

Longleaf Pine Incentive Program (LLPI)

A Landscape Initiative Program



Overview

Longleaf pine forests once covered millions of acres throughout the Southeastern United States. Today, only a few thousand acres of this vital habitat remains.

To help sustain, enhance and restore longleaf pine forests, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the national Longleaf Pine Initiative, offers financial assistance to landowners for implementation of conservation practices that maintain, improve and restore the longleaf pine ecosystem in east Texas. Restoring and enhancing Longleaf pine forests serves to improve critical wildlife habitat, as well as the health, sustainability and profitability of privately owned forests.

The initiative area includes the entire historic range of the Longleaf pine forests in Texas. Environmental outcomes will include improving herbaceous understory conditions in Longleaf pine forests, and improving habitat conditions in existing Longleaf pine forests, as well as establishing new Longleaf pine forests.

NRCS Conservation Funding and Practices

The Longleaf Pine initiative will incorporate both technical and financial assistance to help landowners in Texas improve habitat on agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest and Tribal land.

Working directly with non-industrial, private forest landowners, NRCS uses a variety of conservation systems to restore, improve, or maintain understory and overstory of Longleaf pine ecosystems. The conservation systems used include forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, restoration and management of rare or declining habitats, and tree/shrub establishment.

The primary program used to support the objectives of the LLPI is NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which

provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to plan and implement conservation practices that improve Longleaf pine forest health and/or establish new Longleaf pine forest plantings.

Through the LLPI, landowners can qualify for up to 75 percent payment rates to restore or enhance Longleaf pine forests. For many, these payments help reestablish Longleaf pine plantings and defray the cost of seedlings, plantings and site preparation.

Benefits to Resources and the Public

Healthy Longleaf forests yield improved water quality, wildlife habitat and are more resistant to insect and disease infestation, wildfires and storm damage than other pine species. In addition, properly managed Longleaf pine forests yield good economic returns for landowners through highend Longleaf pine timber production.

Implementing conservation plans on Longleaf pine forests will help improve wildlife habitat and will contribute to the long-term sustainability of nonindustrial, private forests, which will provide environmental, economic and wildlife benefits for generations to come. In addition, healthy Longleaf pine ecosystems provide wildlife habitat for game species and nongame species alike and support – within a single square meter of forest – dozens of species of wildflowers, shrubs, grasses and ferns.



**NRCS and
 conservation
 partners
 are helping
 private
 landowners
 restore
 longleaf
 pine forest
 ecosystems.**



Get Started with USDA

USDA provides technical assistance at no cost to agricultural and forestry producers from USDA Service Centers serving every county in Texas. Our Service Centers are currently open for business. Visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find the contact information for your local FSA or NRCS office. Check the status of [your local USDA Service Center](#), then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

Visit [NRCS programs](#) web page to learn more about USDA's financial and technical conservation assistance.

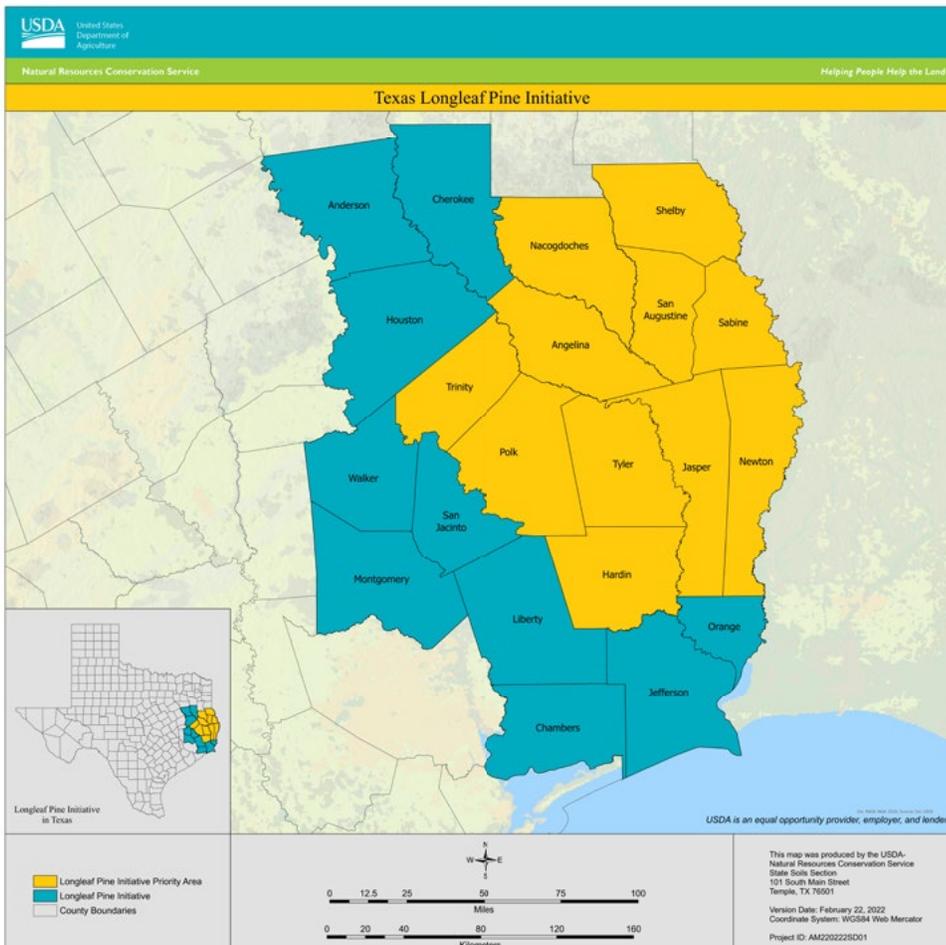
How to Apply

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, to be considered for current funding, applications need to be received by April 29, 2022. Funding is available through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), which provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. To apply, producers should contact their [local USDA Service Center](#).

EQIP Longleaf Pine Initiative Eligibility Area

In East Texas, the counties eligible for longleaf restoration are: Anderson, Angelina, Chambers, Cherokee, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler and Walker.

The counties shaded in yellow on the map are the focal are counties, and the and counties shaded in blue are the non-focal area. Land units in the non-focal areas will be considers based on the suitability of soils for longleaf establishment.



Texas

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

tx.nrcs.usda.gov/



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

TX FEBRUARY 2022