

Conservation Reserve Program

LONGLEAF PINE INITIATIVE

Wildlife Restoration | Carbon Sequestration | Risk Mitigation



Why Choose CRP? You Benefit. Land, Water and Wildlife Benefit.

The Longleaf Pine Initiative restores and enhances longleaf pine ecosystems. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) provides farmers and landowners with initiatives like this to achieve many farming and conservation goals. Whatever the conservation challenge – soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement – CRP is a proven land performance and management solution.

Why Choose Longleaf Pines?

The Longleaf Pine Initiative was established to convert suitable, environmentally sensitive cropland to longleaf pine forests. The extent of longleaf pines has declined dramatically over the last century - from nearly 90 million acres to the current 4 million acres. Since the mid-1990s that decline has been reversed and the area of longleaf pine forests is now gradually increasing with CRP being a significant contributor to this effort.

Affiliated Practice:

CP-36 Longleaf Pine Establishment

For more information about this individual practice, visit: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

When restored to full ecological function, longleaf pine forests are among the most diverse forest ecosystems in the world. Longleaf pine forests provide unique wildlife habitat. There are 36 species – including the endangered gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, and red cockaded woodpecker that are dependent on the longleaf pine ecosystem. Longleaf pine forests are also more resistant to insects, disease, fire, and other risks than other southern pine forests.



Longleaf Pine Initiative Benefits

Landowners can achieve significant economic benefits through sustainable forest management practices. Restoring and managing longleaf pine forests, including the native groundcover plants, enhances wildlife habitat for game birds as well as numerous threatened and endangered species. Longleaf also protects water quality while producing a renewable resource -- high quality timber.

Financial Benefits

- 10-15 years of annual rental payments
- Payments covering 90% of the eligible costs of establishing the wetland restoration practice
 - 50% from a Cost-Share Payment and
 - 40% from a Practice Incentive Payment (PIP)
- Sign-up Incentive Payment (SIP) up to \$75/acre

Impact

- Creates wildlife habitat for numerous endangered and valuable species and provides corridors for wildlife travel
- Promotes carbon sequestration
- Reduces risk of catastrophic loss to natural damaging agents, such as hurricanes, pine beetles, fusiform rust, fire, and ice
- Virtually fusiform-free, longleaf may produce more usable wood than some other pines, even at a young age
- Longleaf is more “wind firm,” even in hurricanes, and can stand more ice than slash pine
- Creates quail-friendly habitat for hunting as well as grassland and shrub bird habitat

For more information, contact your local USDA Farm Service Agency office: <http://offices.usda.gov>