



# State of Public Lands Resource Management Need and *Program Accountability*



# Common Fire-Prone/Dependent Community Types

## Habitat Type

- Pine savannah
- Sandhill or longleaf pine/turkey oak
- Dry prairie
- Scrubby flatwoods
- Sand pine scrub
- FW marsh and wet prairies

## Burn Interval

- 1 – 4 years
- 1 – 4 years
- 1 – 3 years
- 8 – 12 years
- 15 – 30 years
- 1 – 5 years

# The Problem



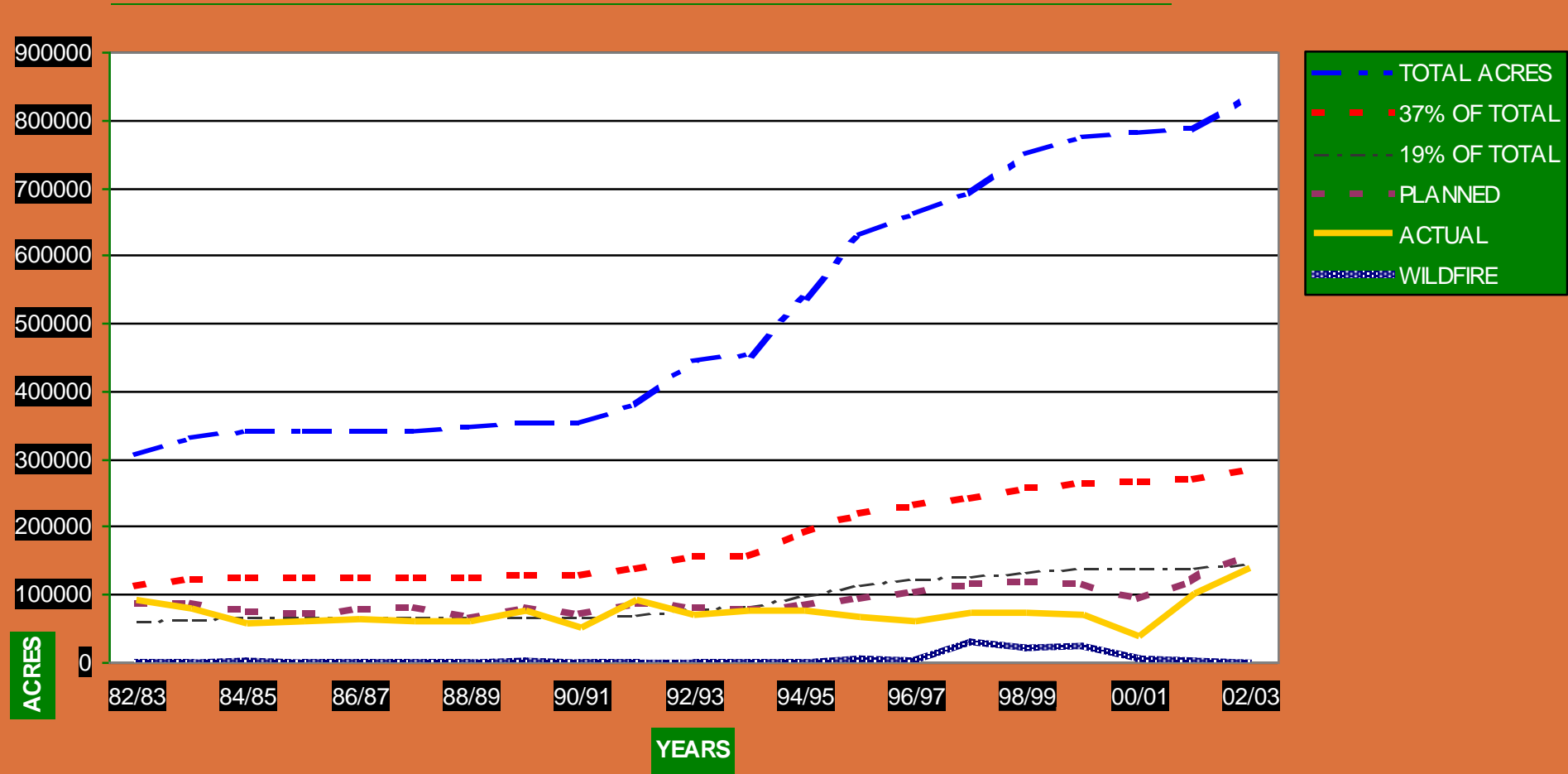
We are **only** burning **1/3 – 1/2**  
of the **required acres** per year  
needed to sustain **good**  
ecological health.



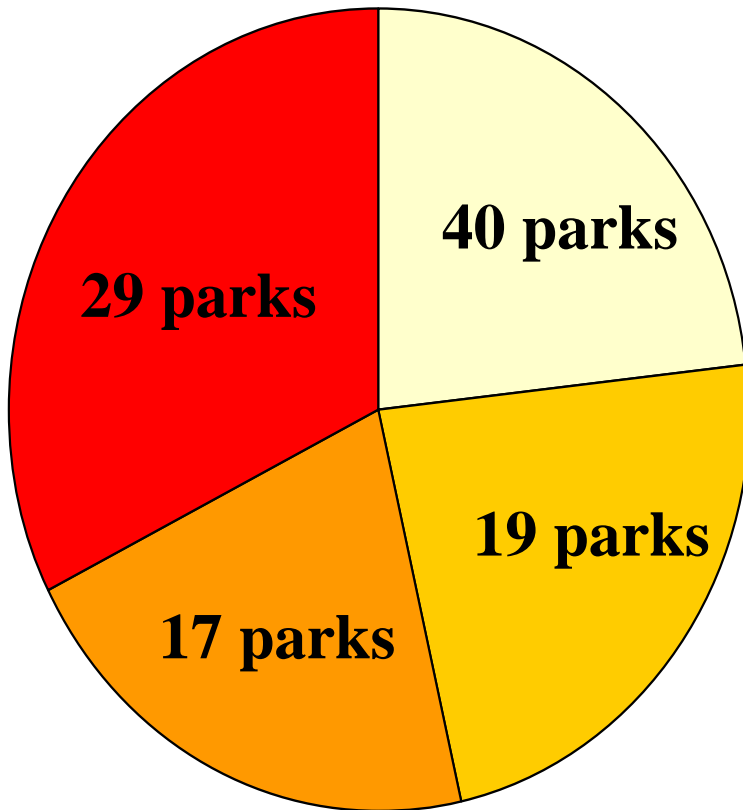
# Prescribed Fire Statistics by Agency

Agency	Fire-Type	Should Burn	Rx Burning/Yr
FPS/DEP	240,000 acres	50,000 – 80,000	Avg. 30,000
FDOF	601,000 acres	120,000 – 200,000	Avg. 80,000
FFWCC	1,015,000 acres	300,000 – 400,000	FY07 135,000

# Fire History Summary for 17 State Forests



## Parks Within Ranges of Burn Backlog (Acres)



□ 0-24% Backlog

■ 25-49% Backlog

■ 50-74% Backlog

■ 75-100% Backlog

# Lack of Resources: State Agencies

Year Reviewed	# Plans Reviewed	Reports Showing Inadequate Staff	Reports Showing Inadequate Funding	Reports Showing Inadequate Equipment
1998	36	71%	31%	31%
1999	32	81%	72%	47%
2000	31	23%	26%	13%
2001	10	60%	40%	10%
2002	24	62%	50%	8%
2003	21	89%	55%	35%
2004	23	70%	39%	26%
2005	31	48%	39%	10%



**What are the Impacts?**

# Habitat Degradation Through Composition Change





# Threats to Rare Species

Florida scrub-jay



gopher tortoise



red-cockaded woodpecker



pitcher plant



grasshopper sparrow



# Excessive Buildup of Fuels

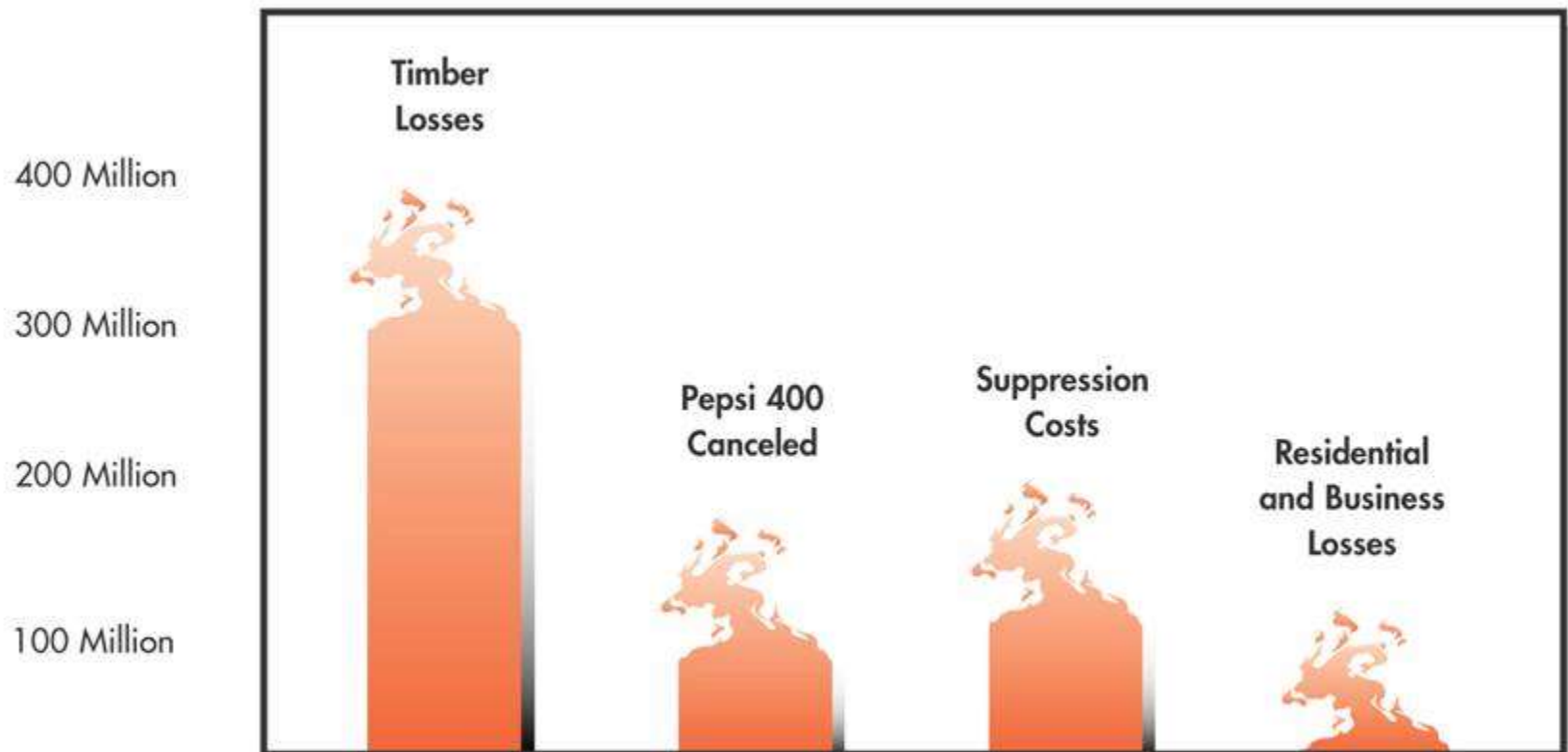
**This leads to a high intensity and severity of fires that threaten or destroy:**

- **the habitat's condition;**
- **public safety; and**
- **the site's aesthetic quality.**



# High Severity Wildfire

## Economic Impacts of 1998 Wildfires



# The Results:

2003 Charet

Primary Impediments  
to Prescribed Fire



- Implementing prescribed fire for habitat quality and health is not always seen as a top agency priority: Certain levels of leadership do not recognize its importance relative to other institutional priorities.
- There is an inadequate system of accountability for implementing prescribed fire: Fire goals are often not tied to ecosystem needs, only number of acres burned.
- Inadequate staff, equipment and fiscal resources to get the prescribed fire job done: Inadequate professional standards and training.



# Solutions for Success





**Fire management and the implementation of appropriate prescribed fire need to be elevated as a top agency priority.**

- **Senior leadership needs to understand its importance, as well as impress this importance institution-wide.**



## Acquire funding for dedicated staff, equipment and budget.

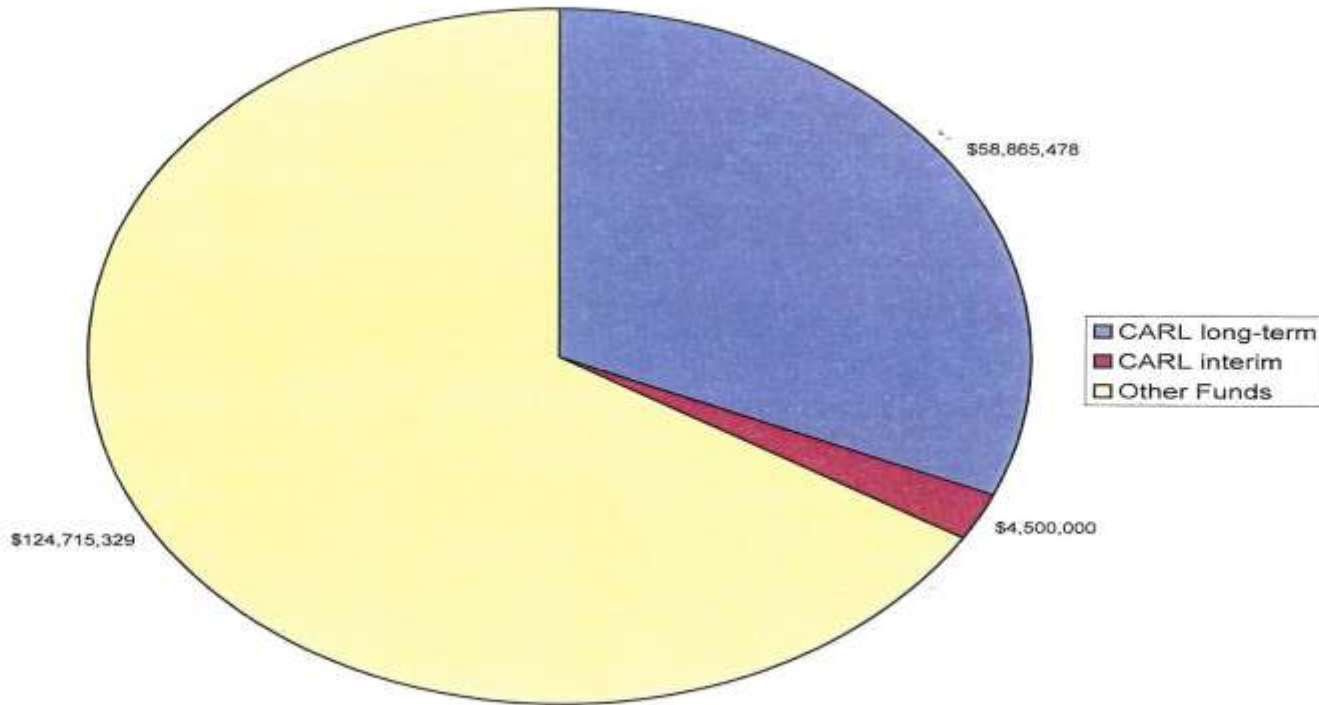
- **Burn teams (TS/ST) level — seasonal with FTE leadership, e.g. interagency coop teams**
- **FDOF to provide better logistical support — heavy equipment, aerial support and overhead support.**

# Balance of Priority





### CARL vs. non-CARL Management Funding





## One Agency Example: DRP

### Allocation Apportionment:

<b>Allocation Category:</b>	<b>Allocation Amount:</b>	<b>Dollars Per Acres (724,629 Acres)</b>	
<b>Land Management (TL)</b>	<b>\$85.2 Million</b>	<b>\$117 per acre</b>	
<b>Resource Management</b>	<b>\$4.8 Million</b>	<b>\$5.90 per Acre</b>	
<b>Fire Management</b>	<b>\$830 Thousand</b>	<b>\$5.03 per acre*</b>	

About 5.5 % for resource/65-70% for Recreation

\*Using 164,898 upland fire-type acres



So,, What's The Problem??



**Agencies do not ask for  
(budget for) what is really  
needed to restore and  
maintain good habitat  
condition**

**Solution:**

**•True Cost Budgeting**



## GT Stake-Holders Group: FNAI State Lands Uplands Data

Gopher Tortoise Habitat Acreage Summary for TNC								
State Land Managing Agencies	Total MA	Total Habitat	Sandhill	Scrub	Flatwoods* (mesic/scrubby) & Upland Pine	Dry Prairie	Pine Plantation*	Rangeland
Division of Recreation and Parks	586,521	164,868	17,146	17,116	70,637	35,435	13,597	10,937
Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas	54,936	4,532	0	1,661	1,032	0	1,839	0
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	1,452,672	233,665	7,688	9,560	123,595	31,226	51,277	10,319
Division of Forestry	1,010,183	525,508	68,376	11,159	154,253	0	290,475	1,244
<b>Water Management Districts Combined</b>	<b>1,743,861</b>	<b>340,430</b>	<b>7,590</b>	<b>7,494</b>	<b>69,366</b>	<b>14,103</b>	<b>231,471</b>	<b>10,405</b>
Northwest Florida WMD	212,543	50,573	2,864	0	1,864	0	45,844	1
South Florida WMD	409,318	19,553	26	591	11,882	1,061	115	5,878
Southwest Florida WMD	338,208	76,784	3,144	6,428	42,379	13,042	8,930	2,862
St Johns River WMD	529,042	88,089	1,133	476	11,433	0	73,465	1,581
Suwannee River WMD	254,751	105,431	423	0	1,808	0	103,117	83

\*Note: Poorly drained mesic flatwoods and pine plantation may be unsuitable for gopher tortoises. Few or no gopher tortoises were observed in mesic flatwoods mapped as part of the FNAI NC Mapping Projects.

**Method:** Habitat was derived from best available land cover datasets. The most precise data were used where available.

Habitat Type	Data Sources
Sandhill & Upland Pine	1. FNAI NC Mapping Project- primarily FWC and SWFWMD lands 2. DRP NC Maps 3. FWC 2003 landsat vegetation data
Scrub	1. FNAI NC Mapping Project- primarily FWC and SWFWMD lands 2. DRP NC Maps 3. Florida Forever NC map (version 2.1)
Flatwoods	1. FNAI NC Mapping Project- primarily FWC and SWFWMD lands 2. DRP NC Maps 3. Florida Forever NC map (May 07 version)
Dry Prairie	1. FNAI NC Mapping Project- primarily FWC and SWFWMD lands 2. DRP NC Maps 3. Florida Forever NC map (May 07 version)
Pine Plantation	1. FNAI NC Mapping Project- primarily FWC and SWFWMD lands 2. DRP NC Maps 3. Century Commission CLIP data based on WMD FLUCCS
Rangeland	1. FNAI NC Mapping Project- primarily FWC and SWFWMD lands 2. DRP NC Maps 3. FWC 2003 landsat vegetation data





## RXF Allocation Budgeting vs True Cost Budgeting Comparison

**Mechanical Treatment Cost Estimate Table:**

<b>Agency:</b>	<b>2006 RXF Budget</b>	<b>True need Allocation (Acres/3x\$40)</b>	<b>Shortfall:</b>
<b>FDEP/FPS</b>	<b>\$0.83 Million</b>	164,868A/3x40= <b>\$2.19 Million</b>	<b>(\$1.36 Million)</b>
<b>FDOF</b>	<b>\$1.46 Million</b>	525,508A/3x40= <b>\$7.0 Million</b>	<b>(\$5.54 Million)</b>
<b>FWCC</b>	<b>\$0.7 Million</b>	233,665/3x40= <b>\$3.1 Million</b>	<b>(\$2.40 Million)</b>
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$2.99 Million</b>	<b>\$12.29 Million</b>	<b>(9.30 Million) (75%)</b>

\*Using mean of per acre range of cost \$35.00 to \$45.00 per acre



## Webster's Definition of Accountability

### Main Entry:

ac·count·abil·i·ty

### Pronunciation:

\ə- ,kaʊn-tə- 'bi-lə-tē\

### Function:

*noun*

### Date:

1794

: the quality or state of being accountable ; *especially* : an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions  
<public officials lacking *accountability*>



# WHO SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE?

- Site Manager
- Agency Middle Management/Sr. Management
- Trustees
- Governor
- Legislature



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