



Longleaf Pine Support Landscape Implementation Teams

Background

The 15-year goal for the Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine (RCPLP) is to increase longleaf from 3.4 to 8.0 million acres. As described in the RCPLP, a major guiding principle is in the absence of unlimited resources the conservation of longleaf pine needs to be spatially focused to reach the ultimate goals of biodiversity conservation at meaningful scales. A targeted approach capitalizes on the greatest opportunities and maximizes the potential for success. The RCPLP identifies 16 Significant Geographic Areas where resources, expertise, partners, and policy implementation, can optimally be focused to conserve longleaf pine ecosystems. It is at these Significant Geographic Areas that more detailed conservation planning, implementation and evaluation must take place through a collaborative approach with partnerships of public agencies, conservation organizations, and private landowners.

Applicable RCPLP Key Actions:

Implementation Strategy, Objective A, Key Action 2 (page 27):

- ▷ **RCPLP Key Action 2**—Initiate actions to stand up local teams within Significant Geographic Areas to further area-specific planning and on-the-ground actions.

Public Lands Strategy, Objective C, Key Action 7 (page 10):

- ▷ **RCPLP Key Action 7**—Support local teams under *America's Longleaf Initiative* as a structure and mechanism to guide restoration through public/private coordination within Significant Geographic Areas. Establish or expand efforts in two to four Significant Geographic Areas in the next three years in order to demonstrate implementation of and accelerate conservation efforts on the ground. Institutions such as the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP) can serve as a model of public/private coordination at a sub-regional, landscape scale.

Subcommittee Recommendations

It is the opinion of the SERPPAS Subcommittee on Longleaf Pine that the SERPPAS Principals can play a leadership role in implementing collaborative landscape planning and management of longleaf at the landscape scale by supporting local implementation teams. Therefore, the Subcommittee recommends that 2-4 Significant Geographic Areas be adopted as a SERPPAS organizational priority, and that SERPPAS Principals play a leadership role in establishing these as demonstration areas to accelerate and test models for landscape longleaf conservation. Furthermore, the Subcommittee recommends that Department of Defense and Florida Department of Environmental Protection be invited to take leadership in overseeing implementation of key actions listed above.