Managing Conserved Forest Ecosystems: New Questions & Directions

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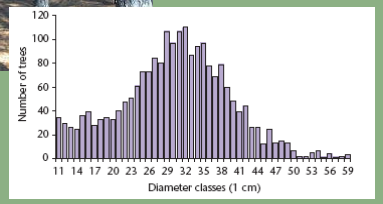
Managing Conserved Forest Ecosystems: The Ecological Challenges

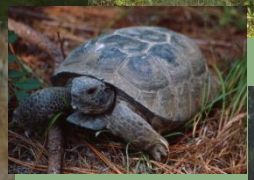
- Scientifically derived management strategies are key to sustainable restoration and management – for the commodities and services that we desire from public lands
- With shrinking budgets, how do you obtain science-based knowledge?
- Ecological questions take decades to find answers – Can we even afford to wait?
- Large scale, long-term adaptive management projects are, perhaps, one solution

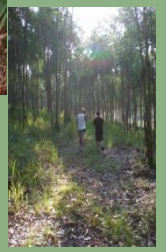
The Ecological Questions and Challenges

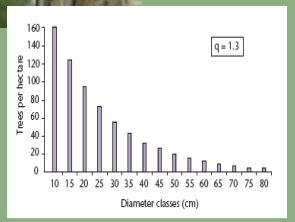
- Conversion/restoration of even-aged plantation forests to uneven-aged ecosystems
- Non-native invasive species – impacts on ecosystem health/integrity and management strategies
- Prescribed fire – frequency, season, wildland-urban interface issues
- Water quality and quantity – watershed management issues
- Biomass and biofuel – where do managed conserved forests fit in?
- Emerging carbon credit market – opportunities and challenges

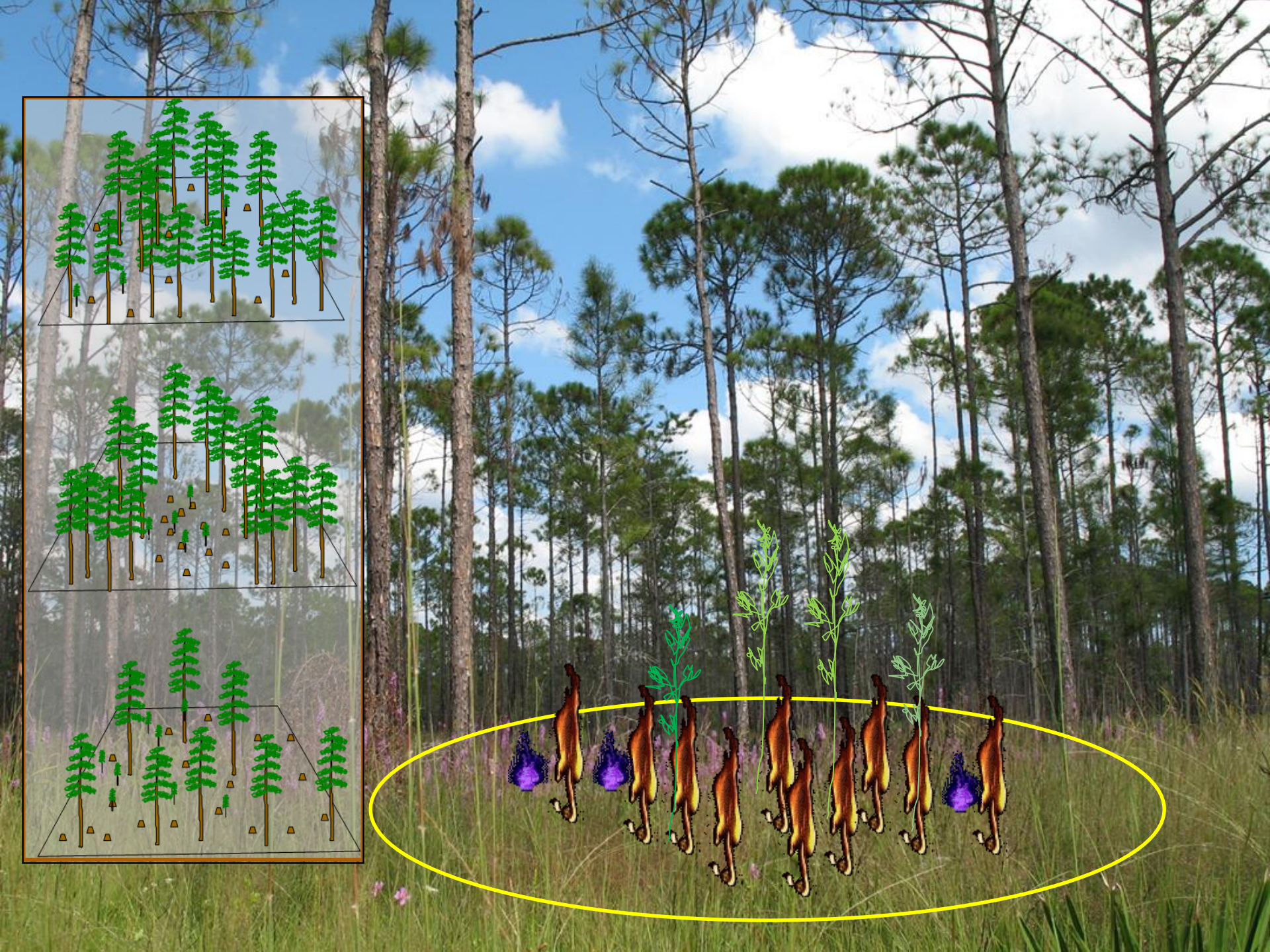
Conversion from Even to Uneven-aged



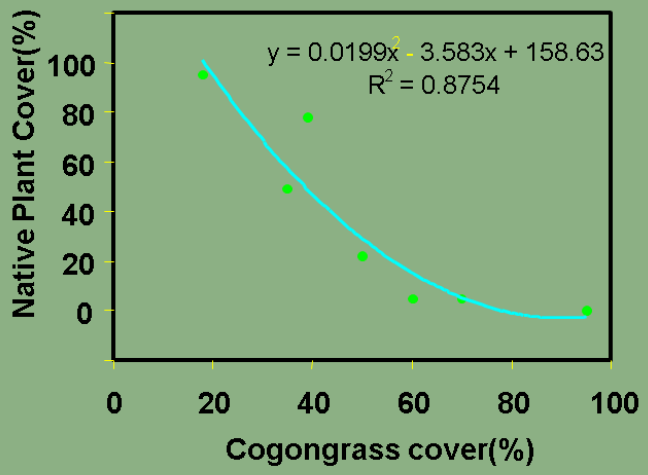


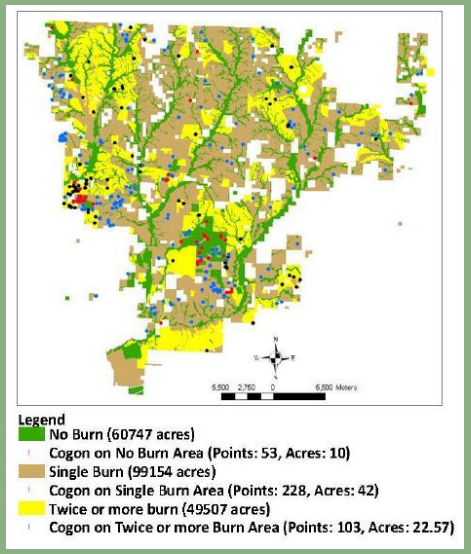


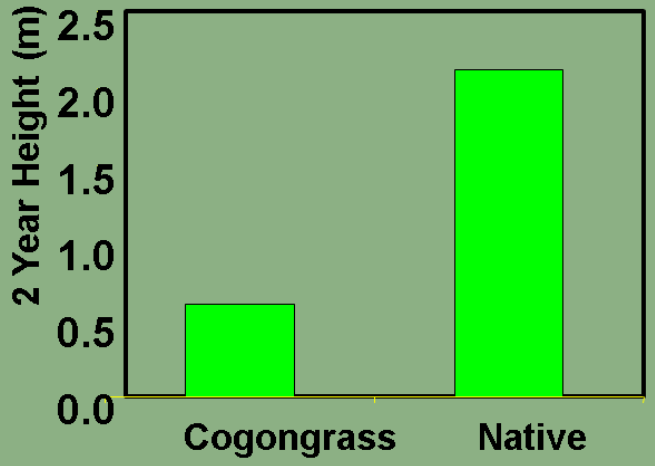




Non-native Invasive Species

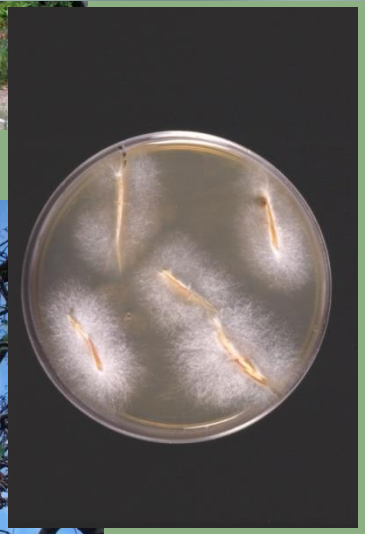


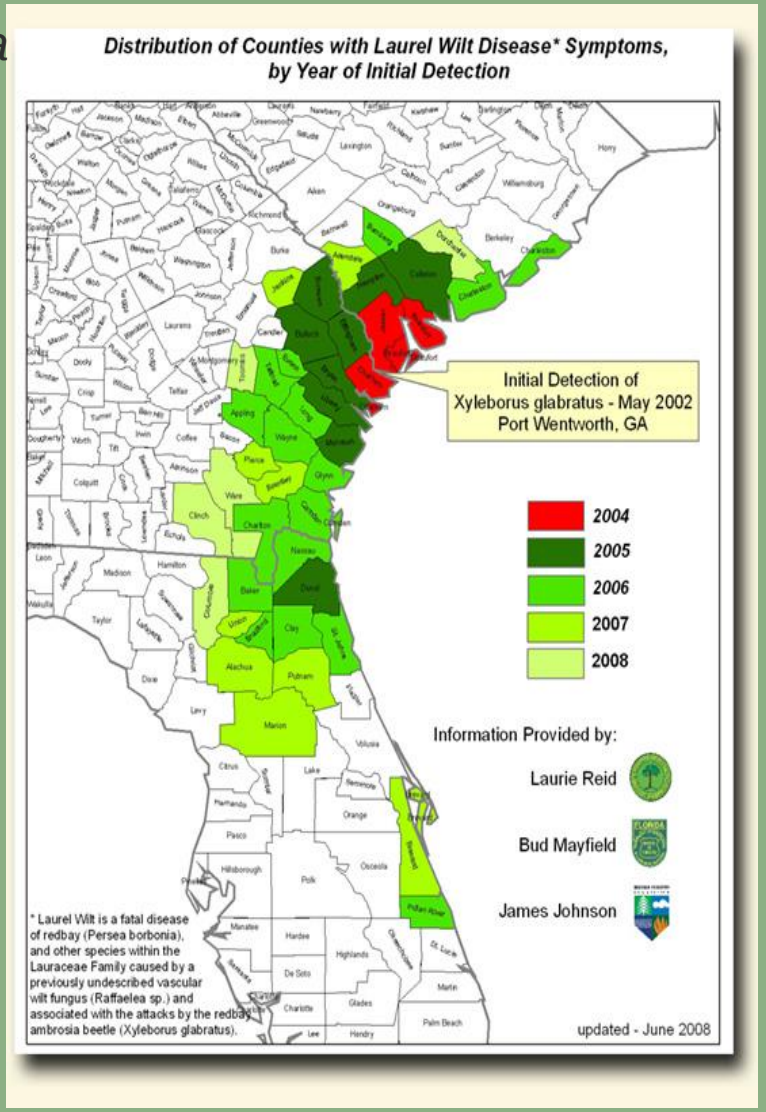




Non-native Invasive Species – The Laurel Wilt

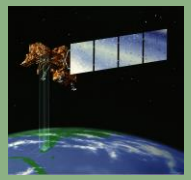
Persea borbonia

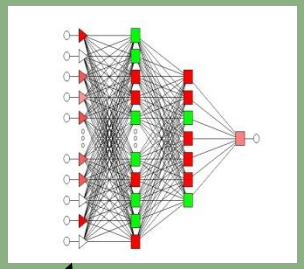


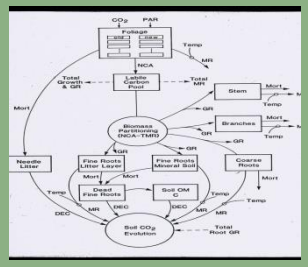


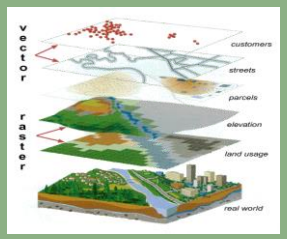

Sulfur
Plant Fungicide

Prescribed fire









Fuels treatment impacts on fire behavior

Development and application of simulation models.

Fire season effects on flowering characteristics and germination of sandhill understory species

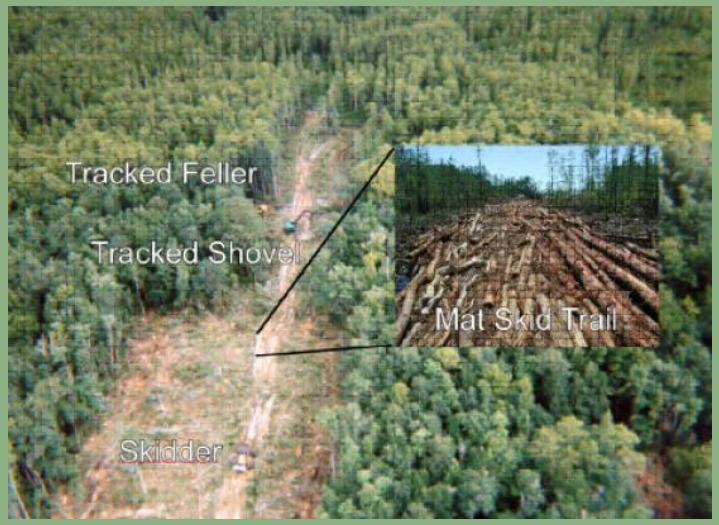
Overstory and understory response to prescribed and wildfires in sandpine scrub ecosystems

Fire severity mapping following Scrub fire at the Juniper prairie Wilderness Preserve at the Ocala National Forest

Water Quality and Quantity

Spatial and temporal nutrient loading dynamics to Newnans Lake, a shallow hyper-eutrophic lake in Alachua County

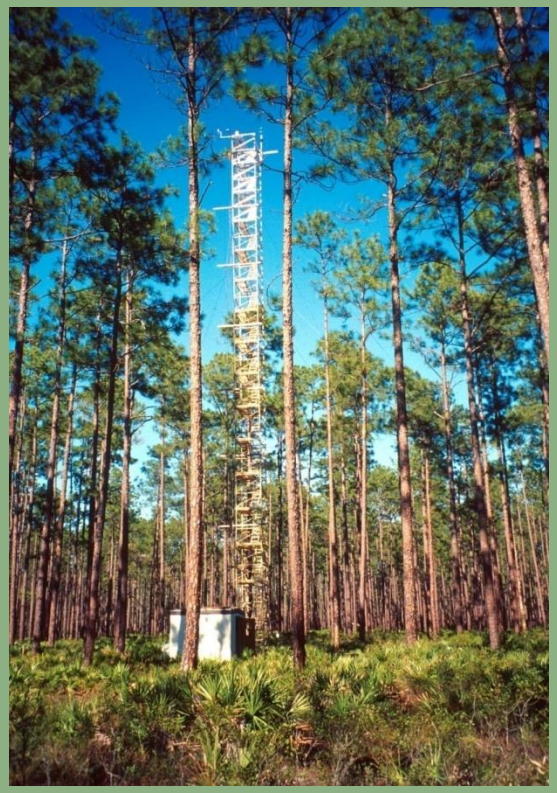
Examine natural and anthropogenuc sources contributing to the pollution



The primary source of phosphorus (P) loading into hyper-eutrophic Newnans Lake comes from naturally occurring geologic sources not from pine silviculture

Recovery and regeneration of forested wetlands following harvesting using mat logging techniques

Biomass and Biofuel and Carbon Credits



Quantifying the carbon sequestration potential of forest ecosystems in FL

Southeastern forests contain 12 billion MT of C, i.e. 36% the sequestered C in the conterminous U.S.

WOOD to ENERGY

Increase awareness and knowledge about using woody biomass for energy production

New project: (1) Examine the potential of forest understory biomass harvestable for bio-energy production and (2) Assess technical and economical feasibility of an understory biomass harvesting operation.

How does the information get to practitioners?

- Outreach Activities:
  - CFEOR Updates
  - CFEOR website
  - CFEOR Workshops
  - Conference Participation
  - Research site tours

CFEOR Updates
12.05.08
Conserved Forest Ecosystems: Outreach and Research
http://sirc.ufl.edu/cfeor

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Forest Stewardship Program Recognizes Private Forest Landowners for Active Multiple-use Management

Bonnie Stine, CFA Supervisor, Florida Division of Forestry

The Florida Forest Stewardship Program conducted a field tour on November 6, 2008 at Ashley Farms in Madison, Florida. The Ashley Family is the 2007 Florida Forest Stewardship Landowner of the Year and they have been active in the Forest Stewardship Program since 1993. Mr. Don Ashley, representing Ashley Farms, served as host and tour guide for the day. The 553 acre property is a mix of natural and planted pines and hardwoods. The multiple use objectives for the property are to incorporate timber, wildlife habitat, soil and water conservation, recreation and aesthetics in a sustainable manner.

Ashley Farms property owner Don Ashley describes chemical competition reduction treatments during a Forest Stewardship Property Tour in Madison, Florida on November 6, 2008. Photo Credit: Florida Division of Forestry

The Florida Forest Stewardship Program provides technical assistance to private forest landowners owning a minimum of 20 forested acres. Resource professionals, including foresters, wildlife biologists, soil conservationists and others provide a written management plan meeting each landowner's unique needs and goals for their property. Those in the Forest Stewardship Program may be recognized as a "Certified Forest Steward" after they have completed practices outlined in their multiple-use management plans. The Program is administered by the Florida Division of Forestry and partners with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service and others to provide a quality program across the state.

Tony Grossman, Florida Division of Forestry, presents the "Forest Stewardship Landowner of the Year" plaque to Don Ashley and his sister Theo Meadows at the Ashley Farms Stewardship Tour on November 6, 2008. Photo Credit: Florida Division of Forestry

For more information regarding Florida's Forest Stewardship Program contact Tony Grossman, Conservation Programs Manger, Florida Division of Forestry (850) 414-9907 or grossma@doacs.state.fl.us or visit http://www.fl-dof.com/forest_management/cfa_steward_index.html

Thank you

Questions?

http://sfrc.ufl.edu/cfeor