



SOUTHERN Fire Exchange

A JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortium



FIRE LINES

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Learn more about our [Partners](#) and the [JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortia](#).

Visit the SFE Resource Center
www.southernfireexchange.org



Flatwoods Species Responses to Restoration Treatment and Season

In a recent [CFEOR Newsletter](#) update, authors Leda Kobziar, Eric Carvalho, and Adam Watts shared results of a long-term restoration experiment on Florida's dry prairies at Myakka River State Park. Dry prairies are rare flatwoods ecosystems, supporting federal and state listed species and threatened by development and fire suppression. This restoration experiment compares mechanical treatments (roller chopping every six years, applied for the first 13 years) with and without fire (every three years; also in all sites starting in 2001) in both growing and dormant seasons over the 23 year timespan. Results show that, regardless of the season, mechanical treatments alone are less beneficial for achieving restoration objectives and that combined treatments yielded more desirable results than burning alone—suggesting that more frequent disturbance is beneficial to dry prairie restoration. [Click here](#) to see the summary in the CFEOR newsletter.



Myakka Prairie. Photo by Paula Benshoff.

Conserved Forest Ecosystems: Outreach and Research (CFEOR) is a cooperative of public, private, non-government organizations, landowners, and University of Florida faculty who have a mission to conserve forest lands in Florida. This study used CFEOR Signature research project funding to re-assess restoration treatment units established in 1988 and originally assessed in 2001.

Cohesive Strategy and the Southeast

The [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#) (Cohesive Strategy) is a collaborative process that seeks to create a national fire strategy to address wildland fire management issues. In Phase I of the plan development, three national goals were established:

- **Restore and Maintain Landscapes:** Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire-related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.
- **Fire-Adapted Human Communities:** Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property.
- **Wildfire Response:** All jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions.

Recognizing that different regions of the country have unique challenges, resources, and opportunities, Phase II was developed at the regional level. During this phase, the [Southeast Regional Strategy Committee](#) (RSC) guided a stakeholder-driven [Regional Assessment](#) to match the national goals to the wildfire needs and challenges found at regional and local levels. More than 1000 individuals provided comments, participated in forums and meetings, or responded to online survey requests which helped guide the regional strategy. *continued on page 3*

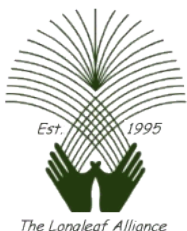
Listen to a podcast of Dan Smith, National Association of State Foresters, talking about the strategy goals (scroll to bottom of the page).



Partner Spotlight: The Longleaf Alliance

Since 1995, **The Longleaf Alliance** (LLA) has been working to “ensure a sustainable future for the longleaf pine ecosystem through partnerships, landowner assistance and science-based education and outreach.” As the majority of southeastern forests are owned by private, non-industrial landowners, LLA activities target and support this audience. To fulfill their mission, the LLA focuses on the following activities:

- Serving as an information clearinghouse on regenerating, restoring and managing longleaf pine;
- Providing networking opportunities for LLA supporters to connect with other landowners, managers and researchers with similar interests and problems; and
- Coordinating technical meetings and education seminars.



The LLA holds workshops and webinars that are designed to assist forest landowners, consultants, and managers in establishing and managing longleaf pine ecosystems. Information on prescribed fire and other fire-related topics are regularly included on agendas. As part of their Longleaf Academy series, the LLA offers workshops throughout the Southeast. This spring both Longleaf 101 (registration full; waiting list available) and Herbicides and Longleaf 201 (registration open) are being offered, with continuing education credits available. [Click here](#) for the schedule.

Stay up-to-date with LLA activities and news with the [LLA Facebook page](#).

Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Risk

Fire season has started throughout much of the Southeast. This is a good time to remind ourselves about fire risk mitigation in and around the wildland-urban interface (WUI). Presentations at both the 3rd Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference in 2010 and the 4th Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference in Raleigh last month confirmed that most home ignitions during WUI wildfires occur from embers landing in, on, or adjacent to structures rather than from flaming fronts. Structural maintenance and retrofit may provide more effective protection for most homes than fuel breaks around communities.

Research over the last 10 years related to the ‘home ignition zone’ has resulted in a variety of resources and guidelines that can be used on your own home, or shared with clients, to reduce wildfire risk. Some of those resources applicable in the South can be found on the [Firewise Communities webpage](#), the [Wildfire Risk Reduction in Florida book](#), and the [Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment Guide](#).

A new report and video from the Fire Adapted Communities Coalition share a case study from Colorado Springs and the Waldo Canyon Fire. [Read the report or view the video.](#)

Smoke Predictions

An issue that received considerable attention during the Fire Behavior Conference in Raleigh was smoke production and movement, and fog interactions with smoke. We will highlight some of these presentations in fact sheets and webinars in the coming months. Several new (and old) tools will significantly enhance your ability to predict the possibility for super fog occurrence. One closely related tool that is now experimentally online for review and comment is the [Experimental Fog Forecast Map](#) on the Southern High Resolution Modeling Consortium website. The Forecast Maps are projected at 3-hour intervals over a 15-hour period. Take a look at it if you are wondering about possible fog formation the evening after your prescribed burn. Note that if UTC time is 00, EDT is 8:00 pm.

NRCS Longleaf Pine Initiative

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced the availability of technical and financial assistance to help private landowners in nine states restore and manage longleaf pine. The Longleaf Pine Initiative will help landowners improve habitat on agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest, and tribal land. Approved participants will receive financial assistance for implementing conservation practices including planting longleaf pine, installing firebreaks, conducting prescribed burning, and controlling invasive plants. For more information about this initiative, and a short, well-done animated video about longleaf and prescribed fire, [click here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit the [SFE Calendar](#) and the [JFSP Calendar](#) to learn more about upcoming workshops, trainings, webinars, field trips, demonstrations, and other professional development opportunities. To add an event to our calendar, [email us](#).

Webinars

Fire Behavior and Wind Flow in Bark Beetle-Infested Forests
April 4, 2013; 3pm to 4pm (EDT)
Host: [LLC-IAWF-JFSP](#)

Rx fire and Mechanical Treatments for Golden-cheeked Warbler
April 2, 2013; 2pm to 3pm (EDT)
Host: [Oak Woodlands & Forests Fire Consortium](#)

Conferences

National Conference of Private Landowners
June 4-7, 2013
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Association of Consulting Foresters Conference
June 22-25, 2013
Keystone, Colorado

Wildland Fire in Appalachians
October 8-10, 2013
Roanoke, Virginia

IAWF International Smoke Symposium
October 21-24, 2013
Adelphi, Maryland

SAF 2013 National Convention
October 23-27, 2013
North Charleston, South Carolina

Backyards and Beyond: Wildland Fire Education
November 12-13, 2013
Salt Lake City, Utah

Workshops and Trainings
TTRS Landowner Luncheon
March 29; 9:30am to 2:00pm
Tallahassee, Florida

Prescribed Fire and Indiana Bats
April 16-17, 2013
Robbinsville, North Carolina

Herbicides & Longleaf 201
April 23-25, 2013
Tifton, Georgia

NEWS AND REMINDERS

ARCHIVED SEMINAR ON SOUTHEAST FOR MISSOULA FIRE LAB

Dr. Adam Watts recently presented a seminar titled, Fire Ecology in the Southeastern United States: Overview of Issues and Recent Research in Florida, to the [Missoula Fire Lab](#). An [archived version](#) is available online.

TALL TIMBERS RESEARCH STATION E-NEWS

Learn from Eric Staller about not only “when to burn” but “why to burn,” and find out about fire education and outreach activities at TTRS. [Click here](#) to view the update.

LLC YOU TUBE CHANNEL

The Wildland Fire Lessons Learned Center now has a [YouTube](#) page where they share their video library, including webinars, interviews, and more.

LLC 2012 INCIDENT REVIEW SUMMARY

Read a summary of information gleaned from 96 wildland fire incidents during 2012. This document can be used to gain ideas for relevant training opportunities and discussion topics. To view, [click here](#).

SFE TIME-LAPSE VIDEO

Check out this [new video](#) of a dormant season prescribed fire in a mixed long-leaf pine / slash pine flatwoods stand in the University of Florida, Austin Cary Forest.

NEW INTERFACE FOR FIRE EFFECTS INFORMATION SYSTEM (FEIS)

A new version of the [FEIS interface](#) is now available and being tested through September. Your comments and feedback are welcome.

RECENTLY ARCHIVED WEBINARS

Watch recent webinars presented by USFS researchers: Sarah McCaffrey, [Debunking Social Myths in Wildland Fire](#) and Cassandra Moseley, [Economic Impact of Large Wildfires](#).

FIRE LINES CONTRIBUTIONS

Send your fire-related news, field stories, or photos to Annie Oxarart (oxarart@ufl.edu) to be included in future issues of *Fire Lines*.

Cohesive Strategy *continued from page 1*

Phase III includes a regional action plan that will serve as a roadmap for implementation of the Cohesive Strategy. The current draft of the [Southeast Regional Action Plan](#) contains 6 overarching strategies and 23 actions, grouped around 5 values, and a set of identified barriers to success.

The [Cohesive Strategy website](#) has great information detailing each development phase, reports, and presentations. You can also search Cohesive Strategy Success Stories related to goals, years, states, and agencies. The success of the Cohesive Strategy in the Southeast depends on the continued engagement and support of stakeholders. If you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact [Mike Zupko](#).

Welcome Dr. David Godwin to New SFE Position

We are excited to announce that Dr. David Godwin is now working full-time with the Southern Fire Exchange as our Program and Outreach Coordinator. We have been fortunate to have David managing and improving the SFE Twitter program since its establishment in 2011. His new position will help expand and improve SFE fire science delivery activities, as identified through our needs assessment and subsequent evaluations. David brings an interest in exploring a variety of exciting new multimedia communication methods to convey fire science information. David completed his PhD at University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation, with research focusing on the influence of forest and prescribed fire management regimes on soil carbon dynamics. He was a Presidential Management Fellows finalist and a 2010 JFSP Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) award winner. Please join us in welcoming David to his new position! Feel free to contact him directly at: d.godwin@southernfireexchange.org.



Prescribed Fire Injury Highlights the Need for Drip Torch and Nomex Safety

Following a serious injury to a ground ignitions crew member during an October 2012 prescribed fire in Washington, the [Wildfire Lessons Learned Center](#) released a detailed report with safety recommendations learned from this incident.

What happened: While using an agency approved drip torch to ignite understory vegetation, a US Forest Service (USFS) employee “felt heat on his pants” and observed that first his left, and then both of his Nomex pant legs were on fire. The employee extinguished the flames and attempted to remove the smoldering pants but was delayed due to difficulty in removing his boots. After receiving immediate assistance from a nearby crew member, the employee was flown via medevac helicopter to a nearby trauma hospital and later transferred to a burn treatment center. The individual received 2nd and 3rd degree burns to 20-25% of his body.

Why: A subsequent USFS investigation found that drip torch fuel was present on the employee's Nomex pants and fire boots. Further analysis by the USFS Missoula Technology and Development Center (MTDC) determined that the breather tube on the employee's



Photo by David Godwin.

drip torch was inside the torch but not attached to the breather tube screw. While this detachment may have occurred during handling after the accident, it also could have led to significant fuel leakage from the screw, which may have led to the pants catching fire.

What to Do: This Lessons Learned report suggests that all persons tasked with operating drip torches and other liquid fuel ignition devices be familiar with the proper procedures to inspect and maintain them. In addition, all personnel should understand that Nomex clothing contaminated with fuel or other combustibles must be changed and laundered before being worn near flames or ignition sources.

[Click here](#) to see the full report. Also, review the [NWCG Interagency Ground Ignition Guide](#) for detailed information on drip torch use and safety.