

THE LONGLEAF LEGACY PROJECT WITHIN SAM HOUSTON JONES STATE PARK

Heritage. Restoration. Rebirth.



LESSON 10

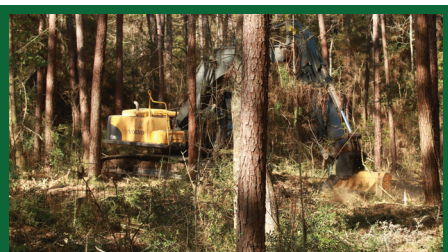
Rebirth: Your Day in the Park

The Longleaf Legacy Project is dedicated to the restoration and rebirth of Sam Houston Jones State Park. Funded by Sasol and administered by the Coastal Plain Conservancy, the project is being conducted in partnership with the Office of the Louisiana Lieutenant Governor, Louisiana Office of State Parks, Patagonia and the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana. This is the final lesson in the series. It is meant to underscore the importance of the concepts conveyed in Lessons 1-9 and to provide an opportunity to put those concepts into practice.

Objectives:

- Provide students with an opportunity to bring full circle all that they have learned in Lessons 1-9 about the longleaf ecosystem and the Longleaf Legacy Project.
- Highlight what students may see when they visit Sam Houston Jones State Park or other longleaf forests in the U.S.
- Outline resources that students may review to continue learning about longleaf pines.

What you might see during your visit to the longleaf pine forest in Sam Houston Jones State Park:



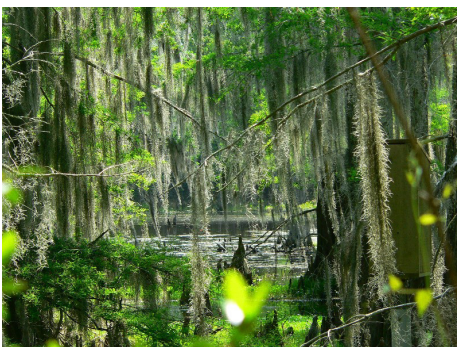
Mulching. This process removes plants that don't belong to make room for plants that do belong. The beneficial effects of mulching will be immediately visible.



Burning. Planned burns release nutrients from the mulch back into the ground to fertilize grasses and wildflowers. The beneficial effects will appear gradually.

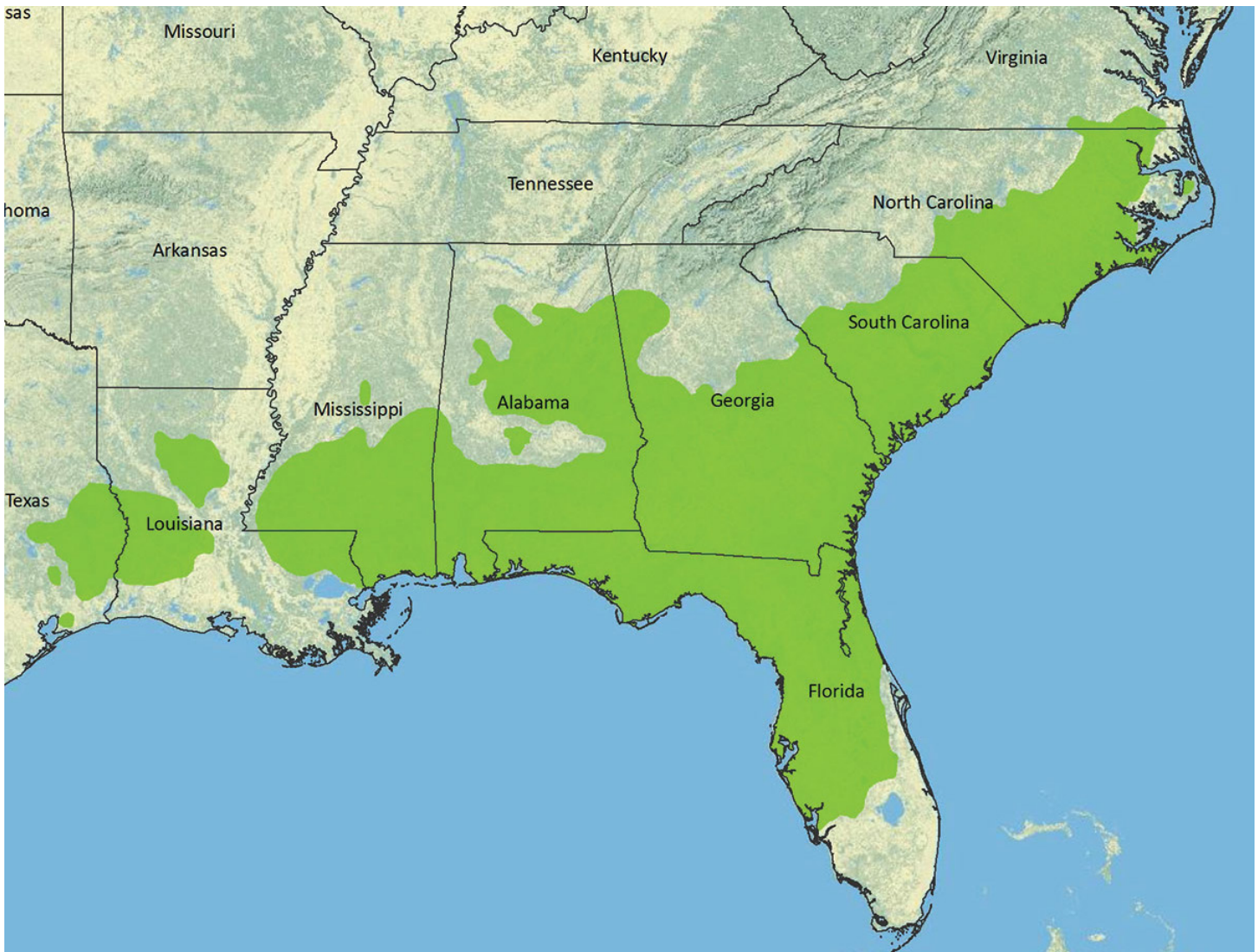


Growth. After burning, native plants and grasses grow and thrive. New vegetation will sprout from existing seeds in the soil in increasing amounts each year.



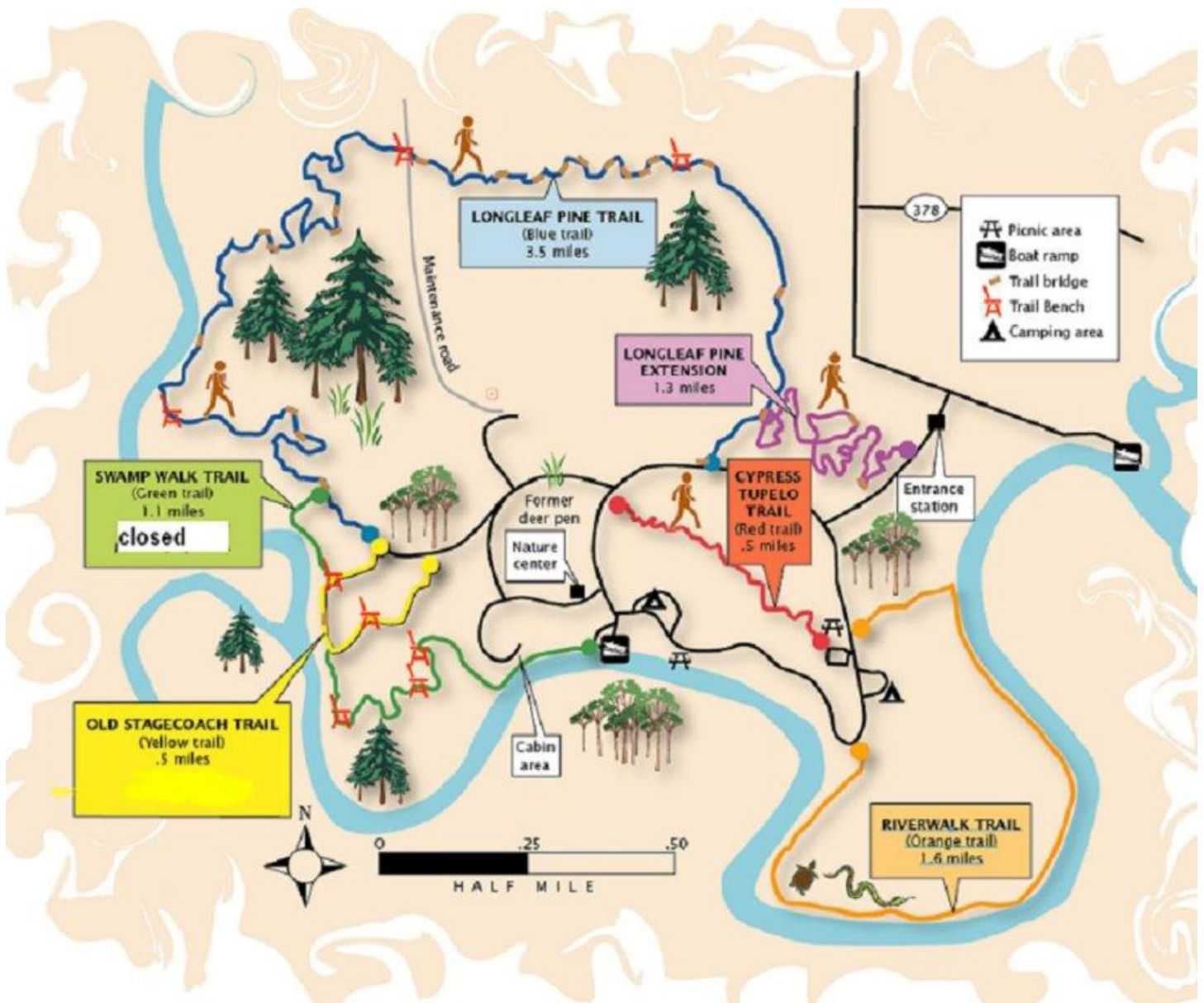
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Explore other longleaf pine forests: Longleaf forests are located in the southern United States and can be found in parts of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Texas and Louisiana.



Things to do:

- Visit Sam Houston Jones State Park near Lake Charles, La. and walk along the trails to observe an ecosystem at work. Use the photos included throughout the lesson plans to help you identify the native plants and animals in the longleaf pine forest (see trail map on the next page).
- Host a class longleaf writing or art project as a culmination of these lessons. Ask students to research longleaf pines at home through the links provided in this lesson and beyond. Students may choose to write a creative, informational, narrative, persuasive or poetry piece about the longleaf pine. Students may also choose to visually express what they have learned through an original drawing or video.
- Continue learning about longleaf pines and other essential plants in America's forests by dedicating a unit each year to local ecological restoration efforts.



Go beyond the lessons: Below are some examples of organizations and websites that provide resources and information regarding longleaf pine forests. Encourage your students to go beyond these lessons to discover more about the heritage, restoration and rebirth of longleaf pine forests.

[USDA/NRCS Longleaf Pine Initiative](#)
[AmericasLongleaf.org](#)
[The Longleaf Alliance](#)
[Coastal Plain Conservancy](#)

[U.S. Forest Service](#)
[National Wildlife Federation](#)
[AmericanForests.org](#)
[The Nature Conservancy](#)

LongleafLegacy.com

