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Media Advisory

500,000th Longleaf Seedling to be Planted

When: Friday, January 27, 2012, 1:30 p.m.
Where: Carvers Creek State Park (directions below)

The North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership protects and restores longleaf pine and related ecosystems. Since its creation in 2000, the Partnership has conserved over 25,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat. The Partnership also restores habitat – planting longleaf pine and native grasses and managing the land through controlled burning. As part of its restoration work, the Partnership will plant its 500,000th longleaf pine seedling this Friday at Carvers Creek State Park in Cumberland County.

Longleaf pine once covered more than 90 million acres in the South. Less than three million acres remain today. Longleaf pine played an important role in the region's culture and economic development. A century ago longleaf pine in the southeast accounted for more than 70 percent of international naval store production; naval store is the term given to tar and turpentine produced from longleaf resin. The word "naval" was used because the resin products were often used on ships as calking or waterproofing.

Evidence of the tree's cultural significance is strong in North Carolina. Our state toast reads in part:

"Here's to the land of the long leaf pine,
The summer land where the sun doth shine,
Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great,
Here's to "Down Home", the Old North State!"

The state's highest civilian honor is called the Order of the Longleaf Pine. The term "Tarheel" is derived from the sticky tar produced by longleaf pine.

Longleaf pine provides valuable habitat for a number of animals, including the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. The Partnership was created as a result of the

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issuance of a Jeopardy Biological Opinion, requiring the United States Army at Fort Bragg to recover the local population of red-cockaded woodpeckers. That recovery was accomplished in 2005, six years ahead of the projected deadline.

Partnership members include: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, U.S. Environmental Command, North Carolina Office of Conservation, Planning and Community Affairs, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, North Carolina Division of Forest Resources, The Nature Conservancy, Sandhills Area Land Trust and the Sandhills Ecological Institute.

DIRECTIONS:
From Raleigh

- Take **I-40 East** to **exit 328-A** to merge onto I-95 South.
- Take **exit 58** (Interstate 295 Future toward US-401)
- Merge onto **I-295 N**
- Continue onto **US-401 N/Ramsey Street**
- Turn left onto **Elliott Bridge Road**
- Turn left onto **Elliot Farm Road**
- Continue onto **Johnson Farm Road**
- The entrance will be on your left.

Directions from Southern Pines:

- Head **northwest** on **W Pennsylvania Ave** toward **N Bennett St**
- Turn right onto the **US-1 N** ramp to **Sanford**
- Merge onto **US-1/N Sandhills Blvd**
- Take the **N Carolina 690** exit Turn right onto **N Carolina 690 E/Main St**
- Turn right onto **N Bragg Blvd**
- Take the 1st left onto **E Manchester Rd**
- Turn left onto **N Carolina 210 N/Lillington Hwy**
- Turn right onto **McCormick Bridge Rd**
- Continue onto **McArthur Rd**
- Sharp left toward **Johnson Farm Rd**
- Continue straight onto **Johnson Farm Rd**
- Take the next drive on the right past Beulah Rd. The entrance will be on your right.