2016 Summary - Texas Longleaf Implementation Team

This partnership promoted our 50% cost share program (Forestland Stewards grant, NFWF/IP) to landowners in Longleaf Ridge and Big Thicket SGA’s. USFWS Partners grants and NRCS EQIP funds advanced private land restoration. National Park Service, US Forest Service, TNC, and TIMOs all restored acres to longleaf. Since 2013, this partnership has reported an increase of 8,500 acres of new longleaf, a 15 % gain in longleaf dominated acreage in east Texas.

Outreach targeted landowners, consultants, and agency staff through assistance trips and hosted events. Team members spoke at land owner meetings, trade events and conferences. We hosted Longleaf 101 and outreach training: Yale University “Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively”. We partnered with RMS to host a field day seeing their strategies to control yaupon and establish longleaf. The RMS day included engagement and a visit to the Alabama Coushatta Tribe longleaf project and a cultural demonstration on basketmaking by Elllott Abbey. We launched a redesigned website (**txlongleaf.org**) hosted by Texas A&M Institute of Renewable Natural Resources. Texas NRCS videographer helped produce videos of Texas landowners doing restoration, featured on the website.

Texas A&M Forest Service provided leadership administering grants, and doing restoration on state forests including development of a longleaf orchard and native grass nursery. Campbell Global continued establishing longleaf and devoting acreage to conservation easements. Their forester, Brian Gowin, serves on our LIT and the regional Longleaf Partnership Council. The Nature Conservancy, US Forest Service and NRCS are producing understory plants, supporting private land restoration. The Texas Comptroller’s Office is supporting research to determine the presence of the Louisiana Pine Snake, recently proposed by USFWS as “Threatened”.