

PRIVATE LANDS LONGLEAF RESTORATION **AMERICAN RECOVERY & REINVESTMENT ACT**

2009

Administered and funded cooperatively by:

**The Georgia Forestry Commission &
The U.S. Forest Service**



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Georgia's Private Lands Longleaf Restoration Incentive Payment Program



The purpose of this incentive payment program is to create jobs and help landowners promote healthy forest ecosystems by establishing longleaf pines on their property. The focus will be on private forest lands that were destroyed affected by storms that have affected Georgia over the last couple of years

Technical assistance will be provided to landowners by GFC foresters who will take applications, evaluate the site, and then determine the steps the landowner should take to expect successful results (brief management plan). The forester will inspect the area once the practice is completed to determine if the management plan was successfully implemented, and authorize release of incentive payment.

Some general guidelines for this program are:

- Longleaf Pine will be the **ONLY** species that will be planted under this program.
- The site to be planted will have to be a site that will support longleaf pine. This determination will be made by the GFC forester.
- Tree will be planted at a rate of 605 per acre. (6' X 12' spacing) Rows will be twelve feet apart.
- Planting will occur during the planting seasons of 2009-2010 or 2010-2011 to receive incentive payment.
- Applicant must own the property or have authority to carry out practice (such as Power of Attorney or a controlling interest in the ownership).
- Landowner must sign an application to officially apply for incentive payment and return to GFC project forester for the county of ownership (Appendix A). Must fill out W-9 withholding form also.
- A letter from GFC forester will outline the steps for site preparation and planting that the landowner will need to follow to be approved for the practice. GFC Forester should work with landowner and or consulting forester on recommendations
- Program is open to private non-industrial forest landowners.
- There is a minimum practice size of 10 acres, and the landowner must own a minimum of 10 acres of forest land.
- **Components (site preparation) that are completed before landowner receives final approval can be paid for as long as these components were installed between June 1 and September 1, 2009. Landowner will only be paid if approval from GFC is received. Landowner will also take responsibility for work that does not meet the standards set forth to insure that there is a successful practice installation.**
- **Landowner can receive partial payments.**
- All practices must comply with the Recommended Best Management Practices.
- At the end of the application period, GFC will determine if there are enough funds to fulfill all the requested needs. If so, all landowners will be funded up to the maximum incentive rate*. If there are not enough funds, GFC will determine a prorated amount that applicants will be funded.
- Incentive payments for the establishment of longleaf pine shall not exceed \$175.00* per acre. There is a \$10,000 maximum annual payment per landowner.
- These incentive payments shall not exceed the total cost of the treatment (but can pay up to 100% not to exceed \$175.00 per acre) of the cost(s).
- **GFC will make the final determination on eligibility and funding on all applications.**