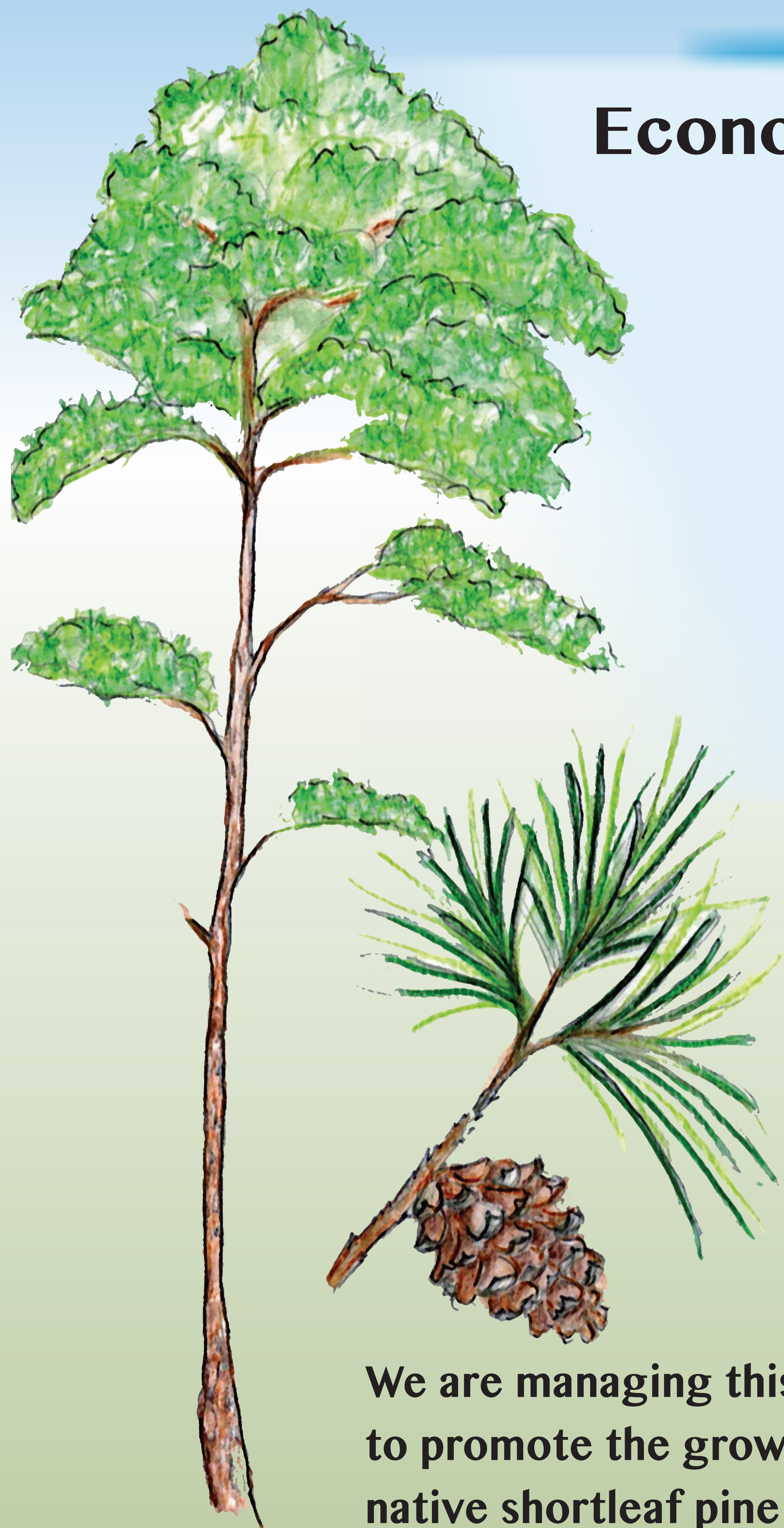




Appalachian.org

Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy: Bringing Back the Shortleaf Pine

Shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*)



We are managing this area to promote the growth of native shortleaf pine trees.

As you walk through this section of trail, can you point out a shortleaf pine?

Shortleaf Pine Decline

- The majority of virgin shortleaf pine stands were harvested in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Harvesting left very few trees, and re-growth was slow.
- Widespread drought weakened many shortleaf pine stands and encouraged southern pine beetle infestation and tree death.
- Due to its faster growth rate, loblolly pine is replacing shortleaf pine for commercial timber in many areas where shortleaf pine once grew.



Pine beetle

Economic & Ecological Value

- Shortleaf pine is one of the four most important southern pine trees in the United States for lumber, plywood, and pulpwood.
- The trees provide habitat for bobwhite quail, wild turkey, mourning dove, meadowlark, eastern cottontail rabbit, eastern grey squirrel, white-tailed deer, and a variety of songbirds.



Young shortleaf pine

Reforestation — Planting for the Future



Planting shortleaf pine seedling on SAHC's Community Farm.

Before SAHC began managing this farm, all of the trees and vegetation within this area had been cut during a logging operation. We found shortleaf pine sprouts growing in the area where you are standing. Since shortleaf pine is a native species that has been on the decline in North Carolina, we removed competing species to help these young trees grow. We also planted several more acres with shortleaf pine. With this reforestation project, our goal is to create a shortleaf pine forest interspersed with openings of native grasses. Native grasses provide good habitat for small creatures and ground nesting birds. This is an ongoing project that will require continued management.

This project was made possible due to partnerships with NC Wildlife Resources Commission, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and NC Forest Service.