

South Carolina Habitat Improvement Initiative Landowner Information Sheet

Project: The American Forest Foundation (AFF) and the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program are collaborating with America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative's Longleaf Implementation Teams in South Carolina including the SoLo Ace Longleaf Partnership, the Sewee Longleaf Conservation Cooperative, and the Sandhills Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners. The goal of this partnership is to enhance occupied and potential habitat for at-risk species including gopher tortoise, southern hognose snake, pine snake, gopher frog, Bachman's sparrow, tiger salamander, eastern diamondback rattlesnake, pine barrens tree frog, and frosted elfin, and to obtain information regarding current populations and habitat potential for future populations on private lands in South Carolina.

Eligibility:

- Properties located in counties within the boundaries of the established Longleaf Implementation Teams
- Landowners should have at least one of the above listed at-risk species on their property, or directly adjacent to their property (the subject property should have similar habitat type)
- Landowners should be actively managing (*i.e.*, prescribed burning) their property or are adjacent to an actively managed property
- Having longleaf on the property is not required to receive funding; however, it will be the only species of pine planted with this funding
- Landowners should meet the requirements for the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) Eligibility for Certification (up to 20,000 ac); therefore, publicly traded TIMO's are not allowed (see: <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/certification-american-tree-farm-system>)
- **No annual gross income (AGI) limitation is identified;** therefore, larger eligible properties will be considered
- Desired minimum acreage is 100 acres (contiguous ownership)
- Currently there is **no maximum amount of funding** per landowner
- Activities covered can include: hardwood/mid-story control, invasive species control, prescribed burning, native warm season grass and flowering plant establishment, pine planting (longleaf only), and other habitat improvement practices, as needed

AFF/USFWS will:

- Meet with interested landowners to determine if the property fits the criteria for the project
- If accepted, develop a landowner a habitat improvement plan in coordination with the landowner for the subject property
- Provide **50-75% cost share** for practices completed consistent with the plan
- Provide resources to complete an inventory for the at-risk specie(s) present on the property
- Provide resources for habitat quality surveys and monitoring for the property
- USFWS will provide program participants regulatory predictability (ESA coverage for incidental take as a result of management)

Landowner will:

- Provide input to the habitat improvement plan that meets their objectives
- Allow the AFF/USFWS and partners access to their property to conduct surveys and monitor habitat
- Provide a 25-50% non-federal match, depending on percentage of funding, to the cost share (**can be cash or in-kind**)
- Actively manage and maintain the subject property with a minimum of three prescribed burns within 10 years (1st burn only funded with cost share), as outlined in the Private Landowner Agreement.

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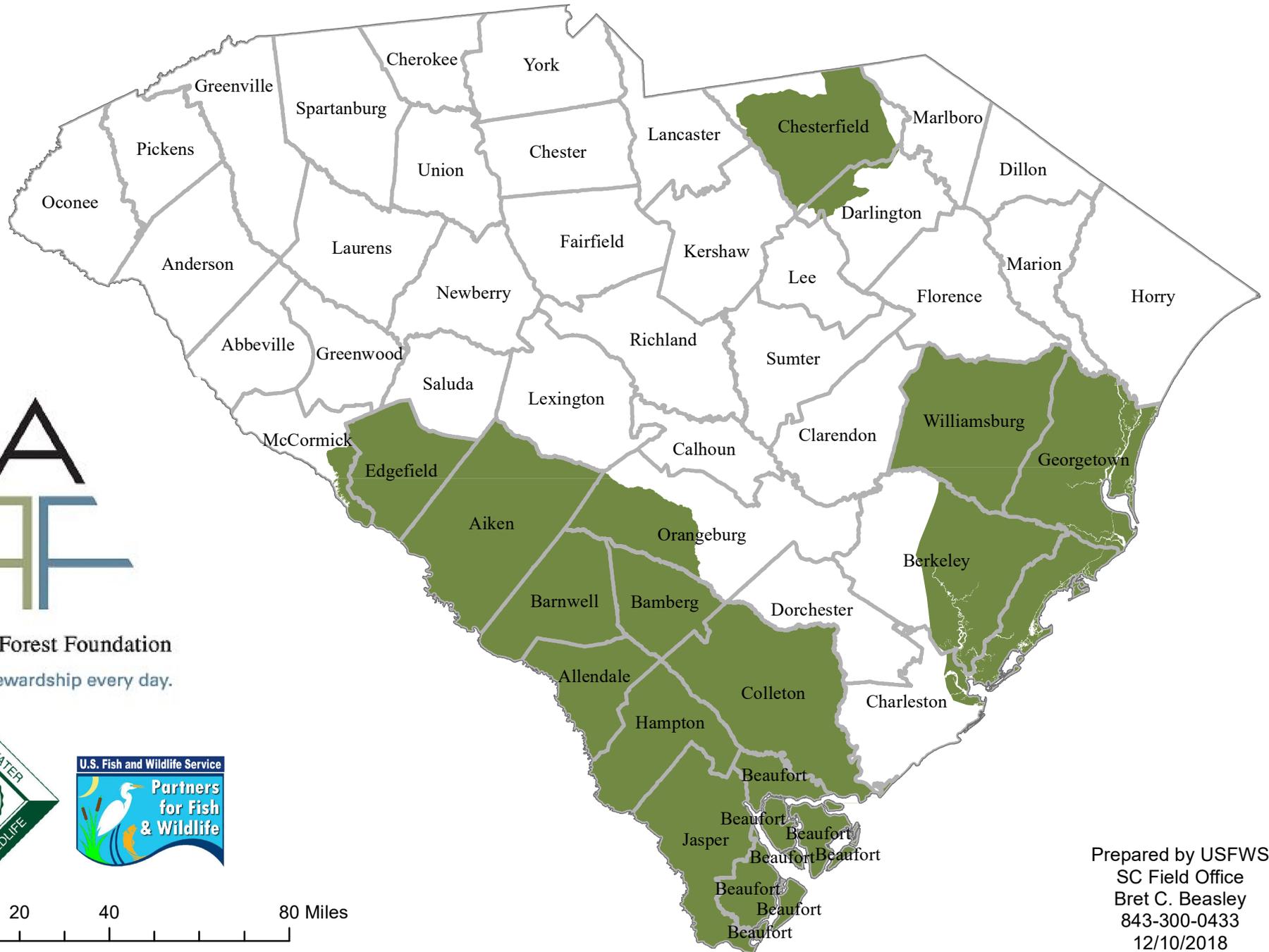
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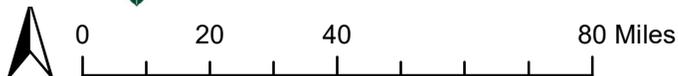
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American Forest Foundation & South Carolina Partners For Fish & Wildlife Longleaf Pine Cost share Program Focus Areas



American Forest Foundation
We grow stewardship every day.



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12/10/2018