

NRCS LONGLEAF PINE INITIATIVE
PLAN
FY 2013-2015



NRCS LONGLEAF PINE INITIATIVE PLAN

(WITH EXCERPTS FROM THE AMERICA'S LONGLEAF RESTORATION INITIATIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND ACTIONS 2013-2015)

Approved by LLPI Board of Directors on November 12, 2013

Executive Summary

The Longleaf Pine Initiative (LLPI) was established in 2010 to offer an avenue for NRCS to support America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI). This initiative provides USDA the opportunity to fulfill its commitment to contribute toward the overall national goal of restoring and enhancing 4.6 million acres in the unique longleaf pine ecosystem within the next 15 years, a goal that includes both public and private lands. Thus far, NRCS investments of \$25 million have successfully supported the restoration activities on 145,000 acres. This effort has allowed NRCS to strengthen its involvement with the forestry sector and forest related resource concerns in the Southeast. There is a strong coalition of partners supporting the restoration of longleaf on private lands. This level of success and commitment to support the restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem is expected to continue.

Shared Vision

The LLPI supports the overall strategies of the ALRI. The ALRI is a united effort of numerous partners from private and public sectors that actively supports the range-wide efforts to restore 4.6 million acres in the longleaf pine ecosystems. The LLPI's vision is the shared vision of the ALRI – *which is sustaining functional, viable longleaf pine ecosystems with the full spectrum of ecological, economic and social values inspired through a voluntary partnership of concerned, motivated organizations and individuals.*

Goals

The overall goal of the ALRI is to increase the longleaf acreage from the 3.4 million to 8 million acres in fifteen years. To support the efforts of the initiative, the ALRI Range-Wide Conservation Plan calls for:

- Maintaining existing longleaf ecosystems in good condition
- Improving acres classified as "longleaf forest types" and with longleaf trees present, but missing significant components of understory communities and fire regimes to support representative communities of longleaf ecosystems, and;
- Restoring longleaf pine forests to suitable sites currently in other forest types or land classifications.

According to the ALRI Strategic Priorities and Actions 2013-2015, the following targets have been established below. In addition, the NRCS goals have been included to provide the participating Longleaf Pine Initiative States better guidance on our role, expectations, and the areas to target in support of the overall goal of the ALRI.

Three Year Strategic Priorities and Actions:

1. Significantly increase acres established in longleaf pine ecosystems. The ALRI Conservation Plan calls for roughly doubling the acres of longleaf pine to 8 million acres, with 80 percent of the potential for these increases occurring on private lands and 50 percent of the increases within Significant Geographic Areas or state identified significant sites. Restoration activities completed in the priority areas where there are large forest blocks provide more value than creating or restoring more isolated stands. State Coordination Teams assessed the current status of longleaf pine within Longleaf Pine Initiative States and projected desired 3-year and 15-year restoration outcomes (See Attached Table). Over the next three years, the Longleaf Pine Initiative States forecast increasing longleaf pine from 4.43 million to 4.73 million acres range- wide (308,000 acre net increase). NRCS, along with other partners, will assist private landowners to increase longleaf pine establishment (restoration) on 203,000 acres. Other partners will work together to reach the 105,000 acres on public lands.
2. Improve and maintain existing longleaf pine ecosystems, with emphasis on significantly increasing the acres of prescribed fire application. By 2015, the Longleaf Pine Initiative States envision 4.73 million acres of longleaf pine dominated forest range-wide, with 2.87 million acres on private lands and 1.87 million acres on public lands. The ALRI Conservation Plan places emphasis on improving the conditions of these existing longleaf pine ecosystems and calls for doubling the acres in the longleaf maintenance condition class to 3 million acres. These improvements will require increased prescribed burning acres and fire frequency, commercial and non-commercial thinning, mid-story treatments, establishment of native understory plants, and treatment of non-native invasive species. NRCS will work to increase the prescribed burning on 840,000 acres of private lands in the Longleaf Pine Initiative range over the next three years.

Action	Lead Agency/	Timeline
<p>1.1 To achieve the 3-year projections for longleaf pine ecosystems acres on private lands, annually establish 67,500 acres of longleaf pine through federal and state private landowner, incentives programs, cost share programs, private land owner matches, and through additional privately funded programs targeted at longleaf restoration.</p>	<p>USDA NRCS</p>	<p>2015</p>
<p>2.1 Over the next three years, increase the practice of frequent prescribed fire (every 2- 2 1/2 years) on 20-25% of longleaf pine acres occurring on private lands. This would require annually burning 280,000 acres through federal and state landowner incentives programs, privately funded programs, and by increasing capacity of qualified prescribe fire practitioners.</p>	<p>USDA NRCS</p>	<p>2015</p>

State	2012 FIA Total	2012 State Baseline Estimates (Acres)				Incremental 3 Year Restoration Projections (Acres)				15 Year Restoration Projections (Acres)			
		TOTAL (Public + Private)	Public Lands (federal & state)	Private Lands	SGAs and Priority Sites	TOTAL (Public + Private)	Public Lands (federal & state)	Private Lands	SGAs and Priority Sites	TOTAL (Public + Private)	Public Lands (federal & state)	Private Lands	SGAs and Priority Sites
Alabama	858,645	858,645	42,932	815,713	-----	917,645	45,932	871,713 (56,000)	-----	1,158,645	57,932	1,100,713 (285,000)	-----
Florida***	1,294,257	1,294,256	720,076	574,180	-----	1,339,256	750,076	589,180 (15,000)	-----	1,519,256	870,076	649,180 (75,000)	-----
Georgia	680,501	721,778	136,025	585,753	-----	828,278	176,025	652,253 (66,500)	-----	1,364,428	336,025	1,028,403 (442,650)	-----
Louisiana**	236,611	267,650	160,500	107,150	160,000	273,449	162,399	111,050 (3,900)	166,000	296,645	169,995	126,650 (19,500)	190,000
Mississippi	283,318	283,318	270,708	12,610	-----	303,150	276,708	26,442 (13,832)	-----	382,195	326,708	55,487 (42,877)	-----
North Carolina*	302,422	389,000	225,000	164,000	362,000	426,200	246,600	179,600 (15,600)	397,400	575,000	333,000	242,000 (78,000)	536,000
South Carolina	549,027	549,027	184,003	365,024	-----	577,227	185,203	392,024 (27,000)	-----	690,027	190,003	500,024 (135,000)	-----
Texas**	56,274	65,050	25,000	40,050	30,000	71,050	26,500	44,550 (4,500)	33,000	95,050	32,500	62,550 (22,500)	45,000
Virginia	0	4,417	541	3,876	-----	5,917	721	5,196 (1,320)	-----	11,917	1,441	10,476 (6,600)	-----
Total	4,261,055	4,428,724	1,764,244	2,664,480	-----	4,736,255	1,866,443	2,866,812 (202,652)	-----	6,081,246	2,316,239	3,765,007 (1,107,127)	-----

*North Carolina provided 5-year restoration projections – the 3-year and 15-year projections were prorated from the 5-year numbers

** Texas/Louisiana provided 15 year restoration projections – the 3 year projections are prorated based on the 15 year numbers; SGA estimates are approximations

***Florida restoration projections based on 15,000 acre/year rate increase – 3 year and 15 year numbers prorated based on these annual rates

() – represent NRCS goals for the 2013-2015 time period and State 15-year goals. Please note that 50 percent of the state goals should be within Significant Geographic Areas or state identified priority area.