



North
Carolina
Sandhills
Safe
Harbor
Program

Safe Harbor News

Safe Harbor Update from Susan

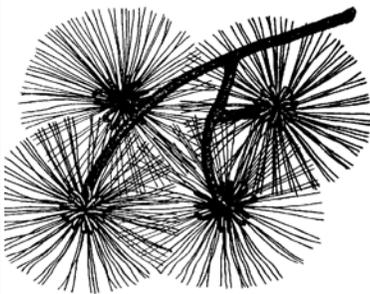
Safe Harbor Landowner in Cumberland county sells land to The Nature Conservancy

In early March, the Conservancy's North Carolina Chapter purchased 1,172.5 acres in Cumberland County, just north of Fayetteville from Billy Clark, a Fayetteville attorney. The property lies at the eastern edge of the Sandhills along the slopes of the Cape Fear River. Carver's Creek runs through the property which is a part of the globally-threatened longleaf pine ecosystem. The property is an extensive tract of typical Sandhills terrain with active red-cockaded woodpecker clusters. For more info visit: <http://64.226.151.2/tncnc/home.htm>

It's springtime in the Sandhills and the longer, warmer days signal the beginning of the nesting season for most bird species. The red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) is no exception and many of us that band RCWs will begin looking for nests at the end of April. Once again this year, the Sandhills Ecological Institute will be monitoring all RCW clusters on Safe Harbor properties through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Monitoring typically involves visiting active clusters on a 7-10 day cycle until a nest is found. Once the nestlings reach a certain age, a trained biologist removes the nestlings from their cavity and places colored leg bands on the young birds. After recording their weight, the biologists return the nestlings to the cavity. About 3 weeks later the young birds are fully feathered and will leave the nest and become fledglings. These young birds will stay with their natal group for several months and will learn how to forage for themselves as the summer progresses. For more information about monitoring of RCWs please visit: <http://ncsfs.fws.gov/monitoring>.

**Safe Harbor
Agreements
53 Landowners
35,871 acres**

Endangered Species Landowner Incentive Program

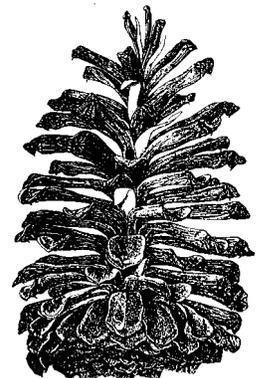


Beginning in fiscal year 1999, Congress authorized funding for the Endangered Species Act Landowner Incentive Program (ESLIP) to provide long-sought financial assistance and incentives to private property owners to conserve listed, proposed, and candidate species, along with species that are likely to become candidates in the near future. In the first year alone, 145 proposals totaling \$21.1 million competed nationwide for \$5 million in grant money.

The North Carolina Sandhills Field Station was successful in receiving nearly \$200,000 dollars that first year and another \$50,000 last year. These funds are available on a cost-share basis to landowners enrolled in the North Carolina Sandhills Safe Harbor Program through a separate

Wildlife Cooperative Extension Agreement (WCEA). To date, we have entered into WCEA agreements with 18 landowners enrolled under Safe Harbor to restore or improve red-cockaded woodpecker habitat. Safe Harbor landowners in the Sandhills have agreed to burn over 5600 acres and remove hardwoods on approximately 1200 acres in existing longleaf pine stands and to plant over 100 acres in longleaf pine. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided ESLIP funds to the Sandhills Ecological Institute for installation of artificial cavities on Safe Harbor properties in order to stabilize the existing red-cockaded woodpecker population in our region.

We have submitted a proposal for cost-share funds for this fiscal year and are hopeful that we will soon hear whether or not our proposal will be funded. Stay tuned...



U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
NORTH CAROLINA SANDHILLS FIELD STATION



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Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is a technical and financial assistance program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). It works in voluntary partnership with private (non-federal) landowners to restore wetlands, streams and river corridors, prairie, grasslands and other important fish and wildlife habitats for Federal trust species (migratory birds, threatened and endangered species, anadromous fish, and some marine mammals). The Program provides advice on the design and location of potential restoration projects as well as financial assistance to implement the projects.

Any type of privately-owned degraded fish or wildlife habitat is potentially eligible for restoration under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. In conjunction with its interested partners, the Service provides financial assistance to private landowners for a restoration project. The landowner may perform the restoration and be reimbursed directly for some of his or her expenses. While not a program requirement, a dollar-for-dollar cost share is sought on a project-by-project basis. In some states where the program is very popular, however, a 50:50 cost share is required.

The Service, Southeast Region, is working with other partners through this program to locate private landowners that are interested in restoring the endangered longleaf pine ecosystem, and to develop and carry out a habitat restoration plan for their property.

If you would like more information about the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program you can contact the North Carolina State Coordinator for Partners for Fish and Wildlife at:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726
(919) 856-4520 x 17
(919) 856-4556 fax
or visit: <http://nc-es.fws.gov/es/partners/partners.html>



Internet Links

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission: <http://www.wildlife.state.nc.us/>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife: <http://partners.fws.gov>

North Carolina Division of Forest Resources: <http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/>

Forest Legacy Program: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest/legacy/index.html>