

**Program Narrative
for
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Programs**

Title: Regional Longleaf Pine Restoration Initiative and Fuel Reduction -- <North Carolina

Abstract: Longleaf pine forests once covered a vast range from Texas to Virginia, but have been reduced to three percent of historical acreage due to conversion to other land uses and forest types. Longleaf pine forests are highly valued for their resistance to damage by insects, diseases, wildfire, and storms, and for their yield of high quality wood products, biological diversity, and beauty. Under this program, state forestry agencies in Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina are putting Americans to work restoring these valuable forests. Activities include restoring longleaf pine on state-owned and private lands; increasing production capacity of longleaf pine seed, seedlings, and native understory plants; coordinating efforts across broad partnerships; and providing educational materials and training to the public and staff. This work is helping to restore a great American ecosystem while creating jobs for contractors and laborers involved in tree planting and forest improvement work, nursery workers, conservation planners and coordinators, media specialists, and educators.

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Justification: Longleaf pine forests once were one of the most common forests of the coastal plain, ranging from Texas to Virginia, but have been reduced to three percent of historical acreage due to conversion to other land uses and forest types. Longleaf pine forests are highly valued for their resistance to damage by insects, diseases, wildfire, and storms, and for their yield of high quality wood products, biological diversity, and scenic beauty. In addition, research suggests that longleaf pine forests may be highly adaptive to anticipated effects of climate change, as well as being capable of sequestering higher amounts of carbon than alternative forest types.

Because of the diverse values of longleaf pine forest, its restoration has become an important point of focus for the forest conservation community. Vision, goals, and strategies for longleaf pine restoration have been articulated in the *Range-wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine*, prepared by the Regional Working Group for *America's Longleaf*. This group involves a wide coalition of federal, state, and private partners, including USDA Forest Service and North Carolina Division of Forest Resources through the Southern Group of State Foresters.

This grant is part of a regional project involving the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Representatives of these states and USDA Forest Service met to develop work priorities within the context of the Range-wide Conservation Plan; activities were linked to Range-wide Conservation Plan strategies and approaches. Development of work priorities under this grant also included consideration of job creation and retention. Weight was given to numbers and immediacy of jobs created and retained. The mix of activities included under this grant incorporates these considerations, as well as the relative opportunity among activity categories across the five states involved. Because needs in each state far exceeded available funding, total funding was divided equally among the five states after regional needs were funded off the top.

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Scope of Work: Work under this grant will occur within activity categories established for guiding the regional program. These categories are:

1. Public Lands Management—The goal of this set of activities is to increase the acreage and improve the condition of longleaf pine forests on state- or locally-owned public lands; federal public lands are excluded from the scope. Activities may include longleaf pine establishment on lands not currently supporting longleaf pine, to include site preparation and tree planting; native understory establishment and enhancement; prescribed burning; midstory reduction and intermediate stand improvement treatments; and invasive species control. Emphasis will be on activities not funded by other ARRA programs.

Within this activity category, NC Division of Forest Resources will focus use of grant funds on:

2. Private Lands Management—This activity involves longleaf pine restoration and management on privately-owned forest lands. Activities may include those described for Public Lands Management. Funds provided under this grant will not be used to require a cost-share from private landowners, but may be used to lower their costs for restoration activities by enhancing existing cost-share programs, covering costs of some activity components, or providing other incentives. Emphasis will be on activities not funded by other ARRA programs.

Within this activity category, NC Division of Forest Resources will focus use of grant funds on:

3. Plant Materials Capacity—This activity involves increasing the availability of longleaf pine seed, seedlings, and associated understory plant materials for use in restoration work. These resources are currently limiting potential for this work. Activities may include establishing seed orchards; enhancing areas for cone and understory seed collection; collecting, processing, and storing seeds; expanding nursery capacity; planting, tending, and processing seedlings; and providing seed and seedlings to restoration efforts.

Within this activity category, NC Division of Forest Resources will focus use of grant funds on:

- Increasing orchard productivity within 18 months
- Increasing level of orchard maintenance within 1 month
- Expanding containerized longleaf production within 9 months
- Begin collecting understory seed material within 3 months
- Begin producing understory plants within 9 months

Expected accomplishments for this set of activities are:

Performance Measure	Expected Accomplishment
Acres improved for longleaf pine cone collection (including seed orchards)	73 acres
Pounds of longleaf pine seed collected and/or processed (directly funded)	300 lbs increase
Increase in nursery capacity for producing longleaf pine seedlings (numbers of seedlings)	4.2 million cell increase
Number of longleaf pine seedlings produced (directly funded)	4 million increase
Acres improved for collection of seed for native longleaf pine forest understories	15 acres
Pounds of seed collected for native longleaf pine forest understories, for nursery planting or direct distribution	100 lbs. over four years
Number of plant sets produced for native longleaf pine understories.	200,000 annually

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4. Planning—This activity involves ensuring program activities are implemented strategically and are integrated with efforts of other longleaf restoration partners. Activities may involve inventories and assessments to determine restoration needs, managing related data in databases and GIS, coordinating and prioritizing implementation of activities, and coordinating and supporting start-up of local planning teams.

Within this activity category, NC Division of Forest Resources will focus use of grant funds on:

5. Education and Outreach—This activity involves educating the public and program staff about values, opportunities, and methods of longleaf pine restoration. Activities may include producing and supporting training sessions for staff, forestry consultants, and landowners; and production and distribution of educational materials, and outreach through mass media to raise public awareness.

Within this activity category, NC Division of Forest Resources will focus use of grant funds on:

Activity Funding—One useful way of looking at anticipated scope of work is through allocation of funding to activity categories. NC Division of Forest Resources expects to broadly allocate funds to activities in the following way:

Activity	Funding Allocation (%)	Funding Allocation (\$)
1. Public Land Management	19%	\$330,000
2. Private Land Management		
3a. Plant Material Capacity--LL Seed	7%	\$120,000
3b. Plant Material Capacity--LL Seedlings	50%	\$875,000
3c. Plant Material Capacity--Understory	3%	\$50,000
4a. Planning--Inventory		
4b. Planning--Coordination	11%	\$200,000
5. Education/Outreach	10%	\$167,000
Total	100%	\$1,742,000

Total Funding \$ 8,975,000

Multistate Off-the-Top Programs	Cost	Funding	Comments
<p>1. Statewide</p> <p>2. Local</p> <p>3. Regional</p> <p>4. Other</p>			

Remaining Funding

Activity	Allocation Target (%)	AL Allocation					FL Allocation					GA Allocation					NC Allocation					SC Allocation					Total Allocation (%)
		(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)						
1. Public Land Management	30%						32%	40%	54%	19%												38%			37%		
2. Private Land Management	25%						4%	32%	19%	0%												28%			17%		
3a. Plant Material Capacity--LL Seed	10%						34%	0%	10%	7%											3%			11%			
3b. Plant Material Capacity--LL Seedlings	8%						23%	5%	8%	50%											16%			20%			
3c. Plant Material Capacity--Understory	2%						0%	5%	2%	3%											2%			2%			
4a. Planning--Inventory	8%						0%	6%	3%	0%											3%			2%			
4b. Planning--Coordination	7%						5%	6%	2%	11%											5%			6%			
5. Education/Outreach	10%						2%	6%	2%	10%											5%			5%			
Total	100%						100%	100%	100%	100%											100%			100%			

Activity	Allocation Target (\$)	AL Allocation FL Allocation GA Allocation NC Allocation SC Allocation Total					
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	Allocation (\$)
1. Public Land Management	\$ 2,613,000	\$ 560,000	\$ 690,890	\$ 940,680	\$ 330,000	\$ 661,960	\$ 3,183,530
2. Private Land Management	\$ 2,177,500	\$ 75,000	\$ 555,891	\$ 330,980	\$ -	\$ 487,760	\$ 1,449,631
3a. Plant Material Capacity--LL Seed	\$ 871,000	\$ 589,000	\$ -	\$ 174,200	\$ 120,000	\$ 52,260	\$ 935,460
3b. Plant Material Capacity--LL Seedlings	\$ 696,800	\$ 394,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 139,360	\$ 875,000	\$ 278,720	\$ 1,777,080
3c. Plant Material Capacity--Understory	\$ 174,200	\$ -	\$ 95,045	\$ 34,840	\$ 50,000	\$ 34,840	\$ 214,725
4a. Planning--Inventory	\$ 696,800	\$ -	\$ 96,507	\$ 52,260	\$ -	\$ 52,260	\$ 201,027
4b. Planning--Coordination	\$ 609,700	\$ 84,000	\$ 104,000	\$ 34,840	\$ 200,000	\$ 87,100	\$ 509,940
5. Education/Outreach	\$ 871,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 109,667	\$ 34,840	\$ 167,000	\$ 87,100	\$ 438,607
Total (\$)	\$ 8,710,000	\$ 1,742,000	\$ 1,742,000	\$ 1,742,000	\$ 1,742,000	\$ 1,742,000	\$ 8,710,000
Total Allocation (%)		20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	
Total Allocation (\$)		\$ 1,742,000	\$ 1,742,000	\$ 1,742,000	\$ 1,742,000	\$ 1,742,000	