



# 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

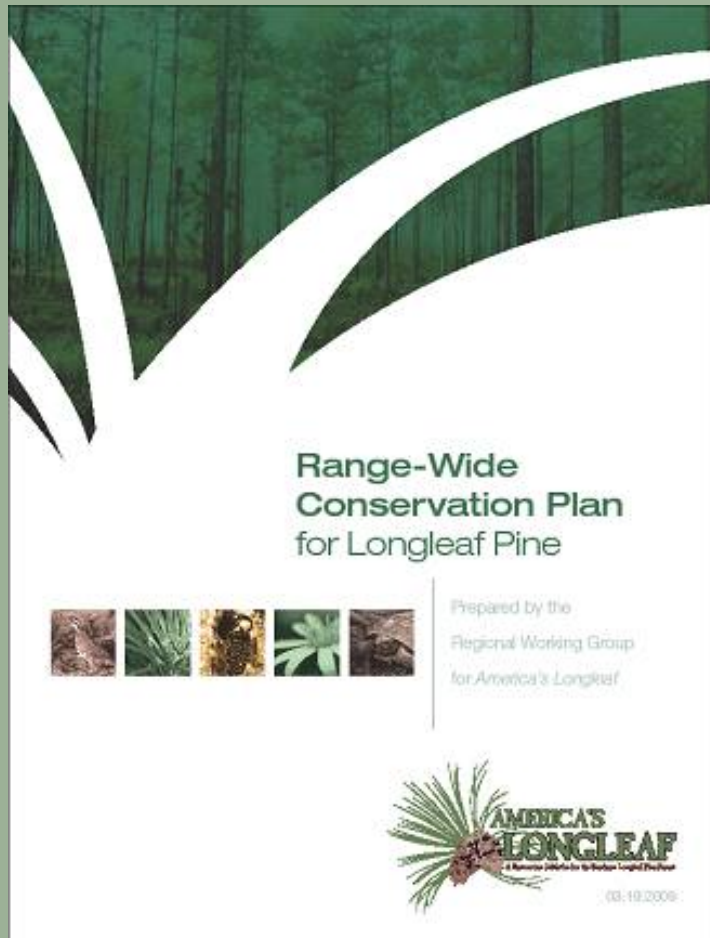


- The Longleaf Alliance was created in 1995
- CRP on Private Lands – 340,000 acres
- Longleaf restoration on public lands
- Advancement of management techniques

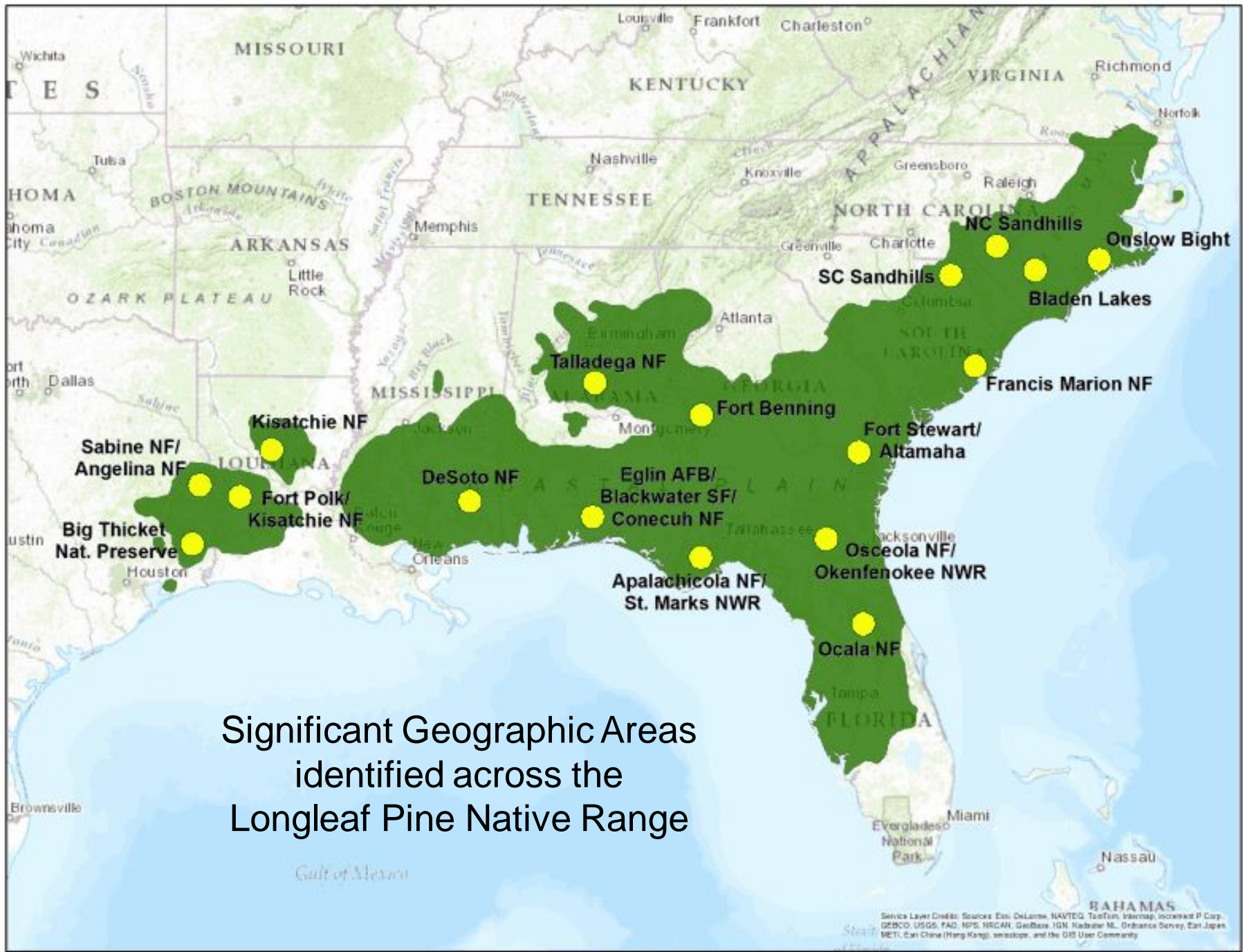




# Range-wide Conservation Plan For Longleaf Pine



- ❖ **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

Service Layer Credits: Sources Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, TomTom, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



## 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

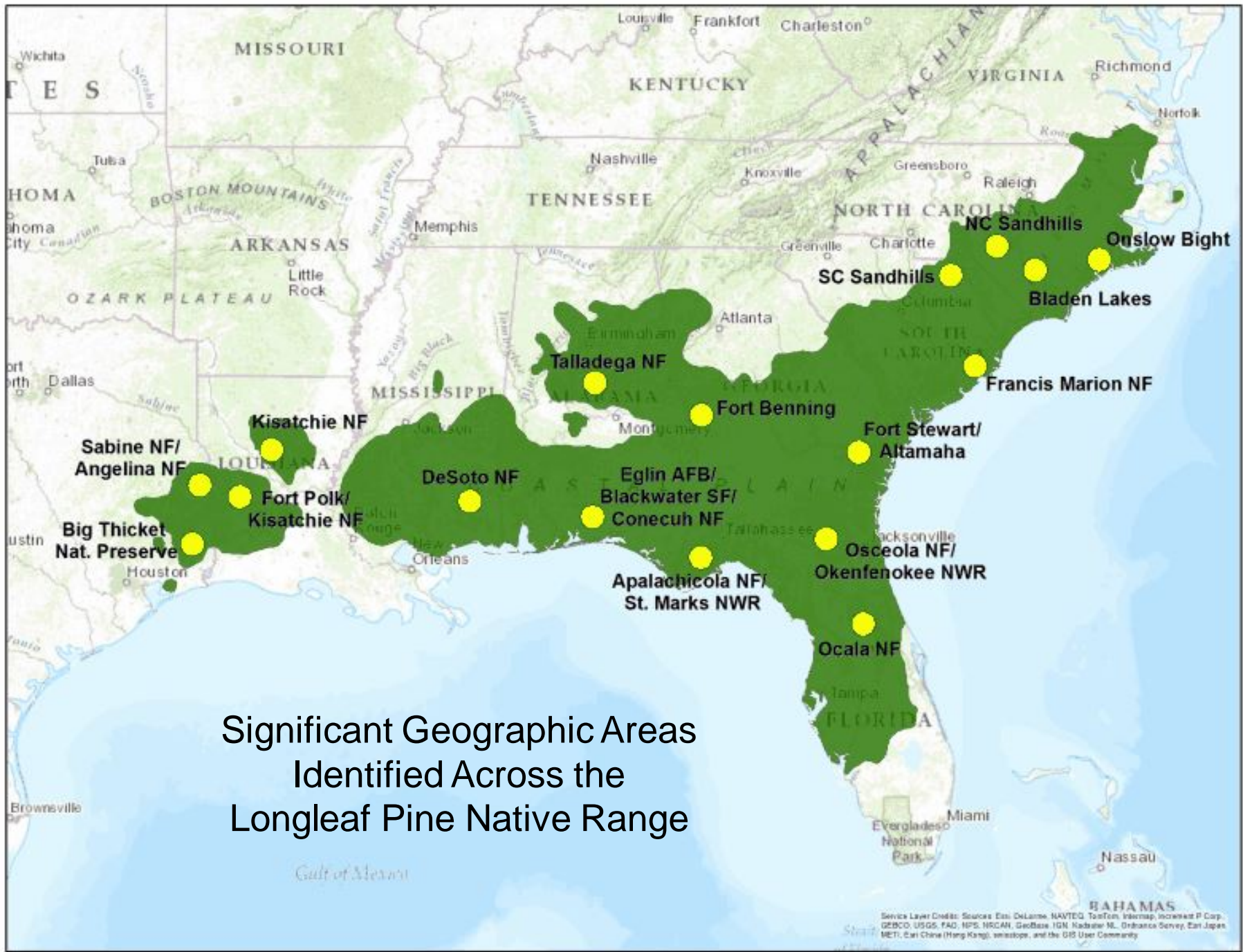
## The Partnership



### Longleaf Partnership Council



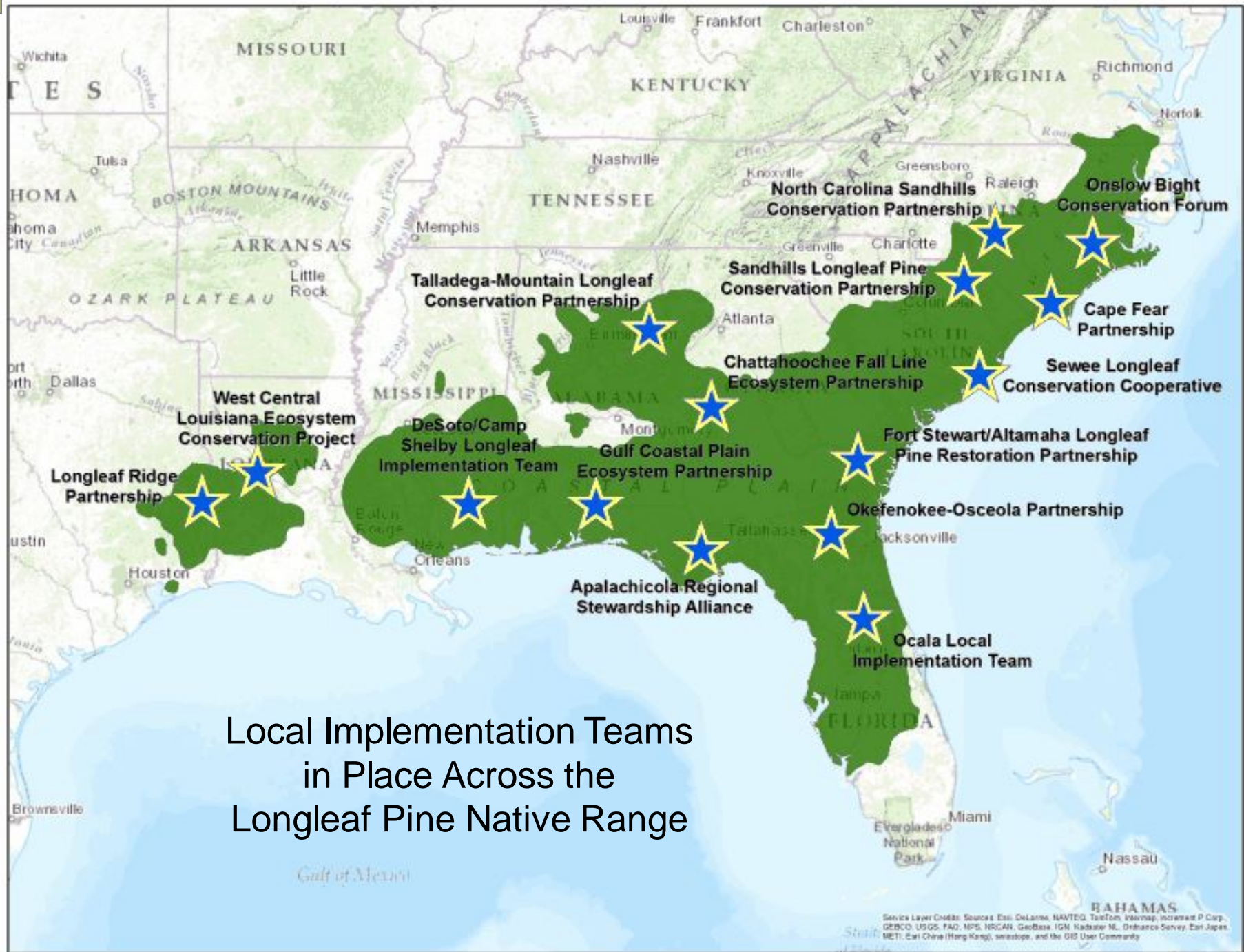
- ❖ 33 Member Longleaf Partnership Council formed
- ❖ State Coordination Teams
- ❖ Local Implementation Teams centered around SGAs
- ❖ Range-wide Technical Teams



Significant Geographic Areas Identified Across the Longleaf Pine Native Range

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Local Implementation Teams  
in Place Across the  
Longleaf Pine Native Range

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# 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







The JOSEPH W. JONES  
ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER  
*at Shawnee*



International Forest Company



THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE



SOUTHERN GROUP  
of STATE FORESTERS



THE CENTER FOR LONGLEAF  
PINE ECOSYSTEMS



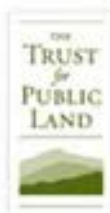
Conserve. Hunt. Share.



National Association of  
Conservation Districts

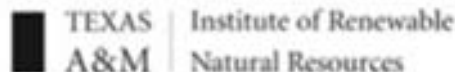


# Longleaf Partnership Council



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

THE  
CONSERVATION FUND



American Plains Foundation  
We grow communities every day.



Gulf Coastal Plain Cooperative Partnership

