America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative

Overview

Local Team Meeting
Atlanta, GA
October 17, 2013
Why a Restoration Initiative for Longleaf?

- Important Plant and Animal Habitat
- Risk Aversion to Catastrophic Events
- Economic and Cultural Benefits
Things Started to Change in the 1990s

• The Longleaf Alliance was created in 1995
• CRP on Private Lands – 340,000 acres
• Longleaf restoration on public lands
• Advancement of management techniques
Range-wide Conservation Plan For Longleaf Pine

- Comprehensive Plan released in March 2009
- Developed by Regional Working Group representing 22 organizations
- Supported by USDA Forest Service, Department of Defense, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Identifies Significant Geographic Areas
Significant Geographic Areas identified across the Longleaf Pine Native Range
Collaboration Among the Federal Partners

- Federal support from Departments of Agriculture, Defense and Interior
- National MOU signed in 2010 pledged support and created FCC
- Recognition as key landscape by America’s Great Outdoors
Longleaf Stewardship Fund

- Administered by NFWF
- Heavily supported by Federal Agencies
- Contributors share in proposal evaluation process
- $2.88M allocated to 16 Longleaf Pine projects in 2012
- $3+ M awarded for Longleaf Pine projects in 2013
NRCS – Farm Bill Programs

- Must have private landowner participation to reach our restoration goal

- From FY10 to FY12, the NRCS Longleaf Pine Initiative has provided $25M to restore or plant 145,000 acres on private lands

- There are currently around 350,000 acres of longleaf pine enrolled through the Conservation Reserve Program administered by FSA
America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative
The Partnership

- 33 Member Longleaf Partnership Council formed
- State Coordination Teams
- Local Implementation Teams centered around SGAs
- Range-wide Technical Teams
Significant Geographic Areas Identified Across the Longleaf Pine Native Range
Local Implementation Teams in Place Across the Longleaf Pine Native Range
Longleaf Partnership Council

Identified Four Strategic Priorities and Twenty-one Specific Actions

1. Increase acres established in longleaf

2. Improve and maintain existing longleaf, with emphasis on increasing prescribed fire acres

3. Enhance ability to implement restoration action on the ground

4. Maintain and broaden resource base
Longleaf Partnership Council Functions

Situations/Responses

- Planting density confusion
- Economics concerns
- Defining maintenance condition class
- Improving communications efforts
- Accomplishment reporting
Longleaf Partnership Council

Annual Range-wide Partners’ Accomplishment Report

- Annual Performance Measures
- Acres treated to improve/maintain existing longleaf ecosystems
- Acres of longleaf pine established
- All will be stratified by state, ownership (private vs. public), and significant geographic areas
“A Good Measure of Success”

FIA data indicates a 8% net increase in the longleaf dominated forest over the past decade.
What Makes America’s Longleaf Restoration Initiative a Success?

• A science-based plan guides actions and clearly defines goals
• Multiple partners have a stake
• A diverse Longleaf Partnership Council of 33 entities
• Coordinated federal support by USDA (FS, NRCS, FSA), DOI (F&WS), and DoD (OSD)
• Leveraging public and private funds via the Longleaf Stewardship Fund
• Local Implementation teams
What Challenges Remain

- 9 state scale is daunting
- Increasing need for accountability and effectively communicating progress
- Increasing prescribed fire consistent with landscape scale restoration
- Continuing support allowing for increased private landowner investment
- Gaining understanding and support for continuing investments
- Maintaining momentum and interest over the long-haul
Discussion
Longleaf Partnership Council