

DECLARATION STATEMENT
by
Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Pine Taskforce

MISSION

The mission of the Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Pine Taskforce is to promote the maintenance and restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem on private and public forestlands in Texas and Louisiana, including its cultural and economic values, through a collaborative network of diverse stakeholders and Taskforce working groups. Specific goals to accomplish this mission include (1) provide technical assistance to private landowners, (2) increase educational opportunities (i.e., professionals/landowners), and (3) improve collaboration/partnerships.

INTERESTS

Building on previous interest in longleaf restoration and organized through the launch of *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative*, the Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Pine Taskforce was established in 2010 as a "local team" in support of the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine. The purpose of the Taskforce is to provide overall leadership and furthering area-specific planning and on-the-ground implementation efforts. To this end, the Taskforce 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 Taskforce are reflected in the workgroups that have been created to address the following needs and issues: mapping, technical assistance, outreach, and funding. For more information, please visit www.txlalongleaf.org.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

We intend to participate in the following ways:

1. **Convene Interested Partners and Stakeholders for Collaboration** – The Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Pine Taskforce will continue to convene interested parties and provide a collaborative network at the local level to promote strategic approaches to the restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem in Texas and Louisiana. 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.
2. **Advance Longleaf Restoration Through Strategic Efforts By Workgroups** – The Taskforce will implement a strategic approach to restoration and through collaborative action to advance restoration 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 Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Pine Taskforce is hereby executed by the undersigned Coordinator on this the 26th day of April, 2011.

Rick Jacob Louisiana Co-Chair & *Jodd Nightingale*, Texas Co-Chair

On behalf of the Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Pine Taskforce