



Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund

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PARTNERS

- Altria Group
- Bezos Earth Fund
- International Paper
- Occidental
- One Tree Planted
- Orton Foundation
- Southern Company
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$8.1 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

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Red-cockaded woodpeckers

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and eleven partners announced the 2023-year round of funding for Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund projects. Twenty-six new forest conservation grants and two amendments to existing grants totaling nearly \$18 million were awarded. The 28 awards announced generated more than \$14.7 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$32.7 million.

The Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund is a landmark public-private partnership that expands, enhances, and accelerates longleaf pine conservation across the ecosystem's historical range. The fund supports projects that advance the longleaf pine ecosystem through collaborative and result-oriented actions that contribute to the restoration goals of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative.

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ALABAMA**Restoring and Enhancing Longleaf Pine and Native Grasslands in Alabama**

Grantee: Alabama Wildlife Federation

Grant Amount:..... \$199,000

Matching Funds:..... \$199,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$398,300

Provide technical assistance, outreach and educational information to landowners, natural resource professionals and contractors to establish or enhance longleaf pine and native grassland habitat throughout Alabama. Project will increase awareness of the ecological value of native grasslands and promote collaboration among project partners to restore and enhance 1,500 acres of habitat for grassland-dependent wildlife, including northern bobwhite, Bachman's sparrow and loggerhead shrike.

Restoring Longleaf Pine Habitat for At-Risk Species on Public and Private Lands in South Alabama

Grantee: Alabama Forestry Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$2,000,000

Matching Funds:..... \$1,100,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$3,100,000

Engage family forest owners and assist public land managers in Alabama to restore and enhance longleaf forests and improve habitat for at-risk species. Project will support longleaf restoration on National Forests and Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources lands and target 8,000 landowners through marketing efforts to restore or enhance more than 20,000 acres of longleaf and improve habitat for gopher tortoises and other fire-dependent at-risk species found in longleaf forests.

LOUISIANA**Restoring and Enhancing Longleaf Pine on Public and Private Lands in the Pineywoods of Louisiana**

Grantee: National Wild Turkey Federation

Grant Amount:..... \$350,000

Matching Funds:..... \$246,100

Total Project Amount:..... \$596,100

Establish or enhance 5,700 acres of longleaf pine to improve habitat for the Louisiana pine snake and red-cockaded woodpecker in west-central Louisiana, anchored by Fort Polk and Kisatchie National Forest. Project will provide financial assistance to plant new longleaf forests and enhance existing longleaf habitat with prescribed fire, as well as support landowner outreach and technical assistance through field days and development of forest management plans.

Restoring Longleaf Pine Habitat to Benefit At-Risk Species in West Louisiana

Grantee: A.J. and Nona Trigg Hodges Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$200,000

Matching Funds:..... \$200,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$400,000

Accelerate longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and species

recovery on private lands and the Kisatchie National Forest in west Louisiana. Project will implement prescribed burning on 2,000 acres, improve management on 1,500 acres and engage 1,800 landowners and conservation professionals through outreach and technical assistance, benefiting Louisiana pine snake, red-cockaded woodpecker and other longleaf and open pine dependent species.

MISSISSIPPI**Increasing Longleaf Pine Restoration on Private Lands in South Mississippi**

Grantee: Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain

Grant Amount:..... \$350,000

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$350,000

Establish a prescribed burn team to expand capacity in south Mississippi and restore longleaf pine habitat, benefiting several endangered and at-risk species such as the dusky gopher frog, gopher tortoise, black pine snake, and northern bobwhite. Project will restore and enhance more than 1,200 acres of longleaf pine through plantings and prescribed burning, and create forest management plans to guide restoration and management efforts on land trust managed properties.

Restoring and Conserving Longleaf Pine Habitat in Coastal Mississippi

Grantee: Mississippi Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$500,000

Matching Funds:..... \$3,013,300

Total Project Amount:..... \$3,513,300

Conserve and manage longleaf pine in private ownership in coastal Mississippi, including lands supporting threatened, endangered and declining species like the gopher tortoise and Mississippi sandhill crane. Project seeks to place more than 5,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat under voluntary conservation easements and restore 1,000 acres to longleaf pine.

Restoring Longleaf Pine and Bottomland Hardwood Forests on Public and Private Lands in Mississippi

Grantee: Mississippi Forestry Association

Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000

Matching Funds:..... \$297,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,297,800

Restore and enhance longleaf pine and bottomland hardwood forest habitats on private lands and national forests in south Mississippi, benefiting gopher tortoise, prothonotary warbler and other forest dependent species. Project will plant 500 acres of longleaf pine on National Forest land and provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners to restore and enhance more than 1,000 acres forest habitat and certify 100 family forest tracts into the American Tree Farm Program.

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NORTH CAROLINA**Bear Garden Tract of Holly Shelter Game Land - RASP Short-Term Land Management Agreement (NC)**

Grantee: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Grant Amount:..... \$160,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$160,500
 Restore longleaf pine habitat for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker on the 12,268 acre Bear Garden Tract of Holly Shelter Game Land, located in close proximity to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in eastern North Carolina as part of the Recovery and Sustainment Program. Project will complete short-term restoration to improve existing longleaf stands by thinning an additional 900 acres.

Expanding Partnerships to Restore Longleaf Pine Habitat in the Cape Fear Arch Region (NC)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount:..... \$600,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$600,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,200,000
 Support controlled burning and habitat management and longleaf pine and wiregrass planting on partner properties, and support a new partnership with the Waccamaw Siouan Tribe to promote longleaf restoration in the Cape Fear Arch landscape of North Carolina. Project will improve over 30,000 acres of existing longleaf with controlled burning and other management practices and plant 500 acres of longleaf, benefiting Bachman's sparrow, red-cockaded woodpecker and Venus flytrap.

Longleaf Pine Restoration and Prescribed Fire on Private Lands in the North Carolina Sandhills

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation
 Grant Amount:..... \$487,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$305,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$792,800
 Increase longleaf pine restoration, prescribed fire and community engagement on private lands in the North Carolina Sandhills region. Project will burn over 10,000 acres of private lands, establish over 1,000 new acres of longleaf pine, improve management on 16,000 acres, protect 600 acres of existing longleaf pine habitat with conservation easements and install 30 red-cockaded woodpecker inserts on lands enrolled in Safe Harbor agreements.

Restoring and Maintaining Longleaf Pine Habitat on Stones Creek Game Land (NC)

Grantee: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Grant Amount:..... \$54,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$54,000
 Enhance and maintain longleaf pine habitat and manage for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker on the 2,575 acre Stones Creek Game Land adjacent to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in eastern North Carolina as part of the

Recovery and Sustainment Program. Project will support forest management activities, including prescribed burning, to improve habitat and enable future reintroduction of the red-cockaded woodpecker to Stones Creek Game Land.

Restoring and Maintaining Longleaf Pine Habitat on the Bear Garden Tract (NC)

Grantee: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Grant Amount:..... \$436,500
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$436,500
 Enhance and maintain longleaf pine habitat and manage for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker on the 12,268 acre Bear Garden Tract of Holly Shelter Game Land, located in close proximity to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in eastern North Carolina as part of the Recovery and Sustainment Program. Project will support forest management activities, including prescribed burning, to improve habitat and enable future reintroduction of the red-cockaded woodpecker to the Bear Garden Tract.

Stones Creek Game Land - RASP Short Term Land Management Agreement (NC)

Grantee: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Grant Amount:..... \$32,600
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount:..... \$32,600
 Restore longleaf pine habitat for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker on the 2,575 acre Stones Creek Game Land adjacent to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in eastern North Carolina as part of the Recovery and Sustainment Program. Project will complete short-term restoration to plant an additional 100 acres of longleaf pine.



Longleaf pine stand after controlled burn | Credit: Georgia Forestry Commission

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Wild turkey

SOUTH CAROLINA

Longleaf Pine Restoration and Enhancement in the South Carolina Sandhills Region

Grantee: Chesterfield Soil and Water Conservation District
 Grant Amount:..... \$300,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$230,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$530,900

Restore and enhance 4,800 acres of longleaf habitat on private lands through longleaf establishment, management practices, prescribed fire and long term protection through permanent easements. Project will establish over 700 acres of new longleaf habitat, provide overstory and midstory management on over 1,100 acres and apply prescribed fire to 800 acres benefiting Bachman’s sparrow, red-cockaded woodpecker and other longleaf associated species.

Restoring and Enhancing Longleaf Pine Habitat within the Sewee Region (SC)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount:..... \$300,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$300,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$600,000

Restore and maintain more than 25,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat on public and private lands in the South Carolina coastal plain, to benefit birds, imperiled amphibians and other species. Project will deploy a seasonal fire crew to increase prescribed burning, host landowner learn-to-burn workshops, increase internal and partner capacity to plan and organize prescribed fire priorities and develop a 10-year conservation plan to streamline restoration and aid cooperative longleaf management.

TEXAS

Partnering to Restore Longleaf Pine on Public and Private Lands in East Texas

Grantee: Texas A&M Forest Service
 Grant Amount:..... \$300,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$300,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$600,000

Coordinate education, outreach, technical, and financial assistance to restore, enhance and conserve the longleaf pine ecosystem in East Texas, benefiting northern bobwhite, Bachman’s sparrow and eastern wild turkey. Project will work with partners to restore and enhance more than 2,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat through plantings and prescribed burning, increase production of native and locally adapted understory seed and pilot the propagation of longleaf pine seed sourced in Texas.

VIRGINIA

Expanding Longleaf Pine Restoration and Longleaf Seedling Availability in Southeast Virginia

Grantee: Old Dominion University Research Foundation
 Grant Amount:..... \$350,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$190,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$540,000

Increase longleaf pine habitat in southeast Virginia through plantings, prescribed burning and silvicultural management, as well as landowner outreach and education. Project will implement prescribed burning on 3,900 acres, plant 470 acres of longleaf, restore 220 acres and harvest 50,000 longleaf cones, increasing the availability of locally sourced longleaf pine seedlings adapted to local conditions.

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Eastern indigo snake and gopher tortoise at a controlled burn | Credit: The Nature Conservancy in Alabama

MULTIPLE STATES

Advancing Longleaf Pine Restoration and Seedling Capacity (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX, VA)

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance

Grant Amount:..... \$2,750,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$153,100
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,903,100

Coordinate longleaf pine restoration across the South and address limitations to longleaf seedling quality and quantity by establishing a longleaf pine tree improvement program focused on improving longleaf genetics, expanding seed collection capacity and supporting nursery seedling capacity expansion within the historical longleaf pine range. Project will produce 20 million longleaf pine seedlings and support the coordination of 18 longleaf implementation teams implementing longleaf restoration.

Engaging Private Forest Landowners to Restore Longleaf Pine (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX, VA)

Grantee: Forest Landowners Association

Grant Amount:..... \$1,685,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,719,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$4,404,000

Restore and maintain longleaf pine habitat and promote the collaborative conservation of at-risk species on private lands across the historical longleaf pine range. Project will provide financial assistance to private landowners to establish and maintain longleaf pine habitat, support continued engagement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the southeast region to advance at-risk species recovery and develop new online tools to engage landowners in collaborative conservation efforts.

Enhancing the Mountain Longleaf Pine Ecosystem in Northwest Georgia and Northeast Alabama

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$550,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$128,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$678,700

Expand fire capacity throughout Northwest Georgia and Northeast Alabama, plant, maintain and improve montane longleaf pine stands on both public and private lands, and collect monitoring data on the pine snake and other key terrestrial species to better target future longleaf restoration through adaptive management. Project will plant 1,000 acres of longleaf pine, burn 24,000 acres of existing longleaf pine habitat, and assist in creating a long term forest management plan.

Expanding Longleaf Pine Seedling Availability to Increase Planting on Private Lands (AL, FL, GA, MS)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$1,800,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$760,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,560,000

Partner with tree nurseries and consulting foresters to produce and plant 6 million longleaf pine seedlings on private lands in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi. Project will engage 75 private landowners to plant seedlings on 10,000 acres and help bolster local tree nursery confidence to increase longleaf seedling production and help reduce future seedling shortages.

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Fortifying and Expanding Longleaf Ecosystem Restoration in the Gulf Coastal Plain (AL, FL)

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance

Grant Amount:..... \$603,900
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,132,800
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,736,700

Restore and maintain up to 100,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat through longleaf plantings, groundcover restoration, prescribed fire, invasive species control and rare species recovery within northwest Florida and south Alabama. Project will relocate 1,200 gopher tortoises, support red-cockaded woodpecker population recovery by installing 200 artificial nest cavity inserts and releasing 150 captive reared reticulated flatwoods salamanders to restored wetland habitat.

Increasing Prescribed Burning Capacity in the South (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA)

Grantee: North Carolina State University

Grant Amount:..... \$240,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$32,900
 Total Project Amount:..... \$272,900

Increase prescribed burning capacity in the southeast through coordination, education and outreach. Project will work with private landowners to increase support of prescribed burn associations, minority and historically underserved landowners, and work to restore, maintain, and improve longleaf pine ecosystems, benefiting open pine and grassland species including Bachman's sparrow and northern bobwhite.

Partnering to Restore the Longleaf Landscape Across the Chattahoochee Fall Line Region (GA, AL)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$400,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$336,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$736,700

Accelerate the conservation and restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem in west Georgia and east Alabama. Project will perform 20,000 acres of prescribed burning on public and private lands, plant 350 acres of longleaf pine, monitor the largest red-cockaded woodpecker population on private lands in Alabama and provide outreach programs targeting 600 private landowners—including the historically underserved—resulting in 2,000 acres under improved management.

Restoring Longleaf Habitat and Accelerating At-Risk and Listed Species Recovery (GA, LA, SC, TX)

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance

Grant Amount:..... \$500,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$138,700
 Total Project Amount:..... \$638,700

Advance longleaf ecosystem restoration and recovery of several at-risk and listed species in GA, LA, SC and TX. Project

will restore and enhance more than 2,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat through longleaf plantings, prescribed burning and other management practices, and accelerate species recovery by improving resiliency through captive rearing and reintroduction of the at-risk gopher frog and translocation of the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker to suitable habitat.

Restoring Longleaf Pine Forests and At-Risk Species in the Southeastern Plain of Georgia and Florida

Grantee: Tall Timbers Research

Grant Amount:..... \$750,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$750,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,500,000

Assist public and private landowners with prescribed fire management and longleaf restoration in south Georgia and north Florida. Project will support prescribed fire capacity including a prescribed burn association to assist with 3,000 acres of prescribed burning, plant 250 acres of longleaf pine on public and private lands, and protect 1,000 acres of existing longleaf habitat with voluntary conservation easements, benefiting gopher tortoise, red-cockaded woodpecker and northern bobwhite.

Restoring Longleaf Pine in South Georgia and North Florida

Grantee: Alachua Conservation Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$750,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$456,600
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,206,600

Assist public and private landowners implement prescribed fire management and longleaf restoration in south Georgia and north Florida. Project will support prescribed fire capacity including a prescribed burn association to assist with 10,000 acres of prescribed burning and plant over 1,000 acres of longleaf pine on public and private lands, benefiting gopher tortoise, red-cockaded woodpecker and northern bobwhite.

Using Birds as Ambassadors to Engage Private Forest Owners and Improve Habitats (AL, GA, LA, MS, SC)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$325,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$164,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$489,000

Use swallow-tailed kite and red-headed woodpecker as ambassadors to engage private forest landowners across the southeastern U.S. in forest management to improve habitat benefiting a wide range of wildlife species. Project will engage landowners and foresters through workshops and provide management recommendations including retention of large trees in longleaf pine and bottomland hardwood forests and wider forested riparian buffers that provide for ecological, economic and societal benefits.