



## National Wild Turkey Federation's Efforts To Help Conserve the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem in East Texas during 2013-16

National Wild Turkey Federation has collaborated with many state, federal and non-governmental partners to promote and establish longleaf forests in the region during this period. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, USDA Forest Service, Texas A&M Forest Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Longleaf Alliance, Texas Longleaf Implementation Team, Campbell Global Group, Northeast Texas Conservation Delivery Network, and The Nature Conservancy have been partnered with in various ways to advance longleaf conservation.

Most of the collaboration has been through outreach and education activities to help promote awareness about the need and opportunity for longleaf restoration as identified in the Federation's Southern Pineywoods Focal Landscape strategy as part of our national **Save the Habitat. Save the Hunt.** initiative (see <http://www.nwtf.org/about/big-six/southern-piney-woods>). However, through these various partnering activities/projects which are ongoing, the Federation has helped to fund some amount of prescribed burning, some native and non-native invasive plant species removal through mechanical and chemical treatments, and some native herbaceous plant community work through administration of federal grants. It is estimated that these efforts have resulted in ~1,000 acres per year being positively impacted in longleaf country (total of ~3,000 acres being conserved since 2013); however, National Wild Turkey Federation has a much more formalized longleaf conservation program within the region across the state line in Louisiana (dedicated NWTF Project Forester) with specific habitat restoration projects which we hope to eventually replicate in Texas with increased capacity as a long term strategy.

National Wild Turkey Federation

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