

Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (FSC/LAF)

Mission

FSC/LAF strives toward the development of self-supporting communities with programs that increase income and enhance other opportunities; and strives to assist in land retention and development, especially for African Americans, but essentially for all family farmers.

FSC/LAF does this with an active and democratic involvement in poor areas across the South, through education and outreach strategies which provide technical assistance and support low-income people in molding their communities to become more humane and livable.

Interests

The Federation in its long history has successfully provided self-help economic opportunities and hope for many low-income communities across the South. FSC/LAF is in fact, the only organization in the Southeast United States that has as its primary objectives the retention of black owned land and the use of cooperatives for land-based economic development.

In 1984 the Emergency Land Fund, the pioneer organization in Black land retention, merged with the Federation which led to a much stronger and more comprehensive Federation program that retains, acquires, manages, and develops land and other resources using cooperative principles.

Our extended membership includes 12,000 Black farm families, who individually own relatively small acreage, but collectively own over half a million acres of land and work through 35 agricultural cooperatives to purchase supplies, provide technical assistance, and market their crops.



Through its forestry program's work, the Federation has a unique opportunity to engage small and minority landowners in longleaf pine restoration.

Contributions

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund will:

- Collaborate and contribute in the unique and diverse partnership plan and effort to restore and conserve longleaf pine forests
- Engage in Outreach and technical assistance to small and underserved landowners
- Demonstrate the feasibility of longleaf pine restoration to it's constituency at the Rural Training and Reserch Center in Epes, AL and other site

- Explore and stimulate landowners' adoption of compatible short-term income opportunities such as agroforestry practices and pine straw production to address economic sustainability
- Advocate for increased incentive for private landowners to restore longleaf pine

 
Signature Date

Ralph Paige, Executive Director
Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund