

# Shortleaf Pine INITIATIVE



RESTORING AN AMERICAN FOREST LEGACY

## *Third Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference*

Knoxville, Tennessee  
September 22-24, 2015

**Mike Black**  
Director  
Shortleaf Pine Initiative

*[www.shortleafpine.net](http://www.shortleafpine.net)*

# The Early Years –

Approx. 1960 to 2010

- A few kept the smoldering torch alive – Masters, Hernandez, Smalley and others.
- Management and research on shortleaf steadily declined.
- Forestry students rarely spent any time with shortleaf – other than in dendrology.



# The Shortleaf Working Group –

2010 through 2011

- Formed by a small group of volunteer professionals following a workshop in Raleigh, NC.
- No \$, but met several times to discuss shortleaf and gauge range wide interest and potential.
- Held first National Shortleaf Conference in Huntsville, AL in September 2011.
- Members included B. Barlow, J. Kush, J. Gilbert, A. Scott, G. Peters, P. Keyser, D. Schnake, G. Hernandez, R. Shelfer, B. Hubbard, M. Black, K. Guthrie and others.

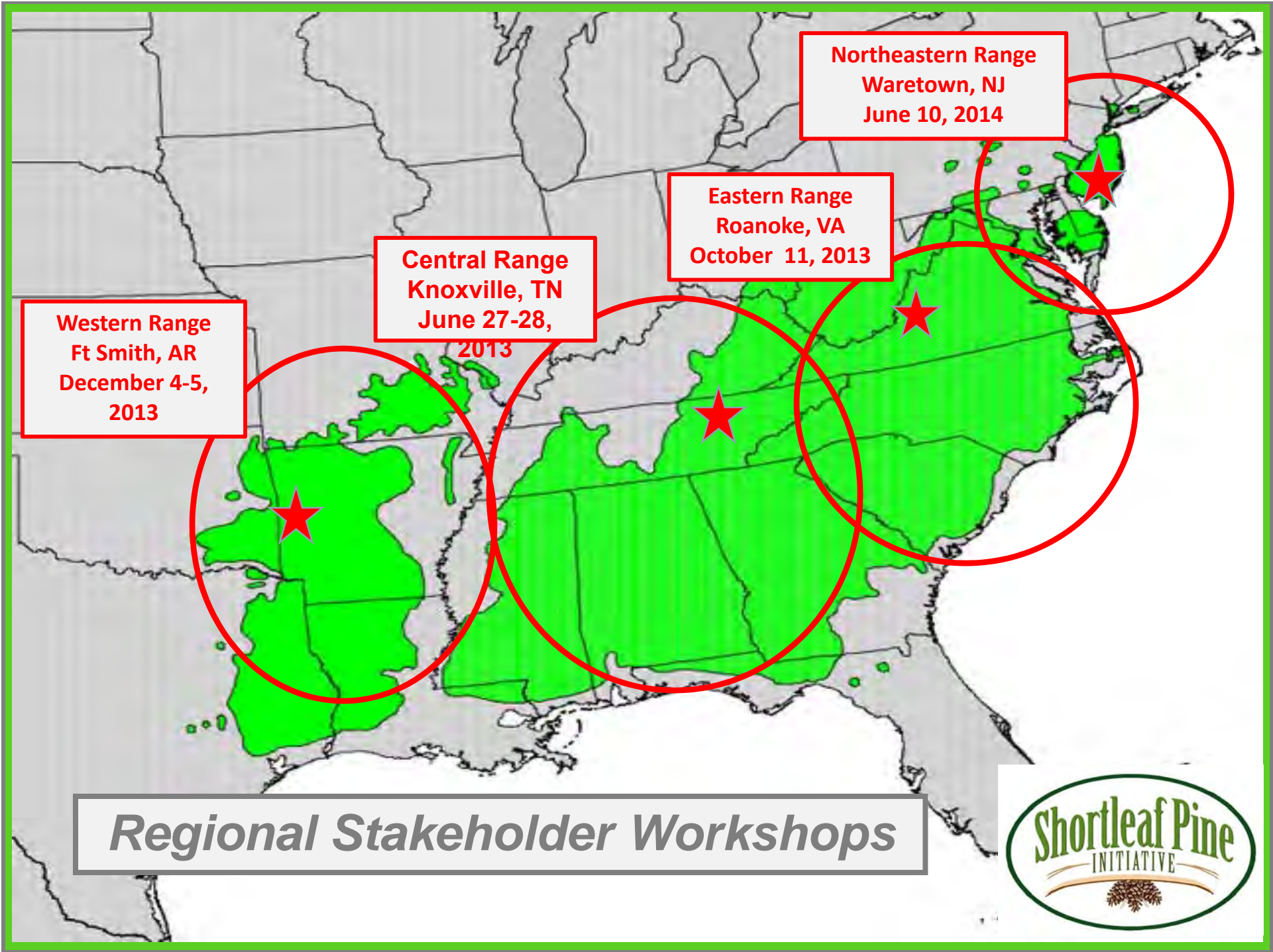


# Key Turning Points – Following the Huntsville Conference

September 2011

- Gary Myers – TWRA Director/Retired – challenged the group to pull together stakeholders from across the range and prepare a Range-wide Plan for Shortleaf pine.
- Ken Arney – USFS/Atlanta – generated a small grant to assist and organize workshops across the range to gather information and input for plan.
- USFS formed Planning Committee





Northeastern Range  
Waretown, NJ  
June 10, 2014

Eastern Range  
Roanoke, VA  
October 11, 2013

Central Range  
Knoxville, TN  
June 27-28,  
2013

Western Range  
Ft Smith, AR  
December 4-5,  
2013

*Regional Stakeholder Workshops*



# SPI Restoration Plan Timeline -

- First Draft (Zollner) – September 2014
- Second Draft (Lituma, Keyser, et al) – October 2014
- Second Draft approved by SPI Advisory Committee – March 2015 pending USFS review.
- Third Draft/First Iteration (Hayes, Sutter) – July 2015
- Third Draft/Second Iteration (Sutter) – September 2015
- **Third Draft – SPI 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Conference – September 2015**
- Third Draft – SREF/SPI website – September 2015
- Review Deadline – October 30, 2015
- Final Draft – December - 2015
- PLAN FINAL – January 2016



# Looking Ahead -

- Draft Range wide Plan for Shortleaf to be released and posted to website – Fall 2015
- Full time Director now on board
- SPI located at UTK with financial support from the USFS and grant admin by the Tennessee Division of Forestry
- Web design and management by SREF
- Advisory Committee meeting in March, 2015
- Partner development ongoing
- Local initiatives developing in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina and New Jersey
- Third Biennial Shortleaf Conference - Knoxville, TN September 22-24, 2015. (Previously held in Huntsville, AL 2011 and Ft. Smith, AR 2013)



# Shortleaf Pine Initiative Advisory Committee

- Ken Arney – **USFS**
- Mike Oetker – **USFWS**
- James Tillman – **NRCS**
- Rebecca Barnard – **NWTF**
- David O’neill – **NFWF**
- Charles Holmes - **NACD**
- Bill Hubbard – **SREF**
- Chris Topik – **TNC**
- Tom Martin – **AFF**
- Joe Fox – **SGSF**
- Keith Belli – **UTK**
- Ed Carter – **SEAFWA**
- Jimmy Bullock – **RMS**







# A Few Challenges Ahead

- Large range across 22+ states with multiple agencies, organizations and cultural differences.
- Large disparity in on the ground management experience from west to east.
- Significant differences in markets for shortleaf – sawtimber only, pulpwood only or no current market.
- High training demand for resource professionals – ahead of landowner outreach.
- Lack of prescribed fire outside of coastal plain range.



# Fourth Biennial Shortleaf Conference – Fall 2017

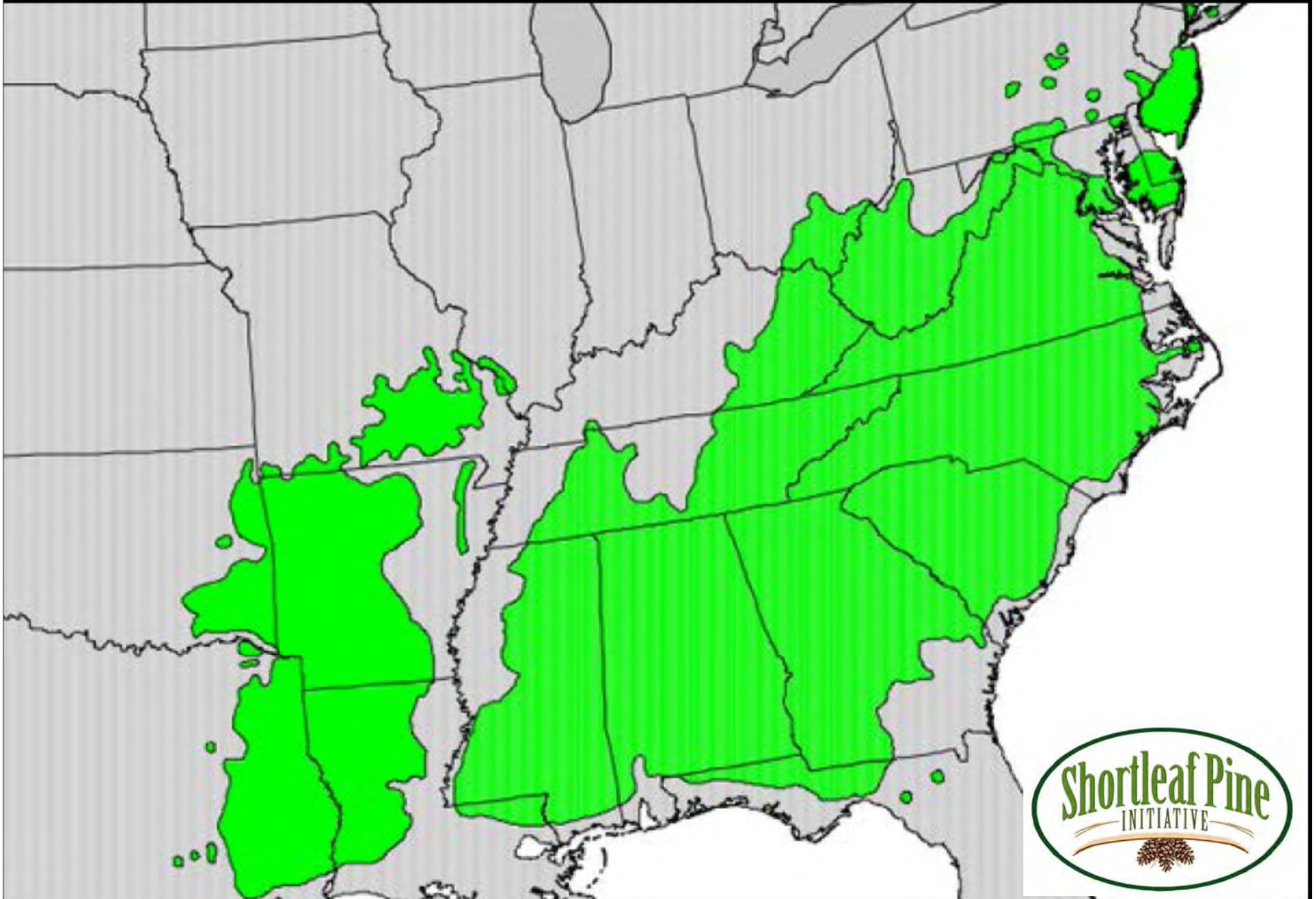
## Tiered Hints-

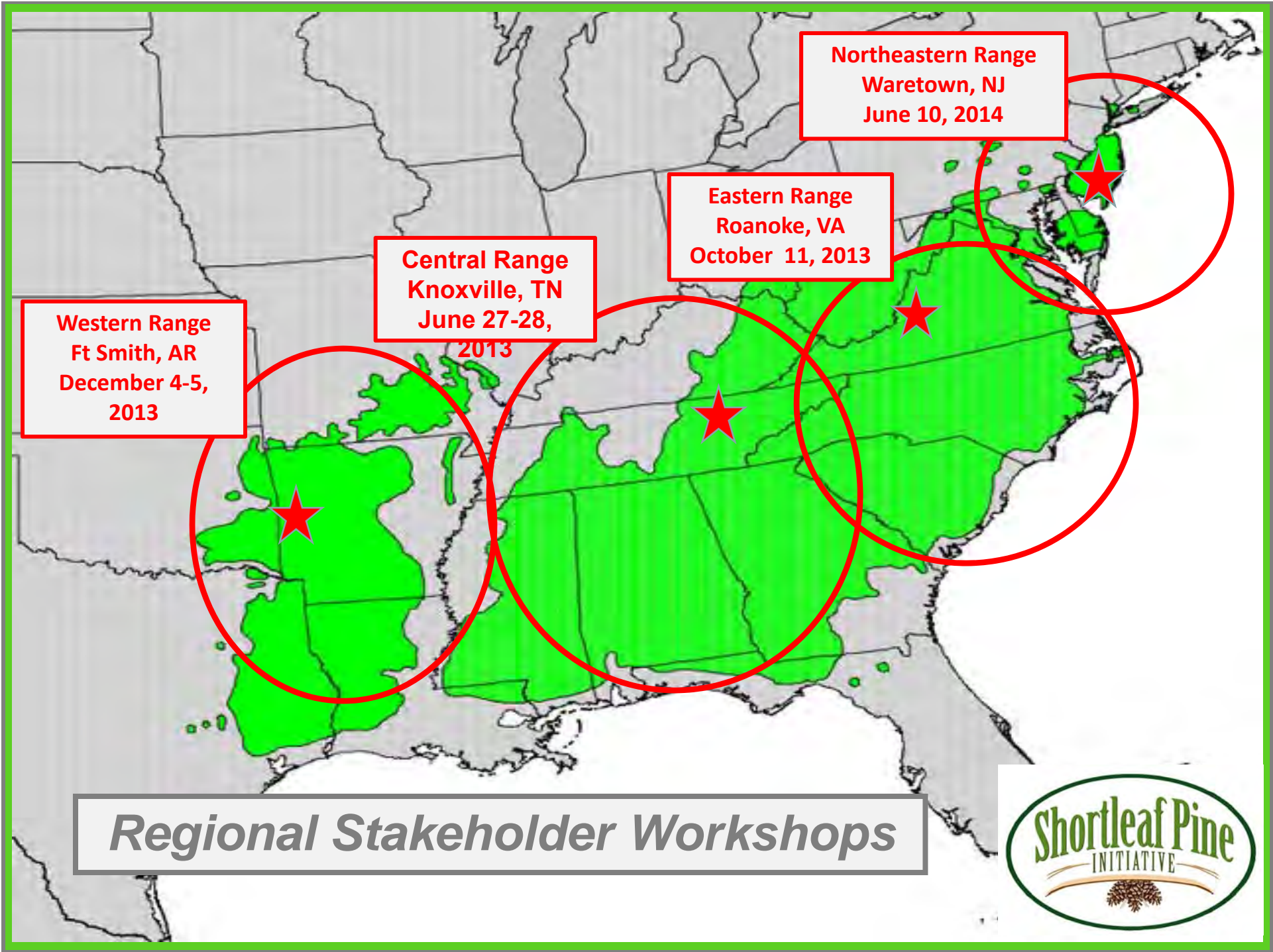
1. Also home to *Pinus rigida*
2. Pork Roll sandwiches are on the menu
3. Their mascot is an Osprey





# *Range of Shortleaf Pine (23 States)*





# The Shortleaf Pine Initiative

- Formed in 2013 to address multiple threats to the shortleaf ecosystem across the historic range.
- Multiple federal, state and private agencies, organizations and partners.
- Advisory committee and planning team developed.

