

# Florida Needs Fire

“...the flammable nature of pine needles, palmetto fronds and wiregrass, enhanced by periodic droughts, has facilitated natural fires and the preservation of our pine woodlands. Put another way, **FLORIDA’S FORESTS WERE DESIGNED TO BURN AND BURN THEY WILL.**”

Excerpt from the Florida Society of American Foresters position paper  
*Florida Division encourages the use of fire to fight fire*

# What is a Prescribed Burn?

- Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels
- Specific environmental conditions
- Confined to a predetermined area
- Accomplishes resource management objectives



# Florida's Forests in the Early 1900's



Fire occurred naturally and often.



# Fire Prevention Kicks In...



Beginning around the 1920's man excluded fire, fearing it would destroy valuable timber assets.

# Today's Forests



Fire Exclusion ADDS fuel to the flames.



# Homes and High Fuel Loads Don't Mix.



When fire is excluded from a fire dependent ecosystem, catastrophic fires are more likely to occur.

# Many Objectives for Prescribed Fire

- Reduce Hazardous Fuels
- Prepare Forest Regeneration Sites
- Maintain and Restore Natural Communities
- Improve Wildlife Habitat
- Reduce Competing Vegetation
- Perpetuate Fire-Dependent or Endangered Species
- Improve Appearance and Access
- Control Disease and Pests
- Recycle Nutrients



# Grass stage







Grass



Longleaf



# Grass stage











Beer bottle brush



Longleaf pine bottlebrush





Bottle Brush

# Sapling







January 2014



# Flatwoods- 1 year rough





Nutrient recycling



Disease control



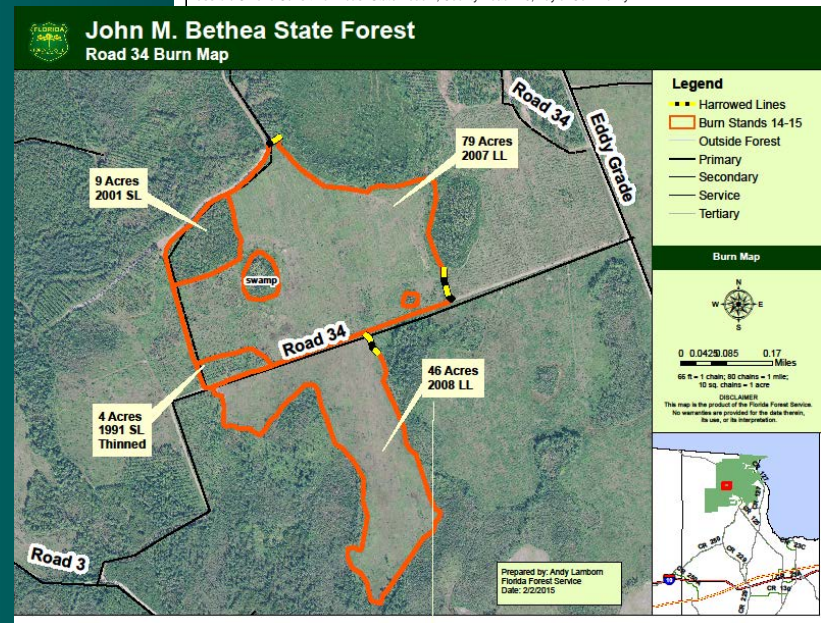
Natural regeneration



# Burn Prescription Elements

- Burn map and aerial photographs
- Defined area to be burned
- Resource management objectives
- Desired timing or season of burn
- Prescribed Burn Plan Form

<b>John Bethea State Forest Burn Prescription</b>		USE FIRE WISELY	FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE
Burn Name: Road 34			
District: SUWANNEE			
Landowner: John M. Bethea State Forest		Address: 11656 State Road 2 Sanderson, FL 32087	
Telephone Number: 904-259-4688	Sec(s): 17 Twp: 1N Rng: 20E	County: Baker Tract: Pinhook Comp(s): 14 Stand(s): 1412, 1447, 1413, 1402, 1401	
Acres within Lines: 150	Disked: 0.2 mile Road: 0.5 mile Natural: 1.5 mile	Previous Burn Date: N/A	
Stand Description: 2007 Longleaf, 2008 Longleaf, 1991 Thinned Slash, 2001 slash			
Height to Bottom of Crown: N/A		Maximum Acceptable Crown Scorch: N/A	
Understory Type: broom sedge, galberry and palmetto		Over story Type: N/A	
Fuel Description: broom sedge, galberry, palmetto		Fuel Model # 3 & 5	
Purpose of Burn: fuel reduction, timber management (i.e. site prep, fuel reduction, ecological)			
Burn Objectives: reduce fuel by 75%+, flash fire through to promote longleaf			
Resource Section Contact(s): Baker County Fire Dept. US Forest Service			
Special Precautions: Safety zones and escape routes Road 34 to Eddy Grade			
Notes:			
Possible Smoke-Sensitive Areas: State Road 2, County Road 125, Taylor Community			



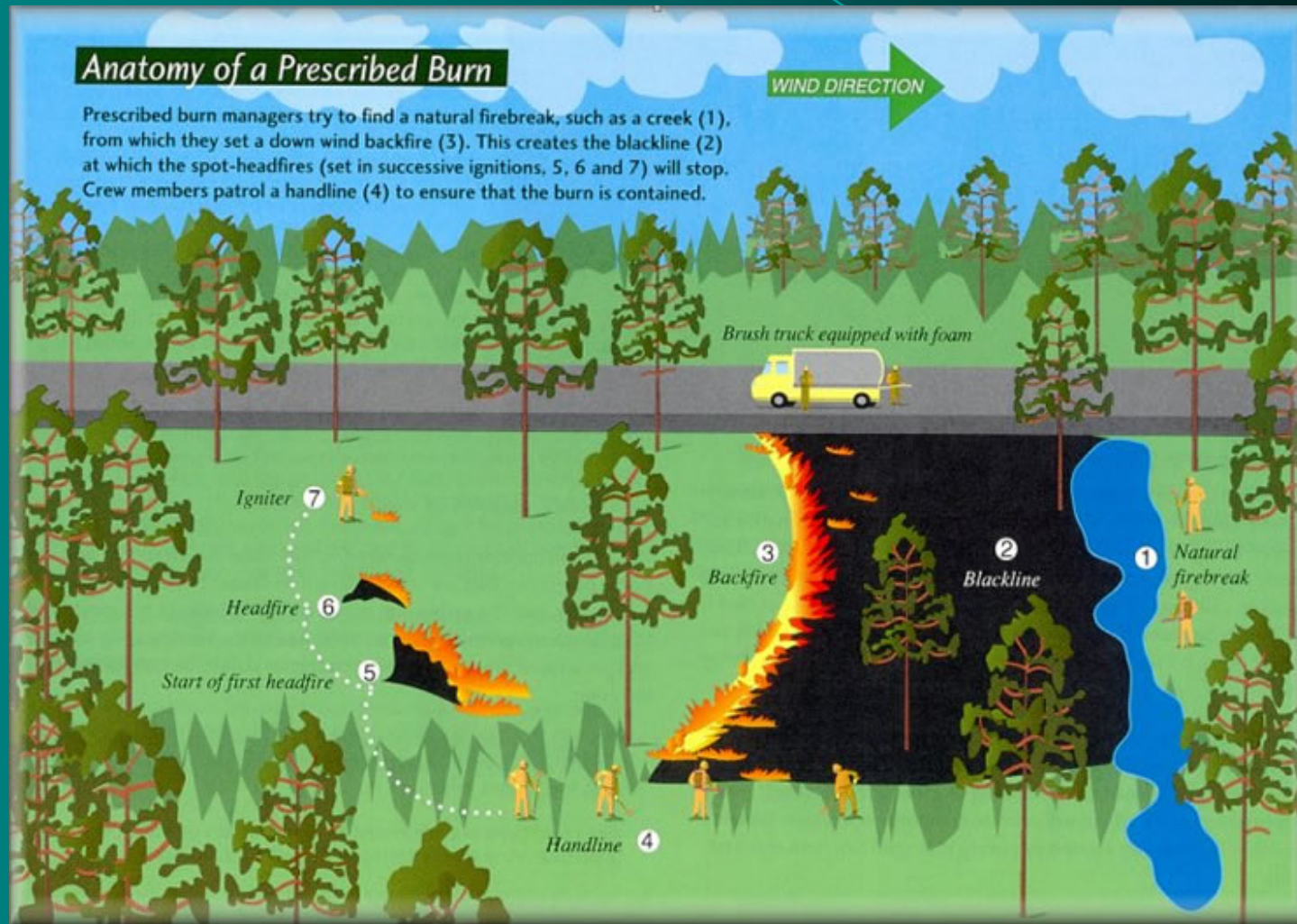


# Environmental Considerations for a Prescribed Burn

- Relative Humidity
- Fuel Moisture
- Dispersion Index
- Wind Speed & Direction
- Drought Index
- Temperature
- Smoke
- Crew Training and Experience



# Anatomy of a Prescribed Burn



# Nature's Adaptations to Fire

"Business as usual" for wildlife.

Florida's flora and fauna have adapted to the frequent occurrence of fire.

- The average prescribed fire only moves less than 1/4 mile/hour– plenty of time for even the gopher tortoise to outrun it!
- Burns can also be timed to known nesting seasons.

