

# Project Portfolio

Florida



Georgia



Mississippi



Alabama



## Longleaf Pine Restoration Partnership

Grant Source: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

### BACKGROUND

Longleaf pine once dominated as much as 92 million acres in the southeastern United States. If any tree species represents national and southern U.S. heritage, it is the longleaf pine. Its natural range covers most of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains from southeastern Virginia to eastern Texas and south through the northern two-thirds of Florida. Unfortunately, the longleaf pine forest throughout the South has been drastically reduced to about 3 million acres, which is approximately 2% of the land it originally occupied. Less than half of that is found on public lands. Those stands of longleaf in private ownership continue to decline, as landowners replace the longleaf with other pine species such as loblolly pine. And, despite our increasing knowledge about the beneficial role of fire, especially fire during the growing season, many landowners still do not burn their longleaf pine forests, or do not burn them often enough.

In fact, the loss of the longleaf ecosystem is considered equal to or greater than the loss of the North American tall-grass prairie, the coastal rainforests of southeastern Brazil, or the dry forests along the Pacific Coast of Central America. This loss has occurred largely due to the high value of longleaf pine timber, in combination with fire suppression and the favoring of tree species (e.g., Improved Loblolly) with faster early growth rates. Decline of longleaf in the South threatens not only this tree species, but also the numerous plants and animals that make up the fire-adapted ecosystem associated with longleaf. These include the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and the eastern indigo snake.

### LOCATION

Florida Panhandle, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi

### ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED

The proposed project proposes to address the restoration of longleaf pine habitat on a landscape-scale approach by partnering both public and private lands in the restoration effort. This 3-year project will ultimately restore 7,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat by conducting the restoration in three phases: Year-1 will restore 1,000 acres of longleaf on public land and 500 acres on private land for a total of 1,500 acres; Year-2 will restore 1,500 acres of longleaf on public land and 1,000 acres on private land for a total of 2,500; and Year-3 will restore 1,500 acres of longleaf on public land and 1,500 acres on private land for a total of 3,000 acres.

### OBJECTIVES

1. Reforest 3,000 acres of private land to active longleaf pine habitat.
2. Reforest 4,000 acres of public land to active longleaf pine habitat.
3. Start and build a public/private partnership to ensure that the goals of Southern Company's Longleaf Pine Reforestation Fund are met.
4. Monitor and document the wildlife use of recently reforested longleaf pine ecosystem.

### PARTNERS

NWTF  
Georgia Pacific  
Private Landowners  
Public Landowners

### FUTURE PLANS

Project is just starting.

### TIMEFRAME

Project Start Date: January 2007  
Project End Date: December 2009