

## DECLARATION STATEMENT

by the

Alabama Cooperative Extension System

### MISSION

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES), the primary education outreach unit of Alabama A&M University and Auburn University in cooperation with Tuskegee University, provides research-based educational programs that enable people to improve their quality of life and economic well-being. Primary areas of focus are agriculture; forestry and natural resources; family and consumer sciences; 4-H and youth development; urban living, and community economic development.

### INTERESTS

ACES interest in participating in the partnership to implement the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine is for private landowners with varying management objectives to know about, understand, and include the longleaf ecosystem in their overall management plans and actions. Longleaf ecosystems add to the array of management options landowners can utilize to meet ownership objectives that may include timber production, recreation, esthetics, conservation, family heritage, and a wide variety of additional motivations.

### CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

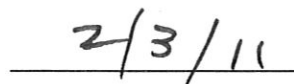
ACES intends to participate in the partnership as follows:

1. Inclusion of the longleaf pine ecosystem in ongoing ACES landowner education programs and activities.
2. Utilize the statewide network of ACES extension educators in landowner education activities.
3. Utilize the ACES media capacity (print, electronic, and virtual) to make citizens aware of the importance of the longleaf ecosystem.
4. Partner with agencies and organizations with compatible missions and perspectives to seek resources to further these activities.
5. Continue to engage with the Longleaf Alliance to facilitate the restoration of the longleaf ecosystem.

SIGNATORY



W. Gaines Smith, Director



Date

Alabama Cooperative Extension System