



America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative 2020 RANGE-WIDE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Reported for Fiscal Year 2020

Photo by Brady Beck

Tiffany Woods, The National Wildlife Federation
2020 Longleaf Partnership Council Chair

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



Tiffany Woods on the fireline.

In a landmark year for the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI), I thank you for your interest in our annual accomplishments. Year after year, I read these reports with admiration for the work taking place on both private and public lands. I am especially in awe and full of gratitude for this fiscal year's achievements considering the unforeseen events of 2020.

Like everyone else, ALRI and the longleaf community had to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic while also staying on course with our strategies and actions. Working conditions changed overnight, forest management and prescribed burn opportunities were altered (page 5), and unforeseen market challenges and bottlenecks in supply and demand arose. Resilient as always, longleaf restoration persisted with thousands of acres of longleaf planted, burned, restored, and protected (page 6).

ALRI also saw new initiatives form, such as Longleaf for All. The Longleaf Partnership Council is committed to being more inclusive and a better partner for all landowners, professionals, and recreationists. I truly look forward to seeing the positive impact this work will have in the years to come. As your first female chair (but certainly not your last!), I am encouraged to see women focused events and programs taking place such as ForestHER and Ladies of the Land workshops (page 8). It is my hope that new generations will literally carry the torch for longleaf pine restoration both professionally and personally.

This year's report is special not only because it shares the incredible progress that occurred in 2020, but it also celebrates a decade's worth of accomplishments as ALRI celebrated its 10th anniversary. This milestone was made possible by the many conservation groups, agencies, individuals and the forest industry coming together to restore this iconic forest. ALRI's unified partnership has catapulted our restoration efforts, causing a ripple effect of positive impacts. Today, there are approximately 4.7 million acres of longleaf pine on the Southeastern landscape, up from a historic low of 3.2 million acres.

ALRI is committed to the strategies and priorities that have served us well since our origins a decade ago, and now we are forging ahead with new technologies to advance our work such as range-wide longleaf mapping and wildland fire tracking (page 7). The original ALRI Range-wide Conservation Plan challenged us to reach 8 million acres by 2025. Our enthusiasm and commitment continue to strengthen year after year to bring us closer to this goal. My sincerest appreciation goes to each individual that continues to prioritize longleaf restoration in his or her livelihoods — thank you for your support of both this Initiative and of longleaf restoration!

This report highlights ALRI's achievements for FY 2020 (October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020) compiled from partners across the longleaf range. Annual accomplishment reporting is a vital tool for assessing the scale of on-the-ground work and measuring progress towards meeting the goals and priorities identified by the Range-wide Conservation Plan and Longleaf Partnership Council. It is a reflection on the collective efforts made by public and private partners to restore this iconic forest and highlights the benefits of longleaf to our Southeastern communities.

Photo by Casey White

RESTORATION IMPACTS

Few initiatives impact the 100+ million residents in the Southeast to the degree of ALRI.

KEY 2020 ACCOMPLISHMENTS By Kyle Jones, USDA Forest Service

RESTORATION IMPACTS

Longleaf restoration is a multi-step, multi-year process requiring the repeated use of prescribed fire. 17 million acres* of longleaf management activities have occurred since 2010 translating to positive outcomes for local economies, national defense, rare species, recreation, forest resiliency, wildfire risk, clean air and water, carbon sequestration, and climate change mitigation.



138,283 ACRES OF LONGLEAF ESTABLISHED

PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVES

Projections for the USDA Forest Service's "Million-Acre Challenge" indicate 78% of the Challenge (to put one million additional acres of National Forest System land on the path to longleaf dominance) will be achieved by 2023. State and local lands collectively contribute nearly 25% of all accomplishments annually with over 400,000 acres in prescribed fire, planting, conversion, and maintenance activities in 2020.



1,446,879 ACRES OF PRESCRIBED BURNS

PRIVATE LANDS INITIATIVES

Approximately 89% of the South's forestland is privately owned, which provides a significant measure of the nation's demand for goods and services such as clean water, fresh air, wildlife, recreation, wood fiber, and jobs. Sustainability of new and existing longleaf forests on private lands is vital to the success of ALRI.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

Longleaf for All was initiated in 2020 to assist the Longleaf Partnership Council with building relationships, sharing information, and providing guidance/recommendations on how to better serve minority and unserved landowners/operators to create positive change within the forestry and longleaf community.



34,790 ACRES OF LAND PROTECTED

*multiple treatments applied to some acres

By Matthew Vandersande, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service & Chris Erwin, American Forest Foundation

PRIVATE LANDS

Private lands represent the majority of longleaf pine forest lands across the range with private landowners owning over 60% of acres classified as longleaf pine and longleaf/oak forest types. Many more acres of forest land with longleaf present, but not the dominant tree species, are classified as different forest types and offer an opportunity to restore longleaf. **2020 presented a unique set of challenges to growing longleaf pine on private lands.** From a global pandemic limiting face-to-face interactions to the aftermath of an intense hurricane season including Hurricane Laura in Louisiana, the year's best intentions were often put on hold. **Despite these obstacles, support for private landowners who want to grow longleaf continued to be available and when the time was right, landowners were able to establish, enhance, and improve longleaf.**

GENERATIONAL LEARNING - EACH ONE TEACH ONE

By Matt Bonsall, Wood & Co.

Retirement doesn't appear to be a word that 94-year-old Samuel Echols spends much time considering as he works his 62-acre family farm in Marion County, Mississippi. **A few years ago, Mr. Echols wound up his commercial hay operation with an eye to transitioning the family farm into a tree farm featuring longleaf pine.** Support and advice from ALRI and the Mississippi Forestry Association helped Mr. Echols make the transition. He has been a part of the Initiative's overall longleaf management efforts for several years and is currently exploring financial assistance opportunities through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. He is also investigating opportunities to work with the Winston County Self-Help Cooperative, an anchor organization of the Sustainable Forestry and African American Land Retention program. Mr. Echols wants to see more programs that promote retaining family lands and expanding longleaf pine in the Mississippi pine belt.

Mr. Echols' father once owned 120 acres, but it was seized when the tax assessor said he had not paid enough taxes. With the loss of his land, sharecropping was the last resort. After 25 years **at the age of 70, his father qualified for a Farmers' Home Administration \$4,400 loan to farm and build a house and barn. With shrewd management, he paid the loan back in just 12 years rather than the scheduled 30.** Mr. Echols says the only reason his 70-year-old father was able to get the loan is because he had six young children who were able to assist in developing the property.

Mr. Echols was only 17 in 1944 when his father asked him, "Are you going to stick by me son?" He answered, "Yes sir." Little did Mr. Echols know that he would be having similar conversations two generations later with his five grandchildren. With many fond memories spent on the farm, their interest in the land has heightened during the pandemic, as working on it has served as a kind of therapy during today's stressful times.

Mr. Echols' grandson, and namesake, Samuel is especially attracted to the idea of one day running the family farm. He is already making his mark on how things are managed, using his drone to survey their cattle and longleaf pines after a recent winter storm. **Mr. Echols wants his grandson to have an outlet for his innovative spirit as he works the land and hopefully one day he will have an opportunity to pass it down to his heirs.**



Samuel Echols with his oldest grandson, Emery Alexander, and his youngest grandson, Samuel Echols, in 2004.

PUBLIC LANDS

By Stephanie Hertz, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute, Earlene Jackson & Kyle Jones, USDA Forest Service

As public health safety measures were implemented across the nation to slow the spread of COVID-19, public lands became treasured destinations for connecting to the natural world and improving one's mental and physical well-being. National, state, and local forests enabled Americans to safely socially distance while at the same time enjoy the benefits of outdoor recreation and connect with loved ones in nature. Indeed, many Americans appreciate the value of public lands and its impacts to quality of life like never before.

In addition to public health benefits, our nation's forests continue to provide economic benefits from goods and services that keep local communities prosperous and maintain a rural way of life. Well-managed longleaf forests on public lands contribute to resilient communities through carbon sequestration, lower risk of severe wildfire, lower risk of insects and pests, and greater resistance to wind damage compared to other pine species while also supporting a diverse wildlife and imperiled species.

STRENGTHENING NATIONAL DEFENSE - RESILIENT LANDS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

By Melanie Kaeser, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Hannah Sodalak, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute; and Elizabeth Kendrick, Booz Allen Hamilton

In October 2018, Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB) suffered a direct strike from Hurricane Michael, a powerful Category 5 storm resulting in installation-wide devastation of its infrastructure and natural systems. **Catastrophic winds damaged 12,000 acres of upland pine forest, requiring a massive cleanup effort and the rethinking of forest management plans.** Prior to the storm, conversion of existing slash pine plantations to longleaf pine was on a 35-year trajectory.

Thanks to the Arbor Day Foundation's generous contribution of six million containerized longleaf pine seedlings and subsequent clearing of downed slash pine, **longleaf restoration is now accelerated by 30 years!** By 2023, Tyndall AFB will restore longleaf on 9,000 acres, with approximately 3,700 acres already planted. Compared to slash pine and loblolly pine, restoring longleaf pine ecosystems creates a stronger, more resilient landscape due to the tree's reduced mortality from wind damage and decreased susceptibility to major insect damage and diseases. These resiliency benefits will not only protect the landscape from environmental threats but also ensure that Tyndall AFB can withstand and recover quickly from future storm events. Strong partnerships between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Longleaf Alliance, Eglin AFB Natural Resources, the Arbor Day Foundation, Air Force Wildland Fire Branch, and F4 Tech showcased the resilience of partners in the region and resulted in a seamless cleanup operation and continued reforestation effort. The difficult lessons learned and challenges faced since Hurricane Michael have been met with positive outcomes for longleaf pine restoration across the installation.



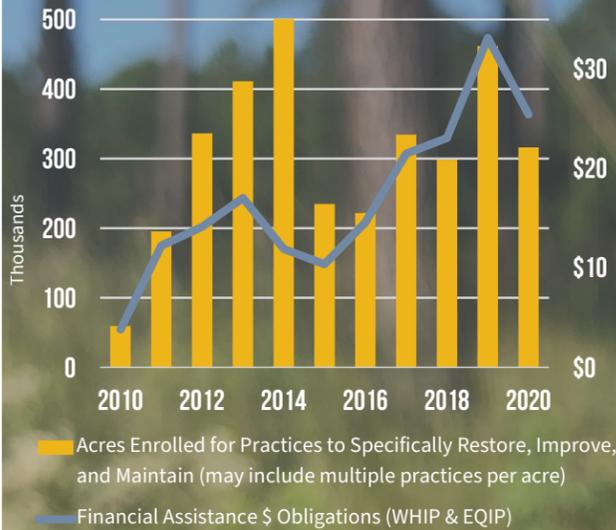
Tyndall AFB after Hurricane Michael. Photo by Melanie Kaeser

Longleaf planting crew at Tyndall AFB. Photo by Ed O'Daniels



NRCS CONSERVATION INVESTMENTS IN LONGLEAF PINE ECOSYSTEMS

USDA NRCS offers financial and technical assistance to forest landowners through a range of Farm Bill programs.



NATIONAL FOREST MILLION-ACRE CHALLENGE

The USDA Forest Service's "Million-Acre Challenge," launched in October 2017 to put one-million additional acres of National Forest System land on the path to longleaf dominance, has proven to be an overwhelming success. In fiscal year 2020, 47,675 acres were put "on the path" to longleaf dominance, and projections indicate over 78% of the Challenge will be achieved by 2023!



Photo by Lisa Lord

LONGLEAF SCORECARD

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020

SPREADING THE FLAME RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted prescribed fire programs across the longleaf range. Initially, some burn programs were temporarily halted to prevent crew exposure to COVID-19 and reduce smoke impacts on surrounding communities. As burn operations resumed, crews adapted quickly, adopting safety measures such as driving separately to work sites, holding socially distanced briefings, and organizing personnel into pods to minimize quarantines in the event of crewmember exposure to COVID-19. Some crews were able to use missed burn windows in the spring as an opportunity to implement more burns later in the growing season.

While field personnel adapted to get fire on the ground, training and education were still needed. The pandemic forced a majority of trainings and other events to be held virtually. Prescribed Fire Councils (PFCs) across the South not only adapted to hosting their Annual Meetings online, but used the opportunity to expand their audience. The all-state Florida PFC set an all-time meeting attendance record with over 600 participants. Despite the challenges that fire practitioners faced in 2020, burners across the region were able to work together to adapt and continue implementing prescribed fire efforts.



TNC's Sage's Ridge Preserve in North Carolina. Photo by Nathan Burmester

By Jennifer Fawcett & Laurel Kays, North Carolina State Extension



Six feet on the fireline. Photo by McEachin Burning Clan

24% of reported prescribed fire acres occurred on private lands in 2020

32,000 acre increase in prescribed fire despite temporary shutdowns in 2020

1,446,879 total reported acres of prescribed fire on longleaf lands in 2020



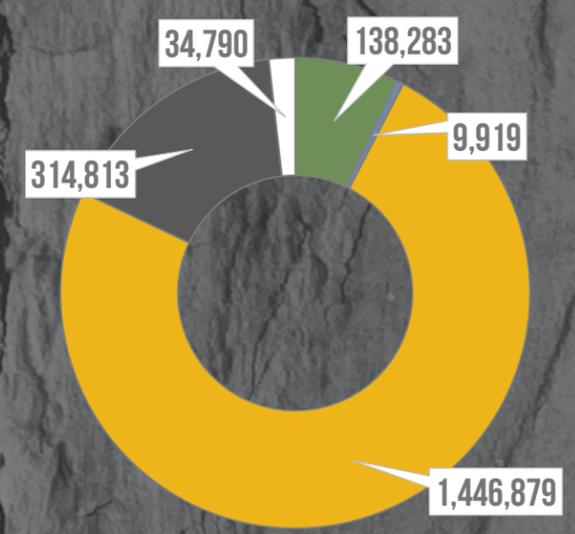
St. Marks Wildlife Refuge in Florida. Photo by Greg Titus

WILDLIFE REFUGES ROARING SUCCESS ~25K MORE ACRES BURNED IN 2020

Putting fire on a longleaf pine forest in the best of conditions is a challenge. Doing it in a pandemic raises the science of prescribed fire to a whole new level. But that's what Greg Titus and his merry band of burners did in 2020 at the St. Marks, St. Vincent, and Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuges in North Florida. In fact, the 2020 fire season was a roaring success with the most prescribed fire acres (38,025 acres) in five years. Titus, a fire management officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was "told to stay home" when COVID-19 hit last spring. Little was burned during the typically busy dormant season. Come the growing season, though, Titus and a handful of crew members got busy while fully adhering to coronavirus safety protocols. "We were cooped up for several months with virtual trainings and Zoom calls," Titus said. "All of that is important, of course, but being outside managing fires is what we do." In all, 64,236 acres were burned on wildlife refuges last year across the nine-state ALRI region, compared to 40,574 prescribed burn acres in 2019. Sixty percent of that amount was in Florida. "We really felt like we accomplished something when we finally got back to work," Titus said.

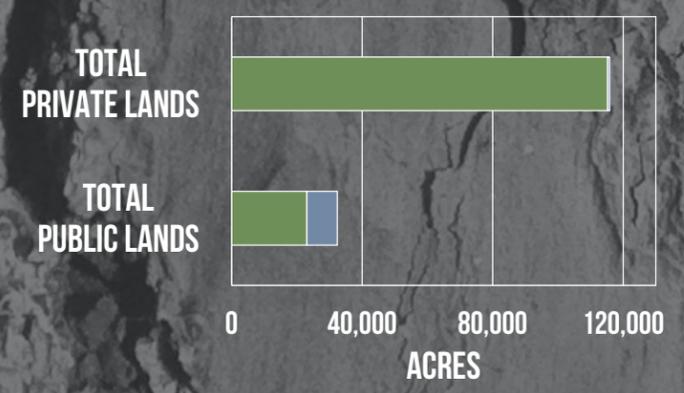
By Dan Chapman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

TOTAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ACRES IN 2020



- LONGLEAF ESTABLISHMENT
- LONGLEAF THRU SILVICULTURE
- PREScribed BURNING
- MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES
- ACQUISITION & EASEMENTS

INCREASING LONGLEAF ACRES IN 2020



- LONGLEAF ESTABLISHMENT
- LONGLEAF THRU SILVICULTURE

In addition to acres planted, ALRI measures longleaf pine gained through silvicultural practices, shifting an existing stand with a minor component of longleaf to longleaf dominant.

CONSERVING THE FUTURE OF LONGLEAF



34,790 ACRES

PROTECTED LONGTERM THROUGH LAND ACQUISITION & CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

RARE SPECIES MILESTONE IN ALABAMA

By Traci Wood, Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries



Eastern indigo snake, Drymarchon couperi. Photo by Francesca Erickson.

After almost 60 years, a wild eastern indigo snake hatchling was discovered at Conecuh National Forest in January 2020. Finding this wild snake is evidence that indigos from the reintroduction program are behaving, breeding, and acting as wild snakes. The indigo snake plays a critical role in the landscape, providing predator-prey balance among their favorite foods, including copperheads and rattlesnakes.

UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

"2020 was a banner year for our knowledge of longleaf occurrences and condition. With progress in high-resolution data products like the Southeastern LEO Geodatabase Project and the SE FireMap, we will soon have foundational tools to plan and prioritize longleaf restoration at a range-wide scale." *Ryan Bollinger, LIT Consul*

LOOKING FORWARD OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

By Colette DeGarady, The Nature Conservancy



SE FIREMAP *By Lucas Furman, The Longleaf Alliance*

Effective tracking and increased understanding of wildland fire patterns across the Southeastern U.S. is a critical need identified by conservation partners, including members of ALRI and the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS).

In 2020, the SE FireMap project was funded by USDA NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife under an agreement with the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (Endowment). The Endowment led a regional consortium of partners to conduct the work and partnered with The Longleaf Alliance to establish a technical oversight team for the project, members of which were provided by the Longleaf Partnership Council and SERPPAS. As a result of a public request for proposals, Tall Timbers Research was selected to conduct a scoping phase which culminated in the release of a SE FireMap version 1.0 product.

Tall Timbers Research partnered with the U.S. Geological Survey using their Landsat Burned Area products to map burned areas for the extent of longleaf in the Southeast from 1994 – 2019. This is especially impressive as nearly 80% of the Southeastern U.S. is in private ownership and this represents the first regional effort to map fires greater than 2.5 acres across the region regardless of ownership. The Longleaf Alliance served in a critical liaison role between NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife and its partners to keep the project on track.

The SE FireMap version 1.0 product maps all detectable fires, including managed prescribed burns and wildfires, across nine states in the Southeastern United States. This product aims to improve fire management in urban and rural communities through remote sensing and will be used to track fires from Virginia to Texas. As part of the ongoing SE FireMap effort, an improved product is anticipated in 2022.

LEO GEODATABASE *By Karen Brown, The Longleaf Alliance*

The Southeast Longleaf Ecosystem Occurrences (LEO) Geodatabase is a shareable GIS database of longleaf pine ecosystem occurrences throughout the range. Florida Natural Areas Inventory and The Longleaf Alliance are working in close coordination with ALRI, the Longleaf Partnership Council and local partners to deliver this tool for conservation planning and progress tracking. The project consists of compiling existing longleaf pine data, delineating potential longleaf areas for field assessments, and deploying field teams to perform standardized assessments utilizing a mobile app designed for this purpose. Field surveys are continuing in Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Texas through the summer of 2021. Completion of the LEO project v1.0 is anticipated by Fall 2021, with LEO v2.0 project focusing outside of LITs to begin immediately after. The LEO Geodatabase v.1 and web map are available to ALRI partners through a data license agreement.

PROGRESS TO JAN 2021

 **8,000**
SITES SURVEYED

 **314,000**
ACRES OF LONGLEAF NOT PREVIOUSLY MAPPED



Young longleaf in South Carolina. Photo by Colette DeGarady

ALRI has long been acknowledged as a model for successful partnerships. The USDA Forest Service is showcasing ALRI as one of four Shared Stewardship pilots across the U.S. The Nature Conservancy is helping to describe the evolution of ALRI at multiple scales, including the governance structure, Significant Geographic Area creation, lessons learned, and successful collaboration. This will lead to ALRI informing metrics, effective partnerships, and prioritization of other Shared Stewardship projects.

With a shift in administration in 2021, we've come full circle to see Tom Vilsack return as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and Robert Bonnie nominated as Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation. These

officials supported and were part of the inception of ALRI. We will be watching and helping to inform policy when appropriate to further efforts for longleaf restoration and advancement across the range.

ALRI is as strong and stable as ever bringing new and relevant issues to the forefront of our work. As we enter the next 10 years of this collaborative effort, we are committed to better understanding the needs of underserved communities and incorporating diverse and equitable opportunities for all with our outreach and restoration efforts. In alignment with the current emphasis on climate urgency, we also aim to better define and communicate how our work with longleaf forests fits into climate solutions. Thanks to everyone who is committed to ALRI. You are part of our success.

ENGAGING WOMEN IN LONGLEAF *New Resources for Landowners & Professionals* *By Lisa Lord, The Longleaf Alliance*



Women Owning Woodlands - South Carolina field tour. Photo by Lisa Lord.

2020 was a successful year for growing women's forestry and natural resource initiatives across the Southeast. Programs designed with women in mind brought people together to learn from each other and feel supported in their quest to build knowledge of forestry, wildlife, and land management. These programs aren't exclusive to women but focus on providing a space for women professionals and landowners to learn about the land they own or manage, expand their professional networks, and build their knowledge — together.

cameras, and nature photography.

In addition to outreach programs, other opportunities worked to build a sense of community for women in forestry. The Longleaf Alliance offered a Women in Longleaf Lunch and Learn at the 2020 Biennial Longleaf Conference. Groundwork was laid for a 2021 virtual Women's Forest Congress event, a forum that brings people together to share experiences and develop strategies and solutions for forests through a female perspective.



Land & Ladies workshop participants plant longleaf plugs. Photo by Danielle Atkins.

Initiatives such as Alabama's ForestHER, ForestHER NC, and Woman Owning Woodlands chapters in South Carolina and North Carolina creatively transitioned to virtual outreach for women landowners through webinar series and even a podcast. For those providing outreach, the subject matter was wide ranging including, but not limited to, timber and wildlife management, chainsaw safety training, bird ID, trail

The examples highlighted here are just scratching the surface of the tremendous opportunities to engage women in longleaf and forest conservation, from local businesses and landowner groups to statewide partnerships and international forums. All of these developing networks are undoubtedly paving the way for the next generation which will be critical for maintaining longleaf forests into the future.

BY THE NUMBERS: 2020 LONGLEAF

ACCOMPLISHMENT SUMMARIES

BY OWNERSHIP

	Longleaf Establishment Acres	Longleaf thru Silviculture Acres	Prescribed Burning Acres	Maintenance Activities Acres	Acquisition/Easements Acres	TOTAL Acres
PUBLIC LANDS						
National Forest System (USDA Forest Service)	6,049	6,398	371,043	17,289	0	400,779
Savannah River Site (USDA Forest Service)	425	100	23,000	155	0	23,680
National Wildlife Refuges (USFWS)	706	330	64,236	2,936	96	68,304
Military Installations (DoD)	6,991	0	294,707	223,393	27,527	552,618
US Army Corps of Engineers (DoD)	220	142	3,979	384	0	4,725
National Parks/Preserves (NPS)	54	0	1,252	0	0	1,306
State Forests (State Foresters)	2,728	98	193,206	8,521	915	205,468
WMAs (State Wildlife Directors)	2,856	46	58,470	24,896	438	86,707
Other State/Local Lands	3,031	2,218	85,358	10,642	272	101,520
Total Public Lands	23,060	9,332	1,095,251	288,216	29,248	1,445,107
PRIVATE LANDS						
State Forestry Agencies (State Foresters)	5,720	0	5,461	752	0	11,932
State Wildlife Agencies (State Wildlife Directors)	3,811	180	3,985	51	0	8,027
NRCS Programs	48,581	0	69,229	19,802	0	137,612
Conservation Reserve Program (FSA)	855	8	9,491	530	2	10,886
Emergency Forest Restoration Program (FSA)	1,607	0	0	0	0	1,607
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (USFWS)	1,351	369	4,846	309	0	6,875
Corporate Lands (other funds)	958	0	5,515	445	0	6,918
NGO Lands (other funds)	1,287	30	22,115	4,448	5,540	33,420
Non-Industrial Private Lands (other funds)	2,178	0	230,986	260	0	233,424
Private Landowners - Additional Acres	48,875					48,875
Total Private Lands	115,223	587	351,628	26,597	5,542	499,577
GRAND TOTAL - ALL LANDS	138,283	9,919	1,446,879	314,813	34,790	1,944,684

BY STATE

	Longleaf Establishment Acres	Longleaf thru Silviculture Acres	Prescribed Burning Acres	Maintenance Activities Acres	Acquisition/Easements Acres	TOTAL Acres
PUBLIC LANDS						
Texas	590	1,075	26,153	179	0	27,997
Louisiana	2,809	0	77,314	16,821	0	96,944
Mississippi	1,775	130	71,040	5,992	71	79,008
Alabama	1,797	4,302	136,138	12,751	0	154,988
Florida	10,207	2,318	484,761	61,873	6,790	565,949
Georgia	2,287	142	159,834	145,082	12,744	320,089
South Carolina	1,793	1,121	63,766	4,227	6,635	77,542
North Carolina	1,782	146	75,238	41,197	2,868	121,231
Virginia	20	98	1,007	94	140	1,359
Total Public Lands	23,060	9,332	1,095,251	288,216	29,248	1,445,107
PRIVATE LANDS						
Texas	1,864	0	2,829	305	2,109	7,107
Louisiana	1,331	30	5,111	462	0	6,934
Mississippi	6,015	0	15,485	1,759	0	23,259
Alabama	14,368	0	213,550	6,688	0	234,606
Florida	6,547	180	8,761	5,196	130	20,814
Georgia	22,994	369	85,713	6,978	255	116,309
South Carolina	8,347	0	5,422	3,795	0	17,564
North Carolina	4,577	8	14,015	1,396	2,276	22,272
Virginia	305	0	742	18	772	1,837
Additional Acres	48,875					48,875
Total Private Lands	115,223	587	351,628	26,597	5,542	499,577
GRAND TOTAL - ALL LANDS	138,283	9,919	1,446,879	314,831	34,790	1,944,684

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

By Chris Erwin, American Forest Foundation

The American Forest Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are providing technical and financial assistance for longleaf restoration to improve habitat for at-risk and listed species. Participating landowners receive incentives for forest management activities while contributing to the recovery of at-risk and listed species. In 2020, this partnership improved 2,270 acres benefiting gopher tortoise and red-cockaded woodpecker. One of the participants, Lelia Reynolds of Georgia, has been enchanted with the gopher tortoise since childhood. While the family's primary wildlife objective is quail for hunting, she found this opportunity helps her family keep the farm financially and ecologically sustainable. By participating, Lelia is contributing data to the initiative that has, so far, identified 47 populations with at least 2,250 tortoises.



Gopher tortoise, Gopherus polyphemus. Photo by Randy Tate.



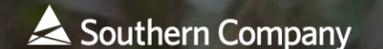
NFWF

Since 2012, the Longleaf Stewardship Fund (Fund) has awarded more than \$42 million in grants to longleaf pine restoration, enhancement and protection across the historical longleaf pine range. These grants have generated \$50 million in non-federal match from grantees, for a total conservation impact of more than \$92 million.

These investments support the establishment of more than 120,000 acres of new longleaf forests and the improved

management of nearly 2 million acres of existing longleaf pine habitat, including 1.9 million acres of prescribed burning.

Combining the technical and financial resources of ten federal and non-federal partners enables the Fund to invest in a broad suite of longleaf restoration and enhancement strategies that expand, improve and maintain the longleaf pine ecosystem, support the recovery of longleaf-dependent species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise, and contribute to working lands and forest-dependent economies.



Altria



American Forest Foundation



LONGLEAF PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL 2020 MEMBERS AND PARTNERS



American Forest Foundation



OSCEOLA/OKEFENOKEE
LONGLEAF
IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

OCALA LOCAL
IMPLEMENTATION TEAM



REESE
JORDAN
THOMPSON



Thank you to all who contributed data, photos, and success stories to the 2020 Longleaf Accomplishment Report.

2021 ALRI Leadership Team — Chris Erwin, Colette DeGarady, Tiffany Woods, Stephanie Hertz, Kyle Jones, Aaron Valenta, & Matthew Vandersande

2020 Longleaf Accomplishment Report Team — Ryan Bollinger, Sarah Crate, Stephanie Hertz, & Kyle Jones.