

DECLARATION STATEMENT

by
USDA-NRCS Virginia

MISSION

The Virginia Natural Resources Conservation Service supports the national NRCS mission of "Helping People Help The Land". Our goal is to provide quality conservation technical assistance on the lands of Virginia.

INTERESTS

VA NRCS's interest in participating in the "partnership" and *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative* is to help restore Longleaf Pines across their native range in Virginia, especially on private lands. We want to re-establish and improve Longleaf Pine habitat on agricultural land, non-industrial private forest and Tribal land using available Federal financial and technical assistance dollars entrusted to us.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

We intend to contribute to the partnership in the following ways:

1. INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATION – VA NRCS will maintain communication with intra-state partners including (but not limited to) Virginia Department of Forestry, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and The National Wild Turkey Federation to facilitate large scale restoration efforts.
2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – VA NRCS will continue to offer Longleaf Pine establishment and maintenance practices as part of our financial assistance programs as long as funds are available.
3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE – VA NRCS will continue to provide sound LLP establishment and management technical assistance to interested parties using all available staff.
4. OUTREACH – VA NRCS will continue to use our communication channels to inform interested individuals, landowners and students about the benefits of Longleaf Pine ecosystems.

SIGNATORY



JOHN A. BRICKER

State Conservationist, VA-NRCS

January 24, 2011

Date