

## DECLARATION STATEMENT

by

### Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy

#### MISSION

The mission of Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy (TTRS&LC) is to promote exemplary land stewardship through research, conservation and education. This mission promotes sustainable consumptive use of natural resources through research about fire as an ecological process. That research guides recommendations for, maintenance of ecological integrity and thus healthy forests and wildlife populations, conservation of natural resources through an aggressive conservation easement program, and education of the scientific community, land managers, and the public.

#### INTERESTS

TTRS&LC's interest in participating in the partnership and *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative* is to promote the conservation of the longleaf pine ecosystem on Tall Timbers Research Station, properties under its management purview, such as the Wade Tract and particularly on private lands among our stakeholder group. As a research based organization longleaf restoration and conservation on the Station and on private lands is one of our primary goals. Research and preservation of existing longleaf is imperative, particularly on areas such as the Wade Tract which represents one of the few remaining tracts of old-growth longleaf that is functional in nature. Many endangered and threatened species and species of special concern are present within the Red Hills Region of north Florida and south Georgia, one of our primary focal areas. In addition, longleaf pine conservation and restoration also contributes to our strategic goals and objectives in support of sustainable forest management within the greater Red Hills region. Finally, TTRS&LC is interested in supporting and enhancing the activities of the Florida Division of Forestry, the Georgia Forestry Commission and the Longleaf Alliance, partners with Tall Timbers in many conservation activities. For these reasons, TTRS&LC 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.**— TTRS&LC will support the local implementation team of the Longleaf Pine Taskforce, in implementation of the *Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine*. We anticipate that taskforce support may include assistance with mapping, conservation planning, assistance with meetings and workshops including possible logistical support, and assistance with the development of outreach materials for engaging private landowners and land managers.
2. **Regional Mapping and Outreach Tools.**—TTRS&LC will participate with and support the regional GIS mapping team. Anticipated support includes providing local GIS data for Florida, Georgia and other states within our purview of stakeholders and to a lesser extent 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 materials and actively engage with the Longleaf Alliance concerning longleaf conservation on private lands.

#### SIGNATORY



Lane Green, Executive Director

Tall Timbers Research Station & Land Conservancy

3/2/11  
Date