



Network for Landscape
CONSERVATION

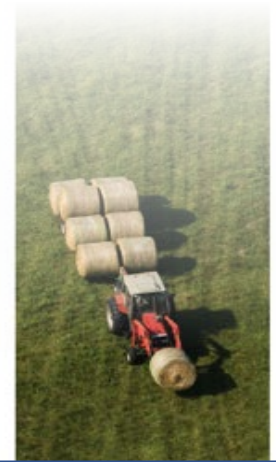
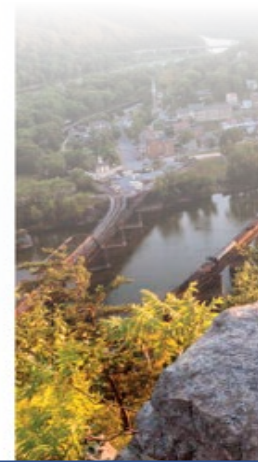
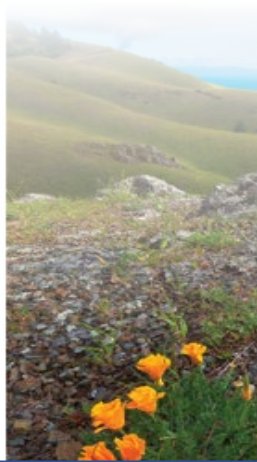
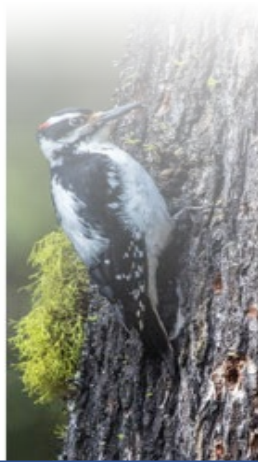
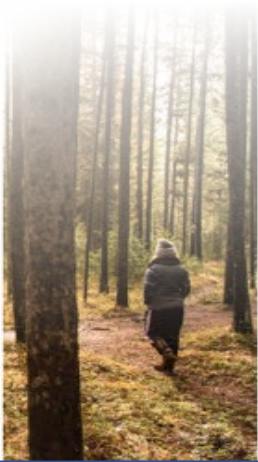
Advancing the Practice of Conservation at the Landscape Scale



“Landscape Conservation in Action” Webinar Series

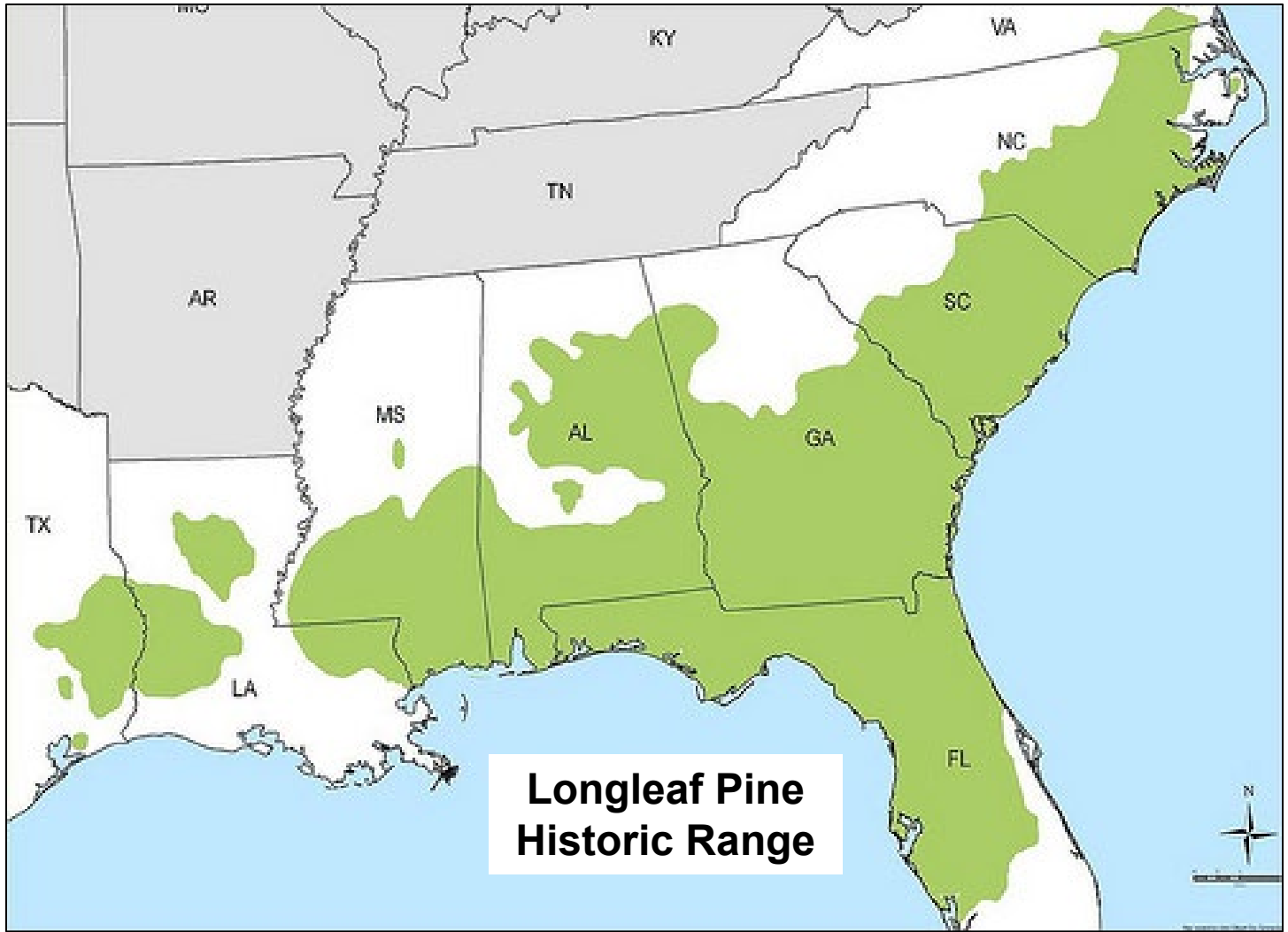
America’s Longleaf – A forestry collaborative working at multiple scales for success

October 5th, 2022



Network for Landscape
CONSERVATION

www.landscapeconservation.org



Colette DeGarady, The Nature Conservancy



Why is Longleaf Important?



**Important Plant and
Animal Habitat
(Huge Biodiversity!)**



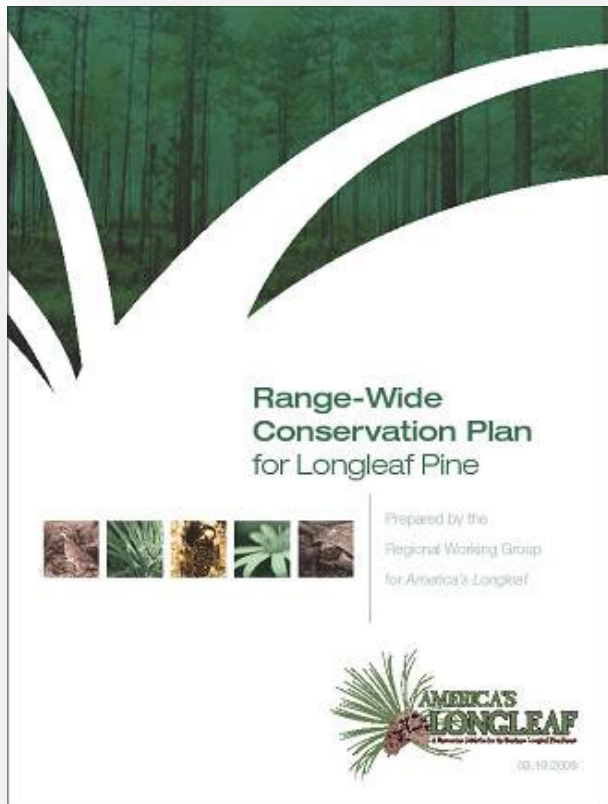
Improves Economy



Resiliency



Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine



- ❖ Developed by 22 agencies/organizations 2009
- ❖ Unified Vision
- ❖ Identified priority areas to invest resources based in science
- ❖ Federal Support

Commitment from Federal Partners through a Federal Coordinating Committee

- ❖ National MOU signed in 2010 pledged support and created the Federal Coordinating Committee

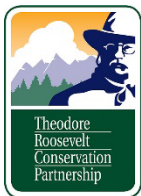




UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Warnell School of Forestry
& Natural Resources



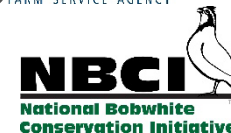
THE
LONGLEAF
ALLIANCE



Longleaf Partnership Council
2022



WILLIAM
OWEN

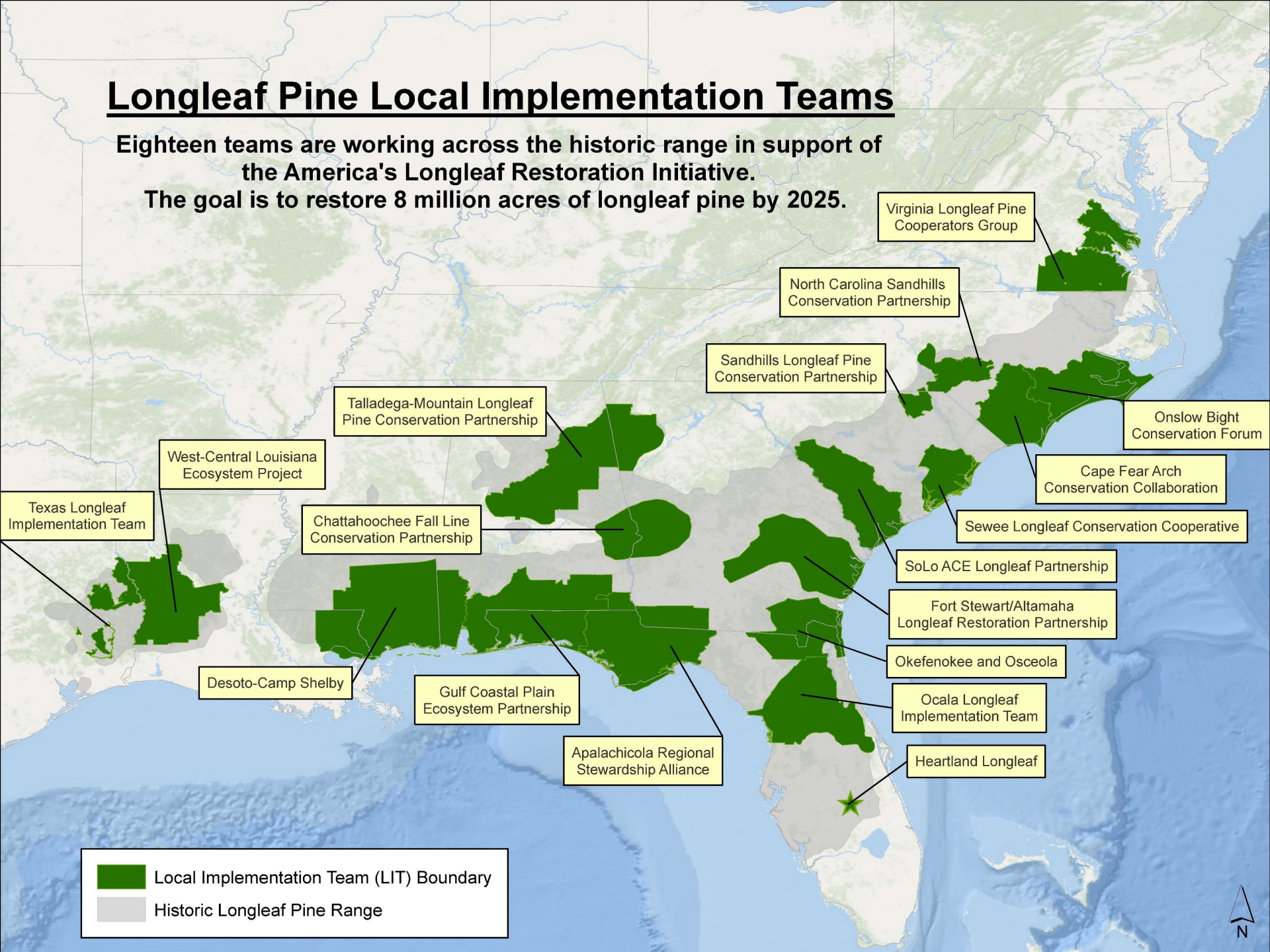



THE
CONSERVATION FUND




Longleaf Pine Local Implementation Teams

Eighteen teams are working across the historic range in support of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative. The goal is to restore 8 million acres of longleaf pine by 2025.



 Local Implementation Team (LIT) Boundary

 Historic Longleaf Pine Range





Elements of a Successful Collaborative

America's Longleaf was selected as a model of Shared Stewardship by USFS. Shared Stewardship aims to work in the right places, at the right scale, in the right way to achieve collaborative land management goals across boundaries.

- Shared Vision
- Commitment and Focus of Partners
- Working at different Scales
- Organized collaboration
- Measuring outcomes
- Adaptive Management
- Sharing and celebrating success
- Maintaining Champions





Importance of Metrics and Reporting

Kyle Jones, U.S. Forest Service

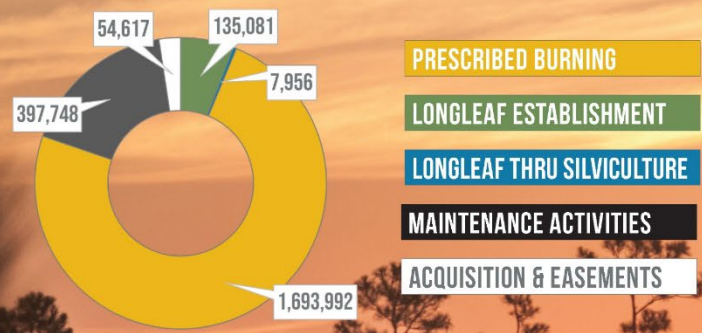
Stephanie Hertz, Texas A&M
Natural Resources Institute



LONGLEAF SCORECARD

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

TOTAL ACCOMPLISHMENT ACRES IN 2021



INCREASING LONGLEAF ACRES IN 2021

84% LONGLEAF PLANTING ACRES ON PRIVATE LANDS



CONSERVING THE FUTURE OF LONGLEAF



54,617 ACRES
PROTECTED LONG-TERM
THROUGH LAND ACQUISITION &
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and The Walthour-Moss Foundation partnered to protect the largest private held longleaf forest in the Sandhills, an ecologically significant site that is blanketed with mature longleaf. The Foundation donated the 3,946-acre easement to the Forest Service. TNC will monitor the easement on the Foundation property, which is also culturally significant as the only nature preserve in North Carolina, and one of the few in the country, whose mission is equestrian use.

TNC Applied Longleaf Scientist Jeff Marcus says the easement will protect the property from future development, ensuring that an iconic spot remains unspoiled. He says the Foundation property is an amazing place. "It is all about size, location, and condition," Marcus says. "Almost the entirety of the property is old-growth 'flattop' longleaf pine with excellent ground cover of native grasses and wildflowers."

By Debbie Crane, The Nature Conservancy



Horse-drawn cart in longleaf, photo courtesy of The Walthour-Moss Foundation.

MILLION ACRE CHALLENGE



The USDA Forest Service continues the Million Acre Challenge commitment in support of ALRI by restoring longleaf pine communities on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Acres associated with the Million Acre Challenge are in addition to the existing longleaf acreage managed on NFS lands prior to initiating this effort. To achieve this monumental goal, the Forest Service continues to seek innovative ways to implement needed improvement and restoration work to increase longleaf pine resilience and other related objectives while maintaining health and safety in a COVID-19 environment. Forest Service staff and partners have accomplished 80% of the Million Acre Challenge with over 800,000 acres of NFS land meeting specific criteria associated with the challenge, as of fiscal year 2021. If the 2022-2023 planned work is accomplished, the percentage will be in the 90th percentile.



High Level Outcomes

THROUGH ALRI AND PRINCIPLES OF SHARED STEWARDSHIP, THIS REPORT SHOWCASES HOW THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR, TOGETHER, ARE:

Improving our **ECONOMY**

Strengthening **NATIONAL DEFENSE**

Recovering **THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES**

Creating and enhancing **RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Improving **RESILIENCY OF SOUTHERN FORESTS**

Reducing **WILDFIRE RISK**

Protecting **AIR, LAND, & WATER**





Traditional Metrics

Planting



Silvicultural Activities



Prescribed Burning



Maintenance Activities



Acquisition/ Easements



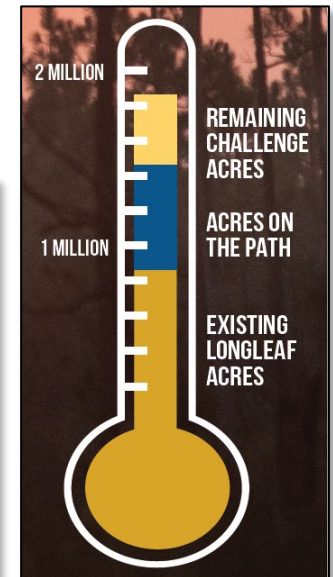
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Non-Traditional Metrics

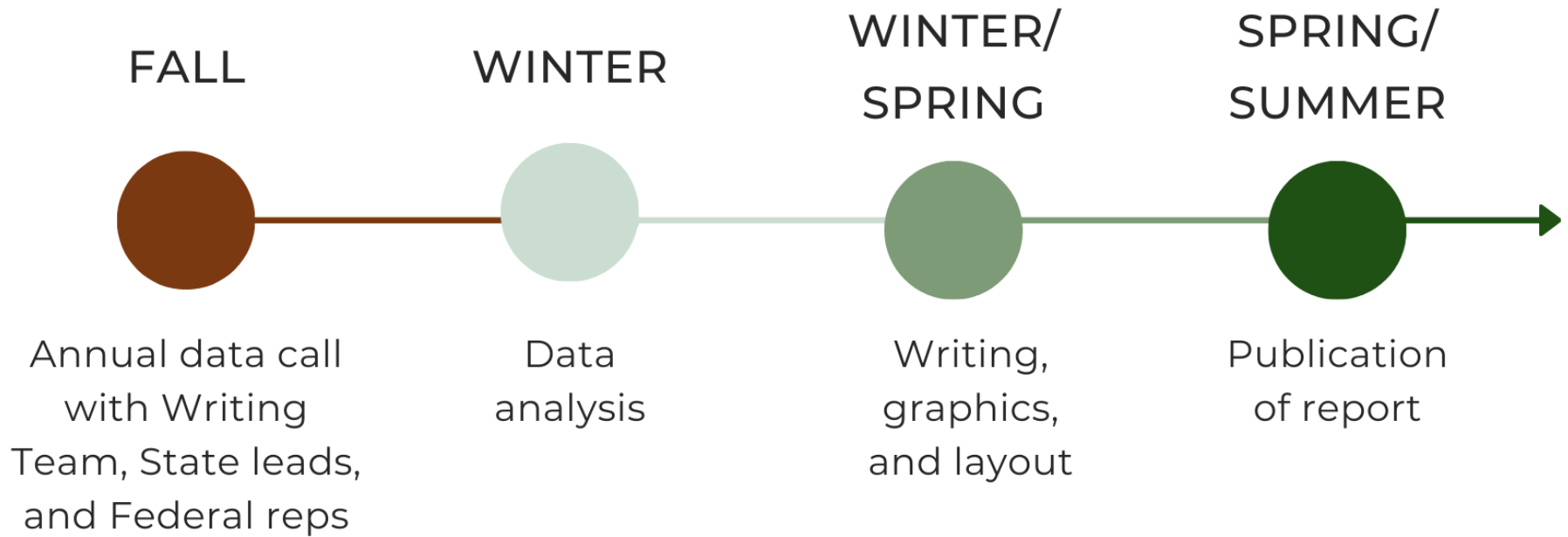
- ❖ Success stories
- ❖ Work at local, state, and regional scales
- ❖ Substantial partner representation
- ❖ New projects
- ❖ NFWF grant reporting
- ❖ Climate mitigation
- ❖ Longleaf for All



Million Acre Challenge



Data Collection and Reporting Process





A Local Implementation Team's work on the ground

Deborah Maurer, The Nature Conservancy

Elements of a Successful Collaborative

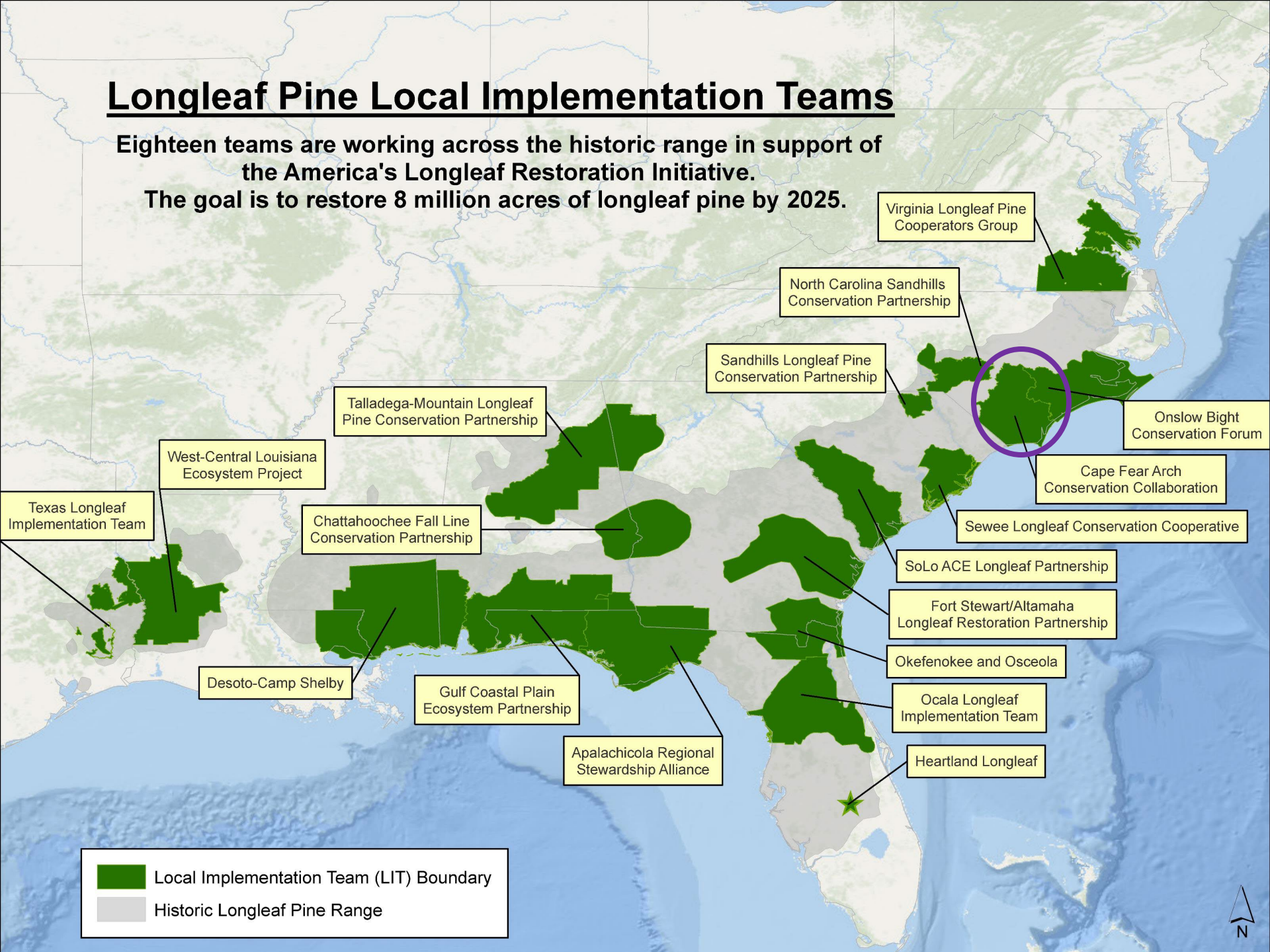
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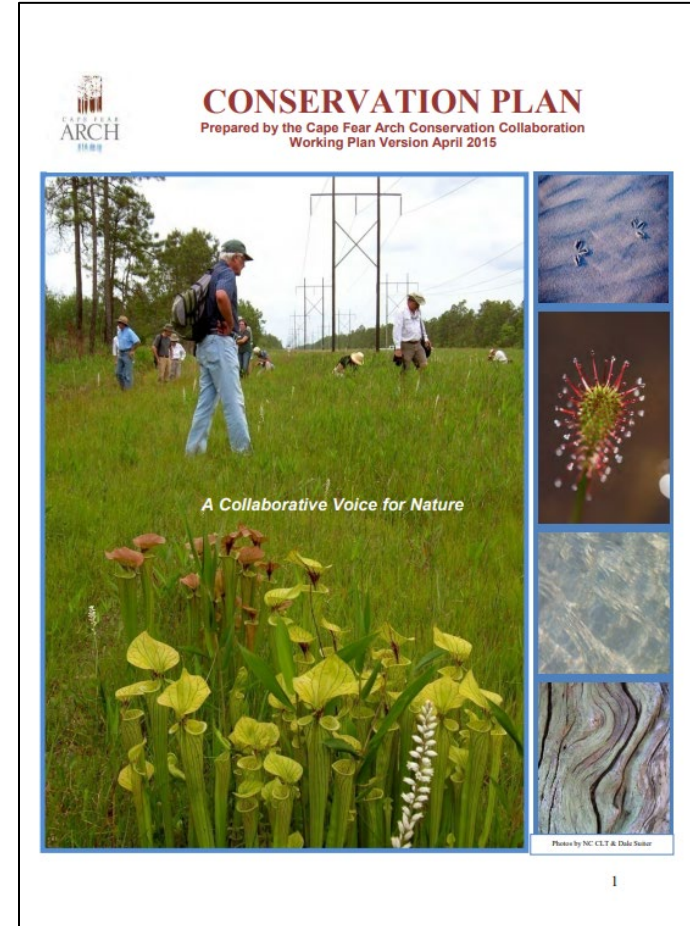
Shared Vision for Stewardship and Protection

Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaborative MOU was signed in 2006 with a mission to develop and implement a community conservation vision to build awareness, protection, and stewardship of the region's important natural resources.



Commitment and Focus of Partners

- Shared Values, Targets, and Strategies
- 27 Partners:
 - Federal
 - State
 - Municipal
 - NGO
 - Land Trusts
 - Educational Institutes
 - Conservancies
 - Private Industry



<https://www.capefeararch.org/home>





Organized Collaboration

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Fund

- Business Plan: Longleaf Forests and Rivers -NFWF's strategic priorities and goals to restore and enhance longleaf pine forest ecosystems.
- America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative's (ALRI) Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine
- Forestland Stewards Partnership Business Plan which outlines bottomland hardwood restoration and enhancement strategies while promoting and supporting working forests.

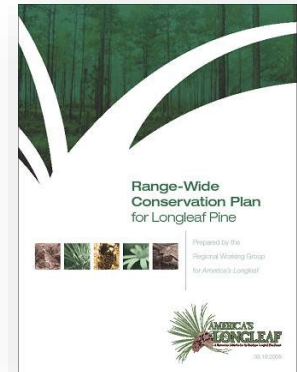
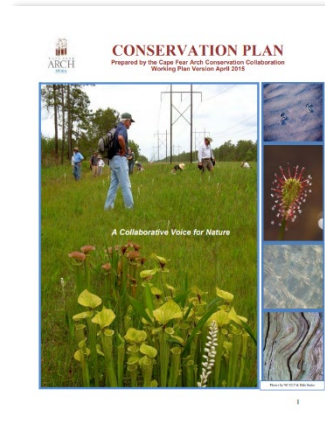




Measuring Outcomes

Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration NFWF Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Accomplishments since 2010

- **Prescribed Fire– 74,960 acres**
 - *TNC, NC State Parks, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, US Forest Service, Coastal Land Trust, NC Natural Heritage Program, NC Plant Conservation Program, Bladen Lakes State Forest*
- **Silvicultural Thinning – 16,685 acres**
- **Longleaf Pine Planted – 3,725 acres**
- **Groundcover Restoration – 2,647 acres**



Measuring Outcomes

Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration NFWF Longleaf Landscape Stewardship Accomplishments since 2010

- **Outreach** – Fire in the Pines – 24,500 face to face, >70,000 social media hits.
- **Monitoring** – Longleaf Element of Occurrence Project – 1677 new longleaf stands found and assessed on private lands (SE NC)





Helping Build New Careers and Greater knowledge in Longleaf Conservation

NFWF funded positions and opportunities since 2012:

- 28 seasonal fire crew members hired, trained and mentored
- ~ 40 UNC Wilmington students completed basic fire training certification
- Developed a Prescribed Burn Association and two mentors hired to work with private landowners
- Training Opportunities
 - Basic Wildfire Training
 - Chainsaw Training
 - Longleaf Academy; Herbicides 201

**BLADEN LAKES AREA
P
RES
CRIBED BURN ASSOCIATION**

**Sampson County
Meet, Greet, and EAT!**

Join us the evening of Jan 16th to:

- Learn about writing burn plans
- Learn about cost-share opportunities.
- Meet conservation professionals available to help you help the land!
- Find out more about the Bladen Lakes Prescribed Burn Association

This event is FREE and open to any interested landowner, but registration is required.

Register by January 10th
(space is limited)

To register contact:
Benly Strope
919.374.5562
benlystrope@ncwildlife.org

Supper provided by Smithfield Foods

The Nature Conservancy NFWF NC STATE EXTENSION

Burn mentors are now scheduling one-on-one and small group sessions to assist prescribed burners.



Celebrating Success Maintaining Champions





Visit www.americaslongleaf.org to learn more.

Colette DeGarady, The Nature Conservancy

Kyle Jones, U.S. Forest Service

Stephanie Hertz, Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute

Deborah Maurer, The Nature Conservancy

Thank you for joining today's conversation!

Visit the Network's website for more information on upcoming webinars in the "Landscape Conservation Action" webinar series.



Network for Landscape
CONSERVATION

www.landscapeconservation.org