**Project Abstracts of NFWF Funded Longleaf Restoration in east Texas**

**Administered by the Fiduciaries and the Project Coordinator**

**2013 Project Summary – Funding Request to NFWF by The Nature Conservancy acting as fiduciary for the Texas Longleaf Taskforce**

**TNC Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Preserve and TLIT Coordinator**

1) Project Overview:

The Project will advance the range wide goals of *America’s Longleaf Initiative* by accomplishing important longleaf restoration work on acres within two Significant Geographic Areas of east Texas. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Natural Resource Conservation Service have identified the longleaf system as of high priority for restoration and management. Programs to assist private landowners are in place for cost-share program opportunities. The project will also support the addition of a Longleaf Project Coordinator for Texas for all aspects of longleaf conservation, restoration and management. This position will coordinate with public agencies including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NRCS and the National Forests & Grasslands in Texas as well as private industrial and non-industrial landowners.

Within the Big Thicket National Preserve SGA this Project will fulfill reforestation and botanical work on the Roy E. Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary managed for longleaf conservation by The Nature Conservancy and adjacent lands managed under conservation easement by The Campbell Group. Funded work will include 185 acres of longleaf regeneration, 545 acres improved by woody plant control and 15 acres of understory restoration. All described work contributes to the national effort through the America’s Great Outdoor’s efforts to support this southern forest system which had dwindled to 3% of its original 90 million acres.

**2014 Request to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation by Texas A&M Forest Service acting as fiduciary for the Texas Longleaf Implementation Team (TLIT).**

**Longleaf Ridge SGA**

Project Description: Target on-the-ground restoration efforts, coordinated technical assistance, education, outreach, and improved organizational capacity within the Longleaf Ridge Significant Geographic Area (SGA).

Abstract: This project will promote the restoration of 650 acres to new longleaf stands and enhancement of over 3,800 existing longleaf acres through woody plant control to improve rare and natural plant communities. Outreach and technical assistance is a key component of this project and efforts will strive to educate 100 private landowners on longleaf ecology and related resources through county landowner association meetings, field days, training workshops, demonstration tours, fact sheets, informational packets. Targeted technical assistance will seek to engage 5 - 10 willing private landowners in stewardship programs beneficial to longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and enhancement. Organizational capacity will be enhanced through the hiring of a coordinator to interface with team members and potential partners, strengthen public/private relations, and coordinate efforts with existing longleaf conservation initiatives. Lastly, a Landowner Suitability Geodatabase will be created to support and target future restoration efforts. Willing landowners with suitable tracts (size, soil, and location), interest, and commitment to perform silvicultural and wildlife management practices to promote longleaf pine ecosystems will be identified and targeted.

**2015 Project Request to NFWF by Texas A&M Forest Service acting as fiduciary for the TLIT**

**Big Thicket SGA**

**Project Description**

This project will focus on the ground longleaf restoration and enhancement efforts, coordinate education and

technical assistance, and extend organizational capacity for the Texas Longleaf Implementation Team to promote longleaf conservation in Texas.

**Project Abstract**

This project will facilitate the restoration of 950 acres to new longleaf stands and the enhancement of 4,900 acres of existing longleaf through woody plant control (prescribed burning, forest stand improvement). Outreach and technical assistance efforts will strive to educate 100 private landowners on longleaf ecology and related resources through county landowner association meetings, SFI sponsored landowner workshops, small focused field workshops, training sessions, and fact sheets.

Targeted technical assistance will seek to engage 5 willing private landowners in stewardship, and

possibly forest certification programs, beneficial to longleaf pine ecosystem restoration, enhancement,

and sustainability. Organizational capacity will be enhanced through extending the time of the TLPIT

coordinator through June 2017 to interface with team members and potential partners, strengthen

public/private relations, and coordinate efforts with existing longleaf conservation initiatives. Lastly, the

Landowner Suitability Geodatabase will be updated to support and target future restoration efforts within

the Big Thicket SGA. Willing landowners with suitable tracts (size, soil, and location), interest, and

commitment to perform silvicultural and wildlife management practices to promote longleaf pine

ecosystems will be identified and targeted.

**2016 Request – PENDING Request to NFWF by Texas A&M Forest Service acting as fiduciary on behalf of the TLIT.**

**Longleaf Ridge SGA**

**Project Description**

Focusing coordinated education, outreach, technical and financial assistance through the Texas Longleaf Implementation Team to restore, enhance, and conserve the longleaf pine ecosystem within the Longleaf Ridge SGA. This project will build on the momentum generated from the FY 14 Longleaf Stewardship Fund project.

**Project Abstract**

This project will promote the restoration of 750 acres (550 acres through financial assistance) to new longleaf stands and the enhancement of 3,800 acres of existing longleaf through woody plant control (prescribed burning, forest stand improvement) to improve rare and endemic plant communities. Outreach and technical assistance is a key component of this project and efforts will strive to educate 100 private landowners on longleaf ecology and related resources through county landowner association meetings, training workshops, and a redesigned and updated website. Targeted technical assistance will seek to engage 5 willing private landowners in stewardship programs beneficial to longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and enhancement. Organizational capacity will be maintained through supporting a coordinator to interface with team members and potential partners, strengthen public/private relations, and coordinate efforts with existing longleaf conservation initiatives. Lastly, conservation easements will be facilitated to conserve existing, high quality longleaf pine habitat.

**2016 Request – PENDING Request to NFWF by Texas A&M Forest Service acting as fiduciary on behalf of the TLIT.**

**Big Thicket SGA**

**Project Description**

Focusing coordinated education, outreach, technical and financial assistance through the Texas Longleaf Pine Implementation Team to restore and enhance the longleaf pine ecosystem within the Big Thicket SGA. This project will build on the momentum generated from the FY 15 Longleaf Stewardship Fund project.

**Project Abstract**

This project will facilitate the restoration of almost 650 acres to new longleaf stands and the enhancement of over 3,200 acres of existing longleaf through woody plant control (prescribed burning, forest stand improvement) to improve rare and endemic plant communities. Outreach and technical assistance is a key component of this project and efforts will strive to educate 100 private landowners on longleaf ecology and related resources through county landowner association meetings, SFI sponsored landowner workshops, small focused field workshops, training sessions, and an updated website. Targeted technical assistance will seek to engage 5 willing private landowners in stewardship programs beneficial to longleaf pine ecosystem restoration and enhancement.

While this project will not directly support the TLPIT Coordinator, organizational capacity will be enhanced since that position will continue to interface with team members and potential partners, strengthen public/private relations, and coordinate efforts with existing longleaf conservation initiatives.