



North Carolina
Department of Environment and
Natural Resources

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Dee Freeman, Secretary



North Carolina
Division of Forest Resources

Wib L. Owen, Director

Declaration Statement

by

North Carolina Division of Forest Resources

In Support of the Partnership to Implement the Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine

Mission

The mission of the NC Division of Forest Resources (NCDFR) is to develop, protect, and manage the multiple resources of North Carolina's forests through professional stewardship, enhancing the quality of life for our citizens while ensuring the continuity of these vital resources. The longleaf forest is important to North Carolina historically, culturally, economically, and environmentally. Management and conservation of the longleaf forest complements our agencies' core mission.

Interests

NCDFR's interest in participating in the Partnership to implement the *Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine* is to promote the conservation, restoration and improvement of longleaf pine across its natural range within North Carolina and beyond. We will accomplish this through service to private landowners, through stewardship of the lands we directly manage, through leadership, and through collaboration with our many partners in this effort.

Contributions and Activities

NC Division of Forest Resources intends to support the Partnership and the goals of the Range-wide Conservation Plan through the following activities.

1. Continued implementation of NCDFR's Longleaf Initiative.

Recognizing the declining area of longleaf pine forests in North Carolina and throughout its range, NCDFR implemented a Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative in 1993. The Initiative focused on artificial regeneration as the primary means to restore longleaf pine. Generally, the goals of the 1993 Longleaf Initiative were met. Beginning in 2006, NCDFR revised and expanded the objectives of the original initiative giving it new direction. The overall objective the current initiative is "Sustain and promote restoration of longleaf forests in North Carolina through efforts to establish new stands, conserve existing stands, and promote total resource management". Specific objectives support actions in reforestation, outreach and education, research, demonstration, restoration management, conservation, and collaboration.

2. Continuation of NCDFR programs and services that emphasize Longleaf establishment and management.

- Nursery and Tree Improvement Program that provides longleaf seedlings and understory plants for private landowners.
- Prescribe burning assistance and research.
- Longleaf management and restoration on State Forest lands managed by the Division, especially at Bladen Lakes State Forest

1616 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1616

Phone: 919 - 857-4801 \ FAX: 919 - 857-4802 \ Internet: www.dfr.state.nc.us

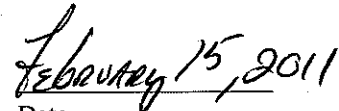
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- Longleaf education and outreach to private landowners including workshops and educational material.
- 3. Continued emphasis of longleaf establishment through the North Carolina Forest Development Program and through technical assistance provided in support of federal programs.**
- NC DFR foresters and rangers provide technical expertise and write management plans for both federal and state cost-share programs. North Carolina's Forest Development Program is the primary state administered financial assistance program supporting longleaf establishment. The Forest Development Program (FDP) provides an incentive to landowners planting longleaf pine seedlings by reimbursing for 60% of the establishment costs, a premium over the standard 40% cost-share rate for loblolly pine.
- 4. Local implementation team participation and support**
- NCDFR was instrumental in the formation of the NC Longleaf Coalition in 2010 and continues to actively participate in and support the Coalition's activities and progress. NC longleaf Coalition teams are working on restoration issues or projects including: GIS Mapping/Data Management, Prescribed Fire, Economic Analysis and Growth & Yield, Information, Education Outreach, Ecosystems Market Development, Private Lands Restoration, and Public Lands Restoration.
 - NCDFR is a member of the Longleaf Alliance.
 - Southeastern Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS), a partnership of state and federal environmental agencies and the US Department of Defense, has pledged support for longleaf restoration.
 - NCDFR is active in numerous conservation partnerships with an interest in longleaf restoration, including: Onslow Bight Conservation Forum, Cape Fear Arch, Greater Uwharrie Conservation Partnership, NC Prescribed Fire Council, Chatham Conservation Partnership, and Sandhills Conservation Partnership.

SIGNATORY



Wib L. Owen
State Forester



Date