

# America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative: Beyond the Grass Stage

James M. Guldin, Ph.D.  
Southern Research Station, USFS  
2017 Chair, Longleaf Partnership Council



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# The grass stage

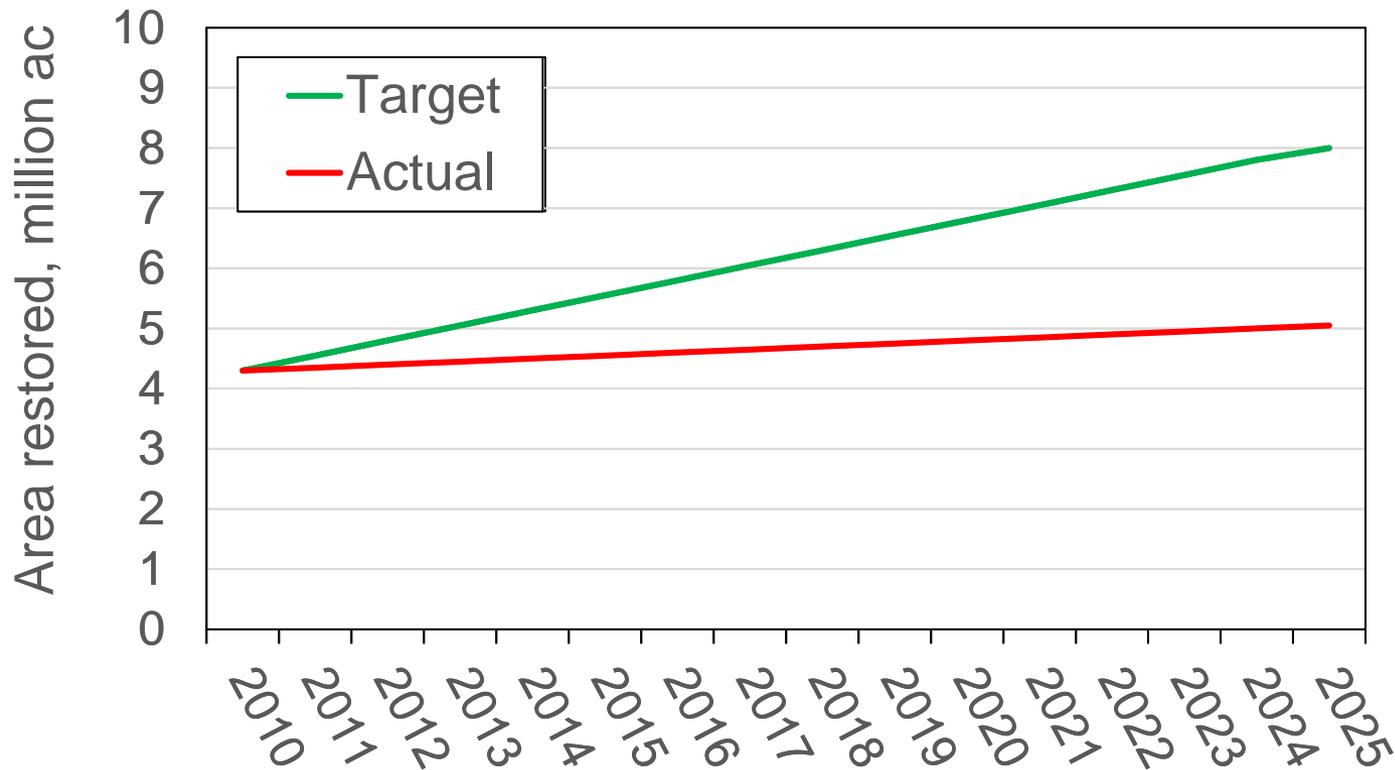


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# The grass stage...



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# The grass stage...



## Accomplishments (2013-2016)

Planting has been a key emphasis for *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative* (ALRI) and NFWF

Acres planted	Private	Public	Total
2013	134,455	22,345	156,800
2014	120,000	33,000	153,000
2015	127,000	23,000	150,000
2016	109,411	30,016	139,427
<b>Total</b>	<b>490,866</b>	<b>108,361</b>	<b>599,227</b>



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***Make no mistake, planting  
has been a huge success!***  
**~ 150,000 acres annually**

Rhett Johnson admires  
~4-year old longleaf pine plantation  
Catahoula Ranger District (RD), Kisatchie  
National Forest (NF) May 2009, Jim Guldin



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And, prescribed fire has also been a key area of emphasis under ALRI and NFWF

Rx Fire, Acres	Private	Public	Total
2013	134,861	965,947	1,100,808
2014	180,160	1,036,792	1,216,592
2015	345,657	1,236,865	1,582,522
2016	433,189	1,221,907	1,655,096
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,093,867</b>	<b>4,461,511</b>	<b>5,555,108</b>



# The grass stage...



## Current annual average burned:

- **1.4 million acres**
- **250,000 acres** on private lands

Prescribed fire in mature longleaf pine  
“Burnin’ Vernon” unit  
Calcasieu RD, Kisatchie NF



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# The grass stage...



**But—there's a hole in the bucket...**

***Longleaf is still being lost to other land uses***

**SW Georgia, 2013**



**SW Georgia, 2014**



Photos: Kevin McIntyre, Jones Center



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# BEYOND the grass stage!



## Bottom line:

Data suggest that, despite tremendous efforts, there has been no significant change in longleaf pine acreage since 2010

***How do we get beyond the grass stage?***

These longleaf pines are the same age!  
Regional Longleaf Pine Growth Study (RLGS),  
Escambia Experimental Forest (EF), 1982



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# BEYOND the grass stage!



Longleaf pine plantation through 8 growing seasons, Calcasieu RD, Kisatchie NF

## A Math Update:

We need between

**300,000 – 400,000 acres** of

***net additions*** to longleaf

pine-dominated ecosystems

annually to get to 8 million

acres by 2025



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# Beyond the grass stage...



The **Longleaf Partnership Council** sees six areas of opportunities and emphasis in the near future



Longleaf pine supports red-cockaded woodpecker nesting and foraging habitat. Conecuh NF, Jan 2016



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# 1. Public lands



Aggressively identify and act on opportunities to expand restoration of longleaf pine



Mature well-burned longleaf pine stand, Special Use Area, Fort Polk/Kisatchie NF, August 2015



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# 1. Public lands



1) Convert off-site pines back to longleaf



Harvest slash pine, replant with longleaf pine, Conecuh NF, Jan 2016

2) Recover longleaf dominance in mixed stands

- Harvest pines that are not longleaf
- Reintroduce prescribed burning



Mixed pine stand with minor longleaf pine component, Kisatchie NF, Aug. 2015



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## 2. Private lands

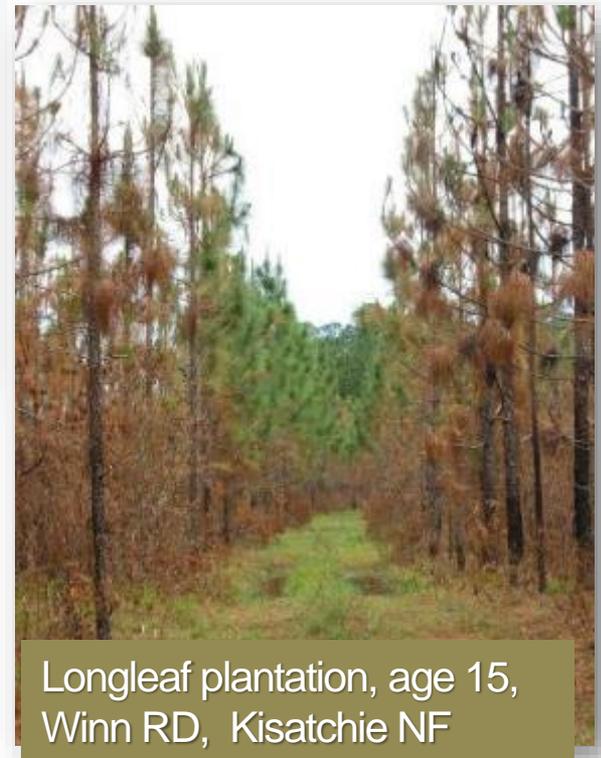
Increase incentive payment funding to plant longleaf on private lands

- Demand for such payments exceeds supply



***Doubling the rate of planting could cost as much as \$45 million annually***

Currently, we incentivize the **hope** of results  
- we also need to incentivize the **results**



Longleaf plantation, age 15,  
Winn RD, Kisatchie NF



# 3. Corporate landowners



Large landowners, including REIT and TIMO owners, often are excluded from incentive programs adjusted growth income (AGI) acreage limits

**REIT** - Real Estate Investment Trust

**TIMO** - Timber Investment Management Organization



Newly planted loblolly pine stand on REIT/TIMO lands in south AR



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# 3. Corporate landowners



The scale of expansion of planted stands, primarily loblolly on REIT-TIMO ownerships, is projected in the Southern Forest Futures Report:

<b>2015</b>	<b>35 million acres</b>
<b>2050</b>	<b>50 million acres</b>

Tagging a million or two acres of this into longleaf would be a big accomplishment



Longleaf pine shelterwood on industry land, south AL

Incentivizing REIT/TIMO landowners to manage longleaf pine could be a real **game-changer**



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# 4. RESTORE Act



Naval Live Oaks plantation, the Nation's first tree farm, Pensacola, FL



Idea builds on water use efficiency of longleaf pine vs. loblolly and slash pines

***Opportunities to contribute to estuarine health?***

Identify new opportunities for longleaf pine restoration as part of larger RESTORE act funding



Longleaf pine-wiregrass stand  
Apalachicola NF, May 2010



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# 5. Prescribed fire



Identify opportunities and funding to significantly expand the application of prescribed fire in longleaf pine ecosystems



Dormant season prescribed fire  
Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center



# 5. Prescribed fire

## Double the area burned annually

- From 1.5 million to **~3 million acres** annually
- **~\$35-40 million** annual price tag



Aerial ignition using delayed aerial ignition devices, aka “ping pong balls,” Kisatchie NF

## Key: Increase delivery of prescribed fire on private lands

- Implications for budgets, staff and policy (state and private organizations)



Burn crew making plans, Crossett EF, south AR



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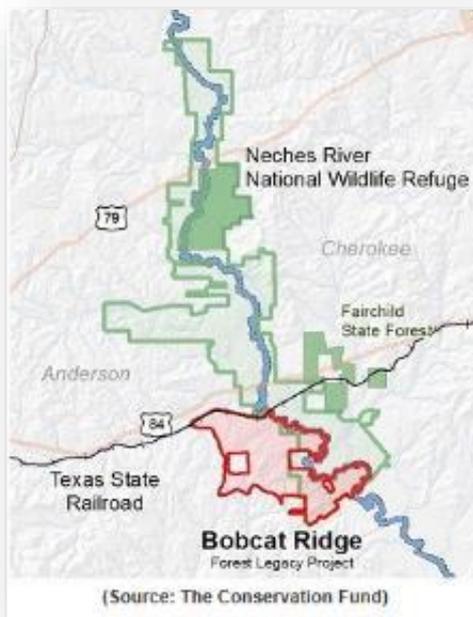


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# 6. Longleaf pine in LWCF



- LWCF – \$900 million per year for public lands from federal oil/gas leases
- USFS – Forest Legacy Fund



Flomaton Natural Area, lost through land sale to development, 2009

- Funds often are incompletely invested
- Diverted for other uses
  - Political issues with respect to federal land acquisition

LWCF - Land and Water Conservation Fund



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# Summary



***There is greater interest and support for LLP than ever!***



ALRI 5-year celebration, Washington, DC

The area of longleaf pine has increased from a low of ~3 million acres in the mid-1990s to ***~4.5 million acres today***



Germinating longleaf pine seedling from fall 2014 seed crop, Jones Center, Newton GA



# Summary



**Partnerships define the Longleaf Partnership Council...**and NFWF and Southern Company partners have been integral to support and funding!

With our valued partnerships, we'll continue to work to get "***Beyond the Grass Stage***" and more widely-restore this ecosystem – which still is so underrepresented on the landscape!



Calcasieu RD, Kisatchie NF



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