

Declaration Statement
by
Mississippi Forestry Commission

MISSION

The Mississippi Forestry Commission (MFC) is a public service agency created in 1926 by the Mississippi legislature. Our mission is to provide active leadership in forest protection, forest management, forest inventory and effective forest information distribution, necessary for Mississippi's sustainable forest-based economy.

INTERESTS

MFC's interest in participating in the partnership and *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative* is to promote reforestation and afforestation of longleaf pine on appropriate sites within its natural range. Longleaf pine occupies some 255,000 acres in south Mississippi. Close to a 90% decrease from an estimated 2.1 million acres in 1935. A core strategy of the MFC is supporting rural economic development. MFC is actively engaged in Community-based forestry strategies that focus on education and outreach associated with longleaf restoration in forest dependent communities throughout longleaf's natural range in Mississippi.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Local Implementation Team Support- MFC will continue to support the Mississippi Longleaf Team. As the team develops and more Longleaf grant funding becomes a reality, MFC will support mapping and conservation planning, and the development of outreach and education materials for the private landowner interested in longleaf restoration. MFC will also play a role in meeting logistics associated with field days or landowner tours.

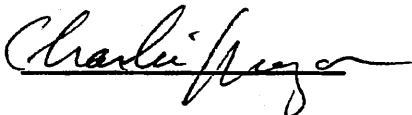
Tatum Salt Dome Test Site

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) transferred surface ownership of the Salmon, Mississippi Site (formerly known as the Tatum Salt Dome Test Site) to the State of Mississippi to use as a wildlife refuge and working demonstration forest. This 1,470-acre site is located in Lamar County, Mississippi. Management plans will include converting loblolly stands back to Longleaf on appropriate soils throughout the site.

Grant Procurement

MFC is actively pursuing competitive grant opportunities associated with longleaf ecosystem restoration. Funding will allow MFC to develop outreach materials and other Extension-related tools necessary to engage private landowners interested in longleaf conservation. Procurement of funds will allow MFC to partner with other agencies and NGOs through contractual agreements and in-kind services.

SIGNATORY



Charlie Morgan, State Forester
Mississippi Forestry Commission