

## 307.26 Longleaf Pine Initiative

### **Initiative Name and Acronym: Longleaf Pine Initiative (LLPI)**

### **Initiative Description**

The LLPI assists private landowners in approved states with improving forest health and enhancing wildlife habitat in the longleaf pine forest landscape. [The Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Restoration FY 2020–2024 Implementation Strategy](#) (Implementation Strategy) describes the LLPI conservation goals, objectives, and actions.

The LLPI is governed by a board of directors, chaired by the regional conservationists and composed of the state conservationists of participating states. Adoption and modification of this guidance must be reviewed and approved through the board of directors in collaboration with the initiative coordinator.

### **Program Contact Information**

For questions specific to LLPI, please contact the conservation initiatives coordinator for forestry in the Areawide Planning Branch or the branch chief of the Areawide Planning Branch. For general programmatic questions, please contact the branch chief of the Financial Assistance Program Division Programs Branch.

### **Approved or Participating States**

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia (only within [the LLPI boundary](#)).

### **Business Tool Requirements**

This guidance establishes action items to be completed by state conservationists to support LLPI.

1. **ProTracts Guidance:**

State conservationists must select the “Long Leaf Pine Initiative” account type in ProTracts for administration of funds related to the LLPI.

2. **CART Ranking Guidance:**

States must use LLPI national ranking templates and guidance to develop the ranking pools for LLPI. These templates and guidance are available in [440 NI 310](#), Exhibits M and N (for the Conservation Stewardship Program), and Exhibits U and V (for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program).

The national templates provide the approved land uses and primary resource concerns. The default weightings for each resource concern category and subcategory on the template reflect the relative priority of the concerns. To prioritize state-specific primary natural resource concerns, states may adjust the resource concern weightings as needed within the ranges identified on the LLPI national ranking template. The national ranking guidance provides the applicability and ranking questions.

### 3. Funding and Allocation Guidance:

States should refer to the goals identified in the Implementation Strategy as a basis for State Resource Assessment funding requests. Funds for LLPI projects may not be used for general program funding. If a state cannot use its LLPI-dedicated funding, funds must be returned to national headquarters with the appropriate amount of technical assistance funds.

#### **Core and Supporting Practices and Activities**

Contracts developed under LLPI must include at least one of the applicable core practices or must be completing a conservation system that supports core practices that are documented as already applied on the land under contract. Applicable core practices and activity for LLPI are listed below.

#### **Core Conservation Practices**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
338	Prescribed Burning
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
666	Forest Stand Improvement

#### **Core Conservation Planning Activity**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
106	Forest Management Plan

Contracts may also include supporting practices and activities. If a supporting practice has potential adverse short-term impacts, these must be adequately mitigated through the planning process. Applicable supporting practices and activities for LLPI are listed below.

#### **Supporting Conservation Practices**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
314	Brush Management
315	Herbaceous Weed Control
327	Conservation Cover
342	Critical Area Planting
381	Silvopasture
382	Fence
383	Fuel Break
384	Woody Residue Treatment

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
394	Firebreak
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
472	Access Control
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
595	Pest Management Conservation System
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
649	Structures for Wildlife
655	Forest Trails and Landings
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning

#### **Supporting Conservation Planning Activity**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
199	Conservation Plan

#### **Supporting Design and Implementation Activities**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
144	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Design
148	Pollinator Habitat Design
160	Prescribed Burning Design
165	Forest Management Practice Design

#### **Supporting Conservation and Evaluation Monitoring Activity**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Name</b>
223	Forest Management Assessment