**CFLR Project (Name/Number): ACCELERATING LONGLEAF PINE RESTORATION/CFLRP10-2017**
***National Forest(s): National Forests in Florida; Osceola National Forest***

**1. Match and Leveraged Funds:**

**a. FY17 Matching Funds Documentation**

| **Fund Source – (CFLN/CFLR Funds Expended)** | **Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017** |
|---|---|
| CFLN13 | $ 37,454 |
| CFLN16 | $ 176,045 |
| CFLN17 | $ 722,860 |

| **Fund Source – (Funds expended from Washington Office funds (in addition to CFLR/CFLN) (please include a new row for each BLI))** | **Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017** |
|---|---|
| NFTM | $ 365,528 |
| WFHF | $ 579,719N/A |

| **Fund Source – (FS Matching Funds (please include a new row for each BLI)** | **Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017** |
|---|---|
| CMRD | $ 23,508 |
| NFTM | $335,895 |
| WFHF | $ 934,141 |

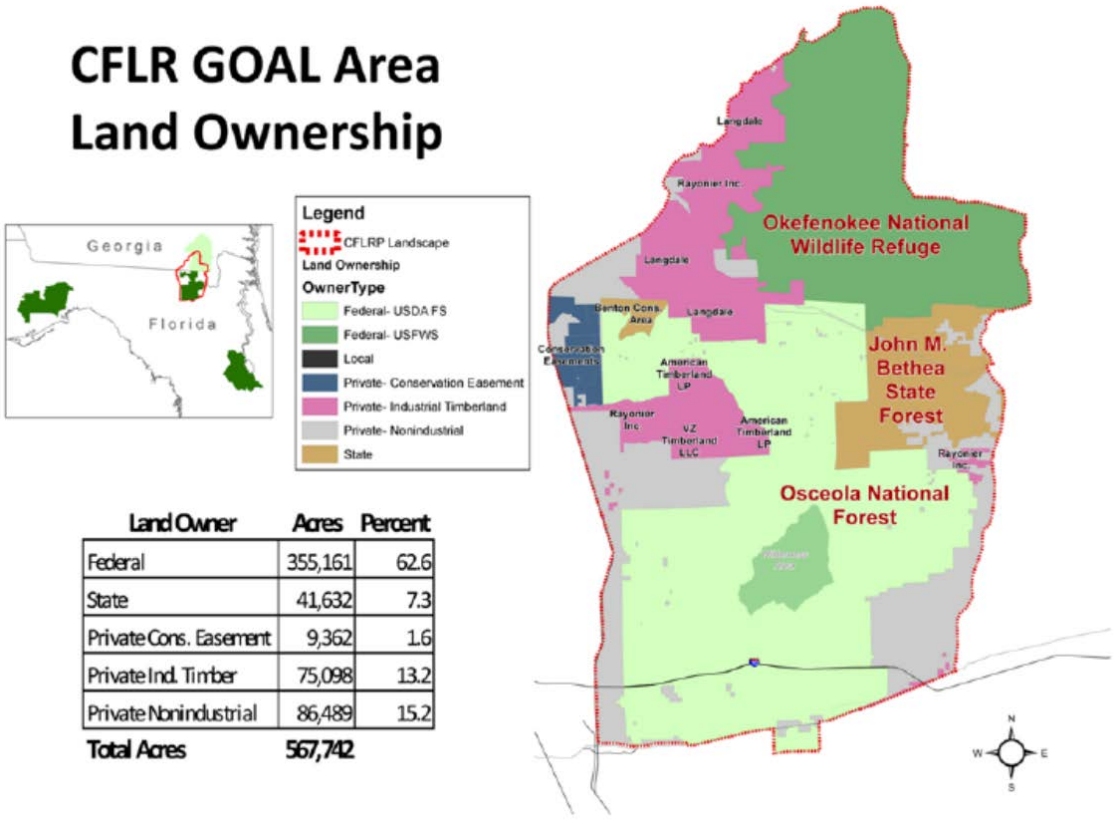
| **Fund Source – (Funds contributed through agreements)** | **Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017** |
|---|---|
| N/A | N/A |

| **Fund Source – (Partner In-Kind Contributions)** | **Total Funds Expended in Fiscal Year 2017** |
|---|---|
| The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation | $350,000 |

| **Service work accomplishment through goods-for services funding within a stewardship contract (for contracts awarded in FY17)** | **Totals** |
|---|---|
| Total revised non-monetary credit limit for contracts awarded in FY17 | N/A |

**b. Please provide a narrative or table describing leveraged funds in your landscape in FY2017** (one page maximum). Leveraged funds refer to funds or in-kind services that help the project achieve proposed objectives but do not meet match qualifications. Examples include but are not limited to: investments within landscape on non-NFS lands, investments in restoration equipment, worker training for implementation and monitoring, research conducted that helps project achieve proposed objectives, and purchase of equipment for wood processing that will use restoration by-products from CFLR projects. See "Instructions" document for additional information.

| **Description of item** | **Where activity/item is located or impacted area** | **Estimated total amount** | **Forest Service or Partner Funds?** | **Source of funds** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fuel management | 2,102 acres of State land within CFLR landscape | $63,060 | Partner Funds | John M. Bethea State Forest |
| Fuel management | 68,259 acres of Federal land within CFLR landscape | $2,047,770 | Partner Funds | Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge |




| Land Owner | Acres | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Federal | 355,161 | 62.6 |
| State | 41,632 | 7.3 |
| Private Cons. Easement | 9,362 | 1.6 |
| Private Ind. Timber | 75,098 | 13.2 |
| Private Nonindustrial | 86,489 | 15.2 |
| **Total Acres** | **567,742** | |

2. Please tell us about the CFLR **project's progress to date in restoring a more fire-adapted ecosystem as described in the project proposal**, and **how it has contributed to the wildland fire goals in the *10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan***.

The Osceola uses CFLN funding to extend mastication contracts to reduce hazardous fuels. Mechanical reduction of these fuels has and will continue to facilitate the reintroduction of prescribed fire into areas deemed high risk for prescribed fire use. Observations have shown that wildfires impacted treated areas dramatically less than untreated areas. As new projects are approved in the Region, we are providing advice to other managers based on our experience with multiple treatments used in this program.

However, due to extreme weather and wildfire activity, the Osceola National Forest was unable to actively use prescribed burning as a tool in Fiscal Year 2017. From October 2016 until January 2017 the Osceola was in fire severity due to lack of rain and Keetch-Byram drought index above 600.

Wildfires started in February 2017. The largest was the West Mims wildfire, which started in April 2017 in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge due to a lightning strike. The Okefenokee-Osceola Longleaf Implementation Team (O2LIT) worked hard to fight the West Mims wildfire. The fire was over 150,000 acres in size and under the control of the Southern Area Red Incident Management Team.

Team members and partners actively participated in suppression efforts. This included members of the Greater Okefenokee Association of Landowners (GOAL), the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge staff,

Osceola National Forest staff, the Georgia Forestry Commission, and the Florida Forest Service staff. The vast majority of the burned acres occurred on the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge but, parts of the Florida Forest Service, John Bethea State Forest, and the Osceola National Forest also burned.

3. **What assumptions were used in generating the numbers and/or percentages you plugged into the TREAT tool**?

**FY 2017 Jobs Supported/Maintained (FY17 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover funding):**

| FY 2017 Jobs Supported/Maintained | Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct) | Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total) | Labor Income (Direct) | Labor Income (Total) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Timber harvesting component | 17 | 21 | $874,881 | $1,075,132 |
| Forest and watershed restoration component | 4 | 5 | $66,540 | $113,270 |
| Mill processing component | 37 | 75 | $1,672,615 | $3,295,162 |
| Implementation and monitoring | 25 | 26 | $103,841 | $115,926 |
| Other Project Activities | 0 | 1 | $13,625 | $19,494 |
| **TOTALS:** | 84 | 128 | $2,731,501 | $4,618,984 |

**FY 2017 Jobs Supported/Maintained (FY16 CFLR/CFLN/ WO carryover <u>and matching funding</u>):**

| FY 2017 Jobs Supported/Maintained | Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Direct) | Jobs (Full and Part-Time) (Total) | Labor Income (Direct) | Labor Income (Total) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Timber harvesting component | 24 | 30 | $1,251,611 | $1,538,092 |
| Forest and watershed restoration component | 7 | 9 | $111,491 | $189,790 |
| Mill processing component | 56 | 114 | $2,483,496 | $4,892,652 |
| Implementation and monitoring | 1 | 3 | $422,550 | $471,727 |
| Other Project Activities | 1 | 1 | $22,830 | $32,663 |
| **TOTALS:** | 89 | 157 | $4,291,977 | $7,124,924 |

4. **Describe other community benefits achieved and the methods used to gather information about these benefits**. **How has CFLR and related activities benefitted your community from a social and/or economic standpoint?** (Please limit answer to two pages).

As part of a multi-state initiative to save longleaf pine habitat, The Osceola National Forest is collaborating with The Nature Conservancy and Job Corps to provide controlled burn training and jobs to disadvantaged urban youth. The unique partnership began in Jacksonville, Florida in 2014 and has taken root—with more than 50 Job Corps students having participated so far.

The 2017 program was the biggest year yet. Grant funding was used from the U.S. Forest Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through the Longleaf Stewardship Fund grant. This opportunity builds a bridge between underserved youth and natural resource careers. We provide young people from all different racial, economic and social backgrounds the opportunity to explore a career path they might not otherwise be exposed to, and where they can bring their ideas.

Job Corps is a free education and training program funded by the Department of Labor that helps low-income 16- to 24-year-olds gain technical and soft skills needed to start a career and gain financial independence. While it offers traditional trade programs such as masonry, carpentry and electrical work, there's a push to also provide greener job training to meet employment trends.

Those who successfully complete the fire program classroom training and physical test earn their Incident Qualification Card, or Red Card. The program then connects them to jobs working on controlled burn operations and responding to wildfire emergencies.

In FY 2017 the Osceola received 20 new recruits; they were trained and deployed to join established fire crews led by The Nature Conservancy for six-month assignments with the Conservancy's longleaf pine operations in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

| **Indicator** | **Brief Description of Impacts, Successes, and Challenges** | **Links to reports or other published materials (if available)** |
|---|---|---|
| Ease of doing business | Restoring longleaf pine has brought together diverse partners with the resources and skills needed for success. These collaborative efforts are demonstrated through the Regional Longleaf Partnership Council, the Federal Coordinating Committee (FCC), and the state and local implementation teams. | Americas longleaf local implementation team updates summer 2017 www.americaslongleaf.org/news/news-articles/local-implementation-team-updates-summer-2017/okefenokee-osceola-longleaf-implementation-team-update/ |

| **Indicator** | **Brief Description of Impacts, Successes, and Challenges** | **Links to reports or other published materials (if available)** |
|---|---|---|
| Project partnership composition | The Osceola landscape was designated by the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative as one the endangered longleaf pine ecosystems. The Okefenokee/Osceola Local Implementation Team (02LIT) overarching goal is to increase the capacity for longleaf pine restoration and prescribed fire implementation. | Longleaf alliance www.longleafalliance.org/o2lit/about-o2lit |
| Preserving cultural heritage of sites/resources | The Osceola National Forest and Okefenokee adds expansive property, which connects ecological corridors and provides habitat for longleaf restoration. This property will now be restored as part of Osceola National Forest with the help of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program. | longleaf pine conservation restoration at Osceola National Forest www.conservationfund.org/blog/1502-longleaf-pine-conservation-restoration-at-osceola-national-forest-in-florida |
| Job training opportunities/per capita normalize | The Osceola National Forest is collaborating with The Nature Conservancy and Job Corps to provide controlled burn training and jobs to disadvantaged urban youth. | North America United States Georgia www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/georgia/explore/georgia-job-corps-longleaf-pine-restoration.xml |

5. Based on your project monitoring plan, **describe the multiparty monitoring process. What parties (who) are involved in monitoring, and how? What is being monitored? Please briefly share key broad monitoring results and how results received to date are informing subsequent management activities (e.g. adaptive management), if at all.** What are the current weaknesses or shortcomings of the monitoring process? (Please limit answer to two pages. Include a link to your monitoring plan if it is available).

Tall Timbers Research Station continued its ecological monitoring for the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) project on Osceola National Forest to assess management effects on 3 declining "focal" species including Bachman's Sparrow (*Peucaea aestivalis*), Brown-headed Nuthatch (*Sitta pusilla*), Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). These focal species were chosen for monitoring due to their conservation status, sensitivity to land management, and usefulness as indicators of ecological integrity. Comparing bird abundance and occupancy estimates over successive years and between areas associated with different management practices provides information on population trends and management effects.

Tall Timbers Research Station's assessment is that the continued increase in management actions through the CFLRP have improved the ecological condition of the Osceola National Forest. Using the Ecological Condition Model tier index (1-5) data indicated average tier index declined (i.e., improved ecological condition) from 2012 to 2017. While tier is a simple ocular assessment of habitat, we are confident that more intensive analysis of vegetation data will further illustrate the improved ecological condition of the forest.

**6.** FY 2017 accomplishments

| Performance Measure | Unit of measure | Total Units Accomplished | Total Treatment Cost ($) *(Contract Costs)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST | Acres | 0 | 0 |
| Acres of forest vegetation improved FOR-VEG-IMP | Acres | 0 | 0 |
| Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC | Acre | 0 | 0 |
| Highest priority acres treated for invasive terrestrial and aquatic species on NFS lands INVSPE-TERR-FED-AC | Acres | 0 | 0 |
| Acres of water or soil resources protected, maintained or improved to achieve desired watershed conditions. S&W-RSRC-IMP | Acres | 20 | $50,000 |
| Acres of lake habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-LAK | Acres | 40 | $13,276 |
| Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM | Miles | 0 | 0 |
| Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR | Acres | 24,324 | $49,864 |
| Acres of rangeland vegetation improved RG-VEG-IMP | Acres | 0 | 0 |
| Miles of high clearance system roads receiving maintenance RD-HC-MAIN | Miles | 0 | 0 |
| Miles of passenger car system roads receiving maintenance RD-PC-MAINT | Miles | 0 | 0 |
| Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM | Miles | 20 *(Decommissioning of Non-system Roads)* | $50,000 |
| Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP | Miles | 0 | 0 |
| Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP | Miles | 0 | 0 |

| Performance Measure | Unit of measure | Total Units Accomplished | Total Treatment Cost ($) *(Contract Costs)* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Number of stream crossings constructed or reconstructed to provide for aquatic organism passage STRM-CROS-MTG-STD | Number | 0 | 0 |
| Miles of system trail maintained to standard TL-MAINT-STD | Miles | 0 | 0 |
| Miles of system trail improved to standard TL-IMP-STD | Miles | 0 | 0 |
| Miles of property line marked/maintained to standard LND-BL-MRK-MAINT | Miles | 0 | 0 |
| Acres of forestlands treated using timber sales TMBR-SALES-TRT-AC | Acres | 0 | 0 |
| Volume of Timber Harvested TMBR-VOL-HVST | CCF | 0 | 0 |
| Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD | CCF | 30,074 | $330,814 |
| Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG | Green tons | 0 | 0 |
| Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI | Acres | 2,911 *(Mastication)* | $261,990 |
| Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI | Acres | 14,900 *(Mastication 4,935 and Burning 9,965)* | $743,100 |
| Number of priority acres treated annually for invasive species on Federal lands SP-INVSPE-FED-AC | Acres | 0 | 0 |
| Number of priority acres treated annually for native pests on Federal lands SP-NATIVE-FED-AC | Acres | 0 | 0 |
| Acres mitigated FP-FUELS-ALL-MIT-NFS *(note: this performance measure will not show up in the WO gPAS)* | Acres | 20 | $50,000 |
| Please also include the acres of prescribed fire accomplished *(note: this performance measure will not show up in the WO gPAS)* | Acres | 9,965 | $298,950 |

Units accomplished should match the accomplishments recorded in the Databases of Record.

7. **FY 2017 accomplishment narrative** – Summarize key accomplishments and evaluate project progress not already described elsewhere in this report. (Please limit answer to three pages.)

Healthy longleaf pine ecosystems harbor some of the richest biological diversity in the country, most of which occurs on the forest floor in the form of grasses and herbaceous vegetation. Many wildlife and plant species, however, begin to decline as sunlight is shaded by an overly dense forest canopy or midstory. Saw palmetto, a naturally occurring shrub in longleaf pine flatwoods, usually occurs in sparse clumps. However, when longleaf pine forests are fire suppressed, saw palmetto densities increase dramatically and replace the diverse understory. When the density of saw palmetto exceeds 33% cover, imperiled grassland birds such as Bachman's sparrow, Henslow's sparrow and bobwhite are no longer present.

An effective method of reducing saw palmetto coverage, reducing hazardous fuels, and increasing grass and herbaceous species is to use a single pass roller chopper followed closely by the application of prescribed fire. Timber stands with high basal areas of small diameter pines are **thinned, chopped, and burned** every 2-3 years, stimulating the grass and herbaceous ground cover. Mechanical reduction of these fuels has and will continue to facilitate the reintroduction of prescribed fire into areas deemed high risk for prescribed fire use. ***(Performance Measure: HBT-ENH-TERR, TMBR-VOL-SLD, FP-FUELS-WUI & FP-FUELS-NON-WUI)***

8. **The WO will use spatial data provided in the databases of record close to estimate a treatment footprint for your review and verification**.

- **If the estimate is consistent and accurate**, please confirm that below and skip this question.
- **If the gPAS spatial information does NOT appear accurate**, describe the total acres treated in the course of the CFLR project below (cumulative footprint acres; not a cumulative total of performance accomplishments). What was the total number of acres treated?

| Fiscal Year | Footprint of Acres Treated (without counting an acre of treatment on the land in more than one treatment category) |
|---|---|
| FY 2017 | 24,593 acres |
| Estimated Cumulative Footprint of Acres (2010 to 2017) | 389,293 acres |

**If you did not use the EDW estimate, please briefly describe how you arrived at the total number of footprint acres: what approach did you use to calculate the footprint?**

9. **Describe any reasons that the FY 2017 annual report does not reflect your project proposal, previously reported planned accomplishments, or work plan.** Did you face any unexpected challenges this year that caused you to change what was outlined in your proposal? (Please limit answer to two pages).

Due to extreme weather and wildfire activity, the Osceola National Forest was unable to actively use prescribed burning as a tool in Fiscal Year 2017. From October 2016 until January 2017 the Osceola was in fire severity due to lack of rain and Keetch-Byram drought index above 600.

In addition, no funds were directly expended for the removal of this biomass; there is not a market for biomass in the area.

**10.** Planned FY 2019 Accomplishments

| Performance Measure Code | Unit of measure | Work Plan 2019 | Planned Accomplishment For 2019 | Amount ($) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Acres of forest vegetation established FOR-VEG-EST | Acres | 1,800 *(Site prep, planting, &survival checks)* | 1,800 | $128,500 |
| Manage noxious weeds and invasive plants INVPLT-NXWD-FED-AC | Acre | 120 | 120 | $6,000 |
| Miles of stream habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-STRM | Miles | 0 | 0 | $0 |
| Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced HBT-ENH-TERR | Acres | 30,000 | 30,000 | $62,100 |
| Miles of road decommissioned RD-DECOM | Miles | 33 *(Decommissioning of Non-system Roads)* | 33 | $60,000 |
| Miles of passenger car system roads improved RD-PC-IMP | Miles | 0 | 0 | $0 |
| Miles of high clearance system road improved RD-HC-IMP | Miles | 0 | 0 | $0 |
| Volume of timber sold TMBR-VOL-SLD | CCF | 25,000 | 30,000 | $330,000 |
| Green tons from small diameter and low value trees removed from NFS lands and made available for bio-energy production BIO-NRG | Green tons | 635 | 0 *(No market for bio-energy production; additional CCFs of timber will be sold.)* | $0 |
| Acres of hazardous fuels treated outside the wildland/urban interface (WUI) to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-NON-WUI | Acre | 9,000 | 9,000 | $270,000 |
| Acres of wildland/urban interface (WUI) high priority hazardous fuels treated to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildland fire FP-FUELS-WUI | Acres | 42,000 | 42,000 | $1,260,000 |

Please include all relevant planned accomplishments, assuming that funding specified in the CFLRP project proposal for FY 2019 is available. Use actual planned funding if quantity is less than specified in CFLRP project work plan.

11. **Planned accomplishment narrative and justification if planned FY 2018/19 accomplishments and/or funding differs from CFLRP project work plan** (no more than 1 page):

N/A

12. **Please include an up to date list of the members of your collaborative if it has changed from previous years**. If the information is available online, you can simply include the hyperlink here. If you have engaged new collaborative members this year, please provide a brief description of their engagement.

All original members are still actively supporting this project. Plus our collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and the Jacksonville Job Corps Center is notably strengthening. In addition, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation provides supplemental support through the Longleaf Stewardship Fund grant**.** The Osceola provides prescribed fire training to underserved youth and places those qualified on federal prescribed fire crews as trainees within the Florida and Georgia area/ the CFLRP boundary.

In FY 2017 the Osceola received 20 new recruits; they were trained and deployed to join established Conservancy fire crews for six-month assignments with the Conservancy's longleaf pine operations in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. This supports our efforts to accelerate longleaf restoration.

13. **Did you project try any new approaches to increasing partner match funding in FY2017** (both In-Kind contributions and through agreements)? (No more than one page):

In 2017 the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Osceola National Forest Significant Geographic Area received a NFWF Award from the Longleaf Stewardship Fund that totaled $299,999. The Okefenokee-Osceola Local Implementation Team is working to establish 2,574 acres of longleaf pine and improve management of an additional 27,880 acres of existing longleaf habitat on public and private lands. The project also trains underserved youth to serve on longleaf restoration teams, build prescribed fire capacity and educate private landowners through a prescribed fire manager certification session.

The Longleaf Stewardship Fund builds on the success of the Longleaf Legacy Program, a partnership between Southern Company and NFWF since 2004, which has invested over $8.7 million into projects that will restore more than 87,000 acres of longleaf pine forest and native species.

Funding priorities for this program include:

- Restoring the longleaf pine ecosystem through collaborative and result-oriented actions that help advance the goals of the Range-Wide Conservation Plan for Longleaf Pine;
- Maintaining, enhancing and expanding productive understory habitat of the longleaf pine ecosystem;
- Aiding federal agencies in achieving their mission-oriented objectives;
- Supporting the recovery of iconic species through habitat enhancements;
- Strengthening the capacity of local organizations to establish, advance or lead local longleaf pine ecosystem restoration efforts; and
- Expanding the number of landowners engaged in longleaf pine restoration and maintenance on private lands, and supporting working forests by demonstrating their environmental and socioeconomic benefits.

14. **Media recap**. Please share with us any hyperlinks to videos, newspaper articles, press releases, scholarly works, and photos of your project in the media that you have available. You are welcome to include links or to copy/paste.

America's longleaf local implementation team updates summer 2017

Longleaf alliance

Longleaf pine conservation restoration at Osceola National Forest

North America United States Georgia

**Signatures:**

Recommended by (Project Coordinator(s)): Ivan Green _____

Chalonda Jasper _____

Approved by (Forest Supervisor(s)): Kelly Russell _____