

DEVELOPING DESIRED FOREST CONDITIONS FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT IN SOUTHERN PINE ECOSYSTEMS

The East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture (EGCPJV) is working with NatureServe and multiple partners to develop “Desired Forest Conditions” (DFCs) for wildlife in Southern Pine ecosystems. Principally, the intended purpose is to provide technical recommendations for land managers and private landowners undertaking fire-maintained, pine-grassland restoration and management with a focus on supporting priority wildlife species. Although longleaf pine restoration and management is the primary focus, these DFCs will also incorporate other Southern Pine species given their prevalence across the coastal plain landscape. This effort’s success relies on the participation of biologists, foresters, and researchers representing a myriad of federal and state agencies, nongovernmental and industrial organizations, and universities.



Photo: Randy Browning

PROJECT GOALS

Strategic Goal

Develop Desired Forest Conditions for Southern Pine Ecosystems



Photo: USFWS, Gopher Tortoise Burrow

Tactical Goal

Develop a Framework to Link Priority Species’ Habitat Needs to Management Actions

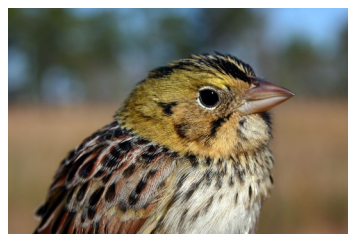


Photo: E. Soehren, Henslow’s Sparrow

Operational Goal

Develop Management Recommendations to Facilitate Achievement of Desired Forest Conditions



Photo: Longleaf Pine Seedlings

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The initial focus of this project is to develop DFCs for Southern Pine Ecosystems in the East Gulf Coastal Plain. However, the East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture Partnership has engaged other partners in the West Gulf Coastal Plain, the South Atlantic, and the Central Hardwoods regions whom have expressed interest in coordinating similar efforts. Collaboration will provide the opportunity to develop a shared product that reduces duplicative efforts and incorporates information from the larger geographic range of Southern Pine ecosystems.

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