



*GCPEP partners
own and manage
1,262,623 acres*

Partner	Acres
Department of Defense	481,241
Florida Forest Service	226,265
Northwest Florida Water Management District	118,715
United States Forest Service	83,790
Florida Department of Environmental Protection	57,270
Nokuse Plantation	51,464
National Park Service	24,795
Gulf Power	5,105
The Nature Conservancy	5,081
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	2,707
Westervelt Ecological Service	1,190
Resource Management Services	205,000
Escambia County	TBD
The Longleaf Alliance	

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Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership

What is GCPEP?

The Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP) was formed in 1996 when large landowners came together to conserve and restore the dwindling longleaf pine ecosystem and the unique aquatic resources of northwest Florida and southern Alabama.

Together, the 14 public and private partners that comprise GCPEP own and manage more than 1.25 million acres that contain the majority of the world's remaining old-growth longleaf pine trees, some of which are 500 years old.

By reconnecting the longleaf pine ecosystems, Partner lands provide crucial contiguous forest to aid the recovery of many species, including feder-

ally endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers. GCPEP is also working to protect other rare species, such as Okaloosa darters and Florida bog frogs, which are found nowhere else in the world.

While pursuing their individual missions, the partners are also working to accomplish the partnership goal of collectively protecting and managing the exceptional biodiversity of the GCPEP landscape.

GCPEP is driven by a Steering Committee, which makes decisions based on consensus, and is supported by a staff that works with Partners to conduct projects that are identified as priorities by the Steering Committee.



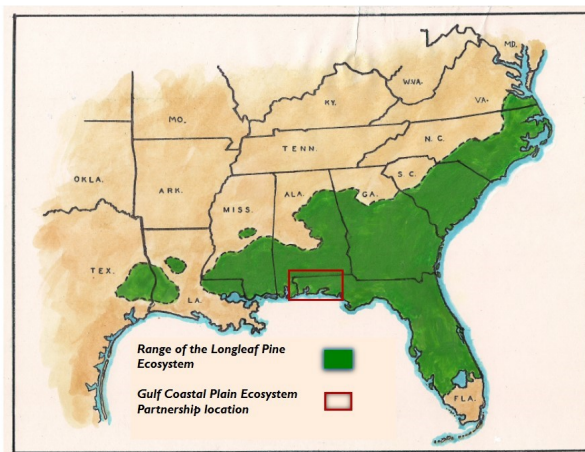
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This progressive partnership demonstrates that organizations with different missions can cooperate to achieve success under the common goal of landscape-scale ecosystem conservation.

GCPEP: a significant landscape in longleaf pine restoration

Land protected by the GCPEP Partners includes some of the best remaining longleaf pine habitats in the world, including at least 50% of the remaining old growth longleaf pine. However, simple ownership of these lands is not enough to ensure that they maintain their ecosystem functions and continue to support the many rare, endemic, and federally listed species that depend on these habitats.

Many of the lands managed by GCPEP Partners have been fire suppressed and require mechanical or chemical preparation before an appropriate regime of prescribed fire can be safely and effectively implemented.





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Priority restoration activities include prescribed burning, invasive species control, wildlife habitat improvement, and ecological monitoring.



Note: Because of map scale, map does not indicate all private property. GCPEP partners recognize the full rights of individual land managers and neighboring private property owners to pursue their own interest, and objectives on their own land.

- Completing landscape-level conservation plan
- Protecting key buffer lands and wildlife corridors
- Constructing artificial cavities for red-cockaded woodpeckers and assisting in species recovery through translocation efforts
- Facilitating interagency prescribed fires to restore important natural communities and mitigate hazardous fuel conditions
- Restoring longleaf pine forests and understory habitat
- Developing public education programs about ecosystem conservation and restoration
- Constructing hiking trails and other recreational amenities
- Addressing the threat of invasive species and their impact on native habitats

