

DECLARATION OF PARTNERSHIP
IN SUPPORT OF THE RANGE WIDE CONSERVATION PLAN FOR LONGLEAF PINE
By
ALABAMA DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES

MISSION

The mission of the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (AWFF) is to manage, protect, conserve and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama. This mission promotes the restoration, management and enhancement of the longleaf pine ecosystem for the benefit of wildlife species that occupy this habitat.

INTERESTS

The AWFF interest in participating in the partnership is to manage, restore and enhance the habitat of the longleaf pine ecosystem, particularly on private lands and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA's), for the benefit of wildlife species and species in greatest conservation need. This initiative and partnership is complementary to AWFF by providing key partnership opportunities for the conservation of the longleaf pine ecosystem and its associated species.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Research/Survey

The AWFF, State Wildlife Grants and Section 6 funding, supports various research needs associated with the longleaf pine ecosystem. Projects are funded to improve biological planning and habitat delivery of longleaf pine restoration and management. Avian species data is collected in areas of restored longleaf pine on WMA's to quantify long term benefits of restoration efforts.

2. Biological Planning/Conservation Design

The AWFF utilizes the East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture, Longleaf Pine Decision Support Tool to delineate priority longleaf landscapes and deliver conservation actions in high priority landscapes to benefit species in greatest conservation need on private lands.

3. Habitat Delivery/Implementation

The AWFF performs longleaf pine restoration on private and public lands. AWFF's private lands program identifies longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and management as a priority and offers cost share opportunities to private landowners.

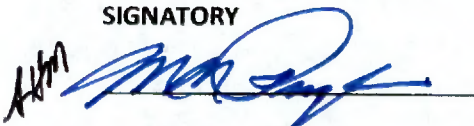
4. Monitoring

The AWFF catalogues restoration and management activities on private lands and Wildlife Management Areas. This information is shared with the Inventory and Mapping of the Longleaf Ecosystem effort by the Longleaf Alliance, National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative and other conservation partners.

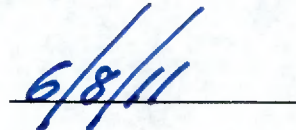
5. Outreach and Education

The AWFF participates and facilitates landowner tours and workshops, and also provides outreach and educational material to help the public better understand the importance of the longleaf pine ecosystem.

SIGNATORY



M.N. Pugh, Director
Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries



Date