

The Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership



For more information, please contact

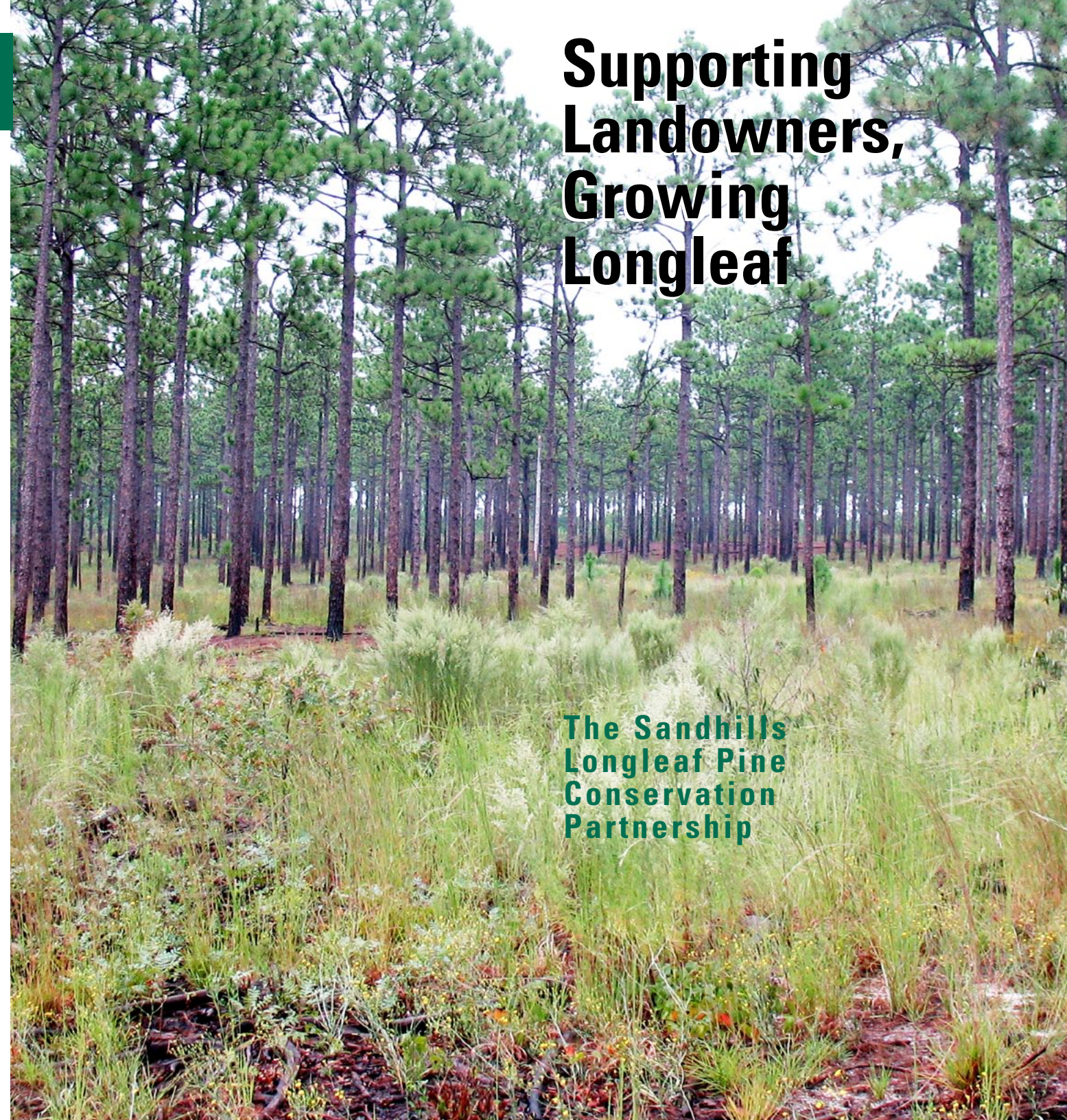
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Supporting Landowners, Growing Longleaf



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Who we are

The Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership is composed of Federal and state agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and private landowners who strive to establish, maintain, and improve the longleaf pine ecosystem in Chesterfield County and northwestern Darlington County, SC. This partnership supports a larger effort known as America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, whose goal is to restore the longleaf pine ecosystem across its historic range in the Southeast.

What we do

Specific goals of the Partnership are to promote the conservation of the longleaf pine ecosystem, improve wildlife habitat, and provide for traditional land uses and recreational amenities (such as farm conservation and hunting). The Partnership desires to sustain compatible land uses that buffer public lands and connect fragmented blocks of longleaf pine habitat through a variety of voluntary programs such as the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Safe Harbor agreements, and conservation easements.



Cost-share funds are available to plant longleaf pine trees.

Why we do it

The longleaf pine ecosystem once covered approximately 90 million acres in the Southeastern United States, but has declined 97% and now contains fewer than three million scattered acres. An established longleaf pine ecosystem hosts a diverse wealth of plants and animals. Unlike other pine species, longleaf pine is ideally suited to the dry, sandy conditions, which dominate the area. Publicly owned lands in the focus area contain over 100,000 acres of the longleaf pine ecosystem. Many more acres of longleaf pine are privately owned. The Partnership can assist landowners in establishing and managing longleaf pine to provide economic benefits and community-wide benefits such as wildlife habitat improvement and increased recreational opportunities.



The longleaf pine ecosystem provides excellent wildlife habitat and supports traditional land uses and recreational opportunities, such as hunting and bird watching.

How do I get involved?

Management actions to establish or improve longleaf pine habitat in the focus area include planting seedlings, removal of competitive species, prescribed burning, mechanical midstory removal, planting native warm season grasses, and controlling exotic species. Several of these actions qualify for cost-share funding on a limited, competitive basis. Other activities can qualify as a match for cost-share funds received. Typically, projects take two years to implement and landowners agree to maintain the practices for 15 years. Cost-share reimbursement is based on an established price list. For landowners with existing stands of longleaf pine, technical assistance is available for timber and wildlife management, the Safe Harbor program, and land conservation options. Interested landowners should contact us for more information.



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