

DECLARATION STATEMENT

by

Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources

MISSION

The Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources (IRNR) supports research and extension programs in natural resource science and management through interdisciplinary research and technology transfer, policy and economic analyses, and stakeholder engagement. This mission promotes the safety, security, and sustainability of land, water, and wildlife.

INTERESTS

IRNR's interest in participating in the partnership and *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative* is to promote the conservation of the longleaf pine ecosystem, particularly on private lands and in areas adjacent to military installations. Longleaf conservation on private lands enhances military readiness by sustaining off-base compatible land use, providing natural buffers to military facilities, and increasing flexibility under the Endangered Species Act through the protection of key habitats off-post. In addition to military readiness, longleaf pine conservation and restoration also contributes to IRNR's mission in supporting rural economic development and sustainability of forest-dependent communities. Finally, IRNR is interested in supporting and enhancing the activities of the Texas Forest Service, our sister state agency. For these reasons, IRNR 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:

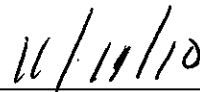
1. **Local Implementation Team Support.**—IRNR will support the Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Pine Taskforce, a local implementation team of the *Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine*. Anticipated taskforce support includes mapping and conservation planning, website development and maintenance, meeting and workshops logistics support, and the development of outreach materials for private landowner engagement.
2. **Regional Mapping and Outreach Tools.**—IRNR will participate and support the regional GIS mapping team. Anticipated support includes providing local GIS data for Texas and Louisiana, and the development of a web-based mapping service for the taskforce and other local implementation teams. We also will participate in the development of landowner outreach and extension material and actively engage the Southeast Extension Forestry network with longleaf conservation on private lands.
3. **Longleaf Economics and Markets.**—IRNR will develop market-based policies and frameworks to promote incentive-based longleaf conservation on private lands. We also will develop outreach materials and other Extension-related tools for encouraging longleaf conservation with landowners.

SIGNATORY



R. Neal Wilkins, Director

Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources



Date