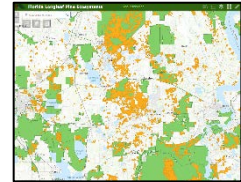# Southeast Longleaf Ecosystem Occurrences Geodatabase

A new project funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service is underway to develop a sharable GIS database of longleaf pine ecosystem occurrences (LEO) throughout the Southeastern U.S. This project will not duplicate existing local data collection or mapping but instead is designed to work with states and partners to integrate existing and new efforts into a standardized range-wide geodatabase.

Click to view Florida's Longleaf Web Map

Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) is building the LEO database in close conjunction with the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative including the Longleaf Partnership Council mapping committee, The Longleaf Alliance, and other partners. This range-wide effort is modeled after the Florida Longleaf Pine Geodatabase, created by the Florida Forest Service and FNAI, which houses data for almost 2 million acres of existing longleaf pine in Florida.

The LEO project goals are to produce:

1. a comprehensive ArcGIS geodatabase that enables states and partners to:
    o   view and analyze standardized longleaf map data at multiple scales from local to range-wide, and
    o   measure longleaf acres and vegetative condition changes through time.

2. a rapid assessment protocol and mobile app for use in field data collection where information gaps are identified. The Longleaf Alliance is coordinating training and field data collection within priority longleaf areas throughout the Southeast; fieldwork began in 2019 and continues through fall 2021.

Can you help with existing data?

Existing local map and field data for longleaf pine are the foundation for this effort. Existing spatial data for known and potential longleaf sites will be integrated into a range-wide polygon geodatabase that will show acres of longleaf and, when available, habitat vegetation structure and condition. Data sharing by partners – governmental agencies and NGOs - is vital to range-wide understanding of longleaf. We need and will appreciate your collaboration in building a database that will enhance your work and that of others throughout the longleaf range.

Examples of data needed are forest stand inventory, plant or animal species' locations where longleaf is referenced, habitat or vegetation map data, relevant species habitat models.

- We can accept any spatial format: GIS shapefiles, tabular latitude-longitude coordinates, rasters, Google Earth files, ArcGIS geodatabases.
- You do not have to extract specific attributes from your data; we can do that work.
- We carefully review all data and will work with you to ensure we fully understand content.
- All data and sources will be tracked and credited in the LEO database and in all written reports.
- No rare species data will be shared outside our office or included in LEO database.
- We can work within data sharing and confidentiality agreements as needed.

Please get in touch to share data, information, or to ask questions. Thank you!

Amy Knight (aknight@fnai.fsu.edu) 850-224-8207 ext. 214 or

Carolyn Kindell (ckindell@fnai.fsu.edu) 850-224-8207 ext. 206

FNAI is within Florida State University and is a member of the NatureServe Natural Heritage network. Since 1981, FNAI scientists, GIS analysts, and conservation planners have provided independent, objective, scientific information to government agencies, private firms, conservation groups, researchers, and the general public. Learn more at www.fnai.org . Visit the LEO project at https://www.fnai.org/se_longleaf.cfm