

DECLARATION STATEMENT

by

Southern Environmental Law Center

In Support of the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine and America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative

MISSION

The Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) uses the power of the law to protect the environment and health of the Southeast. Working effectively in all three branches of the government, SELC shapes, implements, and enforces the laws and policies that determine the quality of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the landscapes and communities around us. SELC currently has 80+ staff members, including 40+ attorneys, in 3 core offices, 4 satellite offices and a government relations office in Washington, DC. Over the years, SELC has worked collaboratively with more than 100 national, state and local groups to complement their skills and achieve our common conservation goals. Additional information regarding SELC's programs and staff is available at www.southernenvironment.org

INTERESTS

SELC has a longstanding interest in the conservation and sound management of both public and privately owned forestland in the Southeast. Together, public and private forests provide wildlife habitat, biodiversity, clean water, recreational and open space, traditional forests products and spiritual renewal, among other values. As a regional organization, SELC has a particular interest in forest types native to our region, including longleaf pine. Over the past decade, SELC has advocated for enhanced assistance to private forest landowners in the Farm Bill and via other programs, with an emphasis on generating greater public benefits from incentive-based programs delivered on a strategic basis. SELC was actively engaged in the preparation of the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine and related activities that led to the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative. More recently, we have helped create and move forward the North Carolina Longleaf Coalition to lead Plan implementation efforts on the ground. In sum, SELC remains committed to the success of America's Longleaf as a national conservation priority to be largely implemented at the regional and local scales.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

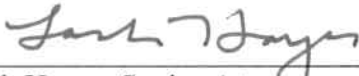
We intend to participate in America's Longleaf in the following ways:

1. **National Advocacy** — SELC will use its policy expertise to develop further proposals and recommendations, in cooperation with other partners, to forward the implementation of the Range-wide Conservation Plan and otherwise to ensure the recognition of longleaf restoration on the national conservation agenda. SELC is prepared to undertake

administrative and legislative advocacy at the national level, along with related communications efforts.

2. **Regional Activities** — SELC will continue to contribute to progress on a variety of policy and organizational issues best addressed at the regional level, in cooperation with the Federal Coordinating Committee and other interested partners. SELC has both substantive policy and legal expertise as well as recognized experience in helping to form and lead cooperative partnerships on numerous issues and at multiple scales.
3. **State and Local Level Implementation** — SELC has had an office in North Carolina for almost 25 years and has strong experience with policy and legislative advocacy in this state, as well as an outstanding network of conservation contacts. SELC is prepared to continue its leadership role in the North Carolina Longleaf Coalition and to work with partners at more local scales on an as needed basis.

SIGNATORY



Lark Hayes, Senior Attorney
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Southern Environmental Law Center
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

February 15, 2011

Date