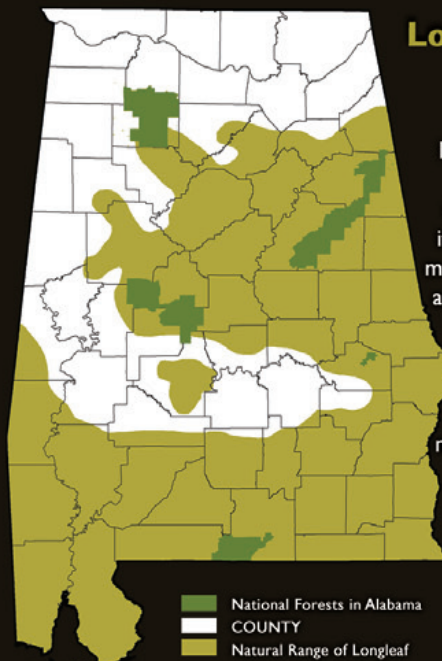


Opportunities for Longleaf Pine Restoration in Alabama are Bountiful

Restoration work is collaborative, reaching across landscapes and ownership boundaries. The U.S. Forest Service, the Longleaf Alliance, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Alabama Nature Center work with various organizations, private landowners and local communities to ensure Alabama's forests are sustained.



Longleaf Pine Range

Opportunities for longleaf restoration in Alabama are unparalleled across its range. Alabama's mountains, piedmont, and coastal plains all have potential for restoring longleaf pine, as the map of longleaf pine's natural range shows.

Volunteer

Become a volunteer with the Forest Service or another environmental organization. There are several rewarding opportunities available including customer service, trail maintenance, fish and wildlife management, recreation area management, environmental education, interpretation, public information plus many other things. Your talents and skills are matched with your work preference. Contact a Forest Service volunteer coordinator at 334-832-4470 or learn more about partnership opportunities at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/alabama>

<http://www.longleafalliance.org>

<http://www.forestry.alabama.gov>

<http://alabamawildlife.org>

<http://outdooralabama.com/research-mgmt/Landowner/>

Alabama Wildlife Federation

3050 Lanark Road | Millbrook, AL 36054 | 800-822-9453

The Longleaf Alliance

12130 Dixon Center Road | Andalusia, AL 36420
334-427-1029

Alabama Forestry Commission

513 Madison Avenue | Montgomery, AL 36104
334-240-9300

Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

64 N. Union Street, Suite 468 | Montgomery, AL 36130
334-242-3486

USDA Forest Service Supervisor's Office

2946 Chestnut Street | Montgomery, AL 36107
334-832-4470

USDA Forest Service Bankhead Ranger District

1070 Highway 33 | Double Springs, AL 35553
205-489-5111

USDA Forest Service Conecuh Ranger District

24481 Alabama Hwy 55 | Andalusia, AL 36420
334-222-2555

USDA Forest Service Oakmulgee Ranger District

9901 Highway 5 | Brent, AL 35034 | 205-926-9765

USDA Forest Service Shoal Creek Ranger District

45 Highway 281 | Heflin, AL 36264 | 256-463-2272

USDA Forest Service Talladega Ranger District

1001 North Street (Hwy 21 North) | Talladega, AL 35160
256-362-2909

USDA Forest Service Tuskegee Ranger District

125 National Forest Road 949 | Tuskegee, AL 36083
334-727-2652

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Reaching Across LANDSCAPES to restore Alabama's FORESTS

8 Steps to a Healthier Forest



Reaching Across LANDSCAPES to Restore ALABAMA'S FORESTS

Longleaf pine forests have covered Alabama for centuries, benefiting the people in the area as well as animal and plant life. It is considered premier lumber because of its straight, well-formed stem and wood density. Moreover, its adaptation to fire and its ability to resist damage from insects, diseases and storms creates a perfect ecosystem for native animals and plants.

Many people are committed to improving and restoring longleaf pine ecosystems to provide quality habitats and high levels of diverse plant and animal communities. This is important to the collective goal of maintaining healthy forests in Alabama for ecological and economic benefits.

The USDA Forest Service and numerous partners are working together to restore longleaf pine forests by taking "8 Steps to a Healthier Forest."

1. CONTROLLING FIRE



Fire is a key component in preserving many forest ecosystems here in the South including the longleaf pine. Controlled burns are used in longleaf pine forests to benefit certain wildlife and plant species, increase viewing distances and reduce the threat of future wildfires. A controlled burn is carefully planned to reduce some of the brush and mid-level trees that block sunlight from reaching the ground. Grass, fruits, and seeds become available for the deer, dove, quail and other wildlife species. Animals have greater access to travel routes, feeding spots and hiding places. Hunters and hikers enjoy the improved routes as well. In addition, controlled burns reduce the amount of excess forest debris (downed trees or limbs) that would be available as fuel if a wildfire were to break out. This is very important for the safety of the people who live in and around our forests.

2. MANAGING FOREST LANDS



About 850 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and fish inhabit the national forests of Alabama. Providing their habitat involves planning and management actions. Among the major goals are protecting water quality and preventing soil loss and damage. Maintaining air quality is another important tool used for a healthy forest that helps clean our air and water. Partnerships with federal and state officials assist in making decisions when issuing permits for commercial projects and other air related issues. Proper forest management gives us a clear view into the health of our ecosystems.

3. PLANTING NATIVE TREES



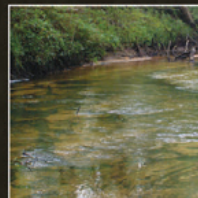
The natural lifespan of trees is often longer than that of humans. This can make it seem like trees live forever. However, trees and forests die. Trees can be lost due to wildfire, storms, disease and insect-infection. The National Forests in Alabama oversee the planting of hundreds of thousands of trees each year. The trees are planted by volunteers and contractors. Planting healthy seedlings and removing diseased and insect-infected trees ensures the continued health of forests.

4. MANAGING UNDERSTORY PLANTS



Forest understory consists of the plants, trees and shrubs that grow between a forest's canopy and the ground. A healthy understory is critical to the well-being of a longleaf pine forest ecosystem. The fine grasses and needles of a restored native longleaf pine ecosystem carry low, frequent fires across the ground. A desirable longleaf understory generally consists of a variety of native, fire-tolerant plants and grasses. Non-native invasive species such as cogongrass, kudzu, and bicolor lespedeza are major threats to longleaf ecosystems because they displace native plants and wildlife habitats. The National Forests in Alabama uses selective herbicides to treat and control such infestations.

5. MANAGING BIODIVERSITY



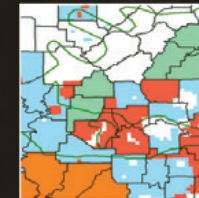
Forests support important water resources including stream ecosystems. Among the fifty states, Alabama ranks first in aquatic biodiversity which means there are lots of different plants and animals living in the state's waterways. Potential hazards to our waterways are poorly designed roads and road crossings that can damage stream ecosystems by reshaping natural channels. Some road crossing structures can fragment a habitat by acting as barriers to upstream migration. To date, several roads and stream crossing replacements or removal projects have been completed to improve aquatic species travel and habitat.

6. CONDUCTING FOREST INVENTORIES



A forest inventory is the process of collecting information on a forest for analysis. It helps determine the location, health and quantity of different tree species. This information is critical in the restoration efforts. Forest inventory can identify tree planting or thinning needs. Diseased trees or unhealthy trees are often identified during inventories.

7. IMPLEMENTING GIS MAPPING



Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a valuable tool in effectively enhancing ecosystem management. It is used in all resource management areas and by many resource specialists. GIS analyzes information and data that have been gathered from a resource inventory. Soil resources, forest conditions, water resources, wildlife locations, roads and building locations can all be overlain using GIS to provide the best decision support to land managers. The information is then placed into usable measurements for forest managers.

8. EXPANDING THE PARTNERSHIP



The foundation of longleaf pine and watershed restoration is based on building strong partnerships. The U.S. Forest Service, the Longleaf Alliance, the Alabama Forestry Commission, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Alabama Wildlife Federation work with numerous partners to ensure forest ecosystems are healthy with quality habitats and diverse plant and animal communities.

The public is invited to become a partner in caring for the environment. Plant a tree in a critical area that has little or no vegetation. Celebrate Arbor Day in a neighborhood by planting a tree to provide shade. Identify and stop the spread of non-native, invasive species like kudzu or feral hogs. Travel only on designated roads and trails when visiting public lands. Prevent wildfires and support managers in managing fire and forest fuels on their lands.