

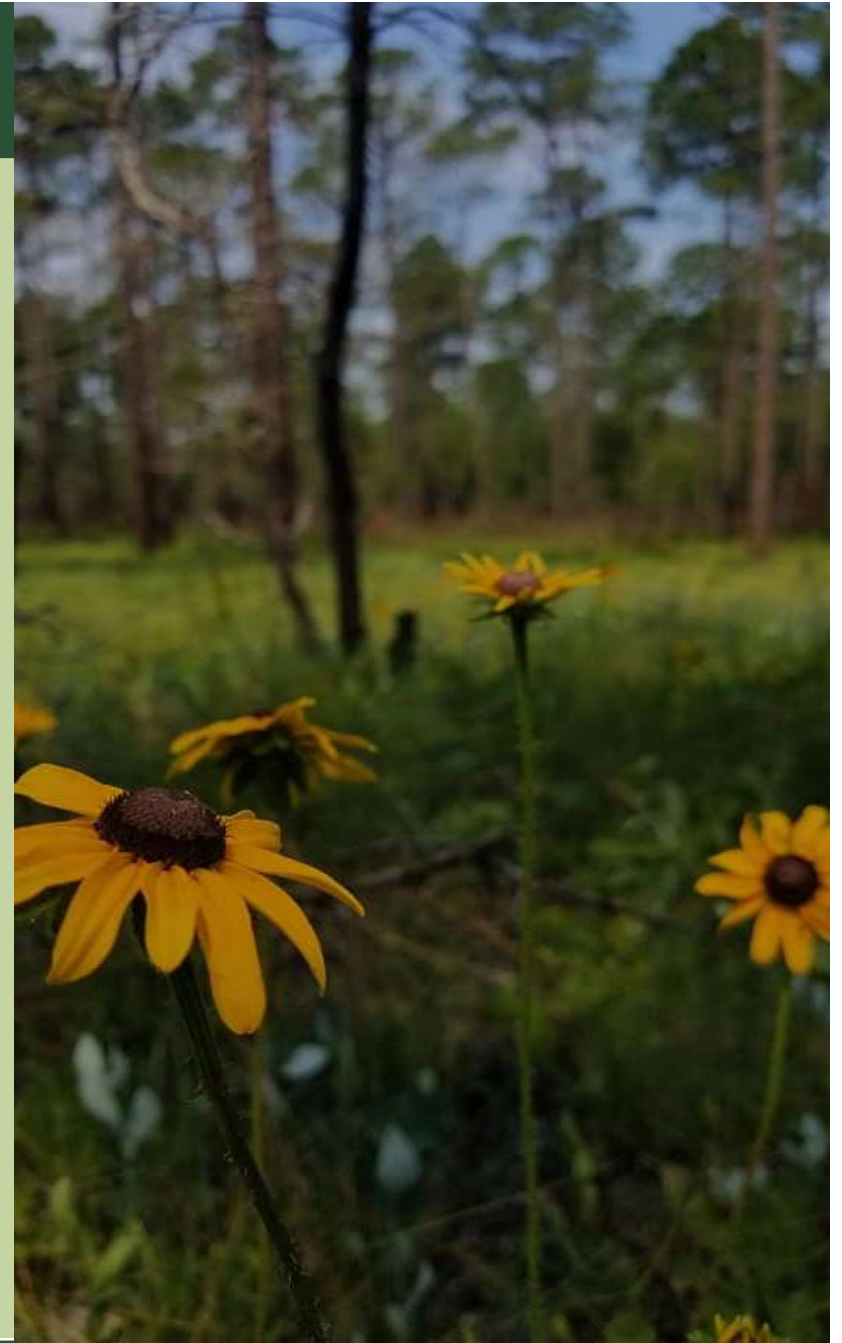
Understory Maintenance & Management

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Groundcover 201

Groundcover Maintenance & Management



Objectives...

- Maintenance of understory after restored.
- Covering the “Tools in the toolbox”
- Rx FIRE and timing
- Mechanical
- Chemical for continued control



Groundcover Management Tools

- **Prescribed fire-** Prescribed fire is a safe way to apply a natural process, ensure ecosystem health and reduce wildfire risk.
- Selective use of herbicide
- Mechanical disturbances (mowing, disking, cutting/mulching)



Is Rx Fire the Right Practice Right Now?

- Young longleaf
- Fine fuels present
- Dormant season Rx



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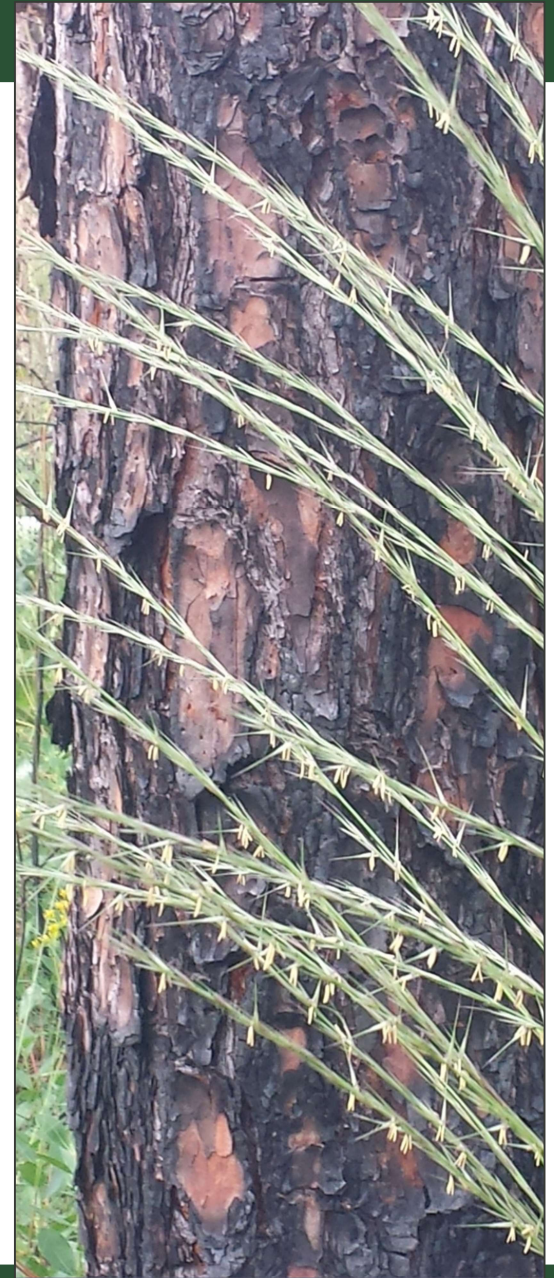
Is Rx Fire the Right Practice Right Now?

- Heavy hardwood component
- Low fire behavior
- Mechanical/chemical before prescribing fire



Role of Fire

- Removes dead plant material
- Top-kills hardwood vegetation
- Removes dangerous fuel
- Stimulates flowering of some plants



“Sharing the Flame...”

- Most natural understory maintenance “tool”
- Most economical
- “Pyro-fylic” species need it for sustainability
- Two different seasons: Dormant and Growing Season
- When establishing young longleaf stands-begin with fire early on and keep up with it
- Restoration of fire to a suppressed stand, more complicated



Dormant Season Prescribed Fire- Conservative Conditions



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Dormant Season-

best for fuel reduction and safest with damp duff



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Frequent fire best- growing season, mimics historic natural regime- “lightning season fire”



Mechanical- Another “Tool”



Mechanical-forestry mulching head on skid steer



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“Gyro-trac” Forestry mulcher



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Results after mulching



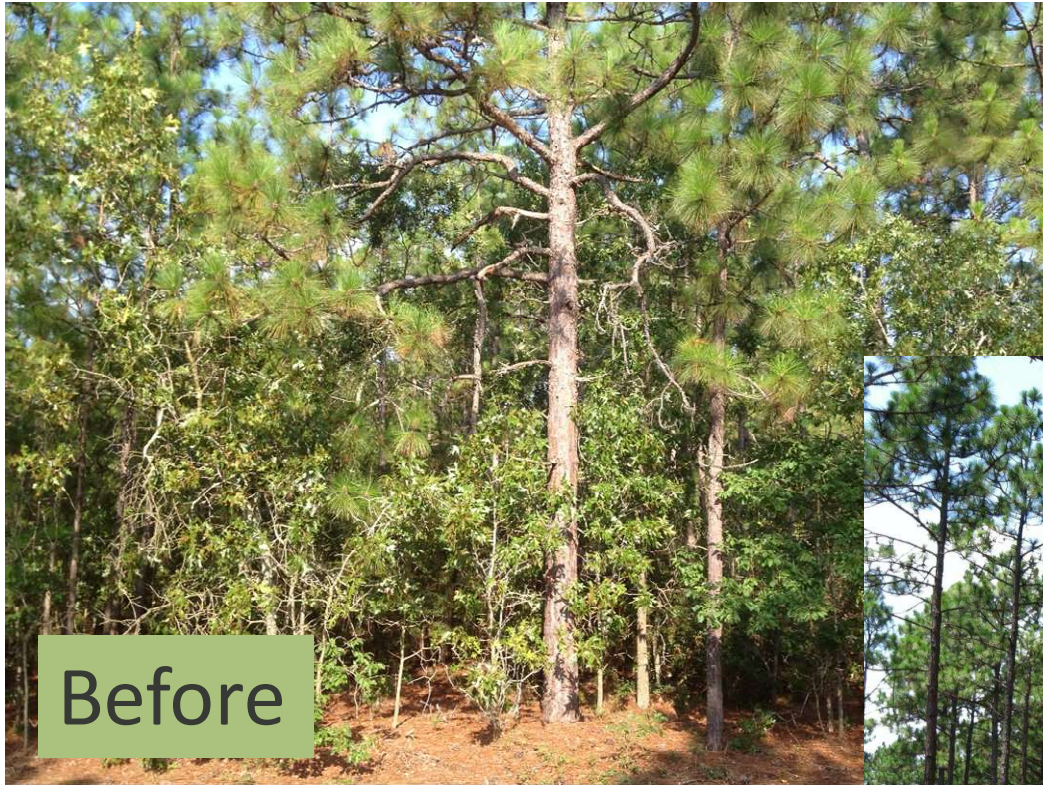
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Fuel chipping- another mechanical method...



A great market to have...fuel chip



Before



After



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Herbicides



Hand Applications



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Wick/Wipe/Roller Applicators



Strip Disking

- Sets back succession
- Increases open space at ground level
- Stimulates seedbank
 - Timing
- Wiregrass**



Recreational Mowing = Bad Solution





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No Groundcover, No Habitat, No Food, No Fuel, No Ecosystem



Examples



- Webb, AL



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Properly Prescribed Chemical/Fire – Photo Point

2019
1 yr rough



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A photograph of a field of flowers, likely a meadow, with many pink and white flowers in bloom. The background is a dense forest of green trees under a blue sky with white clouds. The flowers are in the foreground and middle ground, with some in sharp focus and others blurred.

Questions?

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