



NFWF

INTERNATIONAL  PAPER

Forestland Stewards 2017 Grant Slate

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Red-cockaded woodpecker

OVERVIEW

International Paper and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) formed the Forestland Stewards Partnership in 2013 to identify, restore and protect landscapes in three priority regions in the United States: the Low Country forests of North and South Carolina, Cumberland Plateau, and the Piney Woods of Texas and Louisiana. Through a gift of \$7.5 million over a five-year period from International Paper, the project is designed to:

- Protect and enhance core habitat areas as anchor forests
- Improve management of private and public forests for environmental and economic needs
- Restore populations of at-risk wildlife and plant species
- Improve water and air quality through healthier forests
- Promote and support working forests.

The three priority geographies represent places where International Paper is part of the fabric of the community, where they own and operate mills and other facilities, and where many IP employees live and work. In addition, these are areas of special ecological value, where large intact forests serve as habitat hubs for many rare and threatened species and protect water quality and quantity. The partnership marries International Paper's interests to continue to serve as a corporate steward in the communities in which it operates, and to enhance the health of forests on which the environment and many wildlife species rely.

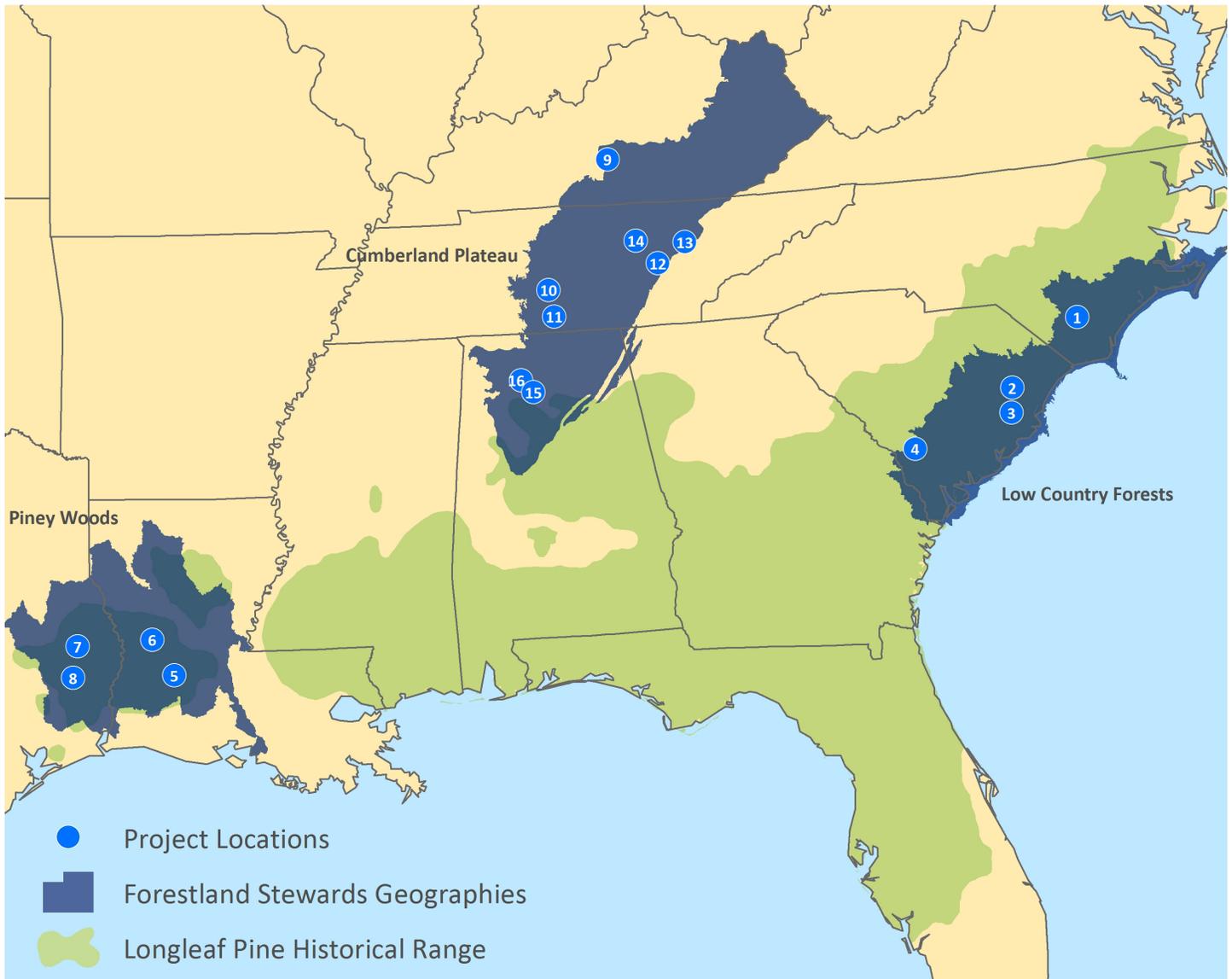
In 2017, 16 projects were awarded grants and are expected to establish more than

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ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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2017 Project Award Locations

6,850 new acres and enhance approximately 68,000 existing acres of longleaf and shortleaf pine and riparian forest habitat.

LOW COUNTRY FORESTS OF NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA

1) Cape Fear Arch Longleaf Initiative (NC) -- III

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy – North Carolina Chapter
 NFWF Award Amount: \$300,000
 Matching Funds: \$477,000
Total Project: \$777,000

The Nature Conservancy – North Carolina Chapter and Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration partners will establish 318 acres of longleaf pine and enhance 11,465 acres of existing longleaf habitat through prescribed

burning, removal of mid-story hardwoods and increased potential for cavity trees for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). The project will expand private landowner and community outreach efforts, including a community event dedicated to increasing public awareness of prescribed fire.

2) South Carolina Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Conservation - II

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance
 NFWF Award Amount: \$107,782
 Matching Funds: \$111,100
Total Project: \$218,882

The Longleaf Alliance and partners will translocate RCWs from the Francis Marion National Forest in South Carolina



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to private properties enrolled in the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources' safe harbor program. The project will translocate up to 20 RCWs annually to three to five properties, improving the size and thus the demographic stability of the targeted populations while enhancing RCW recovery.

3) Sewee Longleaf Restoration and Enhancement (SC)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy – South Carolina Chapter
 NFWF Award Amount:\$250,000
 Matching Funds:\$489,032
Total Project:\$739,032

The Nature Conservancy – South Carolina Chapter and Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative partners will establish 100 acres of longleaf pine and improve an additional 36,900 acres of existing longleaf pine habitat with prescribed fire through the support of seasonal burn crews. The project will refine longleaf mapping and conservation planning and it will provide educational opportunities on longleaf restoration and prescribed burning through a Longleaf Academy and annual Fire Festivals, while also encouraging the institution of an official prescribed fire awareness month in South Carolina.

4) South Lowcountry-ACE Basin Longleaf Ecosystem Restoration Partnership - IV

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance
 NFWF Award Amount:\$250,000
 Matching Funds:\$1,132,900
Total Project:\$1,382,900

The Longleaf Alliance and SoLoACE Longleaf Partnership will educate private landowners through workshops and academies, assist in longleaf planting and management through fire and herbicide treatments, and restore populations of gopher tortoises and RCWs through management assistance. The project will provide technical and financial assistance to private landowners to establish 400 acres of new longleaf and enhance 2,000 acres of existing longleaf habitat.

PINEY WOODS OF LOUISIANA AND TEXAS

5) Fostering Large-Scale Working Forest Landowner Collaboration - II

Grantee: Forest Landowners Association
 NFWF Award Amount:\$125,000
 Matching Funds:\$169,500
Total Project:\$294,500

The Forest Landowners Association will establish or enhance 2,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat and host Forest Forums and Timber Talks to bring together landowners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other key stakeholders. The project will engage large working forest landowners and forest consultants in key longleaf pine priority areas

to increase communication and identify specific actions for addressing barriers to longleaf restoration.

6) Pineywoods Longleaf Restoration (LA) - V

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy – Louisiana Chapter
 NFWF Award Amount:\$226,117
 Matching Funds:\$226,117
Total Project:\$452,234

The Nature Conservancy – Louisiana Chapter and West-Central Louisiana Ecosystem Partnership will establish 1,200 acres of longleaf pine and improve an additional 1,500 acres of existing longleaf habitat through prescribed fire on private lands, providing important wildlife habitat around Fort Polk and Kisatchie National Forest. The project will improve landowner outreach, including through a longleaf pine private landowner field day and a technical workshop for longleaf restoration practitioners.

7) Facilitating Longleaf Conservation in the Longleaf Ridge Significant Geographic Area (TX) - III

Grantee: Texas A&M Forest Service
 NFWF Award Amount:\$295,200
 Matching Funds:\$296,945
Total Project:\$592,145

The Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas Longleaf Pine Implementation Team will establish 950 acres of longleaf pine, improve an additional 4,400 acres of existing longleaf on private lands within the Longleaf Ridge Significant Geographic Area in east Texas. The project will provide educational opportunities and technical and financial assistance to private landowners, as well as trainings, including certified burn manager workshops, to increase expertise and capacity for prescribed burning.

8) Fostering Longleaf Conservation in the Big Thicket SGA (TX) - III

Grantee: Texas A&M Forest Service
 NFWF Award Amount:\$298,990
 Matching Funds:\$301,971
Total Project:\$600,961

The Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas Longleaf Pine Implementation Team will establish 850 acres of longleaf pine, improve an additional 3,850 acres of existing longleaf, and educate 200 private landowners within the Big Thicket Significant Geographic Area. The project will provide education, outreach and technical and financial assistance to restore and enhance the longleaf pine and bottomland hardwood ecosystems on private lands, benefiting the federally endangered RCW, the last known populations of the Louisiana pine snake, a species proposed for listing as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act, and a host of additional rare species.

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Bobwhite quail

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU

9) Aquatic Restoration through Green River Lock and Dam Removal (TN)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy – Kentucky Chapter
 NFWF Award Amount:..... \$50,000
 Matching Funds: \$90,133
Total Project: \$140,133

The Nature Conservancy – Kentucky Chapter and partners will remove Green River Lock and Dam #6 and complete a scientific assessment for the removal of Green River Lock and Dam #5. The project will result in 198 miles of free-flowing river between the Rochester Dam and Green River Lake Dam in Kentucky.

10) Duck River Watershed Riparian Buffer Initiative (TN)

Grantee: Bedford County Soil Conservation District
 NFWF Award Amount:.....\$100,000
 Matching Funds:\$187,000
Total Project: \$287,000

The Bedford County Soil Conservation District and partners will restore and enhance 100 acres of riparian forests and herbaceous cover on degraded streams in Tennessee’s

Duck River watershed to benefit water quality and improve habitat for birds, including the northern bobwhite quail and prairie warbler, as well as amphibians and aquatic species. The project will develop transferable tools to identify priority conservation sites and increase awareness on the benefits of riparian buffers.

11) Elk River Watershed Buffer Initiative (TN) – II

Grantee: Lincoln County Soil Conservation District
 NFWF Award Amount:.....\$199,590
 Matching Funds:\$212,000
Total Project: \$411,590

The Lincoln County Soil Conservation District and partners will restore 150 acres of forested and herbaceous riparian buffers on degraded streams within priority sub-watersheds of Tennessee’s Elk River watershed to benefit water quality and improve habitat for birds including the northern bobwhite quail and prairie warbler, amphibians and aquatic species. The project will develop transferable tools to identify priority conservation sites and increase awareness on the benefits of riparian buffers.



Eastern hemlock

12) Riparian Habitat and Shortleaf Pine Establishment at Whites and Coal Creek Headwaters (TN)

Grantee: Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation
 NFWF Award Amount: \$115,000
 Matching Funds: \$332,500
Total Project: \$447,500

Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation and partners will enhance 1,600 acres of shortleaf pine and riparian forest habitat on two privately owned tracts at Coal and Whites Creeks in Cumberland County to protect and diversity wildlife habitat. The project will treat eastern hemlocks for hemlock woolly adelgid, create native grassland and shortleaf pine habitat through planting and prescribed burns, and construct cattle fencing.

13) Demonstration of Dynamic Silvicultural Systems and Comprehensive Biometric Development for Shortleaf Pine Restoration on the Cumberland Plateau (TN)

Grantee: The University of Tennessee
 NFWF Award Amount: \$100,000
 Matching Funds: \$100,187
Total Project: \$200,187

The University of Tennessee and partners will restore

shortleaf pine and pine-hardwood forests on 682 acres, protect water quality and channel integrity on 3.5 miles of streams, and enhance 60 acres of riparian forests impacted by recent wildfires and invasive species. The project will develop robust growth and yield models and provide technical information to landowners and managers.

14) Restoring Pine-Oak Forests in the Cumberland Plateau through Exporting Best Practices from Two Model Forests (TN, KY)

Grantee: Forest Guild
 NFWF Award Amount: \$149,989
 Matching Funds: \$155,519
Total Project: \$305,508

Forest Guild will restore shortleaf pine on 1,145 acres in Tennessee and Kentucky and use the forests as shortleaf demonstration and learning centers to engage nearby private forest owners and resource professionals. The project will prepare forest management plans on 10,000 acres for private forest landowners, qualifying them to take the next steps toward active habitat restoration.

15) Shortleaf Pine Restoration in the Alabama Cumberlands

Grantee: Alabama Forestry Association
 NFWF Award Amount: \$200,000
 Matching Funds: \$225,000
Total Project: \$425,000

Alabama Forestry Association and partners will expand landowner engagement on sustainable forest management of shortleaf pine habitats using modern marketing tools and techniques. Partners will restore shortleaf pine on public and private lands and increase burning capacity in the project area to enhance shortleaf pine forests, with a total impact of 4,400 acres, including 1,400 acres of shortleaf pine established, 3,000 acres of prescribed burns and 200 acres of invasive species control.

16) Improving Habitat for At-Risk Species in the Alabama Cumberlands

Grantee: Alabama Forestry Association
 NFWF Award Amount: \$150,000
 Matching Funds: \$150,000
Total Project: \$300,000

Alabama Forestry Association and partners will engage family forest owners in an area of the Alabama Cumberlands designated as a high priority landscape under the American Forest Foundation's Southern Wood and Wildlife Initiative. Project will engage 250 landowners in outreach and technical assistance focused on habitat protection and enhancement for at-risk aquatic species, with the expectation that 14 family forests will improve 80 acres of riparian forests and 12 miles of streams.