



SOUTHERN Fire Exchange

A JFSP Knowledge Exchange Consortium



FIRE LINES

A Joint Newsletter of the Southern Fire Exchange and the Southeastern Section of the Association for Fire Ecology

July - August 2012
Volume 2 - Issue 4

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

Visit the SFE Resource Center
www.southernfireexchange.org



Fire and Saw Palmetto

In the southern Coastal Plain, most fire managers have worked in forests containing an understory of saw palmetto that stretches as far as one can see. Saw palmetto dominates many landscapes in the South, creating fire hazards when dense and overgrown but also providing valuable food, cover, and nesting habitat for a variety of wildlife. To support informed management decisions for landscapes dominated by saw palmetto, a literature synthesis, *Ecology and Management of Saw Palmetto*, was developed by Linda Duever for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Specifically, this report focuses on management of saw palmetto for black bear and Florida panther habitat. As you may suspect, a detailed section summarizing existing knowledge of the plant's fire history, flammability, response, frequency, season, and smoke is included.

Key ideas related to fire management include:

- Saw palmetto responds to fire with rapid regrowth and heavy flowering and fruiting.
- The difference between a 1 to 2 year and a 4 to 5 year burn interval is critical to palmetto vigor, with the shorter fire frequencies limiting cumulative fruit production and plant growth.
- Mechanical treatment may be useful in preparing dense long-unburned thickets to sustain more frequent fire, but may limit fruit production of the remaining palmettos for years afterwards.
- In the wild, dramatic increases in palmetto are almost always due to releasing large numbers of inconspicuous old plants from fire suppression.
- Seasonal variations in rhizome carbohydrate reserves may play a significant role in palmetto response to fire and other disturbances.



Photo by Leda Kobziar

[Click here](#) to view the full report, *Ecology and Management of Saw Palmetto*, 2011, by Linda Conway Duever, Conway Conservation, LLC.

Cohesive Strategy: Phase II Report

The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture recently released the Phase II National Report of the [National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy](#). As a joint stakeholder effort, the Cohesive Strategy aims to address wildfire challenges across all lands and jurisdictions and involves three phases. The national framework and goals were defined in Phase I, which was completed in 2011. In Phase II, regional assessments were completed in three regions of the country—the Southeast, West, and Northeast. These regional assessments helped match the national goals to the wildfire needs and challenges found at regional and local levels. The national [Phase II report](#) compiles the three regional assessments and focuses on restoring and maintaining resilient landscapes, creating fire-adapted communities, and responding to wildfires. The regional reports were created with input from federal, state, local, and tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, citizens, and other partners. *continued on page 3*

Partner Spotlight: Southern Regional Extension Forestry

Based at the University of Georgia in Athens, the Southern Regional Extension Forestry Office provides information, tools, and educational programs to extension, natural resource, and forestry professionals in the South. The goal of SREF is “to identify, prescribe, and implement a mix of education and technical services that increase the efficiency of forestry, wildlife, and natural resource programs in the southern United States.” These programs cover a range of topics and issues, including prescribed fire and wildfire. Bill Hubbard, the Southern Regional Extension Forester, leads the office and facilitates regional programming among the 13 southern land-grant universities, the US Forest Service, state forestry agencies, and others within the southern forestry community. Staff includes Extension Associates, Internet Technology experts, graphic designers, and student workers. Key regional projects include educational and Internet-based programming in the areas of climate change, bioenergy, urban forestry, social network analysis, and others.



Bookmark the SREF homepage: www.sref.info.

The SREF office collaborates with the Southern Fire Exchange in several key ways, including a position on our Steering Committee, hosting the SFE Resource Center Website, and partnering to hold our first webinar series through the Forestry & Natural Resources Webinar Portal.

The SREF website, www.sref.info, is an excellent resource to bookmark on your web browser. You can personalize the SREF homepage to display the information you are most interested in accessing, such as upcoming events, news, videos, or publications. In addition, the site provides links to several state and regional programs and web-based projects that SREF supports.

Prescribed Fire and Longleaf Pine Restoration

The **Southeastern Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)** identified “Sustaining the Land of the Longleaf Pine” as a priority focus area. Given that fire is essential to the longleaf ecosystem, land managers must be able to increase the use of prescribed fire to restore and maintain longleaf pine. To that end, SERPPAS created a Prescribed Fire Work Group in 2011 and charged it with developing a synthesis of current knowledge about barriers and alternatives related to prescribed fire in the Southeast. This document, **Synthesis Report: Current Work on Prescribed Fire Related to Longleaf Pine Restoration**, summarizes the challenges facing prescribed fire, along with actions currently being taken or recommended to address them.

Challenges addressed in this report include:

- Regional, State, and Local Smoke Management;
- Federal and State Air Quality Regulations;
- Agency Missions, Policies, and Programs;
- Land Use Changes;
- Public Perception/Knowledge;
- Liability;
- Capacity;
- Financial Resources; and
- Fire Science and Information.



Photo by Leda Kobzjar

This synthesis has laid the foundation for a comprehensive strategic plan for prescribed fire to support longleaf pine restoration, which will be released in fall 2012. The SERPPAS Prescribed Fire Work Group and the Southern Regional Committee for the National Wildland Fire Management Cohesive Strategy are working closely together to ensure that this plan and the Cohesive Strategy align and complement one another.

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, send the event information to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

PFC Meetings

North Carolina Annual PFC Meeting
August 21-22, 2012
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Alabama Annual PFC Meeting
September 4, 2012
Auburn, Alabama

Webinars

Firewise Communities / USA
July 17, 2pm (EDT)

FRCC Mapping Tool
July 18, 2012; 2pm (EDT)

The Basics of Longleaf Understory Establishment & Enhancement
Jul 27, 2012; 12pm (EDT)

Site Prep and Artificial Regeneration of Longleaf Pine
Aug 3, 2012; 12pm (EDT)

Conferences

AFE Fire Ecology and Management Congress
December 3-7, 2012
Portland, Oregon

IAWF 4th Fire Behavior and Fuels Management Conference
February 18-22, 2013
Raleigh, North Carolina

Workshops and Trainings

Crew Boss Academy
October 10-19, 2012
Camp Shelby, Mississippi
Nominations due August 15

Prescribed Fire and Timber Quality
October 16-17, 2012
Poplar Bluff, Missouri

Prescribed Fire for Agency Administrators
October 28-November 3, 2012
TBA, Florida
Applications due September 10

Prescribed Fire for Resource Specialists
December 2-7, 2012
TBA, Florida
Applications due October 25

REMINDERS

ABSTRACT DEADLINES

September 1: [AFE Fire Ecology and Management Congress](#)

September 21: [IAWF 4th Fire Behavior and Fuels Management Conference](#)

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

The [Human Dimensions of Wildland Fire Conference](#), which took place April 17-19 in Seattle, Washington, is now available online as a “virtual conference.”

NATIONAL PRESCRIBED FIRE USE SURVEY REPORT

The National Association of State Foresters and the [Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils](#) recently released a [National Prescribed Fire Use Report](#). This report summarizes survey results for national and regional prescribed fire activity, state prescribed fire programs, and impediments limiting prescribed fire use.

SFE MINI-GRANTS

The Southern Fire Exchange offers mini-grants (\$300 to \$1000) to support the development of research syntheses, webinars, or fact sheets on high priority topics relating to wildland fire. [Click here](#) to learn program details and download the application.

CONNECT WITH SFE

Get frequent fire-related updates, links, events, and information by following [SFE on Twitter](#) (@SEFireScience) and finding [SFE on Facebook](#).

FIRE LINES CONTRIBUTIONS

We'd love to include your fire-related news, project or research summaries, field stories, photos, and more in future issues of *Fire Lines*. Please contact Annie Oxarart at oxarart@ufl.edu.

Cohesive Strategy: Phase II Report *continued from page 1*

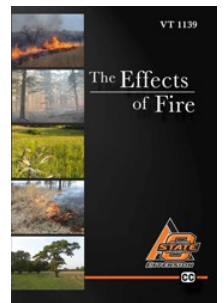
This collaborative process will continue in Phase III, which will utilize a science informed assessment to evaluate and inform future risk reduction strategies, and identify alternatives and actions to accompany the strategies. If you are interested in becoming more active in the Cohesive Strategy process, contact [Mike Zupko](#), Co-Chair of the Southern Regional Strategy Committee.

Air Quality Workshop Summary

In February 2012, Tall Timbers Research Station, along with Florida A&M University and the Environmental Protection Agency, hosted a workshop to focus on the current state of knowledge on particulate matter emission factors for wildland fires and priorities for future research. Over 60 individuals from 17 organizations participated in the workshop, and a [Workshop Summary](#) was created to share presentation topics and participant discussions. The summary is organized by seven key discussion questions and includes a general background and presenter abstracts. It provides an excellent update if you are interested in understanding particulate matter emissions in smoke.

New Video: The Effects of Fire

A new video, [The Effects of Fire VT-1139](#), was recently released by Oklahoma State University Extension. The video covers the effects of fire in grasslands, shrublands, and forests. It also includes 20 PDF publications on fire effects and systems in the Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas area. The video is available for purchase on the NREM Marketplace website. For more information contact [Terry Bidwell](#), [Dwayne Elmore](#), or [John Weir](#).



SFE Updates

The Southern Fire Exchange began two years ago and it is time to update both our work plan and email lists. Best practices for email lists today require that you need the opportunity to “opt in” to the list, rather than “opt-out” as has been our practice. To comply with best practices, we will be sending you a very brief email soon by which you can choose to stay on our list and continue to receive periodic notices about new fire science resources, newsletters, training opportunities, and other news, or indicate your desire to unsubscribe. We hope you will want to stay with us!

We will also be asking you to help us as we go through our two-year evaluation by providing one or two sentences about how SFE has helped you in your fire management responsibilities. If you have one of those examples right now, go ahead and send it to sfe@ifas.ufl.edu.

Fire Behavior and Fuels Conference

The [4th Fuels and Fire Behavior Conference](#), sponsored by the International Association of Wildland Fire and other organizations, will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina next February 18-22. The Conference will feature research and applied science presentations



Raleigh Convention Center, North Carolina

on a wide variety of topics, as well as a first day of hands-on workshops. It will be a great opportunity to make the most of your travel time for professional development and learn about how you can improve your fire management responsibilities. Mark those dates on your calendar, and if you have a particular workshop topic that you would really like to attend, let us know now what that topic might be. We are currently planning workshops, and the deadline for proposing these training opportunities is September 1.