

Overview and Recent History of Prescribed Fire on Florida's State

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Planning, Trends, and Successes

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Overview

- State Forest Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation
- Tracking Prescribed Fire Accomplishments and Trends
- Prescribed Fire Success Stories
- Further Research/Analysis



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The Natural Role of Fire in Florida

- Pre-European settlement
- Lightning & Native Americans
- Florida's ecosystems highly adapted to and dependent upon frequent, low intensity fire
 - Natural communities
 - Sandhill, scrub, flatwoods, prairie, and even wetlands
 - Plant and animal richness and diversity
 - Specialist plants/animals, longleaf pine



Uses of Prescribed Fire

- In present day Florida:
 - Natural System Management
 - Floral/Faunal Diversity
 - Forest Protection
 - Forest Management
 - Range Management
 - Water Management
 - Access
 - Aesthetics
 - Invasive Species Control

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Florida Forest Service

- The mission of the Florida Forest Service is to protect Florida and its people from the dangers of wildland fire and manage the forest resources through a stewardship ethic to assure they are available for future generations.
- Forest Protection Bureau
 - Ch. 590 F.S. (Forest Protection) and Rule 5I-2 F.A.C. (Open Burning)
 - Florida's Prescribed Fire Program



Florida Forest Service

- Manage 1,137,650 acres of state forest lands (as of 9/30/16 – including Babcock Ranch)
- Forests in 12 of 15 Field Units
- Largest: Blackwater River SF, Tate's Hell SF – 210,473 and 202,437 acres, respectively
- Roughly 850,000 acres considered "fire dependent" or "fire maintained"
 - Prescribed fire is a critical management tool

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State Forest Prescribed Fire Planning

- What needs to burn and how often does it need to burn?
 - 10-year Land Management Plan
 - Planning/accomplishment data help inform managers in prescribed fire planning process
 - Provides ideal (though not always realistic) planning goals to maintain proper fire return interval
 - Easy to interpret reference to keep on track with meeting established goals

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Prescribed Fire Implementation

- For each state forest, must consider:
 - 5-year Prescribed Fire Plan
 - Annual Prescribed Burn Plan
 - Site Prescriptions
 - Burn Unit Objectives (measurable)
 - Weather, Fuels, Topography
 - Safety



In context of: What needs to burn and how often does it need to burn?

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Prescribed Fire Implementation



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Prescribed Fire Accomplishment Tracking

- The FFS Dataset
 - Accomplishment data dates back to 1982/83
 - BRSF, CSF, PLSF, WISF, WSF
 - Basic components of annual tracking chart
 - Total Acres (forest)
 - Projected High and Low Acres (forest)
 - Planned Acres (forest)
 - Accomplishment by Month
 - Summary



The Annual Table – Accomplishment Tracking

itate Forest Prescribed Burning for FY 2014/2015, with Total Acres (Managed) as of 04/30/15 and proportionalized historical high and low acres.																		
STATE FOREST	Total Acr	Predicte	Predicte	Planned	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Accompl	%
Belmore	12262	2207	5518	2640	0	0	0	0	65	652	276	0	0	0	0	0	993	37.61
Bethea	37735	3774	10189	8000	0	0	0	40	152	217	1012	6559	0	0	0	0	7980	99.75
Big Shoals	1672	293	619	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	206	0	0	0	0	206	41.20
Blackwater River	210463	56814	172547	68183	3994	284	2072	2653	4657	6983	14438	12677	9451	5082	11489	1677	75457	110.67
Bronson	10941	900	1200	1850	0	0	0	56	0	0	1100	0	1125	150	0	0	2431	131.41
Carl Duval Moore	335	57	161	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	18	41	87.23
Cary	13385	2409	5220	2682	0	0	0	0	0	237	145	55	0	84	294	0	815	30.39
Deep Creek	380	12	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Etoniah Creek	8876	1509	3018	3380	0	0	0	0	0	832	162	2078	194	0	88	47	3401	100.62
Four Creeks	10959	1644	3616	2391	0	0	0	0	0	82	60	430	0	0	414	0	986	41.24
Goethe	53587	9646	23578	14525	0	0	0	0	0	2161	15089	1175	792	320	275	0	19812	136.40
Indian Lake	4466	1153	3257	600	0	0	0	0	0	412	0	0	0	0	745	0	1157	192.83
Jennings	25152	3845	8892	5799	0	0	0	0	159	616	1122	1480	173	283	622	3	4458	76.88
Lake George	21186	2965	6565	4383	0	0	0	0	460	2658	1486	267	28	0	0	0	4899	111.77
Lake Talquin	19380	2708	5995	3336	80	0	0	17	0	0	486	170	191	783	1615	0	3342	100.18
Lake Wales Ridge	26579	4253	14884	7100	0	1	1289	54	442	0	1816	120	446	288	677	974	6107	86.01
Little Big Econ	10236	1535	3992	980	0	0	96	5	0	0	115	0	11	0	41	621	889	90.71
Matanzas	4700	705	1410	1146	0	0	0	26	165	169	225	164	0	0	0	0	749	65.36
Myakka	8593	1633	4640	2000	0	0	0	0	305	290	473	212	28	460	0	232	2000	100.00
Okaloacoochee	32370	6793	22644	5000	0	0	0	70	131	60	1102	175	700	650	0	0	2888	57.76
Picayune Strand	80076	4722	13379	24000	0	0	200	173	950	1170	2460	2360	0	0	0	0	7313	30.47
Pine Log	7090	1640	4135	2129	0	0	0	0	0	839	881	409	0	0	0	0	2129	100.00
Point Washington	15407	3234	7237	3361	0	0	0	0	113	1431	1111	673	0	0	110	0	3438	102.29
Ralph Simmons	3638	546	1055	375	0	10	0	0	0	460	0	0	0	0	104	0	574	153.07
Ross Prairie	3532	954	2826	1000	0	0	0	0	0	227	174	864	0	0	754	0	2019	201.90
Seminole	27240	3252	8402	6000	1	0	0	0	160	0	1227	1391	238	74	37	0	3128	52.13
Tate's Hell	202437	42512	87048	39221	0	0	0	0	1830	4357	6324	3540	11152	0	3149	1571	31923	81.39
Tiger Bay	27390	2740	7397	3915	0	0	0	54	215	996	2408	242	0	0	0	0	3915	100.00
Twin Rivers & BS	15481	3243	9287	2891	0	0	0	0	25	300	367	656	1147	0	135	0	2630	90.97
Wakulla	4897	464	886	1509	0	0	0	0	0	119	610	0	28	498	92	95	1442	95.56
Watson Island	506	25	121	114	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	14.04
Welaka	2287	320	1372	686	0	0	0	0	0	0	765	29	0	0	40	0	834	121.57
Withlacoochee	159625	27133	60650	40000	34	2533	591	2116	645	4887	14732	8347	8665	3478	1349	290	47667	119.17
SUBTOTALS	1062863	195640	501764	259743	4109	2828	4248	5264	10474	30171	70166	44279	34369	12150	22053	5528	245639	94.57
(The forests below	are not in	cluded b	ecause t	they have	incom	plete ir	format	ion or a	are not F	RX burn	ed.)							
Cottage Hill	31	8	8	<u>о</u>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Holopaw	58			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Newnan's Lake	1004			145	0	0	0	0	0	145	0	0	0	0	0	0	145	100.00
Peace River	4195			320	0	0	0	0	0	0	163	0	10	137	10	0	320	100.00
SUBTOTALS	5 288	8	8	465	0	0	0	0	0	145	163	0	10	137	10	0	465	0.00
GRAND TOTALS	1068151	1056/8	501772	260208	4109	2828	1218	5264	10474	30316	70320	11270	3/1370	12287	22063	5528	246104	94 58
GRAND TOTALS	Bloppod r		of correct	200200	4103	2020			10474	50510	70523	44273	04073	12207	ro thon	100%	of gool	34.30
	Planned r		of acres		expected	range	or hove			then 7		4/15 plan			ie man	100%	or goar.	
	Planned r					range	orhove	achiev			ond 750		n ning go	Jai.				
	No planned f	ad agree			botwoo			acriev	eu beiw	een su	anu 75%	o or goa						
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Effects Tracking – Photo Points



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Notable Accomplishments

- Fiscal Year 2000 2001 thru 2015 2016
 - "Trending" increase in annual acres burned
 - Burned 200,000+ acres 4 of 7 previous years
 - First time in 2009-10 FY
 - Also first time exceeding "Predicted Low"
 - Since 1991-92 FY but much smaller land base then
 - Set monthly records in 2 consecutive years
 - 70,329 acres in January 2015
 - 75,355 acres in February 2016



Notable Accomplishments

- Fiscal Year 2014 2015: The "Banner" Year
 - Burned 246,104 acres of FFS land
 - Most acres ever in 1 year
 - Burned 23.04% of total managed land
 - Higher in 82/83, 83/84, and 91/92 (by percent managed)
 - Only between 300,000-400,000 acres in those years
 - 94.58% of statewide planning goal
 - 260,208 acres planned
 - 23/37 forests > 75% planning goal
 - 12/37 forests > 100% planning goal
 - 21/37 forests within or beyond expected range

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Trends in FFS Prescribed Fire



Trends in FFS Prescribed Fire



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Trends in FFS Prescribed Fire Timing



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Trends in FFS Prescribed Fire Timing



FY 14/15 and FY 15/16 vs. Average



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Success Story – Lake Talquin



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Success Story – Goethe SF





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Success Story – Goethe SF



Success Story – Goethe SF



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Success Story – Prescribed Fire Assistance Team



Success Story – Prescribed Fire **Assistance Team**



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Success Story – Prescribed Fire Assistance Team





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Further Research and Analysis

- Compile report to include:
 - Statewide, Regional, District, and Forest Trends
 - Similar to what was presented today
 - Examining relationships between planning and accomplishments
 - Planning properly? Overplanning? Underplanning?
 - Geospatial overlays of community types and burn units
- Other potential topics:
 - Costs, Fire Weather, Burn Days, etc.

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Questions?

Thank you!

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