



Prescribed Fire Newsletter

2018 4th Quarter



Woodlands and Wildlife Field day

On a crisp clear morning of September 27, landowners gathered as they eagerly anticipated the field tour they awaited. However, mother nature had differing plans. As the Alabama Tree Farm System gave landowners the experience to see management hands on at Saloom Properties LLC near Evergreen Alabama.

Despite the unexpected 1.9 inches of rain during the event, 184 landowners from around Alabama gathered to learn land management practices. Informative presentations were given by professionals from organizations such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Longleaf Alliance and Alabama Forestry Association. Topics included invasive species, threatened and endangered species, and prescribe fire. Attendees got opportunities to talk first hand to professionals about management practices they have attempted on their properties and how to improve success. Other topics included potential listings of species and potential impacts landowners may face if species, such as the Gopher Tortoise, get listed.

One of the most unique opportunities was vendor stations. Over 25 companies, agencies, and organizations from around Alabama set up booths to display how they assist landowners. Creating forestry jobs, landowner assistance programs, to honey bee production are examples of vendors present to providing valuable information to landowners as they explored.

Throughout the event topics included how to manage private property, ultimately keeping the forest "sustainable." Sustainability is Tree Farm's main goal. Keeping forest healthy and growing is beneficial for plants, wildlife, and humans alike. If you would like to know more about Tree farm please contact Tyler Sibley and he can assist you in applying.



Picture 3: Salem Saloom welcoming landowners to his property during the Woodlands and Wildlife Field Day on September, 27.



Picture 2: Tree Farm sign found on Certified Tree Farm properties.

Have you burned in Hardwoods?

Has a Resource Professional ever suggested burning in your hardwood stand? Most likely answer is No. Normally, Prescribe fire is used to remove or kill hardwoods in your pine stands. What about in mature hardwood stands? In upland hardwood stands, fire is beneficial for the trees. When a low intensity fire is used many benefits occur. Fire reduces competition, leaf litter, as well as improve wildlife habitat. When competition is reduced, stands are opened up encouraging grasses to grow increasing insect abundance which is vital for wildlife for nutrition.

When prescribed fire is introduced in the fall or winter habitat is changed. Fire can roast acorns thus killing the seed allowing for more nutrients to reach standing trees. Even though mast may be killed not all is lost. Birds as well as deer find roasted mast crop a welcomed treat, which in turn is a natural attractant for hunting.

Many foresters discourage burning in hardwoods due to loss in economic value. If fuels exist near the trunk, the trunk can scorch or burn causing a decrease in value if your objective is to market the timber.

To burn or not to burn in hardwoods is the question. It is up to the landowner to decide. If timber or income is your object you may exclude fire. If wildlife is your objective, burning can improve habitat quality and attract wildlife.



Picture 3: Landowners gathered as they learn about various land management topics during Woodlands and Wildlife day





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Upcoming Opportunities

- Alabama Landowner Conference, October 14-16
Location: Marriott Prattville, Prattville, AL
Registration: Alabama Forestry Association Website
- ANRC Forestry Field Day, October 18
Location: Roy Jordan's Property, Marengo County
Registration: Marengo County Coop Extension 334-295-5959
- 12th Biennial Longleaf Conference, October 23-26
Location: Holiday Inn Alexandria, Alexandria, Louisiana
Registration: Longleaf Alliance website

For more information contact:

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