



Stephen F. Austin State University: Improving the Ecotone of Managed Pine Plantations and Native Forests

Project Overview

Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) will receive \$70,268 over two years from the SFI Conservation and Community Partnerships Grant program to study the impact of forest practices on ecosystem processes and biodiversity. Historically, bordering forest types were blended gradually at their meeting edge, forming a unique transition area called an “ecotone”. The study provides insight to the relevance of the ecotone between managed pine plantations and native forest through the study of forest mammals, improving knowledge relevant to landscape management of pine plantations and native forest. Results will provide forest managers with tools to make decisions regarding the development and implementation of ecological networks, and implementation of management plans based on both production and conservation goals. The work will have broad utility to the management of the “forest matrix” in mixed forest landscapes, and particularly those that include southern pines. The project includes elements of outreach to SFI Program Participants, fulfilling SFI certification standard requirements related to education and research, as well as conservation of biological diversity.

Project Partners

Stephen F. Austin State University will partner with The Campbell Group for this project.