

# Hurricane Preparation & Recovery Webinar:

## *Prepare for the Storm*

June 15, 2023

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SCHOOL OF FOREST,  
FISHERIES, AND  
GEOMATICS SCIENCES



**UF** IFAS Extension  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

# Hurricane Preparation & Recovery Webinar:

## *Prepare for the Storm*

Please use the Q & A to ask questions, not the Chat.  
Questions will be answered after the presentation is complete.

# Webinar Evaluation and Materials

Please complete **the very short evaluation** at end of the webinar –

- Will launch in browser after webinar
- Link in follow-up email tomorrow

Presentation slides and other reading materials for this series are available online at:

<https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-land-steward/>

Find recordings, links, and materials for upcoming and past **Florida Land Steward Events and Webinars**.  
“2023 Events and Webinars” → “Hurricane Preparation & Recovery Webinars”





## FLORIDA LAND STEWARD

The Florida Land Steward Program is an extension program of the [UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences](#). The mission of the Program is to help and encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term environmental, economic and social benefits. [Read more about the Florida Land Steward Program.](#)



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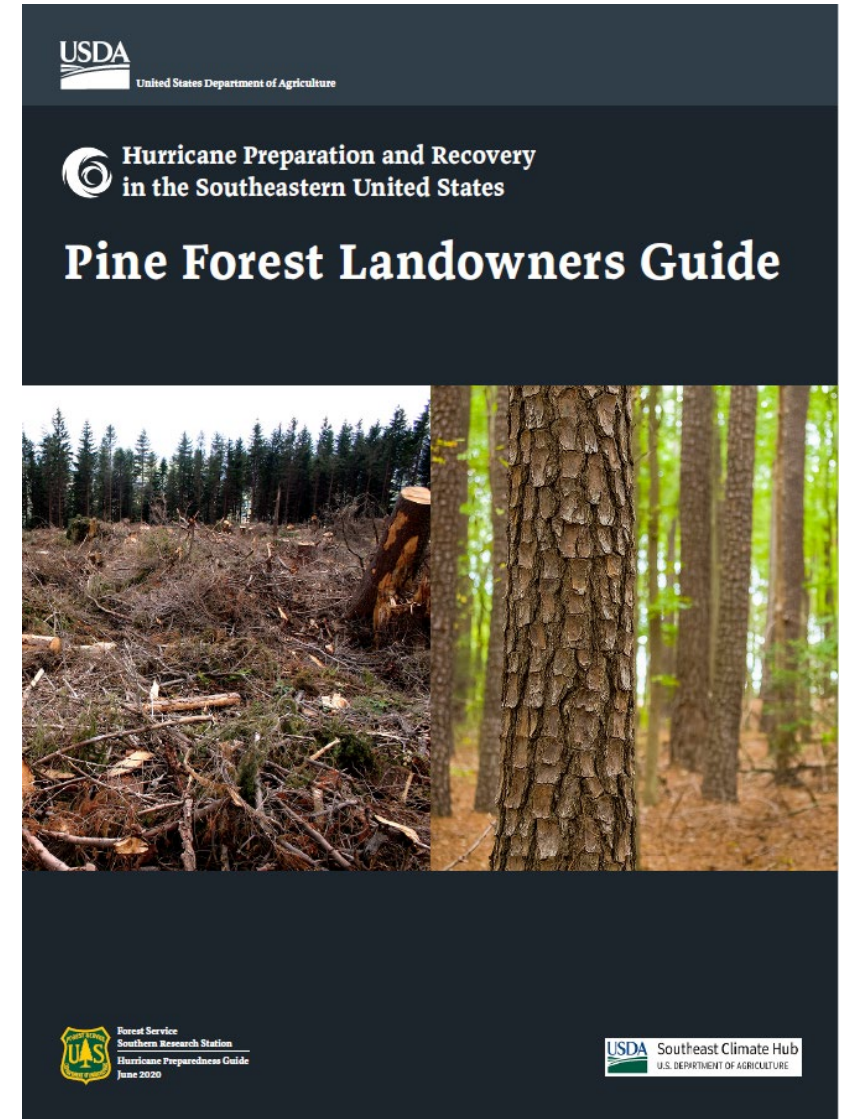
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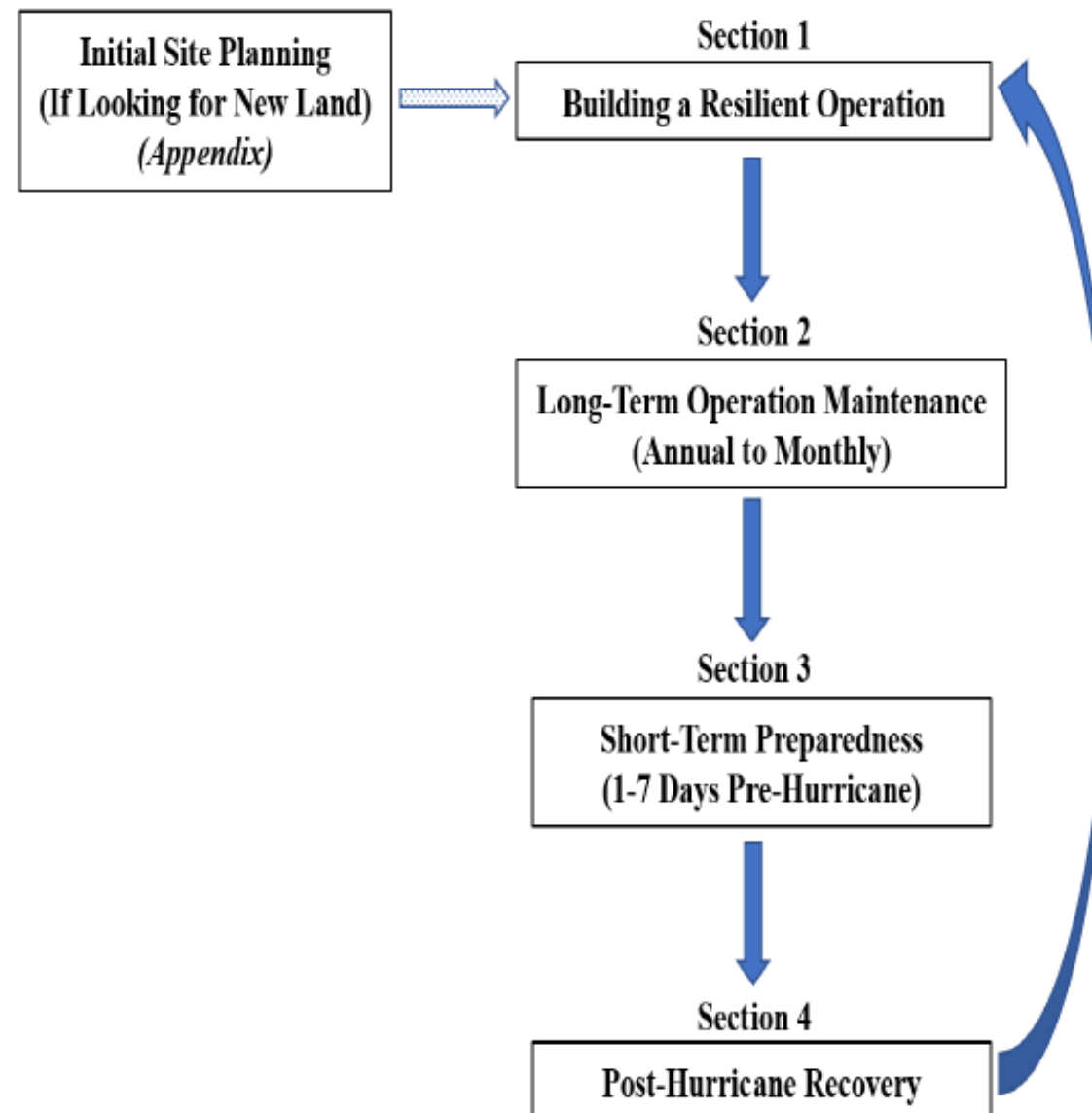
# Florida Land Steward Newsletter



# SOURCES

- **USDA Hurricane Preparation and Recovery in the Southeastern United States: Pine Forest Landowners Guide**
- **UF Extension publication: Prepare Your Forest Property for Hurricane Season,**  
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/FR436>



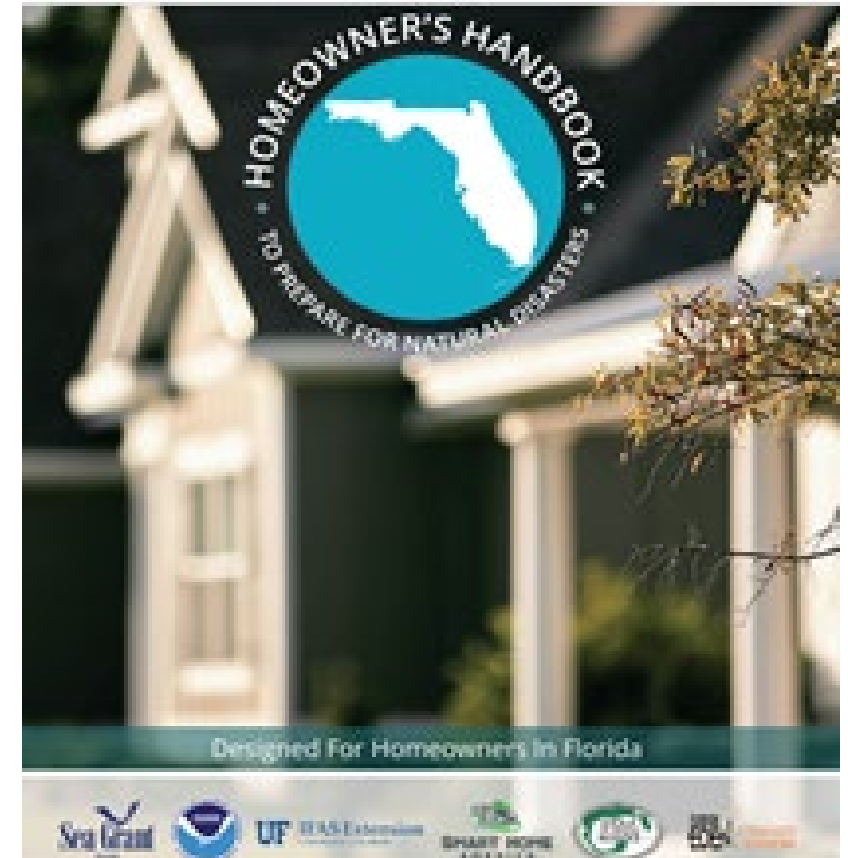


**Figure 1. Flowchart for Pine Forest Landowners Guide**

# PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FIRST

## Get all your essentials ready

- UF/IFAS Disaster Preparation site and handbook <https://disaster.ifas.ufl.edu/>
  - Emergency information and alerts
  - Know your Evacuation Zone and Route
  - Evacuation kit
  - Supplies for at least 72 hours





# PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FIRST

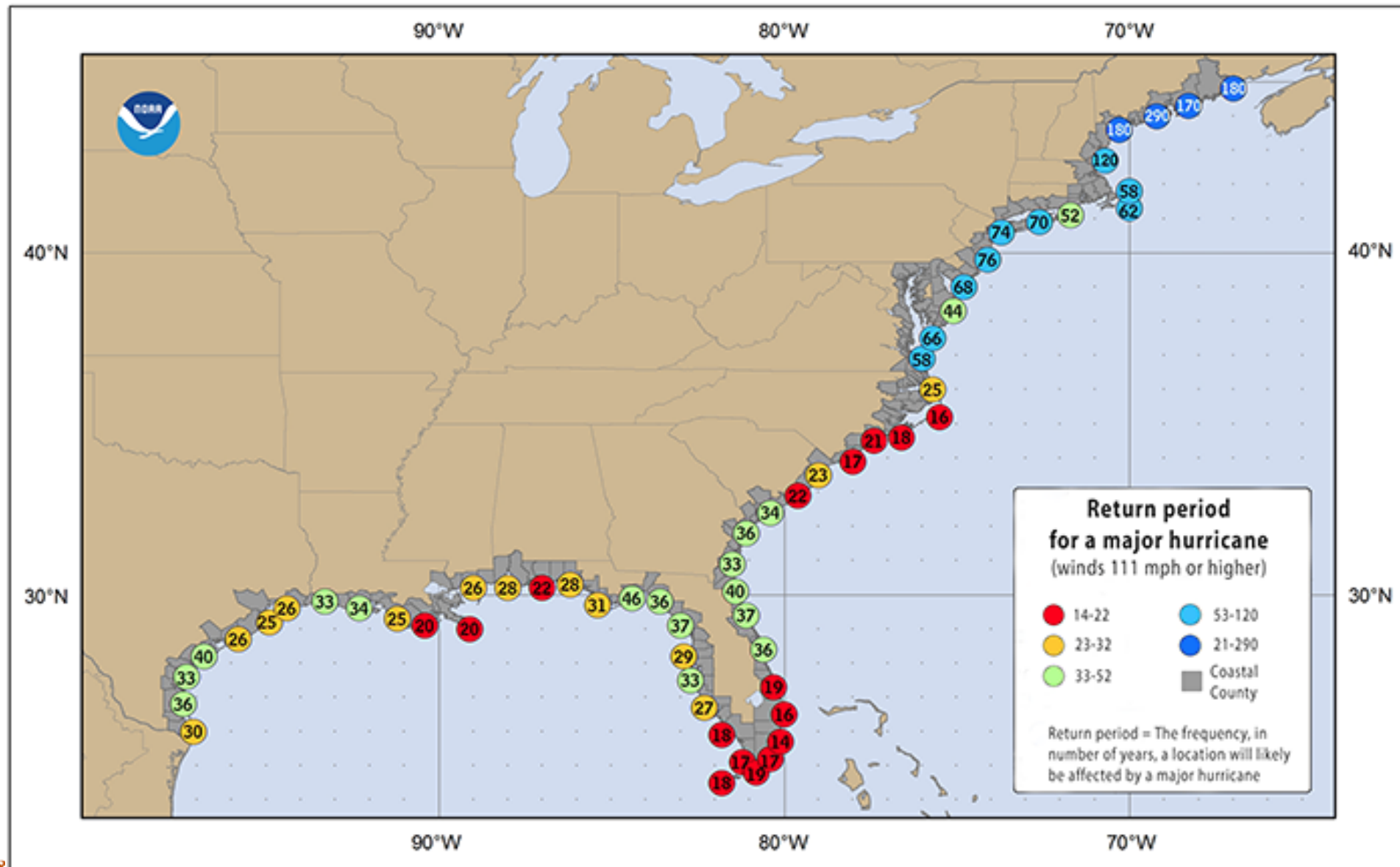
## Get all your essentials ready

- Hurricane supplies tax-free **May 27 through June 9**
- **Second two-week tax-free hurricane supplies**  
**August 26 through September 8**
- Hurricane supplies include items like flashlights, batteries, coolers, pet supplies, hygiene products, radios, fuel tanks, and generators
- For full list of qualifying items see:  
<https://floridarevenue.com/DisasterPrep/>





# ASSESS YOUR RISK



# ASSESS YOUR RISK



- **Site Characteristics**

- Flood risk and storm surge

- Assess historic patterns - which areas are at risk of surface flooding or coastal storm surge?

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center: <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>

Florida Dept. Emergency Management flood risk page: <https://www.floridadisaster.org/hazards/floods/>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/nationalsurge/> (Version 3)





# FOREST INVENTORY

- **Need a Forest Inventory?**

- Provide documentation of forest condition and value prior to storm damage
  - Help estimate losses that may occur for tax, insurance, and/or assistance program purposes
  - Help guide management - determine if a harvest now is best or other management activities should be done (outside of hurricane season) to improve forest health and resilience
  - Measurements:
    - tree species
    - number of trees per acre
    - tree diameters and heights.
- UF/IFAS Extension Publications on forest inventory:  
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr426>, <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr131>





# OPERATIONS

## If thinning, shut it down

- If operations are underway or scheduled to begin when a hurricane is projected to make landfall in your area
- Can open the stand structure and leave the remaining trees much more vulnerable to windthrow and damage





# INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Roads and Drainage**

- A slow moving hurricane can produce large amounts of rainfall in a very short period which can cause erosion, undermine roads, and wash away culverts.
- **Make sure ditches, culverts, and drains are clear** to make sure excess water doesn't back up and cause flooding.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Roads and Drainage**

- Check roads for any signs of erosion and fill in any holes or ruts with gravel or compacted fill.
- **Daylighting** - remove trees and vegetation that are within 6 to 10 feet of the road edge
  - allows roads to dry more quickly after rains
  - reduces trees and vegetation that might fall across forest roads during high winds.





# INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Roads and Drainage**

- Make sure that stream crossings meet your State's best management practices (BMPs) and culverts are properly sized to prevent blowouts during periods of high water flow.
- For more information on constructing and maintaining forest roads, see:
  - Florida's Silviculture Best Management Practices:  
<https://www.fdacs.gov/Forest-Wildfire/Silviculture-Best-Management-Practices>
  - Alabama Cooperative Extension System Forest Roads and Construction of Associated Water Diversion Devices:  
<https://www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry/forest-roads-and-construction-of-associated-water-diversion-devices/>





# PRUNING

## Prune Trees and Branches

- Trim hazard trees and branches over structures, fences, roads, bridges
- Reduce broken or dead limbs that could cause damage.



# CONTAINERS

## Fill the Tanks

- Drinking water, gas, diesel, propane, chain saw fuel, and other materials should be topped off to ensure availability during post-storm recovery.





# EQUIPMENT

## Emergency equipment

- Chain saws
- Generators
- Air compressors
- Other tools on hand and in good working condition



# COMMUNICATIONS

## Communications Equipment

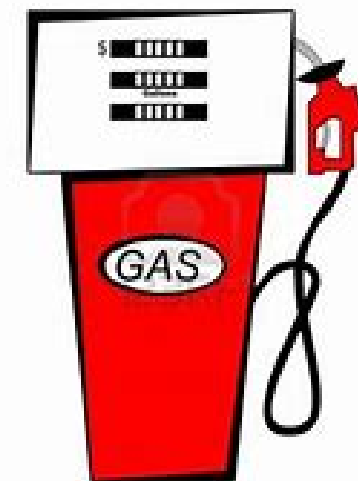
- Phone batteries charged, chargers located, hand held radios (if you have them) charged up and ready, extra batteries



# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

## Hazardous Materials Secure

- Pesticides, fertilizers, fuel stored and secured prior to the storm
- Gasoline pumps, if present, should be shut down.





# SECURITY

## Lock the Gates

- Prevent unauthorized individuals from entry
- Prevent damage to wet roads
- Hazardous conditions - increased risk of injury
- Make sure signs are posted



# DOCUMENTATION

## Take photos

- Take photos of your stands and/or fields before the storm
- Have a record of the condition of these areas before damage occurs.
- Will help with records needed for insurance claims and/or government assistance programs.





# RECORDS, DOCUMENTATION, INSURANCE

- Get organized - the importance of pre- and post-hurricane documentation cannot be overstated.
- Assistance for disaster recovery may not be available until months or years after a hurricane.
- For purposes of insurance compensation and recovery assistance - thorough recordkeeping of the damages and losses sustained on your forest land as well as your cleanup and recovery efforts.



# RECORDS, DOCUMENTATION, INSURANCE

- **Insurance**

- Review your insurance policies with your agent to be sure you have adequate coverage, including flood insurance, for your property, vehicles, equipment, and forest stands.
  - Be aware that there are limitations on how soon insurance coverage will take effect - Generally, insurance policies will not cover damage if the policy was not in place before a hurricane has formed.
- 2 general types of timber insurance:
  - Standing timber insurance that can help offset losses in mature timber stands that are merchantable and due to be harvested.
  - Reforestation insurance that can be used to help a landowner replant nonmerchantable stands lost to wind and fire events.





# RECORDS, DOCUMENTATION, INSURANCE

- **Inventories and documentation**

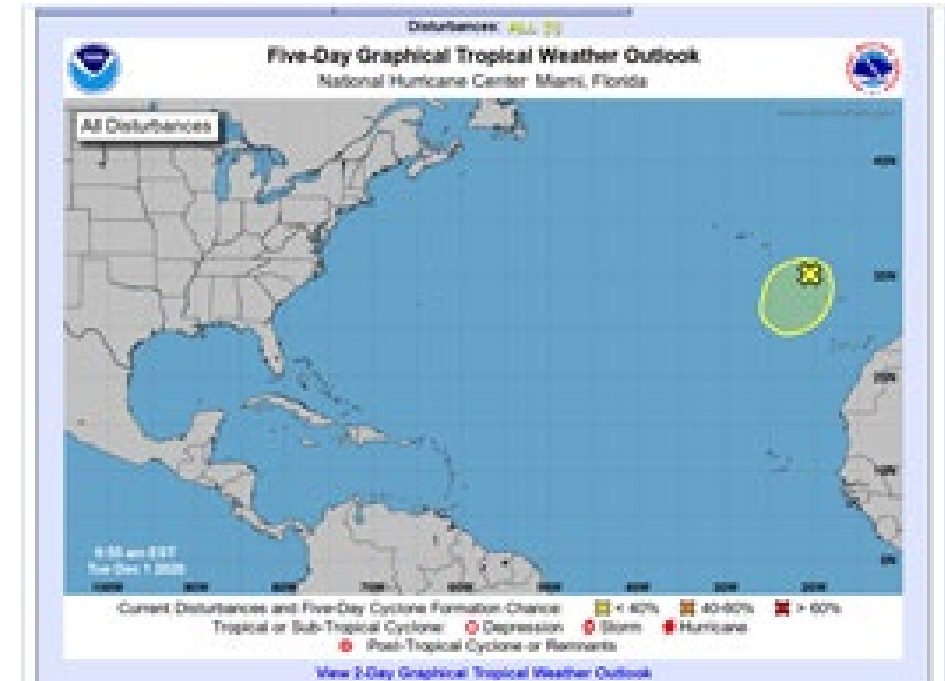
- A recent forest inventory is useful:
  - determining pre-hurricane fair market value of your forest land,
  - assessing loss after the hurricane, and
  - filing for casualty loss with the IRS.
- Keep copies of your inventory in multiple places such as on your computer, water-proof file box, and on a cloud-based server.
- Take pictures of stands before and after the storm.



# EMERGENCY PLANNING

- **Hurricane tracking**

- Bookmark websites or download computer and mobile device applications (apps) that model hurricane track predictions, send alerts, and track hurricane impacts.
- The NOAA National Hurricane Center website is a good source of current information on existing storms: <https://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- For more on connecting to emergency alerts, see <https://www.ready.gov/alerts>





# CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS

- Florida Forest Service County Forester
- Florida Forest Service BMP Forester – roads and drainage
- UF/IFAS County Extension Agent  
(Ag/Natural Resources Agent)
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Landowner Assistance Program Biologist
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District  
Conservationist
- USDA Farm Service Agency Agent
  - **\*\*You can get your forms filled out ahead of time!....**



# CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS

- **USDA Farm Service Agency**

- Complete your farm records ahead of time!
  - Don't wait until after a disaster to get your paperwork done – avoid application backlog!
    - EFRP application backlog after Hurricane Michael – years of backlog
  - You'll receive E-notifications about recovery programs from FSA after the storm
- Already have farm records in?
  - Review and make sure they are complete and up-to-date

- <https://www.farmers.gov/connect>





# CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS

## Consulting Forester

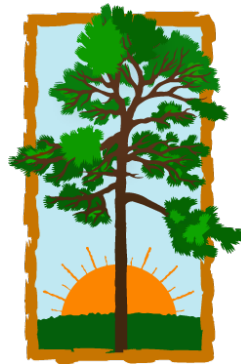
- **Assistance in all phases of management**
  - Management plan preparation, inventory, planting, site prep, nutrition, prescribed burning, thinning, marketing timber
- UF/IFAS pub on Selecting a Consultant - <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr125>



# CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS

## Local Timber Industry

- Florida Forestry Association  
<http://floridaforest.org/>



**FLORIDA  
FORESTRY  
ASSOCIATION**





# CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS

## Get Certified!

- American Tree Farm System  
<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/>
- Florida Tree Farm Program  
<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/florida>



# QUESTIONS?

- Please use the Q&A function for questions





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# THANKS PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS!



United States  
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Agriculture



**FLORIDA  
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# THANKS FOR JOINING US!

