

**DECLARATION STATEMENT**  
by  
**The East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture**

**MISSION**

The East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture (EGCPJV) is a self-directed partnership governed by a management board consisting of state and federal agencies, conservation NGOs, and academia. Our mission is to protect and restore bird populations of the East Gulf Coastal Plain by coordinating the effective conservation of key habitats, including longleaf pine. A primary role is to improve conservation effectiveness through increased coordination of partners' activities. Particular roles may be filled by EGCPJV partner agencies with support from joint venture staff, while other roles will be addressed by coordination among multiple organizations of the EGCPJV and additional conservation partners.

**INTERESTS**

The EGCPJV's interest in the rangewide longleaf pine partnership and America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative is closely tied to supporting sustainable levels of high priority birds species and other wildlife via the conservation of longleaf pine ecosystems on private and public lands. Partnering organizations and Joint Venture staff contribute to our activities and accomplishments in the longleaf pine arena.

**CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES**

We plan to contribute to longleaf conservation in the following ways:

**1. Biological Planning/Conservation Design**

The EGCPJV will continue to refine and promote the use of planning tools, including the EGCPJV's Open Pine Decision Support Tool (DST), to delineate priority longleaf landscapes and deliver conservation actions in high priority landscapes for maximum benefits to priority bird and wildlife species. To enhance the utility of the Open Pine DST, we will provide leadership in the development of "desired forest conditions" in longleaf and other Southern Pine ecosystems. Additionally, we will contribute to the efforts by multiple partners to develop mapping products on the distribution and status of longleaf pine communities.

**2. Habitat Delivery/Implementation**

The EGCPJV will provide a forum among those with an interest in longleaf conservation to improve the efficiency of longleaf pine habitat delivery on public and private lands. This will include communicating the availability of planning tools with conservationists, hosting training courses and workshops to share information regarding habitat delivery, and identifying opportunities and supporting development of multi-organizational grant proposals related to the longleaf pine conservation habitat delivery.

**3. Monitoring and Research**

The EGCPJV will support efforts of longleaf conservation partners to catalogue current longleaf conservation projects and accomplishments, develop common performance measures to track status and measure restoration success, and identify and promote high priority research projects to improve biological planning and habitat delivery of longleaf pine ecosystems.

**4. Outreach and Education**

The EGCPJV will strive to develop management-based outreach materials for land owners and managers, facilitate landowner tours and workshops at demonstration areas, and conduct workshops for partners to share successes and techniques.

**SIGNATORY**

Ronald Seiss

Ron Seiss, Chair, East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture

6/5/11

Date