mississippi; the Longleaf Alliance and private lands stakeholders with longleaf experience in the Desoto National Forest/Camp Shelby SGA.	\$90,844
Louisiana		
Fort Polk/Kisatchie National Forest SGA	The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana, will work with the West-Central Louisiana Ecosystem Partnership to expand longleaf ecosystems through restoration, technical assistance, outreach and demonstration sites on private lands anchored by the Fort Polk/Kisatchie National Forest Significant Geographic Area. This project will establish 500 acres of longleaf on tracts of land being purchased through the Fort Polk Army Compatible Use Buffer Program, provide capacity for an additional 3,000 acres of prescribed burning and, in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, enroll 1,000 acres of private lands in conservation programs for longleaf restoration. This project supports Army and Kisatchie National Forest conservation priorities, including managing lands for federally listed and threatened species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and Louisiana pine snake.	\$340,256

Multi-State

<p>Savannah River Corridor (SC, GA)</p>	<p>National Wild Turkey Federation, in partnership with the South Carolina Forestry Commission and Georgia Forestry Commission, will facilitate longleaf restoration through targeted outreach and incentive funding to non-industrial private forest landowners and plant 960 acres of longleaf in the Savannah River Corridor. This project will help bridge the gap from the western South Carolina sandhills to the Ashepoo/Combahee/Edisto River Basin in lower South Carolina, and the Ft. Stewart/Altamaha SGA on the Georgia side of the Savannah River.</p>	<p>\$150,000</p>
<p>Alabama/NW Florida</p>	<p>The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with the National Wild Turkey Federation, will establish 100 acres of longleaf at the Splinter Hill Bog Preserve and utilize prescribed fire expertise as well as established landowner outreach tactics to encourage and assist private landowners to manage longleaf on their lands through the application of prescribed fire. This project also will support on-going work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership.</p>	<p>\$150,000</p>
<p>Eastern Longleaf Range (SC, GA, FL MS)</p>	<p>The Longleaf Alliance will collaborate with Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, US Forest Service, Florida Forestry Commission, Clemson University, and the Atlanta Botanical Garden to assist the commercial seed industry with the development of local seed sources suitable for use on National Forests and other managed lands being restored to longleaf. Information collected during this project will help land managers understand which sources of seed are best suited for their areas and will provide commercial seed companies with general guidelines for zones from which to produce and market seed.</p>	<p>\$85,000</p>
<p>Throughout Longleaf Range</p>	<p>The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center will partner with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to convene a collaborative working group of longleaf pine restoration professionals to synthesize the current state of longleaf knowledge and develop a set of longleaf pine conservation outcomes and performance metrics. This information will be used to help select and evaluate investments made through NFWF's Longleaf Stewardship Fund grant program.</p>	<p>\$46,700</p>