



# Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund

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## PARTNERS

- Bezos Earth Fund
- Amazon Web Services
- International Paper
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Southern Company
- Altria Group
- U.S. Department of War
- Orton Foundation
- Energy Transfer
- Occidental

## ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of more than \$12 billion.



Red-cockaded woodpecker

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and 12 partners awarded a 2026-year round of funding for Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund (LLSF) projects. Twenty-three new forest conservation grants and two amendments to an existing grant totaling \$20 million were awarded. The 25 awards leveraged more than \$18.6 million in matching contributions from the grantees, generating a total conservation impact of \$38.6 million.

The LLSF 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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**GEORGIA**

**Improving Forest Habitats on Private Lands in the Upper Ocmulgee Watershed (GA)**

Grantee: Georgia Forestry Commission  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$100,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,600,000  
 Improve management of more than 20,000 acres of longleaf pine and other pine-oak forests within the Upper Ocmulgee watershed in Georgia. Project will help private landowners implement prescribed burns and other forest management practices to improve forest habitats benefiting northern bobwhite, wild turkey and other forest-dependent wildlife.

**Managing and Restoring Calcareous Flatwoods and Montane Longleaf Savannas in Northwest Georgia**

Grantee: Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
 Grant Amount:..... \$387,100  
 Matching Funds:..... \$360,500  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$747,600  
 Restore and manage critically rare calcareous flatwoods and montane longleaf pine ecosystems on Berry College lands and the adjacent Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Management Area in northwest Georgia that support species including Mohr’s Barbara’s buttons. Project will restore and manage more than 3,000 acres through prescribed fire, invasive species control and targeted habitat management while developing a 50-year management plan to guide coordinated, landscape-scale stewardship.

**Recovering Northern Bobwhite and Bachman’s Sparrow through Longleaf Pine Habitat Restoration (GA)**

Grantee: University of Georgia Research Foundation  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,411,200  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,411,200  
 Address barriers for private landowners to voluntarily implement longleaf pine restoration and management practices aimed at recovering northern bobwhite and Bachman’s sparrow. Project will restore longleaf pine ecosystems on private working lands across focal regions in southern Georgia to improve conditions for northern bobwhite and Bachman’s sparrow through longleaf pine establishment, prescribed fire and habitat stewardship.

**LOUISIANA**

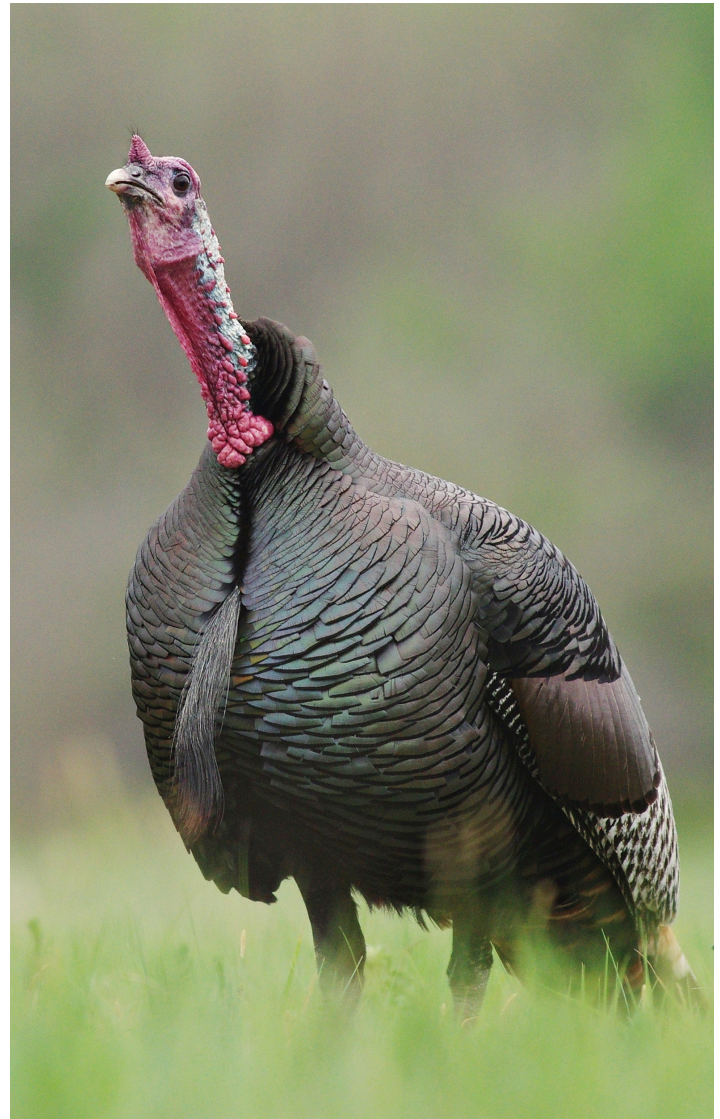
**Addressing Private and Public Lands Longleaf Pine Restoration Needs in Southeast Louisiana**

Grantee: Land Trust for Louisiana  
 Grant Amount:..... \$750,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$259,300  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,009,300  
 Deliver innovative approaches to engage private landowners and increase participation in conservation assistance programs, as well as restore longleaf pine habitat through planting, prescribed fire, thinning and invasive species

control. Project will support the red-cockaded woodpecker in southeast Louisiana and prepare habitat for gopher tortoise reintroduction while adding well-managed longleaf pine habitat on public and private land.

**Piney Woods Longleaf Pine Restoration and Management Promoting Priority Wildlife Species (LA)**

Grantee: National Wild Turkey Federation  
 Grant Amount:..... \$185,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$267,600  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$452,600  
 Provide technical assistance to landowners to voluntarily plant longleaf and enhance existing habitat with prescribed fire, silvicultural harvests, timber stand improvement and invasive species treatments benefiting forest and grassland bird species, such as northern bobwhite and wild turkey. Project will develop forest management plans and help landowners establish and enhance longleaf pine within a 20-parish area in west-central Louisiana.



Wild turkey



Gopher tortoise

**MISSISSIPPI**

**Enhancing Longleaf and Bottomland Hardwood Forests in Coastal Mississippi**

Grantee: Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain  
 Grant Amount:..... \$300,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$100,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$400,000

Advance range-wide longleaf pine restoration goals across coastal counties of Mississippi by addressing fuel accumulation, hardwood encroachment and urbanization-related management constraints, and reintroducing prescribed fire to improve habitat conditions. Project will enhance longleaf pine and bottomland hardwoods, benefiting priority species while increasing ecosystem resilience, sustaining fire capacity and ensuring long-term stewardship of conserved lands.

**Establishing Longleaf Pine and Monitoring Gopher Tortoises within the Wolf River Tract (MS)**

Grantee: Mississippi State University  
 Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$491,500  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,491,500

Restore longleaf pine, apply prescribed fire, control invasive species and establish systematic gopher tortoise monitoring in the Wolf River tract in Harrison County, Mississippi. Project will restore longleaf habitat to the uplands at this site to eventually allow for reintroduction of gopher tortoises.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Longleaf, Wetland and Other Upland Forest Restoration on Private Lands in North Carolina**

Grantee: North Carolina Wildlife Federation  
 Grant Amount:..... \$750,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$113,900  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$863,900

Provide financial and technical assistance to landowners to restore longleaf pine habitat, along with other habitats found within the longleaf landscape in North Carolina. Project will convert loblolly stands and old field sites to longleaf pine, while also improving the condition of associated white oak-shortleaf pine uplands and wetland habitats, helping keep private lands in forestry and buffering military installations by conserving the natural habitat.

**Restoring and Enhancing Longleaf Pine Habitats in the North Carolina Sandhills**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy  
 Grant Amount:..... \$500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,484,500  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,984,500

Expand restoration of longleaf savanna, isolated wetlands and bottomland hardwood habitat through planting, prescribed burning, midstory and invasive plant control in the Sandhills region of North Carolina. Project will expand support for private landowners across the Sandhills, support the recovery of longleaf-specific species, including the red-cockaded woodpecker, pollinators and other species.

(continued)

**SOUTH CAROLINA****Restoring and Enhancing Longleaf Pine in the South Carolina Sandhills**

Grantee: Chesterfield County Soil and Water Conservation District

Grant Amount:..... \$344,200

Matching Funds:..... \$121,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$465,200

Work with private landowners and the Carolina Sandhills National Wildlife Refuge to establish and enhance longleaf habitat in the Sandhills of South Carolina. Project will establish 173 acres of new longleaf, provide 500 acres of overstory management, apply fire to 400 acres of longleaf and provide midstory control on 740 acres, benefiting Bachman's sparrows, northern bobwhite and red-cockaded woodpeckers.

**TEXAS****Establishing and Managing Longleaf Pine Habitat on Private Lands in East Texas**

Grantee: Texas A&M Forest Service

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

Matching Funds:..... \$800,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,300,000

Provide landowners with technical assistance and financial assistance for longleaf pine seedlings, planting costs and other management practices in east Texas to improve forest habitat conditions. Project will increase the amount of longleaf pine habitat and improve existing habitat, benefiting northern bobwhite, Bachman's sparrow and other wildlife species.

**MULTIPLE STATES****Accelerating Reptile and Amphibian Recovery through Restoration and Reintroduction (AL, LA, MS, SC)**

Grantee: Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy

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

Matching Funds:..... \$647,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,647,500

Restore wetland and upland habitats within the longleaf pine ecosystem, as well as headstart, reintroduce and monitor populations of reptile and amphibian species in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina. Project will work toward federal recovery objectives for the dusky gopher frog, Red Hills salamander, and frosted flatwoods salamander and while working with private landowners to voluntarily improve important habitat for these and other species.

**Conserving and Restoring Longleaf Pine to Advance At-risk Species Recovery and Monitoring (FL, GA)**

Grantee: Tall Timbers Research

Grant Amount:..... \$600,000

Matching Funds:..... \$750,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,350,000

Provide financial assistance, training, and support to landowners to advance landscape-scale longleaf pine restoration on private lands in southwest Georgia and the



Northern bobwhite

Florida panhandle. Project will increase habitat quality, resilience, and long-term stewardship across a critical longleaf landscape through longleaf pine planting, prescribed fire implementation, priority species recovery, and voluntary land conservation, benefiting red-cockaded woodpecker, northern bobwhite, and other species.

**Coordinating and Advancing Range-wide Longleaf Restoration (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX, VA)**

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance

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

Matching Funds:..... \$670,100

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,670,100

Implement strategies that advance range-wide longleaf restoration as well as outcomes localized within priority geographies in southeast Georgia. Project will support longleaf pine plantings, prescribed burning, implementation of a longleaf pine monitoring plan and recovery of species benefiting the red-cockaded woodpecker, frosted flatwoods salamander and gopher frog.

**Engaging Landowners to Restore Longleaf Pine and Wildlife (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX, VA)**

Grantee: Forest Landowners Association

Grant Amount:..... \$1,824,000

Matching Funds:..... \$1,820,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$3,644,000

Advance longleaf pine restoration and species conservation on private lands through financial assistance, technical assistance and coordinated landowner engagement, with a focus on landowners impacted by natural disasters. Project will plant 6.5 million seedlings on over 10,000 acres, improve landowner understanding of voluntary conservation tools, and develop practical resource materials that outline proactive conservation actions for priority species associated with the longleaf ecosystem.

(continued)

### Enhancing Longleaf Pine Habitat through Groundcover Restoration and Species Recovery (AL, FL, GA)

Grantee: The Atlanta Botanical Garden

Grant Amount:..... \$850,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$369,700  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,219,700

Enhance longleaf pine habitat in Alabama, Florida and Georgia through targeted restoration, developing a longleaf pine and groundcover restoration seed supply and advancing recovery actions to benefit at-risk plant and animal species. Project will improve partners' ability to effectively restore groundcover while making meaningful progress on species recovery.

### Expanding Longleaf Restoration in the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership Landscape (AL, FL)

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance

Grant Amount:..... \$350,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,822,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,172,000

Improve longleaf pine habitat condition on core public land sites and restore habitat on nearby private and public lands through longleaf release, implementation of prescribed fire, invasive species control, rare species recovery, and landowner outreach. Project will implement conservation practices to benefit priority species including red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise, and reticulated flatwoods salamander and improve connectivity of high-quality habitat.

### Implementing Prescribed Fire for Hurricane and Species Recovery and Forest Resiliency (LA, TX)

Grantee: Tall Timbers Research

Grant Amount:..... \$1,000,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$803,100  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$1,803,100

Accelerate the use of fire through existing prescribed burn associations to expand and maintain fire programs on private lands in western Louisiana and east Texas. Project will plant longleaf pine, implement prescribed burning, and positively affect landowner behavior and capacity for burning, which will benefit Bachman's sparrows and northern bobwhites.

### Monitoring and Developing Conservation Planning Tools for the Eastern Indigo Snake (AL, FL, GA)

Grantee: The Orianne Society

Grant Amount:..... \$113,700  
 Matching Funds:..... \$113,900  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$227,600

Coordinate technical experts and compile existing eastern indigo snake data, conduct on-the-ground surveys in southern Georgia, create and refine spatially explicit, range-wide planning tools and assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with development of the next Species Status Assessment for the eastern indigo snake. Project will support conservation plans, provide opportunities to work with landowners on voluntary species conservation and identify areas for additional habitat management.

### Partnering with Landowners to Enhance Habitat for Priority Forest Birds (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, SC)

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$500,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$115,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$615,000

Partner with forest landowners to implement forest management practices that enhance habitat for priority forest bird species such as Bachman's sparrow, red-headed woodpecker and swallow-tailed kite. Project will improve forest structure and ecological function on working forest landscapes, and support long-term conservation outcomes for priority birds while advancing regional longleaf pine ecosystem restoration goals.

### Restoring Longleaf Pine Habitat through Nursery Capacity, Planting and Conservation (AL, FL, GA, MS)

Grantee: Alabama Forest Land Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$1,100,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$2,000,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$3,100,000

Bolster longleaf seedling supplies for partners and foresters to support longleaf pine plantings with private landowners, and support collaboration for outreach and due diligence funding for voluntary conservation easements. Project will support two million containerized longleaf seedlings and provide financial assistance to offset planting costs for private landowners in the longleaf range of Alabama, Georgia, east Mississippi, and the Florida panhandle.



Eastern indigo snake

(continued)



Prescribed fire

**Restoring Longleaf Pine and Indigo Snakes in Priority Areas of Florida and Southwest Georgia**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$950,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$1,500,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,450,000

Support longleaf pine restoration and management across public and private lands in the Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance and Heartland Local Implementation Team priority geographies, and bolster recovery for species. Project will restore forests to longleaf pine, improve the condition of existing longleaf habitat through prescribed burning and midstory treatments, and support indigo snake recovery through captive breeding and monitoring.

**Supporting Longleaf Pine Restoration Across Public and Large and Small Private Landowners (AL, GA)**

Grantee: Alabama Forestry Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$1,863,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$609,500  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$2,472,500

Provide technical assistance to support longleaf restoration and management on large industrial forestlands, smaller private lands and public lands in Alabama and Georgia. Project will restore at least 3,100 acres of longleaf pine through establishment and maintain at least 2,300 additional acres of longleaf pine through prescribed burning, creating a more connected longleaf pine forest landscape.

**AMENDMENTS**

**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:..... \$135,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$135,000

Increase prescribed burning capacity in the Southeast. Project will work with willing private landowners to increase support of prescribed burn associations and work to restore, maintain, and improve longleaf pine ecosystems, benefiting open pine and grassland species including Bachman’s sparrow and northern bobwhite.

**North Carolina Sandhills Longleaf Restoration and Management**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$477,500  
 Matching Funds:..... \$0  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$477,500

Restore longleaf pine on public, private and tribal lands through burn crews, development of a cultural burn association, voluntarily engaging landowners in cost share programs within the North Carolina Sandhills region. Project will plant 1,000 acres of longleaf, burn 60,000 acres of existing habitat, and enhance 2,870 acres of habitat through groundcover planting, removal of competing hardwood trees and other forest treatments, improving habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers and Bachman’s sparrows.