



longleaf pine forest

Longleaf pine forests are a diverse habitat and home to 26 federally listed endangered species, such as the indigo snake, red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise. Longleaf pines can grow in landscapes that are poor, sandy and well drained, and are often more suitable for these sites than other tree species.

Fort Stewart, the largest armor-training base east of the Mississippi River, covers 280,000 acres, including parts of Liberty, Long, Tattnall, Evans and Bryan counties. As part of Fort Stewart's own longleaf program, more than 825 acres of longleaf pine have been planted since 1997.

Partners of the Fort Stewart/HAAF Partnership for Longleaf Pine Restoration involved in this project include the Georgia Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Georgia Department of Transportation and Chatham County.

Longleaf legacy

Though the longleaf pine covered more than 90 million acres of America's landscape at the time of European colonization, today, longleaf pine forests have been reduced to only 3 million acres nationwide due to pasture and cropland conversion, landowners planting other pine species for

timber, and the absence of fire, on which longleaf is dependant.

The NWTf and Georgia Pacific have partnered to restore thousands of acres of longleaf pines on both public and private land in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi through a \$1.1 million grant from Southern Company and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The planting project in and near Fort Stewart is a portion of that grant project.

"The value of longleaf pines for both wildlife and timber production is tremendous," said Dr. James Earl Kenamer, NWTf's senior vice president of conservation programs. "It's a valuable addition to property managed for multiple uses and will help make the areas in and near Fort Stewart great habitat for many species of wildlife, including wild turkeys."

In addition to planting longleaf pine seedlings, the cooperative agreement also provides for the planting of wiregrass, a groundcover native to the area, and conducting prescribed burns to manage undergrowth in the newly planted pine stands.

[ACCESSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES IN ARKANSAS]

Arkansas partnership

The Arkansas State Chapter of the NWTf has joined forces with Arkansas State Disabled American Veterans to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for disabled veterans in the Natural State. The two agencies recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to outline the partnership.

The joint venture will allow men and women with disabilities the opportunity to learn in an environment that is supportive, safe and accessible. Events will include, hunting, fishing and recreational shooting.

"This partnership is the perfect combination of two groups who continually strive to enrich the lives of disabled veterans," said Sean Neff, Arkansas DAV Adjutant. "The opportunity to get these veterans back in the outdoors enjoying their favorite activities is priceless.

N O R T H E A S T

[A REAL BLAST]

Maryland Wheelchair Shoot

Bittinger, Md.—In August, residents and clients of Appalachian Crossroads converged on Lee Brenneman's Golden Meadows Shooting Range for the fourth annual Wheelchair Shoot.

Appalachian Crossroads is a private, non-profit human service agency that serves adults with developmental disabilities in Garrett County, Md. Golden Meadows is a 200-acre cattle farm with 16 automatic clay traps that are accessible to wheelchairs.

"I really get a good feeling watching these folks," said Brenneman. "Best of all, this year, each participant hit more than one target in the air. I wish everyone could have seen the thrill and excitement in their eyes."



John Cobb of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Reserve Officers program served as a shooting instructor for the fourth year. "These folks love shooting and interacting with a live action, outdoors sport," said Cobb. Maryland State Senator George Edward also served as a shooting instructor.

According to Brenneman, this year's event was the largest yet and he's looking forward to next year.

[HUNTING HAVEN]

Pennsylvania access

Sportsmen and women with disabilities now have improved access to more than 650 acres of public hunting land near Woodcock Dam in Crawford County, Pa., thanks to the