

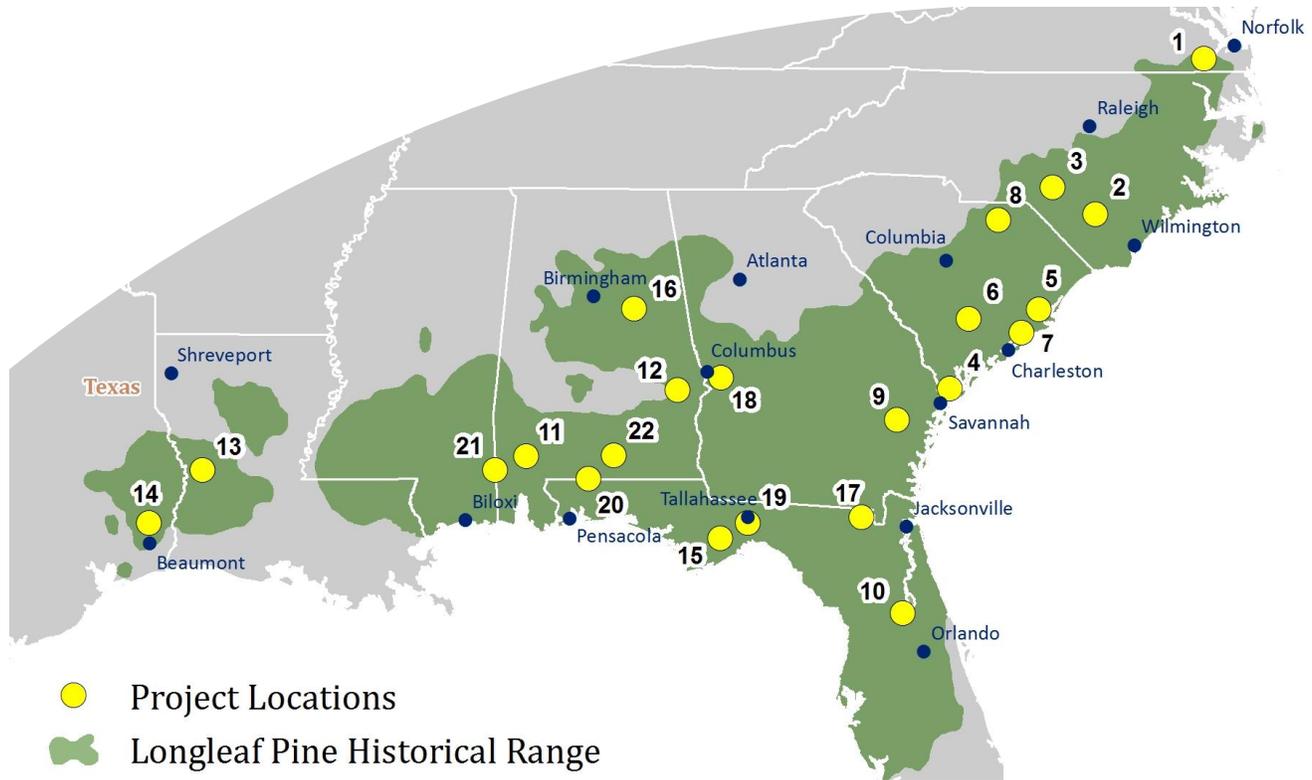


Longleaf Stewardship Fund

2015 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 of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative. In 2015, 22 projects across the historic longleaf range, including 11 Significant Geographic Areas (SGA), have been selected to receive \$4.6 million, leveraging \$6.4 million in grantee match. In total, these projects will restore more than 11,600 acres and enhance over 163,000 additional acres of longleaf pine habitat.



Virginia		
1) Southeast Virginia	The Virginia Longleaf Pine Cooperators Group will restore and enhance longleaf pine in core areas of southeastern Virginia through longleaf establishment and management on state-owned and protected private lands. Project efforts will establish 1,000 acres of longleaf pine, enhance 6,000 acres of existing longleaf habitat, and reach 75 private landowners. The project will increase investments in prescribed fire delivery capacity for improved management on these and other lands planned for conversion to longleaf. The program will also provide outreach and technical assistance to private landowners under programs including USDA and state-sponsored assistance.	\$150,000
North Carolina		
2) Bladen Lakes SGA	The Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration will increase longleaf habitat connectivity across the Bladen Lakes SGA and Greater Green Swamp Subarea in eastern North Carolina. The project will establish 500 acres of longleaf and 1,048 acres of native grasses, treat 302 acres of mid-story, enhance 10 acres of bottomland hardwood habitat, and permanently protect 450 acres of bottomland hardwood and longleaf pine. Outreach activities will engage 300 private landowners. The project will allow extensive opportunities to collaborate and execute more than 3,500 acres of prescribed fire in a technically challenging environment.	\$300,000

3) North Carolina Sandhills SGA	The North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership will engage private landowners through regional and county workshops, field days, and relationship development to restore and manage longleaf pine on private lands in the N.C. Sandhills SGA. Partners will establish longleaf pine on 600 acres, enhance 4,200 additional acres, and engage 300 private landowners through outreach and technical assistance. The project will build on previous partnership success to restore longleaf on public lands with a focus on the private lands that buffer and connect core areas.	\$150,000
South Carolina		
4) SoLo-ACE Basin SGA	The SoLo-ACE Longleaf Partnership will build on efforts to restore and enhance longleaf pine on private lands within the ACE Basin region of South Carolina. Partners will strengthen collaboration and coordination to provide cost-share assistance to private landowners, resulting in 1,000 acres of longleaf planted, 1,700 acres burned and 25 red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) nest boxes installed. Outreach will include two landowner academies for private landowners and forestry professionals. The project will specifically target underserved landowners for assistance through these programs.	\$250,000
5) Winyah Bay	The Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative will investigate opportunities for longleaf restoration and maintenance and complete successful on-the-ground projects. Partners will expand signature mapping efforts to cover Georgetown and Williamsburg counties; engage new private landowners; implement 1,600 acres of prescribed fire on privately protected longleaf; and treat 180 acres of water hyacinth to improve bottomland habitat along the Black River and Mingo Creek. The project will also protect Rocky Point, a key 482-acre property that includes 283 acres of potential longleaf habitat.	\$100,000
6) Southeast South Carolina	The Congaree Land Trust and partners will manage and restore longleaf pine habitat on 14 privately owned properties in the Mid-and Atlantic Coastal Plain Ecoregions of South Carolina. The project will establish 165 acres of longleaf pine, enhance more than 4,500 acres of longleaf habitat with prescribed fire, and treat mid-story hardwoods on more than 400 acres. These efforts will complement ongoing longleaf restoration efforts within the South-Lowcountry/ACE Basin SGA and other areas targeted for landscape-scale conservation in the SC Coastal Plain.	\$100,000
7) Santee and Cooper River Basins	The Lowcountry Open Land Trust will conduct a landowner outreach program in order to restore and enhance 275 acres of longleaf pine habitat and protect 1,000 acres of critical lands within the Santee and Cooper River Corridors. Two workshops held in each river corridor will educate landowners on longleaf pine habitat restoration and management and present conservation tools and options for landowners. Partners will conduct follow-up with 10-15 landowners, resulting in habitat restoration and three to five conservation easements.	\$100,000
8) South Carolina Sandhills SGA	The Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership will facilitate the continuation of comprehensive longleaf pine restoration efforts within the S.C. Sandhills Region. This project phase will provide cost-share assistance to landowners to establish 700 acres of longleaf and enhance and maintain an additional 650 acres through prescribed fire. The project will fund a program coordinator, purchase burn equipment to increase the frequency and total acreage treated by private landowners, and restore 125 acres of native warm season grass-dominated ground cover.	\$250,000
Georgia		
9) Fort Stewart Altamaha SGA	The Fort Stewart/Altamaha Longleaf Pine Restoration Partnership will continue efforts to restore and enhance longleaf pine habitat in the Ft. Stewart/Altamaha SGA. Partners will establish 210 acres of longleaf pine on the Sansavilla Wildlife Management Area, which contains the second largest Gopher Tortoise population in Georgia and provides a critical buffer to Townsend Bombing Range. The project will enhance 8,000 acres of longleaf habitat on public and private lands using prescribed fire and establish native groundcover seed collection sites on private lands.	\$350,000

Florida		
10) Ocala National Forest SGA	The Ocala Local Implementation Team will expand efforts within the Ocala Landscape to accelerate longleaf pine restoration on public and private lands. The project will complete restoration and maintenance on 250 acres of RCWhabitat on the Ocala National Forest and 100 acres of sandhill on Camp Blanding Military Reservation. Partners will also restore and maintain 3,500 acres of longleaf habitat, including at least 570 acres of private lands with a variety of longleaf ecosystem enhancements.	\$250,000
Alabama		
11) Southwest Alabama	The Nature Conservancy's Alabama Chapter (TNC-AL) and the American Forest Foundation will partner on a strategic education and outreach effort to restore longleaf on private lands in southwest Alabama. Partners will implement a social marketing outreach effort to engage private landowners in sustainable forest management. In total, outreach activities conducted across Alabama will result in 2,500 landowners contacted, 160 citizens engaged, and 10 landowners certified to sustainability programs. Partners will establish 200 acres of longleaf pine and assist with delivery of prescribed fire and other management treatments on an additional 4,000 acres.	\$150,000
12) East Alabama	The Alabama Forest Resources Center and partners will continue habitat management benefitting the RCW on Enon and Sehoj plantations and adjacent properties. Work performed from 2007 to 2014 including annual provisioning of artificial cavities, monitoring, and competitor management resulted in 29 RCW groups, with the two sub-populations separated by less than three miles. Continued management through this project will help the RCWs maintain a self-sustaining 30+ groups. The project will also maintain habitats through regular prescribed burning and mid-story control, along with planting 100 acres of longleaf pine.	\$135,000
Louisiana		
13) Fort Polk/Kisatchie National Forest SGA	The West-Central Louisiana Ecosystem Partnership will implement the second phase of the Pineywoods Longleaf Restoration Project (LA) in a six-parish Conservation Area anchored by the Fort Polk/Kisatchie National Forest SGA. The project will support a Conservation Delivery Specialist to work directly with local NRCS staff and improve delivery of Farm Bill cost-share programs, as well as a full-time coordinator to work with partners and private landowners and enhance participation in programs focused on longleaf restoration on private lands. Project efforts will restore 3,000 acres of longleaf pine on private lands.	\$251,900
Texas		
14) Big Thicket National Preserve SGA	The Texas Longleaf Pine Implementation Team will restore 950 acres to longleaf, enhance over 4,900 acres of existing longleaf through woody plant control, and enhance 50 acres of bottomland hardwoods to improve rare and natural plant communities. Outreach and technical assistance will educate 100 private landowners on longleaf ecology and related resources through county landowner association meetings, landowner workshops, small focused field workshops, training sessions, and fact sheets. Targeted technical assistance will engage five private landowners in stewardship activities.	\$300,000
Multi-state		
15) Apalachicola National Forest/ St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge SGA	The Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance will build upon its previous programs through a focus on longleaf restoration efficiencies and novel outreach tools. The project will plant 1,300 acres of longleaf pine and enhance an additional 20,800 acres of existing longleaf habitat. Partners will continue to fund long-term projects that balance restoration scale and complexity, such as the complete sandhill reconstruction at Torreya State Park, and bring new properties in strategic geographies into the beginning stages of longleaf conversion. The project will also pursue innovative communications approaches to further educate the local community on longleaf pine.	\$325,000

16) Talladega National Forest SGA	The Talladega Mountain Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership will further longleaf restoration throughout the mountain longleaf pine region of Alabama and northwest Georgia. The project will create and support a prescribed fire crew that will operate within the project range for direct support of restoration efforts, including burns on 12,500 acres of existing longleaf habitat. Partners will also establish longleaf on 282 acres of the Choccolocco State Forest – an important corridor and linkage between two of the most important areas in the montane longleaf range, the Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge and the Talladega National Forest.	\$200,000
17) Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge/Osceola National Forest SGA	The Okefenokee/Osceola Longleaf Implementation Team will conduct longleaf pine restoration and hazard fuel reduction on public and private lands in one of the most fire-prone areas of the United States. The project will establish longleaf pine on 444 acres of public and private lands and use hazard fuel mapping to prioritize 5,000 acres for prescribed fire and other fuel reduction techniques. Goals include prescribed burns conducted on 20,000 acres of public and private lands and an additional 360 acres of private land treated to reduce fuel levels. Workshops will provide at least 100 private landowners with information on longleaf pine management and restoration.	\$300,000
18) Fort Benning SGA	The Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership will accelerate and demonstrate longleaf conservation on more than 22,000 acres in west Georgia and east Alabama, including 1,500 acres of longleaf planted and more than 20,000 acres enhanced through prescribed fire and other treatments. The project will build on a network of demonstration sites for landowners to observe restoration and management results and understand the economic and ecological costs and benefits of longleaf. Outreach will build on past successes in Georgia and expand into Alabama, engaging 1,000 stakeholders and introducing 200 private landowners to cost-share programs.	\$311,000
19) Red-cockaded Woodpecker Translocation Support for the Southern Range Translocation Cooperative	The Longleaf Alliance and partners will monitor approximately 110 groups of RCWs for breeding activity, band nestlings of successful breeding pairs, and translocate approximately 30 subadults from the pool of successful fledglings on the Apalachicola National Forest (ANF) in Florida. The project will also collect cluster, cavity tree and cavity status data on multiple clusters on the ANF. These efforts provide critical status data annually on 275 (~50%) of the approximately 559 active RCW clusters on the ANF, a significant contribution to the world’s largest RCW population.	\$165,000
20) Eglin Air Force Base/ Blackwater State Forest/ Conecuh National Forest SGA	The Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership will complete 24,000 acres of prescribed fire, 250 acres of invasive species control, and 575 acres of mechanical treatments. The project will establish more than 730 acres of longleaf pine, including on an important parcel linking Blackwater River State Forest to Eglin Air Force Base. Partners will use ecological monitoring, surveying and mapping to continue to improve longleaf restoration through adaptive management. Habitat improvements will benefit both the reticulated salamander and the red-cockaded woodpecker. In addition, partners will increase private landowner outreach, education, and technical assistance.	\$325,000
21) Southeast Mississippi and Southwest Alabama	The Alabama Forestry Association and partners will establish community-based landowner prescribed fire networks in order to increase prescribed fire capacity, resulting in 200 acres of longleaf pine established and 7,000 acres of existing habitat enhanced to benefit fire-dependent species. Partners will train landowners to become active burners and coordinate access to technical and cost-share assistance, which will create a replicable model for increasing regional prescribed fire capacity. The project will directly distribute information to 5,900 landowners in the 14 counties of Alabama and Mississippi historically occupied by the Black Pine snake.	\$149,804
Cross-Cutting		
22) Private Landowner Technical Assistance Coordination and Outreach	The Longleaf Alliance will maintain a Longleaf Consul position. The Consul will coordinate and exchange information between 17 local implementation teams (LITs), multi-partner groups responsible for organizing, planning and delivering conservation actions to restore and enhance the longleaf pine ecosystem across the historic longleaf range. The position will serve an integral role in assisting LITs with conservation business plan development for their respective Significant Geographic Areas, which will establish spatially explicit conservation priorities and outcomes.	\$31,885