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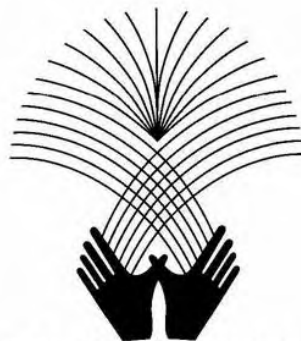


Longleaf Pine: *Making Dollar\$ and Sense*



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Hattiesburg, Mississippi



THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

www.longleafalliance.org



THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AT THE JONES CENTER

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Abstract: Interest in restoration of longleaf pine ecosystems and conservation-oriented management of existing longleaf pine systems – for both forest and wildlife values – is increasing. There is, however, a scarcity of well-trained individuals to carry out such management goals, and experience is difficult to obtain. Most academic programs in natural resources focus on specific and often intensive aspects of resource management (e.g., timber or game management) and rarely integrate conservation objectives as a primary consideration in the management of natural resources. In addition, few academic programs provide practical, hands-on training in land management. The Jones Center is uniquely situated to provide such training given the experience and expertise of our land management staff, the Ichauway property, and collaborative relationships with a variety of other individuals and organizations with significant expertise, and in 2001 we began a conservation management apprenticeship training program. Our intent is to train professionals who will eventually work in conservation-oriented management of public and private lands in the Southeast. All interns are *actively* involved in land management at Ichauway with a focus on ecologically sound resource management. Those trained in the program become competent and experienced practitioners of numerous aspects of conservation-oriented land management, from forest, wildlife and wetland management, to supervision of employees and contractors, to equipment and road maintenance. To date four individuals have participated in the apprenticeship program (no more than two at any time). We will provide a description of the program and activities, and share perspectives of those who have participated in the training.