

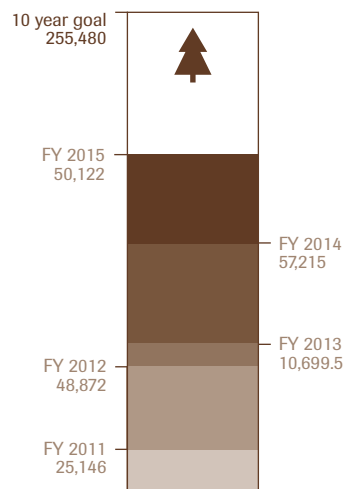


Healthy longleaf pine stands in the Osceola National Forest. © David Bryant, U.S. Forest Service

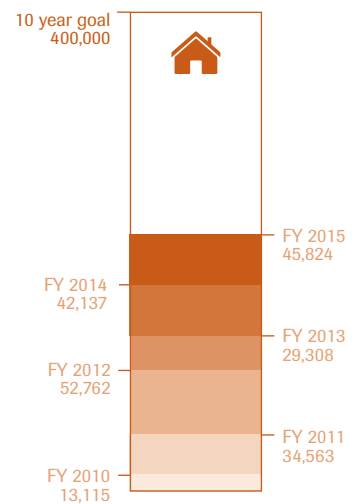
The 567,800 acres in Florida’s Osceola National Forest and adjoining lands within the Accelerating Longleaf Pine Restoration CFLR have substantial timber resources and a history of dangerous fires. CFLR activities that reduce fire risk also support job opportunities, bio-energy development, wildlife habitat, and the health of natural water systems.

Partners

- Florida Forest Service
- Georgia Department of Nature Resources, Wildlife Resources Division
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners (GOAL)
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- National Wildlife Federation
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Okefenokee Adventures
- Rayonier
- Superior Pine Products
- The Conservation Fund
- The Langdale Company
- The Nature Conservancy
- Toledo Manufacturing
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
- U.S. Forest Service: Osceola National Forest



Wood Supply
CCF of timber sold



Restoration With Fire and Fuels Treatment
Acres of hazardous fuels reduced



Sheldon Wilson

Sheldon Wilson, owner of WCC Services in Winter Park, does not equivocate about the value of the Accelerating Longleaf Pine CFLR project.

“This forest is healthier because of the work we’ve done here, made possible by the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program.”

Over the past year his contracting firm has employed forest workers to prepare sites in the Osceola National Forest for controlled burns.

“We’ve treated thousands of acres, mulching and roller chopping the palmettos that have spread through these longleaf pine forests due to a lack of natural fires.”

At its peak, America’s longleaf pine forests covered more than 92 million acres—an area nearly as large as the state of California. But as America grew, so too did the pressure on longleaf pine. By the turn of the 20th century, most mature longleaf was gone, leaving a region that had long depended upon forest resources struggling. Today, less than 4.4 million acres remain—a paltry 5 percent—making it one of the most endangered ecosystems in North America.

An icon of this nearly lost American forest type is the red-cockaded woodpecker, one of the most endangered birds in North America. These woodpeckers depend on the longleaf pine as a nesting tree, where they can raise their young in cavities protected from marauding snakes and other predators.

Fortunately, thinning and controlled burning projects like those in the Accelerating Longleaf Pine Restoration CFLR have proven effective in promoting the breeding success of red-cockaded woodpeckers elsewhere in the South.

“It gives me a great deal of satisfaction knowing that we are helping these birds, and other critters that depend on longleaf pine, while providing a good living to my employees at the same time,” says Wilson.

In Osceola National Forest alone, about 50% of the landscape is degraded due to fire exclusion and hydrologic alterations. These practices have resulted in destructive emergency wildfires; between 1998 and 2010 wildfire suppression in the Osceola National Forest cost \$31 million.

The Accelerating Longleaf Pine CFLR is an outgrowth of a larger cooperative effort, called the Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners (GOAL), formed to address the wildfire issues that have plagued the area. This association coordinates around the management of nearly 2 million acres of federal, state, and private forest lands in five counties within Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia, which includes the Osceola National Forest and the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.



2015 Results

- 141 jobs created or maintained annually
- \$3.8 million in total labor income
- 56,946 acres of wildlife habitat restored
- 948 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds removed



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Planting longleaf pine seedlings in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program area.
 © Jason Matthew Walker, Lake City Reporter

Healthy longleaf pine forests benefit native species, such as the Bachman’s sparrow.
 © Mark Vukovich, U.S. Forest Service