

Texas Forestry Association's Programs that Address Longleaf Pine Ecosystems

The Texas Forestry Association is a non-profit trade association representing over 2,800 members who grow, manage, harvest and process forest resources. TFA was founded in 1914, and throughout the history of the association, TFA has and continues to offer programs that support the stewardship of the forest resources of East Texas, along with the outreach efforts that communicate the benefits of forest management that include wildlife habitat, recreational activities, and improved water quality.

TFA is a member of the Texas Longleaf Implementation Team and in turn supports the efforts of establishing Longleaf ecosystems in East Texas by making available access to the association's meeting facilities in Lufkin, TX, and by promoting the events and the longleaf tree planting funding program in East Texas to the entire TFA membership through the weekly emails and the monthly publication of "Texas Forestry." There are many committees and councils that operate under the TFA umbrella. The Councils and programs that have been made aware of or assisted with the promotion of the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem include:

TFA Environmental Committee – addresses issues facing the forestry community that include the health of the forest, water, endangered species, etc. The committee is currently working with the State Comptroller's Office on the listing of the Louisiana Pine Snake as an endangered species occurring in longleaf ecosystems.

Texas Forest Landowner Council – serves to improve the cooperation and communications among county landowner associations in East Texas whose members are interested in managing their forests for wood products, as well as, wildlife and for environmental reasons. The delegates representing the county landowner associations meet six times each year and through this venue are able to communicate the information that landowners seek in planting and managing their forest resource. Programs have been presented to the delegates of the Council on planting Longleaf Pine.

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI®) – TFA serves as the state sponsor of the national Sustainable Forestry Initiative program. The Texas SFI program is actively involved in public awareness, landowner outreach, and continuing education for loggers and forest managers. The goals of the Texas Longleaf Implementation Team have been shared and used in the training programs reaching loggers and forest managers.

Tree Farm – is a nationwide program of private landowners who are dedicated to growing trees for forest products, wildlife, soil and water protection, and other benefits. TFA has served as the state sponsor of the Texas Tree Farm program since 1954. Information on available tree planting programs is shared with the over 2,100 Texas Tree Farmers and each year an educational tour of the outstanding Texas Tree Farm is held to demonstrate the effectiveness of good stewardship practices that are being employed by our members. Past tours of Outstanding Tree Farms have included information on the management and planting of Longleaf Pine.

Texas Burn Managers Council – serves to provide continuing educational classes for certified burners to maintain their licenses under the Texas Department of Agricultural Prescribed Burn Board requirements. TFA also supports the increased use of prescribed burning on private ownerships under the direction of a certified burn manager and works to ensure that agency regulations encourage and not discourage the

use of prescribed fire as a management tool. TFA is currently working to change the TCEQ air quality rules that address prescribed burning to establish and recognize certified burn managers, who meet the Texas Department of Agriculture's Prescribed Burn Board's rules, are able to burn without added restrictions.

Project Learning Tree (PLT) – TFA, in partnership with the Texas A&M Forest Service, serves as the state coordinator of the national Project Learning Tree program in Texas. PLT activities are used in forestry field days for students and the Teachers Conservation Institute which is held annually in East Texas for educators teaching pre-K – 12th grade. Pine ecosystems that include the management and establishment of Longleaf Pine forests have and are part of this educational program.