

Environmental STEWARDSHIP **Conservation Certification**



Within sight of large pulp and paper mills making thousands of tons a year of cellulose, tissue and containerboard products, the threatened gopher tortoise thrives, longleaf pine habitat is being restored, the American chestnut is getting a new lease on life and wildlife of all kinds can find a home. It's part of the work being done at Georgia-Pacific mills with Conservation Certification from the **Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC)**.

Created in 1988, WHC helps companies and other landowners manage their lands for the benefit of wildlife as well as conservation education. Conservation Certification recognizes company efforts to create, restore and enhance wildlife habitat on their lands.

Participating in the Conservation Certification program reflects Georgia-Pacific's commitment to our communities by being a good steward of our natural resources and the environment.

New Augusta (Leaf River), Mississippi Certified Since 2000

Employees at Georgia-Pacific's Leaf River cellulose mill manage diverse wildlife habitat areas on more than 4,000 acres in southeastern Mississippi. They planted longleaf pine, bluestem and Indiangrass to provide better habitat for the gopher tortoise, a federally listed threatened species. Signage and flagging are used to identify tortoise burrow locations throughout the habitat area, and prickly pear cactus—a favorite food and water source for the tortoise—is widely distributed.

The facility works to enhance the wildlife carrying capacity of the entire site through management of timber resources and pollinator fields that support a variety of wildlife species, including birds, deer and other wildlife.

The mill has partnered with the University of Southern Mississippi and several local schools on "Discovery Days," an environmental education program that is an integral part of the river ecology curriculum for schools throughout the region. As part of the program, students visit a remote river sandbar to study ecological concepts and learn field skills from Leaf River employees who have experience in science, engineering and technology. Students learn to sample and identify plankton, test water pH and dissolved oxygen levels, identify macroinvertebrates and find larval stage insects in woody debris, and use a seín to collect and identify fish and minnows.

For more information on Georgia-Pacific's support for environmental programs, visit our website at www.gp.com.

©2016 Georgia-Pacific LLC. All rights reserved.