



# Longleaf Stewardship Fund

## NFWF CONTACTS

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## PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- International Paper
- Southern Company
- American Forest Foundation
- Arbor Day Foundation
- Altria Group
- Orton Foundation

## 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 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Red-cockaded woodpecker on a longleaf pine

## BACKGROUND

Building on nearly a decade of investment to restore vanishing longleaf pine forests in the southeastern United States, in 2012, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation established the Longleaf Stewardship Fund, a landmark public-private partnership to accelerate restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem.

With the combined financial and technical resources of federal agencies — including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — and private funding from International Paper's Forestland Stewards Partnership, Southern Company, the American Forest Foundation, The Arbor Day Foundation, Altria Group, and The Orton Foundation, an affiliate of The Moore Charitable Foundation, the fund is accelerating the implementation of America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative's Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine while advancing the mission objectives of each partner.

Since 2012, the Longleaf Stewardship Fund has invested more than \$42 million into projects that will establish more than 120,000 acres of longleaf pine and improve nearly 2 million acres of existing longleaf habitat and the native species that rely on it.

*(continued)*



Longleaf pine forest

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- The goals of the Longleaf Stewardship Fund are to:
- Establish and enhance longleaf pine forests
- Restore and improve the understory
- Support the recovery of iconic and keystone species
- Increase technical assistance and outreach to private landowners
- Strengthen organizational capacity

The fund targets investments within “Significant Geographic Areas” anchored by military bases and installations, national forests, national wildlife refuges, as well as state and other protected lands to expand, improve and connect existing longleaf habitat to establish large-scale, healthy ecosystems.

The fund also supports locally-based partnerships dedicated to restoring longleaf pine and providing technical assistance to private landowners across longleaf pine’s historical range. Grant investments seek to achieve specific conservation outcomes, with success tracked to evaluate gains in healthy longleaf forests and the recovery of native wildlife.



Artificial cavity for red-cockaded woodpeckers

### 2020 LONGLEAF STEWARDSHIP FUND AWARDS

The Longleaf Stewardship Fund awarded more than \$5.6 million in funding to 23 projects in 2020, leveraging grantee match of \$6.9 million, to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$12.5 million. Together, the grants are expected to establish nearly 15,000 acres and improve more than 335,000 additional acres of habitat across the longleaf pine’s historical range. Grantees will provide educational and technical assistance related to longleaf restoration to more than 5,000 private landowners, with an anticipated 600 landowners taking action to restore and enhance longleaf pine habitat on their properties.