



NFWF

Longleaf Stewardship Fund 2019 Grant Slate

NFWF CONTACTS

Jonathan Scott
Program Director,
Southern Forests
jonathan.scott@nfwf.org
202-595-2609

Lindsay Vacek
Senior Coordinator,
Southern Region
lindsay.vacek@nfwf.org
202-595-2433

PARTNERS

- Altria Group
- American Forest Foundation
- International Paper
- Orton Foundation (affiliate of the Moore Charitable Foundation)
- Southern Company
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA U.S. Forest Service

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds.

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
202-857-0166



Red-cockaded woodpecker

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and nine partner organizations recently announced the 2019 round of funding for the Longleaf Stewardship Fund. Twenty-four new forest conservation grants totaling more than \$6.3 million were awarded, leveraging \$4.9 million in grantee matching contributions and generating a total conservation impact of \$11.2 million.

The Longleaf Stewardship Fund is a landmark public-private partnership that expands, enhances and accelerates longleaf pine conservation across the ecosystem's historical range. The fund supports projects that advance the longleaf pine ecosystem through collaborative and result-oriented actions that contribute to the restoration goals of the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative.

Accelerating Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration on the Fall Line (GA, AL) - IV

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy	
Grant Award:	\$298,857
Matching Funds:	\$299,900
Total Amount:	\$598,757

Accelerate longleaf pine conservation on public and private land in west-central Georgia and east-central Alabama, improving habitat for red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's sparrow and gopher tortoise. Project will restore and enhance more than 10,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat, focusing on properties buffering Fort Benning, as well as high priority federal, state and privately owned lands.

(continued)



Gopher tortoise

Coordinating Local Implementation Team Capacity and Landowner Technical Assistance and Outreach (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX, VA) - IV

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance

Grant Award:..... \$150,000

Matching Funds: \$150,000

Total Amount:..... \$300,000

Improve and sustain coordination and exchange of information among 17 multi-partner local implementation teams that organize, plan and deliver conservation actions to restore and enhance the longleaf pine ecosystem. Project will support strategic on-the-ground restoration through conservation planning, as well as tracking and communication of longleaf pine restoration accomplishments.

Pineywoods Longleaf Restoration (LA) - VI

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Award:..... \$192,621

Matching Funds: \$192,621

Total Amount:..... \$385,242

Restore and enhance longleaf pine habitat on private lands

adjacent to and surrounding the Kisatchie National Forest and Fort Polk in west-central Louisiana, benefitting open pine and grassland-dependent birds, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and northern bobwhite. Project will engage private landowners, forestry practitioners and agency staff through field days and workshops. Technical assistance will be provided to willing private landowners to restore and enhance 2,700 acres of longleaf pine habitat.

Apalachicola Longleaf Restoration Initiative (FL, GA) - VII

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy - Florida

Grant Award:..... \$225,000

Matching Funds: \$225,000

Total Amount:..... \$450,000

Restore and enhance longleaf pine habitat on public and private lands in the central panhandle region of Florida, including lands impacted by Hurricane Michael, to benefit songbirds such as the Bachman’s sparrow, and imperiled reptiles such as the eastern indigo snake and gopher tortoise. Project will establish 800 acres of longleaf pine and improve management of more than 20,000 acres of existing



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longleaf habitat through prescribed burning, thinning and native groundcover plantings.

Cape Fear Arch Longleaf Initiative (NC) - IV

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Award:..... \$320,000
 Matching Funds: \$420,000
Total Amount:..... \$740,000

Restore and enhance longleaf pine and bottomland hardwood forest habitats in eastern North Carolina, benefitting birds such as red-cockaded woodpecker and Bachman’s sparrow, and amphibians such as Carolina gopher frog. Project will plant 360 acres of longleaf pine and enhance more than 16,000 acres of existing longleaf pine habitat through prescribed burning and other treatments. Partners will continue to build public understanding and support for prescribed burning, reaching more than 10,000 citizens through two fire festivals.

Engaging Working Forest Landowners, Building Stakeholder Collaboration & Developing Solutions (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TX, VA) - III

Grantee: Forest Landowners Association
 Grant Award:..... \$150,000
 Matching Funds: \$175,000
Total Amount:..... \$325,000

Engage large-acreage family forest owners in longleaf pine restoration and conservation of at-risk and listed species across the historical longleaf pine range, with a particular focus within areas impacted by Hurricanes Florence and Michael. Project will establish 120 acres of longleaf pine and produce collaborative, landscape-level solutions to longleaf restoration on large family-owned forestlands, including species-related regulatory predictability tools and market-based incentives.

Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership (SC) - VII

Grantee: Chesterfield County Soil and Water Conservation District
 Grant Award:..... \$250,000
 Matching Funds: \$250,000
Total Amount:..... \$500,000

Establish and enhance 1,600 acres of privately-owned longleaf pine habitat in the South Carolina Sandhills region to benefit bird species such as Bachman’s sparrow, northern bobwhite and wild turkey, and reptiles such as the southern hognose snake. Project will utilize a geospatial forest inventory database to identify high-priority properties for longleaf pine restoration, and will work with willing landowners to plant longleaf pine and implement management practices, such as prescribed

burning on existing longleaf forests to improve wildlife habitat.

Longleaf Restoration in the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership Landscape (AL, FL) - V

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance
 Grant Award:..... \$280,000
 Matching Funds: \$280,000
Total Amount:..... \$560,000

Restore and maintain 45,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat in the western panhandle region of Florida to benefit rare and declining species such as the Bachman’s sparrow, red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise and northern bobwhite. Project will deploy an ecosystem support team to implement prescribed burns and other longleaf management practices, and engage 500 private landowners in longleaf pine restoration through outreach, education and technical assistance.

Longleaf Restoration on Private Lands in the North Carolina Sandhills (NC) - III

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation
 Grant Award:..... \$290,000
 Matching Funds: \$304,000
Total Amount:..... \$594,000

Advance longleaf pine establishment, application of prescribed fire, and longleaf pine restoration on private lands, which will benefit longleaf pine and grassland adapted bird species, such as Bachman’s sparrow and northern bobwhite. Project will engage 450 landowners through the NC Sandhills Prescribed Burn Association including workshops, field days and one-on-one relationship development, resulting in more than 8,500 acres of prescribed burning and 800 acres of longleaf pine planted on private lands. Partners will continue to build a culture of prescribed burning within the Sandhills landscape through extensive public education programs including fire festivals that will reach 4,000 youth and local citizens.

Strategic Longleaf Restoration on Private Lands in Florida - II

Grantee: National Wildlife Federation
 Grant Award:..... \$221,488
 Matching Funds: \$221,488
Total Amount:..... \$442,976

Engage family forest owners to restore and enhance longleaf pine habitat in the Florida panhandle, with an emphasis on assisting landowners impacted by Hurricane Michael. Project will reach family forest owners through an innovative social marketing platform and provide technical assistance to restore and enhance 2,700 acres of longleaf habitat, with an emphasis on reaching previously unengaged landowners.

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**Restoring Longleaf Pine
in the Lower Altamaha Landscape (GA)**

Grantee: Georgia Forestry Commission
 Grant Award:..... \$150,000
 Matching Funds: \$150,000
Total Amount:..... \$300,000

Engage non-industrial private forest landowners to restore and enhance longleaf pine forests in the Lower Altamaha landscape in southeast Georgia to benefit at-risk reptiles such as gopher tortoise and eastern indigo snake, and open-pine and grassland dependent bird species such as red-cockaded woodpecker and Bachman’s sparrow. Project will create a landowner prescribed burning co-op, implement a new financial assistance program and provide technical assistance to willing landowners to restore and enhance 3,000 acres of high priority longleaf pine habitat.

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker Translocation Support for
the Southern Range Translocation Cooperative:
Years 17 & 18 (AL, FL, GA, MS)**

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance
 Grant Award:..... \$90,000
 Matching Funds: \$30,000
Total Amount:..... \$120,000

Support recovery of the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker through translocation of birds from the Apalachicola National Forest to designated recovery properties in Florida, Georgia and Mississippi selected by the Southern Range Translocation Cooperative. Project will translocate at least 20 birds to restored longleaf pine habitat that will be managed long-term.

**Red-cockaded Woodpecker Conservation Project
on Public and Private Lands (SC)**

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance
 Grant Award:..... \$118,309
 Matching Funds: \$94,560
Total Amount:..... \$212,869

Support recovery of the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker through translocation of birds from the Francis Marion National Forest to public lands and private forests enrolled in the Safe Harbor Program in South Carolina. Project will translocate at least 20 birds to restored longleaf pine habitat that will be managed long-term.

**Accelerating At-Risk Species Recovery in the Gulf Coastal
Plain Ecosystem Partnership Landscape (FL) - II**

Grantee: The Longleaf Alliance
 Grant Award:..... \$1,499,035
Total Amount:..... \$1,499,035

Restore forested wetland habitats and accelerate recovery of the federally endangered reticulated flatwoods salamander



Cerulean warbler | Credit: Melanie C. Underwood

within the western panhandle of Florida. Project will reduce woody vegetation to enable long-term management with prescribed fire and implement species-specific management and monitoring, including captive rearing of salamanders for release to suitable habitat.

**Managing Bottomland Hardwood Forests for Wildlife
(NC, SC)**

Grantee: The Forest Stewards Guild
 Grant Award:..... \$145,000
 Matching Funds: \$168,026
Total Amount:..... \$313,026

Enhance and maintain bottomland hardwood forests in the coastal plain of North and South Carolina to benefit migratory songbirds, such as prothonotary warbler and cerulean warbler. Project will create demonstration sites on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuges and engage private landowners through workshops and field days, resulting in forest management plans developed for 4,000 acres and 1,200 acres of bottomland hardwoods enhanced on public and private lands.

Sewee Longleaf Restoration and Enhancement (SC) - II

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Award:..... \$286,000
 Matching Funds: \$384,570
Total Amount:..... \$670,570

Restore, maintain and protect more than 60,000 acres of



Gopher frog | Credit: Kevin Enge, Florida Fish and Wildlife

longleaf pine habitat on public and private lands in the South Carolina coastal plain, north of Charleston, benefitting birds such as Bachman’s sparrow, northern bobwhite and red-cockaded woodpecker, and imperiled amphibians such as the frosted flatwoods salamander and gopher frog. Project will deploy a seasonal fire crew to increase prescribed burning on public and private lands, expand private landowner engagement through a forest landowners association, and partner with local land trusts to protect working forests and longleaf pine habitat through voluntary conservation easements. Partners will host a fire festival to educate citizens on the use of prescribed fire and build a culture supportive of burning.

Advancing Northern Bobwhite Management in the Longleaf Pine Range (AL, GA, LA, VA)

Grantee: The University of Tennessee (AgResearch)
 Grant Award:..... \$147,568
 Matching Funds: \$147,567
Total Amount:..... \$295,135

Develop northern bobwhite population goals for target sites within the longleaf pine range in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Virginia to support adaptive management. Project will engage local partners, including state wildlife agencies, to collect habitat and population data, and will

produce predictive statistical models that relate population abundance to habitat structure, landscape characteristics and management actions.

Ocala Regional Implementation Team (FL) - VI

Grantee: Alachua Conservation Trust
 Grant Award:..... \$300,000
 Matching Funds: \$300,000
Total Amount:..... \$600,000

Accelerate longleaf pine habitat restoration on public and private lands in north central Florida to benefit the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, and imperiled reptiles, such as the gopher tortoise. Project will engage private landowners in longleaf restoration through a prescribed burn association, and will restore and enhance more than 8,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat, including key sites on the Ocala National Forest and Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

Restoring and Managing Longleaf in Northwest Georgia

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Award:..... \$135,000
 Matching Funds: \$135,000
Total Amount:..... \$270,000

Restore, improve and maintain montane longleaf pine

habitat on public and private lands and collect monitoring data on the northern pine snake and other key terrestrial species in northeast Alabama and Northwest Georgia. Project will impact more than 35,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat through plantings, thinnings and prescribed burning.

Longleaf Pine Hurricane Recovery on Private Lands (FL)

Grantee: Florida Forest Service

Grant Award:..... \$75,000

Matching Funds: \$77,500

Total Amount:..... \$152,500

Provide outreach and education, technical assistance and financial assistance to private forest landowners in the Florida panhandle who were impacted during Hurricane Michael. Project will engage 150 private forest landowners through two workshops, plant 300 acres of longleaf pine and enhance an additional 800 acres with prescribed fire, thinning and other management treatments.

Improving Habitat for At-Risk Species in Southwest Alabama Longleaf Forests - III

Grantee: Alabama Forestry Foundation

Grant Award:..... \$300,000

Matching Funds: \$300,000

Total Amount:..... \$600,000

Engage family forest owners in south Alabama to restore and enhance longleaf pine forests to improve habitat for at-risk species, such as gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake and eastern hognose snake. Project will reach and educate landowners through direct mail and social media marketing, workshops and field days, resulting in 2,600 acres of longleaf planting, prescribed burning, and invasive species control. The grantee will work with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to collect gopher tortoise population data by facilitating and conducting surveys on properties of willing private landowners engaged through this project.

Pee Dee River-Winyah Bay Forest Restoration Partnership (SC) - II

Grantee: National Audubon Society

Grant Award:..... \$299,693

Matching Funds: \$299,693

Total Amount:..... \$599,386

Improve and increase targeted outreach efforts and engage forest landowners in sustainable forestry, enhance habitat for at-risk species, and conserve and improve management of 7,000 acres of bottomland hardwood and longleaf pine forests in the Pee Dee River and Winyah Bay landscape in South Carolina. Project will develop management plans, enroll landowners in Tree Farm certification, establish and enhance longleaf pine and bottomland hardwood habitats.



Black pine snake

Measuring Bachman’s Sparrow Response to Longleaf Pine Management (FL, GA, NC)

Grantee: Cornell University

Grant Award:..... \$95,469

Total Amount:..... \$95,469

Develop a methodological framework to use citizen science and field collected data by project partners to evaluate and measure Bachman’s sparrow response to habitat restoration and management efforts at scales relevant to the species’ population. Project will estimate a region-wide baseline for occupancy and potentially evaluate trends in occupancy and relative abundance.

Restoring Longleaf Pine on Private Lands in Mississippi

Grantee: Mississippi Forestry Association

Grant Award:..... \$300,000

Matching Funds: \$300,000

Total Amount:..... \$600,000

Engage private landowners to restore and enhance longleaf pine forests on private lands in southern Mississippi to benefit birds such as northern bobwhite and Bachman’s sparrow, and imperiled reptiles such as gopher tortoise and black pine snake. Project will reach 300 private landowners through workshops and technical assistance, and restore and manage 2,000 acres of longleaf habitat through plantings and prescribed burning, including with the support of a veteran’s fire crew.