



# America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative

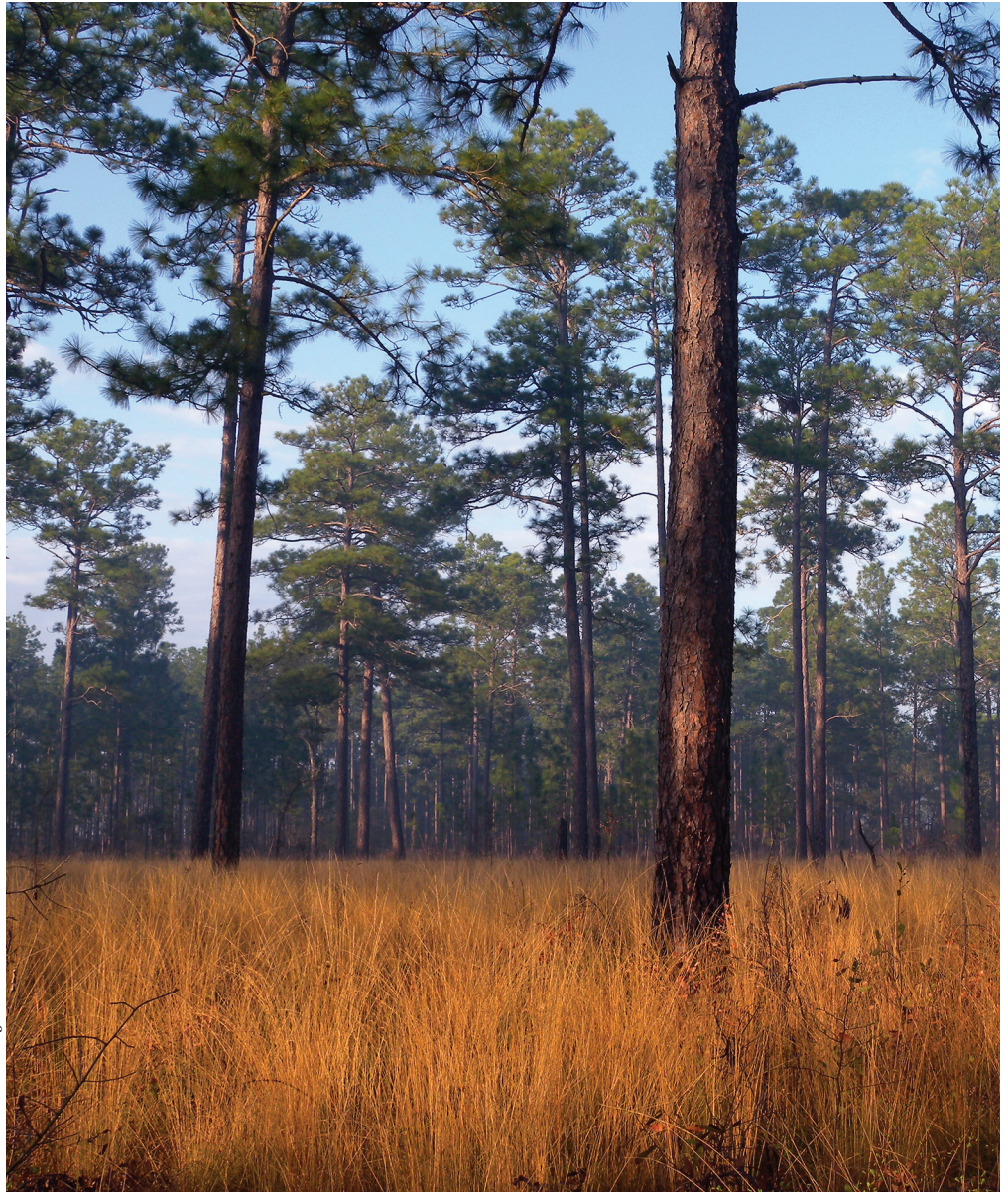
## Who We Are

America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) represents a coalition of federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, forest industry, private landowners, and other interests who have united in a single cause: **to restore the iconic longleaf pine forest in the southeastern United States.**

## Why is Longleaf Pine Important?

The fire-dependent longleaf pine ecosystem was historically the dominant forest type across the Southeast, but fire suppression and conversion to other land uses or forest types reduced longleaf acreage to less than 5% of its original extent. The extensive loss of longleaf pine was a dramatic change in the region, as these forests contain some of the most important natural areas for plants and wildlife in the United States. Longleaf pine forests represent an extraordinary wealth of cultural, ecological, economic and social values – **all on the same acres.**

- **Wildlife value:** Longleaf natural areas provide habitat for a suite of rare, at-risk, and endangered species as well as enhanced habitat for game species, thus improving recreational opportunities.
- **Benefits for people:** Longleaf forests provide clean air and water sources, provide buffers from wildfire, and mitigate damage from hurricanes.
- **Risk abatement:** Longleaf trees are more wind-firm, drought and fire tolerant, and less susceptible to losses from pine beetle or disease outbreaks.
- **Economic value:** Longleaf pine offers a unique opportunity for landowners to simultaneously produce timber income and wildlife habitat.
- **Military readiness:** The Department of Defense operates extensively in longleaf pine forests, and these forests also create important buffers around testing and training areas.



Jessica McCorvey

## What We Do

The Initiative's partners worked together to develop a comprehensive *Conservation Plan*, implemented in 2010, with a primary goal of increasing the extent of longleaf pine to eight million acres by 2025. The 33-member Longleaf Partnership Council promotes effective communication and collaboration among the dedicated partners within ALRI to effectively reach this goal. Restoration activities conducted by partners include tree planting, prescribed burning, mid-story treatments, invasive species control, native understory plant establishment, over-story treatments and land acquisition/easements.

## Where We Work

Our work extends from Virginia to Florida to Texas, encompassing the historic range where longleaf pine was once found. Partners work across the longleaf range, and have established local partnerships and teams to emphasize restoration work in "Significant Geographic Areas" that have the most potential to maintain and protect restored longleaf forests. Throughout the range, partners work on both public and private lands to achieve management goals for the property.



## Accomplishments

ALRI partners have played a major role in halting the decline of longleaf pine. Significant accomplishments include:

- Restoration efforts have increased the extent of longleaf pine to approximately 4.7 million acres, an increase of approximately 25% since the 1990s.
- The use of prescribed fire has increased across the longleaf range with a reported 1.2 million acres burned in 2014; thus promoting healthy forests for wildlife and people.
- The Longleaf Stewardship Fund, a public/private partnership managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, has provided \$14.1 million for longleaf restoration, which has leveraged more than \$18.1 million in additional funds from grant partners since 2012.
- With 17 local teams guiding efforts in Significant Geographic Areas across nine states, ALRI has become a national model for collaborative conservation partnerships.

## Looking Ahead

Priority actions and strategies for ALRI over the next few years include:

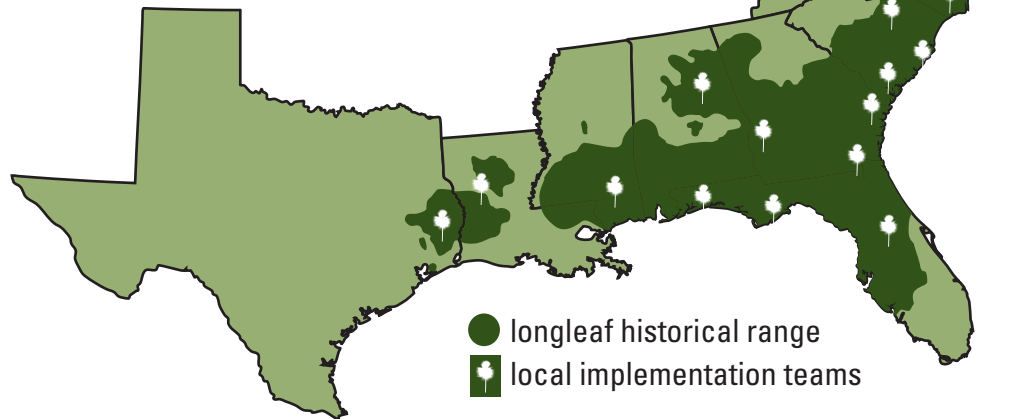
- Improve and maintain existing longleaf acreage by increasing prescribed fire and other restoration activities on both private and public lands.
- Use conservation planning and mapping to refine spatial priorities for longleaf.
- Work with partners to enhance financial and technical assistance on private lands, particularly in Significant Geographic Areas.
- Seek ways to fully integrate longleaf restoration into partner programs and lands, and refine tracking and reporting methods in both the public and private sectors.

## To Learn More

Visit [www.americaslongleaf.org](http://www.americaslongleaf.org)

## Local Implementation Teams (LITs)

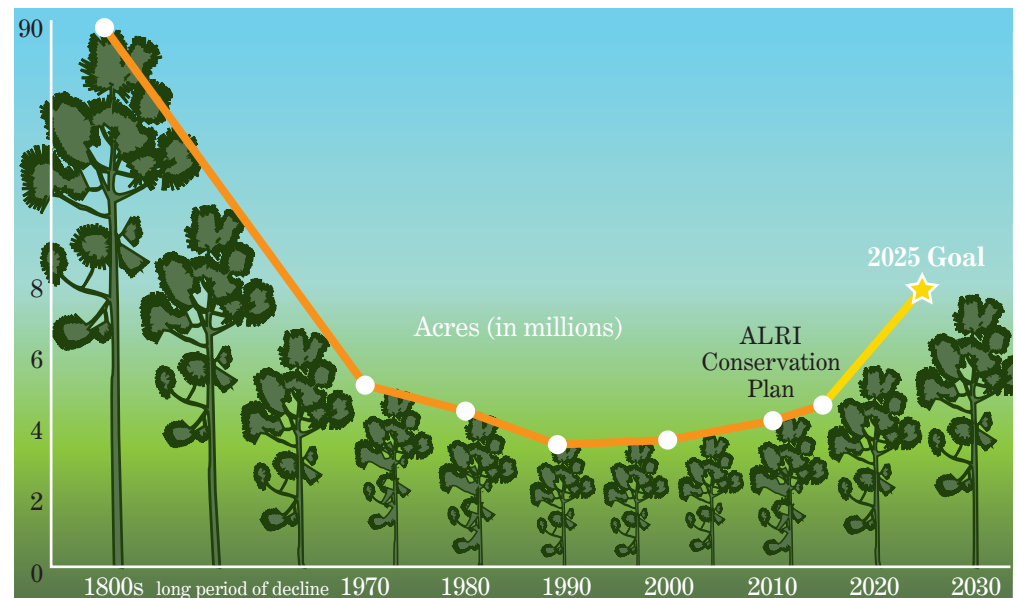
Seventeen LITs have formed and focus their efforts primarily on longleaf restoration in Significant Geographic Areas. These areas are identified as critically important for the conservation of longleaf communities and longleaf-dependent plants and wildlife.



## Prescribed Fire



## Estimated Acreage of Longleaf Dominant Forests\*



\*Based on Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA)

For illustrative purposes, not to scale