

**DECLARATION STATEMENT**  
**by**  
**U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities**

**Mission**

The Endowment works collaboratively with partners in the public and private sectors to advance systemic, transformative, and sustainable change for the health and vitality of the nation's working forests and forest-reliant communities.

**Interests**

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (Endowment) is interested in participating in the partnership and *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative* to promote the many economic, cultural, ecological, and recreational values that longleaf forests provide. The Endowment's vision for America's forests is that they are sustainably managed to meet broad, societal objectives such as marketable products, clean waters, wildlife habitats and other ecological services, while ensuring healthy and vibrant forest-reliant communities. As a native forest type across much of the south, working longleaf forests offer preferred and sometimes unique opportunities to achieve the Endowment's mission and vision.

**Contributions and Activities**

We intend to participate in the partnership in the following ways:

1. **Continuing Support for the *Partnership for Southern Forestland Conservation (PFSFC)*** – This coalition currently includes 27 federal and state agencies, corporations, and non-profits that are working to conserve large blocks of working forest in the south. The PFSFC provides a forum for exchanging ideas and information, and also for identifying innovative ideas for promoting conservation of working forests. Longleaf conservation activities fall within the stated goals of the PFSFC.
2. **Promoting Ecosystem Services as a Strategy to Conserve Working Longleaf Forests** – The Endowment has a keen interest in developing practical, market-based approaches to commercializing ecosystem services that provide revenue to forest landowners and that help conserve natural resources. Water is at the top of this list. Developing payments for watershed services is one strategy that could help conserve working longleaf forests.
3. **Developing Woody Biomass as a Revenue Stream for Working Longleaf Forests** – Small and traditionally non-merchantable wood from thinning and other management activities can provide an important revenue stream to forest landowners while enhancing forest health.

4. **Promoting Community Forests as a Strategy to Protect and Expand Working Forests** – Community forests offer many financial and other incentives to towns and other entities as a strategy to provide: woody biomass for heat and energy; source water protection; income from forest products; and recreational opportunities.
5. **Advancing Forest Health through Biotechnology** – Biotechnology, when developed and deployed in ways that are scientifically-based, properly vetted and socially supported, and in compliance with regulatory protocols, could be an important tool in addressing challenges posed by threats such as invasive, exotic pests that threaten longleaf forests, and in accelerating restoration efforts for native plants within the longleaf ecosystem.
6. **Supporting the National Conservation Easement Database** – This will be the first, comprehensive database for privately held easements in the U.S. As such, it will be invaluable as a planning tool for longleaf conservation efforts.

**Signatory**



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Carlton N. Owen, President and CEO  
U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

February 16, 2011

Date