

DECLARATION STATEMENT

by

Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center

MISSION

The Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway seeks to understand, to demonstrate, and to promote excellence in natural resource management and conservation on the landscape of the southeastern Coastal Plain of the United States.

INTERESTS

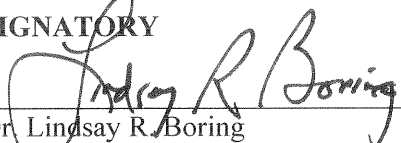
The Center has a particular interest in managing and restoring the longleaf pine-grassland forest type, associated wetlands and characteristic wildlife. Our work on longleaf pine (LLP) focuses on the integration of research and practice with the ultimate goal of maintaining the social, economic, and conservation values of the LLP ecosystem. The Center's work is conducted onsite at Ichauway, a 30,000 acre reserve dominated by LLP, and offsite throughout the Coastal Plain in conjunction with partners and collaborators.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

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

1. **Ecological Research** – The Center conducts targeted research to identify and fill information gaps in the understanding of the ecology of LLP ecosystems as well as applied research on LLP management, restoration and conservation. Areas of study include ecosystem productivity, patterns and drivers of biodiversity, nutrient cycling, carbon dynamics, the ecology of fire and fuels, natural stand dynamics, ecological forestry and wildlife/habitat relationships. The results of this research are published in peer-reviewed journals, presented at professional conferences, and shared through on-site field tours at Ichauway. This information helps provide a foundation for innovation in LLP management, restoration and conservation. The Center will continue to conduct research to further understanding of the longleaf pine ecosystem and share the results of this work through publication and outreach.
2. **Application of Science-Based LLP Restoration and Management** – The Center conducts field trials and operational scale implementation of LLP ecosystem restoration. Areas of practice include conversion of offsite species to LLP, native groundcover restoration, restoration of characteristic LLP wildlife and forest management using principles of ecological forestry. The Center's research program informs this practice, while practical applications feed back into the research program to refine understanding. The Center's land base provides a demonstration site for ecologically-based management of LLP and associated wildlife. These demonstrations are broadly applicable as a model for restoration and management throughout the range of LLP.
3. **Education and Outreach** – The Center's education and outreach programs are targeted at practicing natural resource professionals, university students and regional landowners. Areas of activity include professional workshops, university courses, outreach publications and our cooperative graduate student program. The Center will continue to sponsor these activities and work with partners on information transfer for LLP conservation, restoration and management. The Center will engage with a broad coalition of partners at a range of scales to help implement the goals of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative.

SIGNATORY



Dr. Lindsay R. Boring

Director, Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center

February 2, 2011

Date