



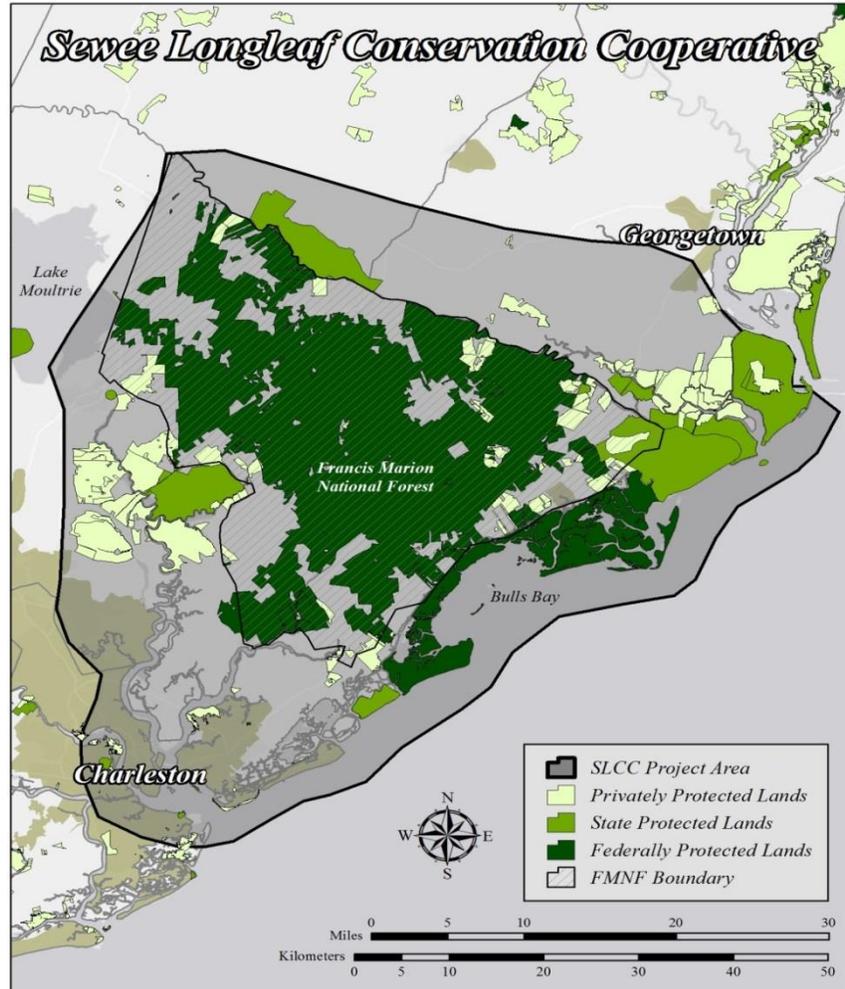
Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative

Longleaf Pine forests once covered large areas of South Carolina's coastal plain. Today this ecosystem survives only in isolated pockets, but many are working to change this. Through the America's Longleaf initiative (see www.americaslongleaf.org for more details), partnerships are forming across the southeast to restore longleaf pine forests. These partnerships have largely been supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Longleaf Stewardship grant program.



The Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative (SLCC) formed in 2012 after The Nature Conservancy received grant funding from NFWF to initiate this collaboration on the coast of South Carolina. Public and private organizations are uniting with private landowners to share resources and work across boundaries to accomplish more effective longleaf restoration.

The SLCC is working in parts of Charleston, Berkeley, Williamsburg, and Georgetown Counties.



The anchor of the SLCC is the Francis Marion National Forest. The US Forest Service is currently undergoing the management plan revision which includes significant longleaf maintenance and restoration goals.

The SLCC is a partnership. Our goals are to support America's Longleaf initiative by promoting restoration of longleaf pine forests through education and implementation on the ground. Working

together we will accomplish these goals.

You can learn more about upcoming meetings, field days, and funding opportunities and join the SLCC by visiting our website at www.seweelongleafcoop.com.



Help is Available!

There are a number of programs to help landowners plant and maintain longleaf pine. Many of these are cost-share programs. The landowner pays for part of the work and the cost-share program pays for the rest. There are also resources to help with technical expertise. The Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative can help you find the right resource and advisor.

SLCC Cost-share program

A new cost-share program is available to help plant and manage longleaf pine forests. This program is available to all landowners within the Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative area. We will consider applications for any legitimate enhancement activity such as cutting or improving fire breaks, chemical or mechanical site preparation, etc., but we will look most favorably on prescribed fire and planting of new stands of LLP.

In order to apply go to our web page to view criteria and download an application.



Other programs include:

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Provides technical and financial assistance for voluntary habitat restoration on private land. Typically covers 50% of costs. Various practices that restore or improve LLP are cost-shared.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Provides financial and technical assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices. Pays for planting, installing firebreaks, burning, and controlling invasive plants. Historically underserved producers may also be eligible for a higher payment rate.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Farm Service Agency (FSA)

There is a Longleaf initiative within CRP. If you have agricultural land and are willing to restore it to Longleaf, the Farm Service Agency will help with the cost of establishment and pay annual rental fees for a 10 year contract.



South Carolina Forest Stewardship Program South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC)

South Carolina's Forest Stewardship program is designed to assist private landowners who want to do the most they can for future generations: become forest stewards. Any landowner who owns at least ten acres of forestland can qualify. First step is to put together a Stewardship Management Plan (SMP). Forest Service will help with this.

Other SCFC Services involving LLP management:

- Firebreak plowing
- Standby for Prescribed burning
- Prescribed burning
- LLP seedling sales
- Training – Certified Prescribed Fire Manager Program

Please be advised that these programs are dependent on congressional or state budget actions and the money available, and even the programs themselves, can vary from year to year. Visit the SLCC website to find contact information and learn more.

