

DECLARATION STATEMENT
by
North Carolina Longleaf Coalition

MISSION

The North Carolina Longleaf Coalition is promoting the maintenance and restoration of North Carolina's longleaf pine ecosystem, including its cultural and economic values, by forming a collaborative network of diverse stakeholders to provide strategic leadership across the historical range while also supporting local restoration activities.

INTERESTS

Building on decades of interest in longleaf, and inspired by the launch of America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, the NC Longleaf Coalition was formed in early 2010. The Coalition views itself as a "local team" as called for in the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine for the purpose of providing overall leadership and furthering area-specific planning and on-the-ground implementation efforts. To this end, the Coalition has formed a diverse Steering Committee including representatives from multiple state and federal natural resource and forestry agencies as well as military interests, conservation groups, foresters and landowners. The particular interests of the Coalition are reflected in the substantive teams that have been created to address the following needs and issues: GIS mapping/data management, prescribed fire, economics, growth and yield, landowner education/outreach, communications, and private and public lands restoration. Moreover, the Coalition is actively engaging existing sub-regional partnerships, including the Onslow Bight Conservation Forum and the Sandhills Conservation Partnership, to extend its reach and effectiveness. In addition, the Coalition works closely with the NC Prescribed Fire Council. For more information, please visit www.nclongleaf.org.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

We intend to participate in the following ways:

1. **Convene Interested Partners and Stakeholders for Collaboration** – The North Carolina Longleaf Coalition will continue to convene interested parties and provide a collaborative network to promote strategic approaches to the restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem across its range within our state. We will complement the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine by engaging in more area-specific planning and by encouraging on-the-ground implementation efforts in North Carolina.
2. **Advance a Strategic Restoration Effort Through the Efforts of the Substantive Teams Described Above** – Our coalition is crafting a strategic approach to restoration in our state and through collaborative action will advance restoration in a more powerful way than any single agency or group could do independently.
3. **Link to the Regional/National Initiative** – Our Coalition is eager to participate in the emerging partnership for the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, including engaging with other "local teams" which are emerging in other states at various scales. We plan to

share tools we've developed and lessons we've learned, and look forward to benefiting from the efforts being made by others across the range as well.

WHEREAS, this Declaration has been approved by the Steering Committee of the North Carolina Longleaf Coalition whose members are shown below, it is hereby executed by the undersigned Coordinator on this the 7th day of March, 2011.



Lark Hayes, Coordinator
On behalf of the North Carolina Longleaf Coalition

Steering Committee Members:

Paul Friday
DOD Commanders' Council

Jim Gray
Consulting Foresters/Landowners
JMG Forestry

Matt Flint
Assistant State Conservationist (Technology)
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Linda Pearsall
Program Director
NC DENR, Planning and Conservation

Barry New
Branch Head-Technical Development,
Planning & Utilization
NC Division of Forest Resources

Fred Cabbage
Professor of Forest Policy, Economics
& Certification
NC State University Forestry
& Environmental Resources

Mallory Martin
Chief Deputy Director
NC Wildlife Resources Commission

Bill Ross
Southeast Regional Partnership
for Planning and Sustainability

Lark Hayes
Senior Attorney
Southern Environmental Law Center

Ryan Elting
NC Sandhills Program Director
The Nature Conservancy

Susan Miller
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
US Fish and Wildlife Service

Lee Thornhill
District Ranger, Croatan National Forest
US Forest Service