

DECLARATION STATEMENT

by
Florida Division of Forestry

MISSION

The mission of the Florida Division of Forestry is to protect Florida and its people from the dangers of wildland fire and manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations.

INTERESTS

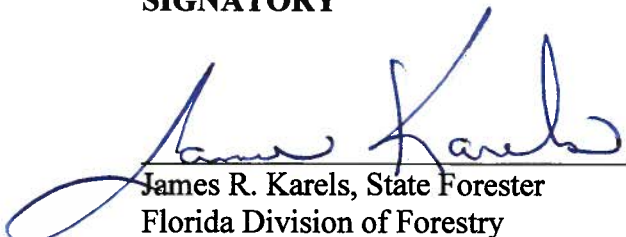
With 35 state forests encompassing over 1,052,000 acres, managing, promoting and conserving longleaf pine ecosystems where applicable on state managed lands is one of the DOF's interests in participating in the partnership and *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative*. Reforestation with longleaf pine and the active prescribed burning associated with the management of longleaf pine will aid in the protection of Florida's residents from wildland fire while improving forest health. Longleaf conservation on private lands is also an emphasis area of the Division of Forestry's Cooperative Forestry Assistance program. Over forty county foresters deliver landowner assistance relating to longleaf ecosystem management and federal assistance programs such as EQIP, CRP, WHIP, Forest Stewardship, and the ARRA Longleaf Ecosystem Restoration Program. Additionally, longleaf pine ecosystems have been identified as a statewide issue to be addressed through Florida's Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategies process. For these reasons, Florida Division of Forestry is committed to the partnership and longleaf conservation as outlined in the section below.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

We intended to participate in the partnership in the following ways:

1. **Local Implementation Team Support** — FL DOF supports the SERPASS and UERP working groups, local implementation teams emphasizing healthy longleaf pine ecosystems. Anticipated support includes mapping and conservation planning, website development and maintenance, meeting and workshops logistics support, and the development of outreach materials for private landowner engagement.
2. **Regional Mapping and Outreach Tools** — FL DOF will participate and support statewide GIS mapping of known longleaf stands. Anticipated support includes providing local GIS data for Florida and the development of landowner outreach and extension materials.
3. **Longleaf Economics and Markets** — FL DOF will develop market-based policies and frameworks to promote incentive-based longleaf conservation on private lands. We also will develop outreach materials and workshops for encouraging longleaf conservation with landowners.

SIGNATORY


James R. Karels, State Forester
Florida Division of Forestry

2/15/11
Date