

DECLARATION STATEMENT

By

Norfolk Southern Corporation - Brosnan Forest

MISSION

Norfolk Southern Corporation (NSC), through Brosnan Forest, its premier conference facility located in Dorchester County, SC promotes and practices longleaf pine ecosystem management; primarily via uneven-aged management (both single tree and group selection cutting), prescribed fire and restoration of off-site species to longleaf pine. Brosnan Forest consists of fourteen thousand four hundred five (14,405) acres of which six thousand two hundred (6,200) acres are longleaf pine with an average age of one hundred fifteen (115) years. NSC supports research in natural resource science and management by allowing and supporting numerous projects by different government and private entities on Brosnan Forest. This mission supports sustainability of the longleaf pine ecosystem.

INTERESTS

NSC's interest in participating in the partnership and America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative is to promote the longleaf pine ecosystem and associated endangered species. This is accomplished through direct and in-kind funding of research on red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW). Brosnan Forest has one of the world's most researched RCW populations and the largest on a single private ownership (~90 territories). The RCW research is currently being conducted by Dr. John Kappes and is entering its 13th year.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1. **Maintain Existing Longleaf Ecosystems:** NSC will maintain and enhance the existing longleaf ecosystem on Brosnan Forest utilizing the Stoddard-Neel method promoting biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem while enhancing silvicultural activities and prescribed fire regime. NSC will continue to promote and support research on the existing longleaf stands and related endangered species.
2. **Improvement of Longleaf:** The improvement of existing longleaf stands will continue via the use of prescribed fire to improve the herbaceous understory plant communities. Additionally, NSC supports research on the use of prescribed fire at Brosnan Forest.
3. **Restoration of Longleaf Pine Forests:** Soil types better suited for longleaf pine on Brosnan Forest have been indentified and will be restored to longleaf stands. Much of this restoration work is already underway.
4. **Conservation Easement:** In August 2008, NSC entered into a significant conservation easement with the Lowcountry Open Land Trust primarily for the perpetual protection of unique ecological habitat, management and restoration of Brosnan Forest's longleaf pine ecosystem. To date it is thought to be largest such conservation easement in South Carolina and one of the largest in the Southeast.

SIGNATORY

F. Blair Wimbush

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Vice President Real Estate & Corporate Sustainability Officer

Norfolk Southern Corporation

2/9/11

Date

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