

Southeast Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Occurrences (LEO) Geodatabase and Web Map Privacy Policy



The Southeast Longleaf Ecosystem Occurrences Geodatabase (LEO) Project is being conducted by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) and the Longleaf Alliance (LLA) in cooperation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The primary goal of the LEO project is to develop a comprehensive map database of existing longleaf pine ecosystems in the U.S.

About the LEO Geodatabase and Web Map

The LEO geodatabase (LEO GDB) is a natural resource map database of longleaf pine ecosystems as documented by the Southeast LEO project. The LEO project does not solicit, collect, or store private landowner information of any kind, including landowner name(s), contact information, or other personal data. The LEO GDB includes only general information on landowner type (e.g., public or private) and information about data sources. The remaining information in the database pertains to longleaf ecosystem occurrence, acres, and vegetative condition.

The LEO GDB includes longleaf ecosystem boundaries submitted by data partners or identified by LEO Rapid Assessment; these may reflect land use history and thus coincide with ownership boundaries in some instances. The LEO GDB also includes publicly available data (e.g., conservation land stand boundaries) that may coincide with ownership boundaries.

The LEO GDB serves as a central repository for longleaf data and contains information from many partner landowners, agencies and organizations. The LEO GDB and associated products are not legal descriptions or documents and do not attempt to define jurisdiction or geographic extent of any federal, state, or local government program.

Original data files submitted to the LEO project are not shared with anyone else. We use the spatial features (boundaries and locations) and vegetation attributes of original data files to inform and build the LEO GDB. Sources of data are credited in the LEO GDB. The Southeast LEO project will utilize data in the LEO GDB to build an interactive web map.

Visit the LEO project website https://www.fnai.org/se_longleaf.cfm to learn more about the project and database content.

Rationale for Privacy Policy

Some project partners have concerns that use of the LEO GDB in a public web map or other public display of detailed longleaf pine spatial data (polygons) overlaying private lands could be sensitive even when those data are collected in the "common domain" via aerial photo interpretation and roadside surveys. To address these concerns, the distribution and use of the LEO GDB and its web map will be available only to America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative (ALRI) partners and LEO data providers working in longleaf conservation under a data license agreement with FNAI in cooperation with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Data Privacy Levels and Data Sharing

In addition, a data provider may request further restrictions on the use and display of their longleaf data. Providers may choose the Privacy Level for how their data are shared through the LEO GDB and how their data are viewed via a web map, as described in the table below.

GDB PRIVACY LEVELS		
Level No.	Data Privacy Level	How data are shared
1	Restricted from GDB: Withheld from public and partners	Data provider shares with FNAI only for reporting purposes; spatial data is maintained only on the secure FNAI server. Spatial information (polygons, specific location) is withheld from public and partners. Only non-spatial longleaf data (acres and vegetation attributes) to be shared in tabular format at the county level.
2	GDB Protected: shared only with authorized partners*	Data provider agrees to share spatial data with authorized partners* through the LEO GDB. Examples: data for private lands participating in cost share or other conservation programs (eg, land trusts).
WEB MAP PRIVACY LEVELS		
1	Withheld from any Web Map	Data will not be visible on any web map, protected or public.
2	Protected Web Map: Visible only to authorized partners*	Data visible on the password protected LEO GDB web map available only to authorized partners*.
3	Public Web Map at Limited Scale	Data visible on a public web map but not visible when zoomed in closer than a 1:160,000 (standard 'Cities' map scale).
4	Public Web Map No Restrictions	No restrictions – data may be included on any LEO GDB web map at any scale. Example: data from many public lands. This option would apply if we develop a different web map for the public using only data that has no restrictions placed upon it.

*Authorized partners are limited to ALRI partners and LEO Data providers working in longleaf conservation under a data license agreement with FNAI in cooperation with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. For a definition of ALRI partners see: <http://www.americaslongleaf.org/who-s-involved/partners/>

The LEO GDB does not include restricted data (GDB Level 1). Instead, a tabular file (MS Excel or text format) of non-spatial data for all records, including restricted, stripped of location and site information except state and county, is made available to ALRI partners so that data can be tallied at the state or county level.

Restricted spatial data may be utilized only by FNAI for reporting purposes (for example, longleaf acre tallies by state, county, watershed, or custom scale).

Storage of Data

FNAI maintains all data on the FNAI in-house server. Restricted data are flagged and processed into a master database using the appropriate Data Privacy Level attributes as listed above. We filter out restricted data from the LEO GDB and web maps according to the data restriction level as described in the above table.

For further information on the Southeast LEO project data privacy policy, please contact Amy Knight at aknight@fnai.fsu.edu, 850-224-8207 ext 214; or Carolyn Kindell at ckindell@fnai.fsu.edu, ext 206.