DECLARATION STATEMENT

Bv

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

MISSION

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) mission is to conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats and provide programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.

INTERESTS

WRC's interest in participating in the partnership and *America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative* is to support the conservation and restoration of the longleaf pine ecosystem throughout its historic range. Supporting conservation of the longleaf ecosystem is consistent with WRC's mission to conserve North Carolina's wildlife resources and their habitats. The preservation, restoration, and enhancement of critical habitats is one of the stated objectives of WRC's Strategic Plan, and the longleaf pine forest is identified as a priority habitat in the North Carolina Wildlife Action Plan. As such, the WRC is pleased to join this partnership and lend our support to the common goal of restoring the imperiled longleaf forest ecosystem.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

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

- Local Coalition Support WRC will support the North Carolina Longleaf Coalition by continuing to serve on the Coalition's Steering Committee and, to the extent both practical and feasible, will lend our resources to that effort.
- 2. **Land Management** WRC will continue to manage state properties over which it has jurisdiction with the objective of maintaining existing stands of longleaf and converting offsite species to longleaf where appropriate and feasible.
- Technical Guidance WRC will continue working with private landowners to manage, maintain, and restore longleaf pine with the assistance of appropriate federal and state incentive programs.

SIGNATORY

Mallory G. Martin, Chief Deputy Director

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

17 FEB 2011

Date