

## DECLARATION STATEMENT

by

### The Conservation Fund

#### MISSION

The Conservation Fund is a national nonprofit organization with a dual charter of environmental protection and economic development. Through land acquisition, leadership training, and strategic conservation planning, and technical assistance, the Fund works with partners to preserve America's land legacy, protecting over 6.7 million acres since its founding in 1985. In the Southeast, the Fund has a particular focus on working forest protection and longleaf partnership efforts convened through the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) and the Partnership for Southern Forestland Conservation. The Fund's Strategic Conservation Program also provided mapping support for the recent *Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine*.

#### INTERESTS

The Fund leads and participates in a variety of initiatives that support our dual charter that also advance the *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative*.

**Partnership for Southern Forestland Conservation:** Created in 2008 after several forest conservation and management organizations met to discuss growing concerns about the future sustainability of large tracts of forestland in the South, the goal of this coalition is to protect 20 million acres of actively managed forestland in the South by 2020. The partnership serves in a catalytic role to develop and implement strategies to address the conservation of forestland on a large scale.

**National Community Forestry Service Center:** Launched in 2009 to help communities acquire, finance, plan and manage working forests as a sustainable development strategy, the Service Center also provides direct services to assist communities in owning and managing working forests.

**Conservation Real Estate and Revolving Loan Fund:** Provides risk capital, effective negotiation, legal skills and leverage of limited funding to purchase priority lands for conservation and restoration.

**Natural Capital Investment Fund:** Provides "patient capital" and targeted technical assistance to support natural resource-based businesses in startup, expansion and building capacity to create "triple bottom line" jobs for the long term.

**ShadeFund:** Provides a microloan program that individuals, corporations and foundations can donate to in order to provide loans to green entrepreneurs.

**Carbon Project Development:** Develops carbon sequestration projects where we have restored 20,000 acres and planted 6 million trees in the Southeast US that will capture an estimated 7.2 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over their lifetime.

**Resourceful Communities Program:** Uses the "triple bottom line approach" and innovative techniques to help North Carolina's underserved communities create new economies that protect and restore natural resources. Current longleaf project at Hoke Community Forest.

**Conservation Leadership Network:** Provides courses with up to date research and top quality instruction taught by practitioners, for practitioners, including *Strategic Conservation Planning Using the Green Infrastructure Approach*, *Balancing Nature and Commerce in Communities that Neighbor Public Lands*, *GIS Tools for Strategic Conservation Planning*, *Mitigation Banking*, and *Conservation Banking*.

**Strategic Conservation Program:** Provides consultation to solve complex conservation planning questions and to design effective conservation strategies that foster collaboration and leverage available resources. Services include GIS modeling and mapping, green infrastructure plans, decision support tool design and implementation, and strategic mitigation for Habitat Conservation Plans, transportation

improvement projects, military compatible- use buffer programs and pipeline/transmission/energy corridors.

The Fund 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.**—The Fund will support the Texas-Louisiana Longleaf Pine Taskforce and the NC Longleaf Coalition, two local implementation teams of the *Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine*. Anticipated taskforce support includes mapping and conservation planning and implementation of longleaf conservation and restoration projects.
2. **Regional Mapping.**—The Fund will participate and support the regional GIS mapping team. Anticipated support includes providing local GIS data for North Carolina through convening the NC Longleaf Mapping Team and providing maps and related materials to the NC Longleaf Coalition. The Fund will provide assistance across the longleaf range to identify the best longleaf conservation and restoration opportunities.
3. **Technical Assistance.**—The Fund will provide expertise and resources available from the initiatives outlined above. Resources may include, but are not limited to: capital to protect longleaf forests, technical assistance to establish community forests with a longleaf component (e.g. Hoke Community Forest in NC), and capital to support the establishment of businesses using longleaf pine products.

## **SIGNATORY**

*William L. Allen*

January 31, 2011

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Will Allen, Director of Strategic Conservation  
The Conservation Fund

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Date