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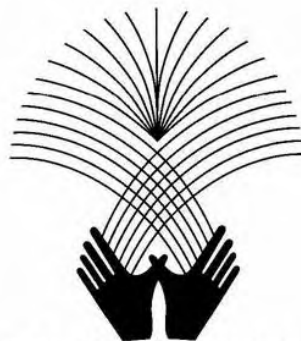


Longleaf Pine: *Making Dollar\$ and Sense*



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Hattiesburg, Mississippi



THE LONGLEAF ALLIANCE

www.longleafalliance.org



SOUTH CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY FOREST CONSERVATION PROJECT

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Abstract: Conservation of southeastern US coastal plain ecosystems is a global priority because of their high levels of biological diversity and rare and endemic species. Significant remnant longleaf pine forests, extensive riparian forests, and isolated wetlands support rich herbaceous floras, are essential habitat for neotropical migrants and rare herpetofauna. These ecosystems have been shaped by the interaction of two ecological processes: fire and hydrology. The 2.9 million-acre Lowcountry Forest Conservation Project on the coastal plain of South Carolina supports ecologically-viable examples of these communities and ecosystem, in a relatively intact forested landscape. The project area is at risk from a combination of threats: urban development, incompatible forestry practices, inappropriate fire regimes, altered hydrology in three rivers and climate change. While serious, these threats can be abated by a multi-faceted conservation approach. The project is a partnership of Clemson University, Ducks Unlimited, the Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center, Lowcountry Open Land Trust, South Carolina Coastal Conservation League, The Conservation Fund and The Nature Conservancy. One of the goals of this project is to create and disseminate economically and ecologically viable methods for conservation-based forest management on private lands, including restoration of degraded lands. The partnership was designed to provide a balanced approach that allocates funding and resources that can set into place longer-term actions that will succeed in sustaining this forested landscape and its biological diversity. Funding for the project is provided by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.