

Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*), historically was the predominant forest type in much of the southeastern United States having once covered 92 million acres. Over the past two centuries, the



longleaf pine ecosystem has declined over 97 percent to less than 2 million acres. With fire suppression and conversion of native pine forest many of the bird species dependent upon this habitat have markedly declined. Therefore, conservation of open pine habitat is a high priority

action for the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture partnership.

America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative has developed partnerships that strive toward creating viable Longleaf Pine ecosystems with the full spectrum of ecological, economic, and social values. The Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture joins America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative in celebrating 5 years of longleaf restoration success. Read more about the celebration at www.facebook.com/americaslongleaf