

## South Carolina Wildlife Federation (SCWF)

### Mission

South Carolina Wildlife Federation is South Carolina's oldest, home-grown conservation organization. It was started in 1931 by people who were concerned that the state's game laws were not strong enough to protect natural resources, and that they were not being enforced. The mission of the SCWF is to: advocate for wildlife, habitat and the environment, educate citizens in the conservation ethic, and support outdoor traditions. To that end, SCWF plays many roles which include: supporting sound management of all natural resources; reviewing and commenting on agency permit and policy decisions; careful analysis of resource problems in light of public interests; promoting open discussion and developing constructive resource management solutions; encouraging protection of public lands and natural areas for all South Carolinians to experience; and working with individuals, groups, clubs and others with an interest in hunting and fishing to insure that these activities are available for future generations to enjoy. SCWF has worked with federal and state partners, along with private landowners, to encourage longleaf pine forest restoration in South Carolina. We have also sought to publicize this effort through local media outlets and workshops.

### Interests

The coastal plain of South Carolina was once the home of extensive longleaf pine forests. These forests provided quality timber and other forest products to generations of South Carolinians. During the last century much of this ecosystem was destroyed and replaced with short rotation pine species to supply the pulpwood market. This resulted in a loss of habitat for many indigenous species of plants and animals. Restoring longleaf pine forests will help restore these species, mitigate the impacts of climate change on many species, and provide more and better opportunities for landowners to manage their forest for multiple objectives including income opportunities for wood and fiber products, biodiversity, recreation, wilderness and wildlife, carbon sequestration, and biomass. SCWF is committed to encouraging the restoration of this ecosystem, especially with small landowners.

### Contributions

The South Carolina Wildlife Federation will:

- Contribute in achieving the restoration and management goals in the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine (America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative, March, 2010)
- Engage with private landowners and a range of resource providers (federal agencies, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, local collaborative efforts, and industries) to promote longleaf pine restoration
- Implement joint projects with NWF and other grass roots landowners organizations within South Carolina to raise awareness about the benefits of restoring LLP
- Engage in outreach and technical assistance to private landowners including small and underserved landowners
- Work with partners to demonstrate the feasibility of longleaf pine ecosystem restoration
- Stimulate landowners' adoption of compatible short-term income opportunities such as agroforestry practices and pine straw production to address economic sustainability
- Advocate for increased support and incentive for private landowners to restore longleaf pine

S/ Ben Gregg \_\_\_\_\_ August 15,

2011 \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

Ben Gregg, Executive Director  
South Carolina Wildlife Federation