



# Longleaf Stewardship Fund

## 2013 Grant Recipients



**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 2013, 15 projects across the historic longleaf range, including eleven (11) Significant Geographic Areas (SGA) or sites, have been selected to receive over \$3.1 million, leveraging \$4.9 million in grantee match. In total, these projects will restore more than 13,500 acres and enhance over 140,000 additional acres of longleaf pine habitat.**

North Carolina		
Bladen Lakes SGA	The Nature Conservancy's North Carolina Chapter, in partnership with state agencies and private landowners as part of the Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration, will expand longleaf restoration and prescribed fire capacity on public and private lands and test new approaches to burning in the coastal plain. The project, which will include the Bladen Lakes SGA and extend south to Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, will plant more than 1,200 acres of longleaf pine seedlings and enhance over 8,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat.	\$350,000
South Carolina		
Mid- and Atlantic Coastal Plain Ecoregions	The Longleaf Alliance will work to restore longleaf pine habitat on private lands in South Carolina in areas of high conservation importance within the state. The project will establish 320 acres of longleaf pine and enhance an additional 7,000 acres through prescribed burning and other management activities. Species to benefit from the improved habitat include the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, a keystone species in the longleaf pine ecosystem.	\$149,986
South Carolina Sandhills SGA	The Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership, including Chesterfield County Soil and Water Conservation District, NRCS, FWS, state agencies and private landowners, will continue a comprehensive longleaf pine restoration project underway in Chesterfield and Darlington Counties in South Carolina by engaging private landowners in longleaf restoration and management. The project will enhance over 1,000 acres of longleaf pine and provide outreach and education activities to private landowners, including landowner field days and workshops, increasing the quantity and quality of longleaf pine habitats on private lands.	\$151,899
Francis Marion National Forest SGA	The South Carolina Wildlife Federation, in partnership with the Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative will increase the acreage of longleaf pine on private lands in and around the Francis Marion National Forest. The project will impact at least 5,000 acres in the project region. In addition to four workshops on longleaf pine management, a cost-share program will be available to local landowners to plant longleaf pine and to increase the use of prescribed fire and other practices. Landowner and community education will also be a key component.	\$195,500

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<b>Georgia</b>		
Fort Stewart- Altamaha SGA	The Georgia Department of Natural Resources will reforest approximately 550 acres of cut over land to longleaf pine, preserve herbaceous groundcover, and improve habitat for the gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, northern bobwhite, and other high priority species in the area. Project work will take place on the 2,722-acre Rocky Hammock tract.	<b>\$85,264</b>
Fort Stewart- Altamaha SGA	The Orianne Society, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy, Georgia DNR, Longleaf Alliance and private landowners, will continue to restore and enhance longleaf pine habitat on public and private lands in Southeast Georgia by implementing prescribed fire treatments on over 10,000 acres, establishing 250 acres of longleaf pine forests, and conducting private landowner outreach and assistance to connecting longleaf pine forests throughout the Altamaha SGA.	<b>\$150,000</b>
<b>Florida</b>		
Ocala National Forest SGA	The Nature Conservancy will work with the Florida Forest Service, Florida Park Service and others to establish an Implementation Team centered on the Ocala Landscape involving public and private partners. Longleaf restoration efforts covering 1,171 acres will include support of a 900-acre longleaf reforestation project at Rock Springs Run State Reserve and 271 acres of longleaf pine planting at Seminole State Forest. In addition, the Florida Forest Service will work with private landowners in order to treat at least 954 acres of private lands with a variety of longleaf ecosystem enhancements.	<b>\$255,000</b>
Apalachicola NF/ St. Marks NWR SGA	The Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance (ARSA), including the Nature Conservancy, Florida state agencies and others, and in partnership with Tyndall Air Force, will advance longleaf pine ecosystem improvement and establishment on state, federal and private properties in a portion of the Florida panhandle managed by the members of ARSA. Specific deliverables include 1,140 acres of restored longleaf habitat on public and private lands; 20,000 acres of prescribed fire assistance; 30 private landowners enrolled in government incentive programs; and the development of a land management and conservation plan for the entire SGA.	<b>\$349,908</b>
Blackwater River State Forest/Eglin Air Force Base/ Conecuh National Forest SGA	The Longleaf Alliance will engage a diverse group of landowner entities in order to restore longleaf pine in two separate areas of the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership landscape. Conservation Forestry, a timber investment management organization (TIMO), will restore 150 acres of their land to longleaf. The Longleaf Alliance will also work with the Florida Service to restore 250 acres of the Yellow River Ravines, an important buffer and wildlife connector between Eglin Air Force Base and Blackwater River State Forest/Conecuh National Forest.	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>Louisiana</b>		
Fort Polk/Kisatchie NF SGA	The Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation and the West-Central Louisiana Ecosystem Partnership will greatly expand the sound management of open pine ecosystems, benefitting a large suite of native plant and animal species, by supporting prescribed burning on at least 4,000 acres of land owned or managed by Resource Management Service and Plum Creek. These sites are in close proximity to the Kisatchie National Forest and within a region identified as significant for longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and management.	<b>\$100,000</b>

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<b>Texas</b>		
Longleaf Ridge SGA/Big Thicket National Preserve SGA	The Nature Conservancy will advance the range-wide goals of America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative by implementing important longleaf restoration work in two Significant Geographic Areas (SGAs) in east Texas. In the Big Thicket National Preserve SGA, the project will conduct reforestation, prescribed burning, mechanical and chemical treatments on the Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary. Work will include 185 acres of longleaf regeneration, mid-story control on 545 acres and prescribe burning of 3,200 acres. In addition, a Texas Longleaf Program Coordinator will advance coordination of the public and private efforts for longleaf conservation in east Texas.	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Multi-state</b>		
Fort Benning SGA	The Nature Conservancy, in partnership with Fort Benning, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and NRCS, and others as part of the Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership, will accelerate and demonstrate longleaf pine conservation on over 10,000 acres in west Georgia and east Alabama within the Fort Benning SGA. This project will provide technical assistance and outreach to private landowners and develop model forest demonstration sites to inform landowners of the economic and ecological benefits of longleaf pine. Fire teams will also expand the use of prescribe fire across the SGA, which is critical in restoring and maintaining a healthy longleaf pine forest.	<b>\$350,000</b>
Okefenokee/ Osceola SGA	The Conservation Fund, in coordination with federal and state agencies and private landowners, will create an Implementation Team that will organize and drive the public-private, multi-state longleaf establishment and understory management on public and private lands in Georgia and Florida as part of the Okefenokee/Osceola Significant Geographic Area. The project will support longleaf pine establishment on nearly 3,000 acres and the enhancement of over 34,000 additional acres of longleaf pine.	<b>\$349,648</b>
Alabama/NW Florida	The Longleaf Alliance and the Nature Conservancy will establish 1,800 acres and improve over 3,000 acres of existing longleaf pine by increasing acres of prescribed fire, and enhancing restoration delivery across public and private lands in Alabama and northwestern Florida. The project will build partnerships, train practitioners, provide technical assistance and outreach to private and public land managers, and increase the effective application of prescribed fire on private lands.	<b>\$150,000</b>
Blackwater River State Forest/Eglin Air Force Base/ Conecuh National Forest SGA	The Longleaf Alliance and the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP) will advance longleaf pine management and restoration across the GCPEP landscape by conducting prescribed burns on 25,000 acres, restoring 750 acres to longleaf pine, controlling 250 acres of invasive species, establishing a 40-acre native seed production area, and relocating 125 gopher tortoises to a conservation area.	<b>\$350,000</b>