

# Conservation Reserve Program

## Longleaf Pine Restoration

Wildlife Habitat | Carbon Sequestration | Risk Mitigation



### Why Choose CRP? You Benefit Land, Water, and Wildlife.

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a proven land performance and management solution. Whatever the challenge—soil conservation, water quality protection, or wildlife habitat enhancement—CRP provides a range of opportunities for farmers, ranchers, and landowners.

Administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency, CRP provides financial and technical assistance to remove environmentally sensitive farmland from production and convert it to conservation cover for a 10- to 15-year contract period.

### Why Longleaf Pines?

Efforts to restore longleaf pine throughout its range in the last two decades have stopped the downward trend in longleaf pine acreage experienced over the previous 100 years. In the century prior to these efforts, the extent of longleaf pine had declined dramatically, from nearly 90 million acres to just 4 million. Since the mid-1990s, that decline has been reversed and the area of longleaf pine forests is now gradually increasing. When restored to full ecological function, longleaf pine forests are among the most diverse forest ecosystems in the world.





## Restoration of Longleaf Pine

Restoration and management of longleaf pine forests enhances habitat for a wide range of endemic plant and animal species, including 36 species that are found in no other habitat type in the world. Among these are the gopher tortoise, the eastern indigo snake, and the red cockaded woodpecker, along with many other species identified as endangered or threatened. In addition to permanent habitat for many species, longleaf pine forests provide travel corridors necessary to support the migration patterns of species that live elsewhere.

Longleaf pine forests also provide other environmental benefits such as improving water quality, sequestering carbon, and reducing the risk of catastrophic loss due to wildfires. They are naturally resistant to damaging insects such as the southern pine beetle, protecting the surrounding areas.

Once the CRP contract period has ended, longleaf pine can also be harvested as a renewable and fast-growing source of high-quality timber, providing the landowner or farmer with economic benefits.

### Longleaf Pine Practices

#### Longleaf Pine Establishment (CP36)



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