307.26 Longleaf Pine Initiative

Initiative Name and Acronym: Longleaf Pine Initiative (LLPI)

Initiative Description/Summary

The LLPI provides private landowners in approved States with assistance to improve forest health and enhance wildlife habitat in the longleaf pine forest landscape.

LLPI is governed by a board of directors, chaired by the RCs and composed of the State Conservationists of included States. Adoption and modification of this guidance must be reviewed and approved through the board of directors, assisted by the initiative coordinator.

Approved or Participating States

State participating in LLPI are Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. State Conservationists (STCs) will allocate LLPI funds only within the LLPI boundary as shown in the map included in the last page of this appendix.

Program Contact Information

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ProTracts Requirements

1. Subaccount Guidance
   State Conservationists (STCs) will select the "Long Leaf Pine Initiative" account type in ProTracts for subaccounts related to the LLPI.

2. Application, Evaluation, and Ranking Tool (AERT) Guidance – Choice Lists and Matrix Data

a. Approved Land Types – States must assign the following land uses as eligible for this initiative:

Required Land Use
Forest

b. Approved Natural Resource Concerns

Degraded Plant Condition
Excessive Plant Pest Pressure
Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health

Inadequate Habitat For Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Degradation-Food, Water, Cover/Shelter and Habitat Continuity/Space

Note: No additional resource concerns may be added or used in ProTracts AERT to support this initiative.

c. Core Practices Required to be Offered for This Initiative

Practice Name	Practice Code
Forest Stand Improvement	666
Prescribed Burning	338
Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats	643
Tree/Shrub Establishment	612

Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)

Practice Code	Practice Name
106	Forest Management Plan
112	Prescribed Burning Plan

d. Supporting Practices That States May Offer to Support This Initiative

Practice Name	Practice Code
Access Control	472
Brush Management	314
Conservation Cover	327
Early Successional Habitat Development/Management	647
Fence	382
Firebreak	394
Forest Trails and Landings	655
Fuel Break	383
Herbaceous Weed Control	315
Integrated Pest Management	595
Silvopasture Establishment	381
Tree/Shrub Pruning	660
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	490
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	645
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	644
Woody Residue Treatment	384

- **AERT Practice-Resource Concern Matrix**
  States will populate the approved conservation practices in the ProTracts AERT and associate all core and supporting practices with resource concerns where CPPE values are positive.

3. AERT Guidance – Ranking Criteria Questions

The total ranking points associated with initiative are to be distributed in AERT and approved ranking questions as follows:

AERT Level	Maximum Points	Point Percentage
National Ranking Questions	250	25%
State Ranking Questions	400	40%
Local Ranking Questions	250	25%
Efficiency Score	100	10%
Total points for this initiative:	1,000	100%

National-Level Ranking Criteria Requirements

National ranking questions are established in ProTracts by National Headquarters.

State-Level Ranking Criteria Requirements

State ranking questions are established by National Headquarters, but entered into ProTracts by States.

States must continue to include all the following State-level questions and points in ProTracts AERT for each approved subaccount. These questions should be used in conjunction with the State questions approved prior to FY 2014. This will help to ensure better targeting and that States are able to meet annual goals of 90 percent of their allocation to priority counties.

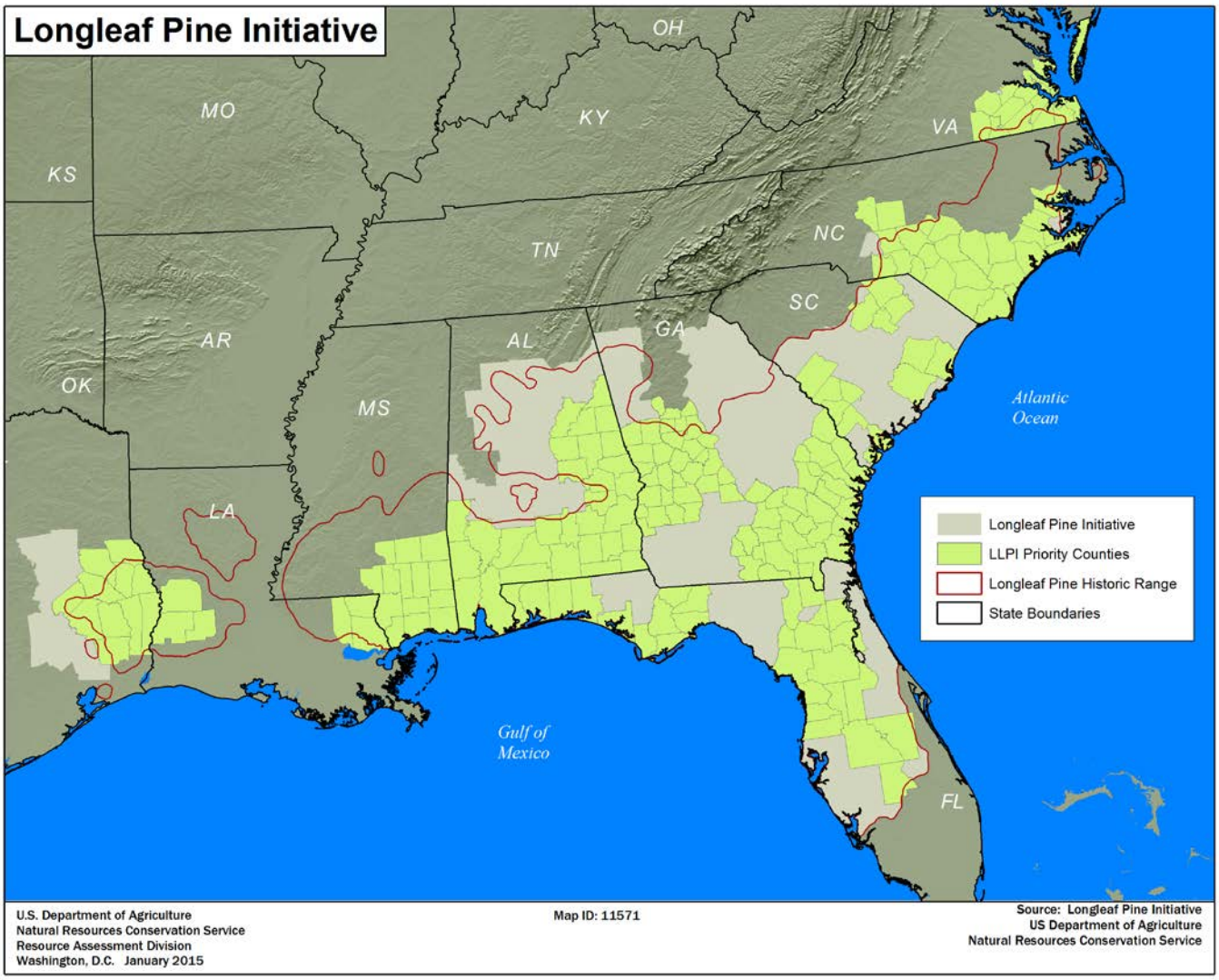
- Does this application pertain to land that is contiguous to a protected area such as a national forest, military base, national wildlife refuge, State forest, heritage reserve, or land protected by a perpetual conservation easement (e.g., WRP, FRPP, GRP, and TNC)?
  (Recommend High points – 50 pts.)
- Is the field (acreage) where practice installation will take place located within a State-designated priority county (or counties)? List of State priority counties – (See attached map.)
  (Recommend the Highest points – 100 pts.)
- Will offered area connect two or more blocks of longleaf pine?
  (Recommend Medium points – 25 pts.)
- Are the offered acres adjacent to an existing longleaf pine ecosystem?
  (Recommend Medium points – 25 pts.)

Local-Level Ranking Criteria Requirements

Local ranking questions are approved and entered into ProTracts at the State level.

Required Use of Identified Priority Feature in Toolkit

Planners have the ability within Toolkit to identify priorities, including longleaf pine and gopher tortoise, for scheduled practices. All conservation plans written for longleaf pine or WLFW gopher tortoise, regardless of initiative funding, should utilize the identified priority tracking features built into Toolkit. This feature will allow complete reporting of accomplishments for longleaf pine and gopher tortoise regardless of financial assistance. If a landowner is participating in both the Longleaf Pine Initiative and WLFW gopher tortoise, select the priority based on the funding mechanism (if applicable) or, if CTA only, based on the landowner's primary priority. Instructions for using the "Identified Priority" feature in Toolkit may be found in the Toolkit user guides.


Longleaf Pine Initiative
OH
MO
KY
VA
KS
TN
NC
SC
AR
AL
GA
OK
MS
Atlantic Ocean
LA
Longleaf Pine Initiative
LLPI Priority Counties
Longleaf Pine Historic Range
State Boundaries
Gulf of Mexico
FL
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Resource Assessment Division
Washington, D.C. January 2015
Map ID: 11571
Source: Longleaf Pine Initiative
US Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service