

DECLARATION STATEMENT
By
The National Wild Turkey Federation

MISSION

The National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization that works daily to further its mission of conserving the wild turkey and preserving our hunting heritage. Through dynamic partnerships with state, federal and provincial wildlife agencies, the NWTF and its members have helped restore wild turkey populations across the country, arguably the greatest conservation success story in North America's wildlife history.

INTERESTS

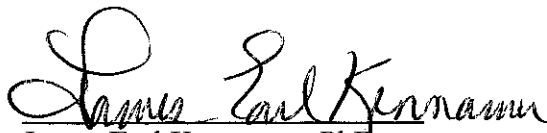
NWTF's interest in participating in the partnership and *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative* is to promote the conservation of the longleaf pine ecosystem on public and private lands across the historic range of longleaf pine. Longleaf pine ecosystems, particularly those with an open forest canopy, functioning herbaceous understory community, and appropriate fire regime, provide ideal nesting and brooding habitat for wild turkeys. The unique life cycle of longleaf pine and its tolerance to fire at all stages of growth provide the opportunity to establish and maintain these highly beneficial characteristics in longleaf pine stands of all ages. In addition to the habitat benefits for wild turkeys, and many other game and non-game species, longleaf pine ecosystems also provide valuable aesthetic qualities and excellent hunting opportunities consistent with the NWTF's mission.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The NWTF intends to participate in the partnership in the following ways:

1. **Public and Private Lands Restoration** – NWTF will continue to partner with USDA (USFS, NRCS, FSA), USFWS, DOD, State Wildlife and Forestry Agencies, and other NGO's and Grant Funding sources to restore longleaf pine across the historic range by establishing new longleaf pine stands, and enhancing and maintaining existing stands.
2. **Communication, Outreach, and Mapping** – NWTF will continue to utilize its network of media tools including magazines, television shows, and website to promote longleaf pine conservation, including proper management with prescribed burning. NWTF staff will continue to provide technical assistance to individual landowners, conduct landowner field days, and support mapping efforts being conducted by the Longleaf Alliance.
3. **Understory Restoration** – NWTF will continue to promote the restoration of native longleaf pine understory communities, help develop sources for appropriate seed and planting stock, and refine technical recommendations for establishment and management through partnerships with the Longleaf Alliance, NRCS, the Understory Committee of the *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative*, and others.

SIGNATORY


James Earl Kennamer, PhD
Chief Conservation Officer

2/18/11
Date