

The Longleaf Pine Forest: A Fact Sheet

- Prior to European settlement, the southern longleaf pine dominated an ecosystem of 93 million acres; many scientists believe this to be the largest ecosystem in earth's history under one canopy of trees.
- Today the longleaf has been reduced to around three million acres.
- Some of the largest remaining stands of longleaf are in the Florida Panhandle and South Alabama.
- The longleaf pine forest is tall and majestic, with ancient stands dominated by a single species of tree: the longleaf pine. A conspicuous lack of midstory trees and shrubs presents a scenic vista through the forest.
- The longleaf and the other species that call the longleaf forest home are adapted to and depend upon fire; prescribed burns are now used to manage the forest.
- A fire-maintained longleaf pine ecosystem is one of the most ecologically diverse in the world (rivaling rainforests), and is home to some of the most rare and unique plants and animals on the North American continent.
- Nearly 900 plant species are found in longleaf forests and nowhere else in the world; in some longleaf forests, 140 different kinds of plants can be found in an area the size of a house, and 40 different species in a single square yard.
- Animals of the longleaf forest include the gopher tortoise, the fox squirrel, the red-cockaded woodpecker, the bobwhite quail, and the eastern diamondback rattlesnake; among species found in the longleaf forest, 26 are federally-listed endangered species.

...and introducing Longleaf

Science meets adventure in this exciting new young adult novel by ROGER REID, set in the Conecuh Forest.

