

# America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative

## Restoring a National Treasure

### Who is America's Longleaf?

America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative is a collaboration of government agencies, nonprofits, forest industry, and private landowners who have united in a single cause: to restore the iconic longleaf pine forests in the southeastern United States. Since its inception, over 55 organizations and agencies have supported this effort.

### Why is Longleaf Pine Important?

The fire-dependent longleaf pine ecosystem was once the dominant forest type across the Southeast, but conversion to other land uses or forest types and fire suppression reduced longleaf acreage to less than 5% of its original extent. The extensive loss of longleaf pine was a dramatic change in the region, as these forests contain some of the most important habitats for plants and wildlife in the United States. Longleaf pine forests represent an extraordinary wealth of cultural, ecological, economic, and social values.



#### Benefits for People

Longleaf forests provide clean air and water, sequester carbon, and provide recreational opportunities.



#### Risk Reduction

Longleaf trees are better adapted to high winds, more tolerant of drought and fire, and less susceptible to pine beetles and other pests.



#### Military Readiness

Longleaf pine forests buffer military facilities against incompatible development and potential conflicts with training exercises.



#### Economic Value

Longleaf landowners can simultaneously produce income through timber and pine straw while also providing wildlife habitat.



#### Ecological Importance

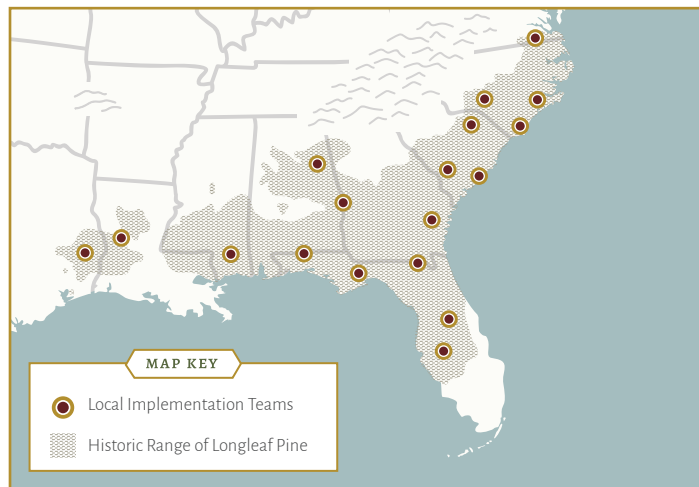
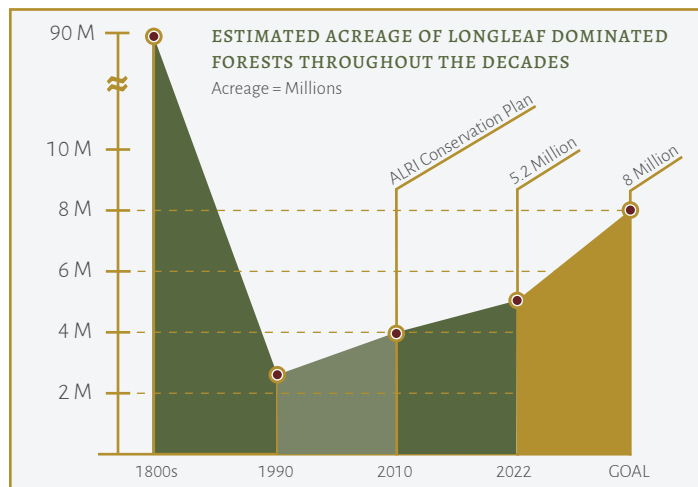
Longleaf natural areas provide habitat for at-risk, threatened, and endangered species as well as enhanced habitat for game species.

### What We Do

America's Longleaf promotes public awareness, regional coordination, and local action to restore the longleaf pine landscape, with a goal of increasing the extent of longleaf pine to eight million acres. Restoration activities conducted by partners include tree planting, prescribed burning, selective harvesting, invasive species control, native understory restoration, wildlife recovery projects, and land acquisition/easements.

### Where We Work

Our work extends from Virginia, south to Florida and west to Texas, encompassing the historic range where longleaf pine was once found. Through 18 established local partnerships, or "Local Implementation Teams," partners work to emphasize restoration work in areas that have the most potential to maintain and conserve longleaf forests. Partners work on public and private lands to achieve longleaf ecosystem management and restoration goals.



## America's Longleaf Accomplishments

America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative partners play a major role in reversing the decline of longleaf pine. With 18 local teams guiding efforts across nine states, America's Longleaf is a national model for collaborative conservation partnerships.

### LANDSCAPE SCALE CONSERVATION IN ACTION SINCE 2010 Reported as of 2021



**325,294**  
ACRES of  
PROTECTED  
LAND



**1,608,103**  
ACRES of  
LONGLEAF  
ESTABLISHED



**15,361,947**  
ACRES of  
PRESCRIBED  
BURNS

### POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Since 2012, the Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund, a public-private partnership managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, has invested more than \$57 million into projects that will establish more than 184,000 acres of longleaf pine and improve over 3.5 million acres of existing longleaf habitat and the native species that rely on it. This investment has generated up to \$70 million in non-federal grantee match for a total impact of more than \$127 million.

*Few conservation initiatives impact the 100+ million residents in the Southeast to the degree of America's Longleaf.*

## Looking Ahead

Future priority strategies and actions for America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative:



Expand range-wide longleaf pine mapping to guide planning



Advance longleaf restoration on public and private land



Sustain the longleaf landscape into the future in the face of a changing climate



Strengthen the partnership with new partners and stakeholders



Establish new longleaf forests, improve, and maintain existing acreage of longleaf pine ecosystems

## Longleaf for All

The Longleaf Partnership Council hosts several Working Groups to focus on issues that are critical to longleaf restoration. These Working Groups offer an opportunity for anyone, not just Council members, to get involved.

Longleaf for All, which strives to advance an inclusive approach that broadens and strengthens the partnership while also ensuring that equity is part of the activities, is one of those Working Groups. Partners utilize the network and platform of America's Longleaf to increase minority participation in forestry-related programs, practices, and activities and help landowners reap the economic, ecological, and cultural benefits of owning forested land.



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

