

# Longleaf Pine Initiative

## 2013 Progress Report LLPI

Natural Resources Conservation Service



### Overview

Longleaf pine forests represent some of the world's most unique biologically diverse ecosystems. At one time, longleaf pine forest covered 90 million acres in the southeast U.S. Only three percent of the original acres of longleaf pine ecosystems remain. These ecosystems are home to 29 species that are federally listed as threatened or endangered.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) established the Longleaf Pine Initiative (LLPI) in Fiscal Year 2010 to support the America's Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative's (ALRI) goals of restoring and maintaining this unique ecosystem.

### Goals

ALRI's goals are to protect, restore, or enhance an additional 4.6 million acres of longleaf pine ecosystems in the natural longleaf pine range by 2025.

As an active member of the ALRI's working group, NRCS is helping the partnership achieve these goals. NRCS has identified a longleaf range in nine states. Those states will use additional technical and financial assistance from NRCS to target restoration efforts on private lands with assistance from local, state, and federal partners.

### Funding

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

NRCS dedicated about \$36 million through EQIP and WHIP to assist approximately 2,500 forest landowners plant and restore about 195,000 acres of longleaf pine forests in the four years since the initiative began.

### Results

In Fiscal Year 2013, NRCS invested \$11 million to fund more than 700 contracts covering over 50,000 acres in the participating nine states.

Increasing prescribed burning training opportunities for forest landowners and forest consultants is a priority for improving the longleaf pine ecosystem. The NRCS LLPI states provided \$33,000 to support an agreement with North Carolina State University for the Comprehensive Strategy for Prescribed Fire Project to restore longleaf pine in the southeastern United States. The Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of Defense also committed funds to support the project, which totaled approximately \$105,000.

In support of the overall goal for ALRI, NRCS is providing better direction on

the agency's role, expectations, and focus areas to the nine states.

States have committed to increase restoration activities on 67, 500 acres annually with 50 percent of these activities located within the identified priority counties. The LLPI states will work to increase prescribed burning of 280,000 acres annually on private lands.

Continuing its partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, NRCS provided funds to support the Longleaf Stewardship Fund which awarded 15 grants totaling \$3.1 million for projects in the longleaf pine range that will restore 13,500 acres and improve more than 140,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat.



Fiscal Year 2013 Longleaf Pine Initiative  
NRCS Financial Assistance (FA) and Active and Completed Contracts\*

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)			
State	Number of Contracts	Funding	Contract Acres
Alabama	192	\$2,559,776	11,249
Florida	39	\$499,971	4,394
Georgia	220	\$3,464,666	11,634
Louisiana	12	\$276,170	2,079
Mississippi	42	\$777,500	3,110
North Carolina	66	\$1,094,181	5,323
South Carolina	134	\$2,054,388	11,084
Texas	10	\$182,142	639
Virginia	5	\$206,669	636
<b>Totals</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>\$11,115,463</b>	<b>50,148</b>

### For More Information

For more information and updates about LLPI and other NRCS conservation efforts, please visit [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/initiatives/?cid=nrcsdev11\\_023913](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/initiatives/?cid=nrcsdev11_023913)

\*Data source:  
Protracts for  
new enrollment  
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