
Florida Land Steward Tour: Sparkleberry Farm

Property of Bill Black and Denise Matthews

2022 Florida Land Stewards of the Year

Alachua County, Florida



Friday, October 25, 2024

Bill Black and Denise Matthews purchased their 80-acre Sparkleberry Farm property in 2010. Their goal was to transform the neglected stands of pine, cypress, and hardwoods into a more productive and sustainable condition for timber production, recreation, and native flora and fauna. To accomplish this, they use forestry practices that enhance the native, fire-dependent ecosystem.



Bill and Denise provide educational opportunities like this one at the property for landowners, invite UF faculty and students to use the property for research and education, and they participate in the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. Bill and Denise were recognized in 2022 as the **Florida Land Steward landowners of the Year** for their outstanding stewardship and outreach efforts.



Funding for the Florida Land Steward Program is provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Florida Forest Service, Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, and Florida Tree Farm Program.

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Florida Land Steward Tour:
Sparkleberry Farm
Alachua County, FL



Agenda:

9:00 AM Check-in, meet & greet

9:30 Tour begins

Topics:

- Sparkleberry Farm history and management objectives
- Longleaf pine establishment
- Using prescribed fire to promote native plant diversity and wildlife habitat
- Best Management Practices to protect water quality
- Invasive species and management

11:30 Evaluations

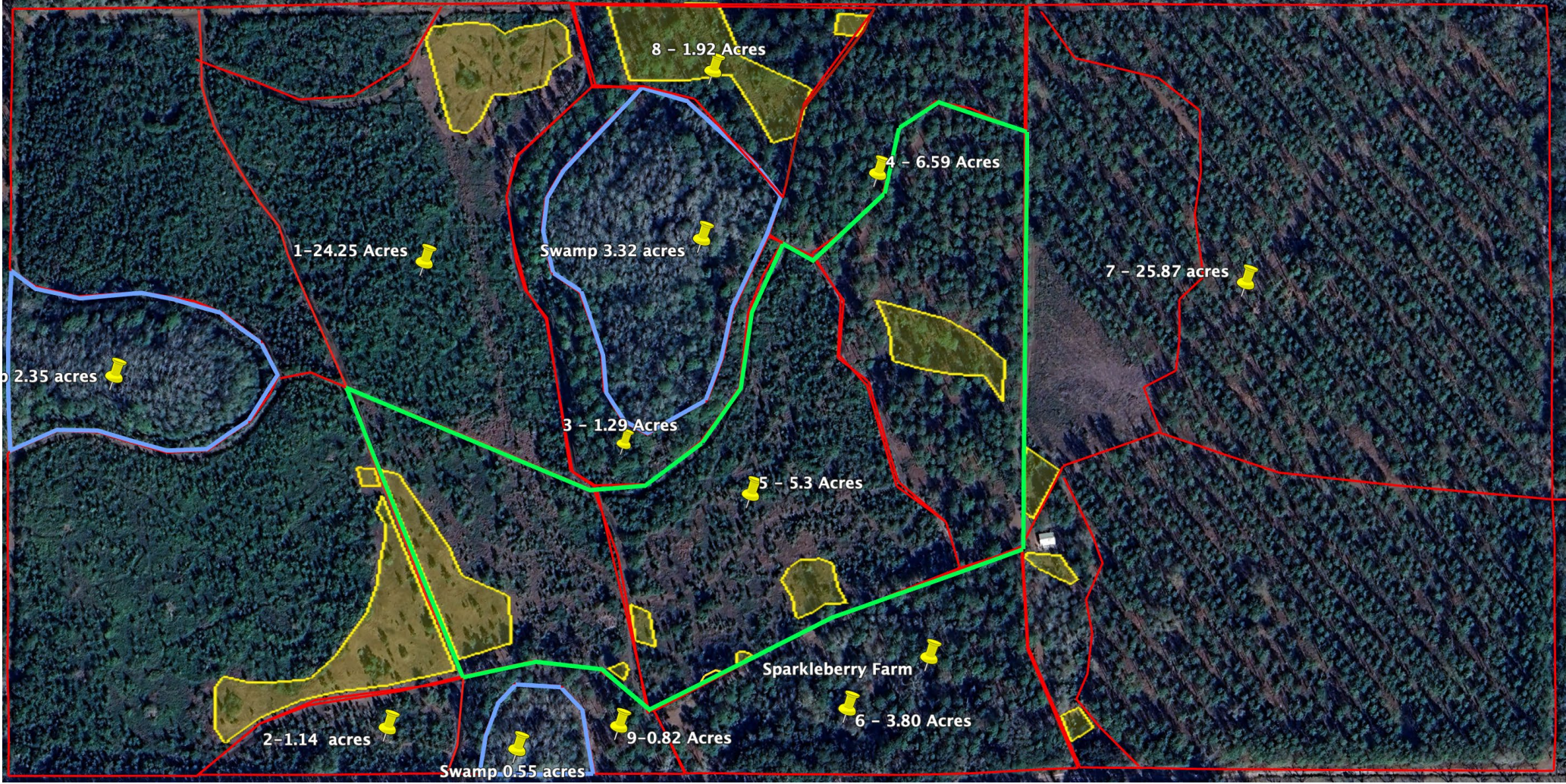
12:00 PM Lunch provided at Florida Forest Service Waccasassa Forestry Center

Join us for lunch at:

Waccasassa Forestry Center
Florida Forest Service
5353 NE 39th Ave (SR 222)
Gainesville, FL 32609
Phone: (352) 395-4950

Park in the grassy area on the right as you enter the gate to the facility. Lunch will be served in the Training Room at the opposite end of the building.

Sparkleberry Farm
Alachua County, FL



Resource Contacts

Bill Black and Denise Matthews Land Stewards Sparkleberry Farm blackwf@icloud.com	Chris Demers Extension Program Manager Florida Land Steward Program UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences (352) 846-2375 cdemers@ufl.edu	Kevin Korus Extension Agent, Agriculture and Natural Resources UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County (352) 995-2402 kkorus@ufl.edu
Brian Cobble Cooperative Forestry Assistance Region 2 Coordinator Florida Forest Service (352) 727-2985 Brian.Cobble@fdacs.gov	Megan Ellis Landowner Assistance Biologist Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (352) 339-3016 Megan.Ellis@MyFWC.com	Debbie Segal Alachua Audubon Society debbie.segal@gmail.com
	Monica Jones District Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (352) 376-7414 ext. 3 Monica.Jones@usda.gov	

Information and news about assistance, opportunities, and events can be found at the UF Florida Land Steward web site at: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-land-steward/>

FLORIDA LAND STEWARD



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

WINTER/SPRING 2022 – VOLUME 11, NO. 1

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Funding for this publication is provided by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Forest Service and a grant from the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee.

An Equal Opportunity Institution.

Congratulations Bill Black and Denise Matthews, 2022 Florida Land Stewards of the Year!

By Chris Demers, UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences

Bill Black and Denise Matthews purchased their 80-acre Sparkleberry Farm property in November 2010. Their goal was to transform the neglected stands of pine, cypress, and hardwoods into a more productive and sustainable condition for timber production, recreation, and native flora and fauna. To accomplish this they have, and continue to use forestry practices that enhance the native, fire-dependent ecosystem, including the use of mechanical understory reduction, prescribed fire, control of invasive species, and restoration planting of longleaf pine and wiregrass in forest openings. Hardwood swamps on the property are retained and protected above and beyond the standards of silviculture Best Management Practices, and slash pines are retained around the swamp margins, providing

some fuel to carry fire into those areas. Where safe to do so, lightning-killed pines are retained for woodpeckers as a food source and nesting.

Bill and Denise also appreciate and research the history of the area and the property. In early 1900s the property was owned by the Earle family, who leased the property for turpentine production and logging. The property was never farmed so many pieces of the pine resin-collecting Herty pots have been found on the property.

They worked with the Florida Forest Service (FFS) and Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to develop a Forest Stewardship Management Plan, and cost-share programs of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Continued on next page



Bill Black and Denise Matthews at their Sparkleberry Farm property in Alachua County. Photo by Bill Black.



(R) Orange-fringed orchids (*Platanthera ciliaris*), photo by Bill Black. (L) Pitcher plants thrive in wet areas where fire is allowed to creep in from adjacent uplands. Photo by Chris Demers.

(NRCS) have helped to defray the cost of several management practices on the property. They work with Jowett & Wood Consultants to conduct forest inventories, thinning, and harvesting operations in the timber stands. FFS fire teams have also been used to conduct prescribed burns, and the FWC's Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) has provided habitat improvement assistance and support. The property is certified in

the American Tree Farm System and Forest Stewardship Program.

As a result of their regular use of prescribed fire, they are noting an increased abundance of unique and rare plants such as orange-fringed orchids (*Platanthera ciliaris*) as well as wire-grass and species of pitcher plants in the wetter areas. Many game and non-game wildlife species are seen on the property. Retained dead trees (snags)

have provided food and nesting for numerous pileated woodpeckers.

Engagement with conservation and environmental organizations and programs is an important part of earning recognition as an exemplary Land Steward. For the last 4 years, Bill has participated in the Audubon Society's Christmas bird count. Thirty-three species and a total of 324 individual birds were logged in the 2021 count.



Forest Stewardship Tour at Sparkleberry Farm in October 2015. Photo by Chris Demers.

He has also supervised several University of Florida undergraduate forestry students in hardwood and invasive species control, longleaf pine and wiregrass seedling planting, fence building, gopher tortoise burrow locating, and property maintenance. Two of the students received training in operating a compact track-loader with a brushcutter.

Bill has also been a land steward ambassador to the public and fellow landowners. In 2015 he hosted a Forest Stewardship Tour at Sparkleberry Farm where he effectively communicated his stewardship journey, the management practices he has used, challenges experienced along the way and how he addressed them, and sources of assistance. He maintains regular communications with forestry and natural resource partners and continues to encourage University of Florida researchers and students to

visit the property to observe and record rare plants.

After continuous, active management with prescribed fire and other land management practices, Sparkleberry Farm is now home to abundant wildlife; including gopher tortoises, deer, turkey, and quail; longleaf pine, naturally regenerated slash and loblolly pine stands, hardwood swamps, and a rich groundcover of unique and rare plants. Bill and Denise look forward to continuing their stewardship journey



Bill Black showing the diverse groundcover they have achieved at 2015 Forest Stewardship Tour at Sparkleberry Farm. Photos by Chris Demers.

at Sparkleberry Farm and beyond by encouraging research and education, and taking opportunities to promote land stewardship to fellow landowners and the public.

Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2021 Tax Year

To help you understand the forestry specific tax provisions and how the general tax rules apply to your forestry activities, the Tax Tips for Forest Landowners for the 2021 Tax Year are provided by the USDA Forest Service and extension specialists at this link:

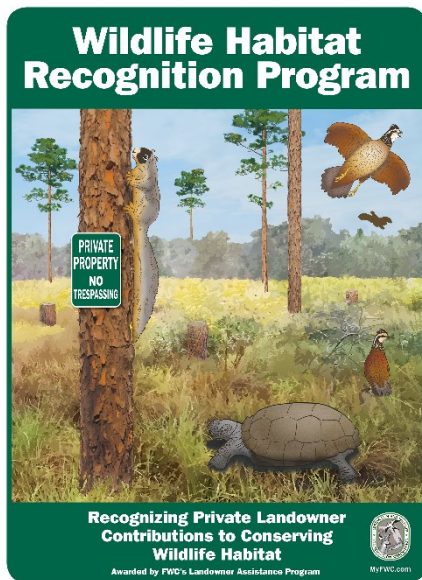
https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/fs_media/fs_document/Landowner-2021-Tax-Tips.pdf

Don't miss out on news and events!

Sign up for the regular Florida Land Steward email updates! Send an email to cdemers@ufl.edu to be added to the listserv. Email updates are sent once a week or every other week and include the latest calendar of workshops, tours, webinars, and other events; a link to the current issue of this quarterly newsletter; updates on cost-share and other assistance programs, opportunities, and resources; and other stewardship related news and information.

All the latest news and events are online at the new UF/IFAS Florida Land Steward Program web site: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-land-steward/>

Assistance and Recognition Programs for Landowners



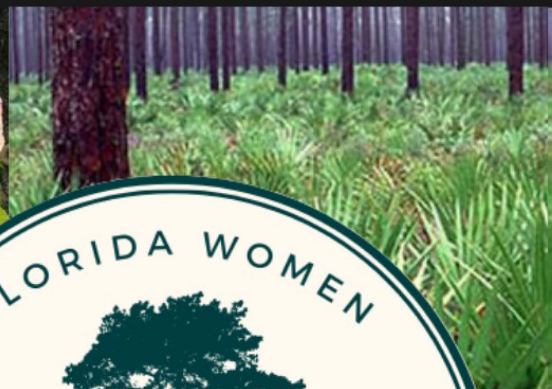
Private lands play a critically important role in the fate of Florida's vast wildlife resources. The efforts of private landowners to manage their land to benefit wildlife by providing food, water, shelter, and space will help ensure that future generations have the opportunity to experience and enjoy wildlife as much as, or even more than, we do today. To show appreciation for the accomplishments by landowners to conserve our state's wildlife, FWC's Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) created the **Wildlife Habitat Recognition Program**. This program honors landowners who have satisfactorily completed habitat management practices that benefit wildlife and/or their habitat by awarding them with a sign to display on their property and a certificate recognizing their habitat restoration efforts. For more information, please contact your region's FWC LAP Coordinator on the contact page.



The **Forest Stewardship Program**, developed by state forestry agencies, like the Florida Forest Service, provides educational and technical assistance for private landowners. Forestry and natural resource professionals cooperate to help private forest landowners develop and implement a plan designed to increase the economic value of their forestland while maintaining its wildlife habitat value and environmental integrity for future generations. Landowners who demonstrate good forest stewardship are recognized with a Stewardship Forest sign. For more information, please contact your Florida Forest Service county forester, consultant, or FWC LAP biologist. See the contact page.



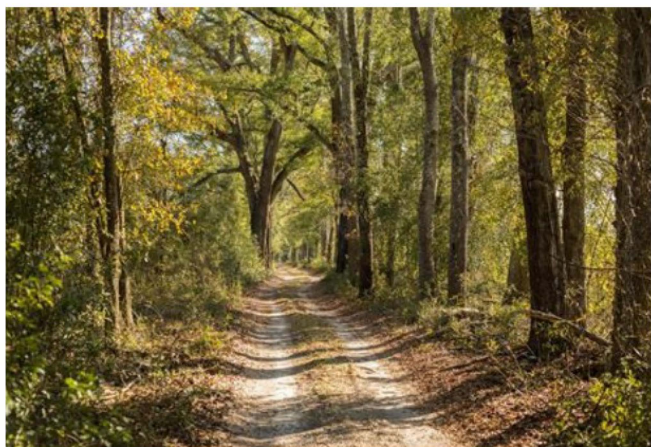
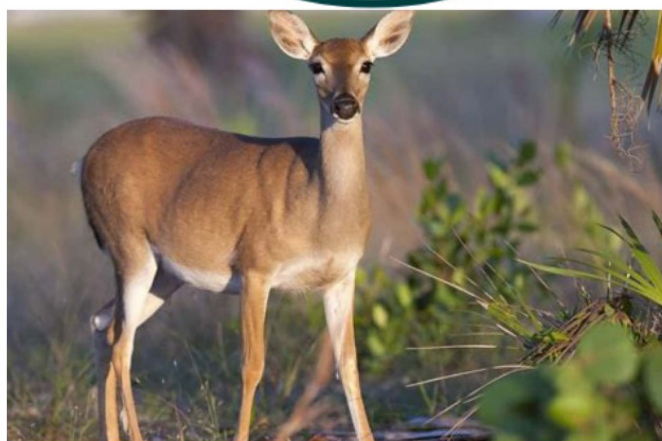
The **American Tree Farm System (ATFS)** Standards of Sustainability guide and ensure that forest benefits are enhanced and available for future generations. Landowners can enroll and be certified in the ATFS to improve access to sustainable forest product markets and educational opportunities. The Florida Tree Farm Program is a nonprofit organization and state affiliate of the ATFS that promotes sustainable forest management and educational outreach to private forest landowners. For more information, please contact your Florida Forest Service county forester, consultant, or FWC LAP biologist. See the contact page.



WOMEN LEARNING TOGETHER WOMEN SUPPORT EACH OTHER

Our goal is to provide opportunities for collaboration and education for all generations of women landowners in Florida. We share land stewardship resources through in-person events and virtual networking related to land ownership including farms, ranches, forests, recreation, and wildlife.

Whether you have 1 acre or 1,000 –
we are here for you!



LANDOWNER INITIATIVES

- Conservation
- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Wildlife
- Water Quality
- Financial Sustainability
- Alternative income streams
- Legacy

Don't wait, this property won't last long!

Follow us on Facebook



SCAN ME

CONTACTS

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GINGER FEAGLE -- GINGER.FEAGLE@MYFWC.COM



Florida Forest Service

Silviculture Best Management Practices



SILVICULTURE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Silviculture BMPs are the minimum standards necessary to protect our state's waterbodies and wetlands from the degradation and sedimentation that can sometimes occur because of erosion during and immediately following recent forestry operations. Silviculture BMPs should be applied on all bonafide ongoing forestry operations, especially those adjacent to waterbodies and wetlands, and may be enforced by federal, state, and local authorities through reference of regulatory statute or rule.

SILVICULTURE BMP COURTESY CHECKS

Silviculture BMP courtesy checks are available to give landowners, land managers, and loggers a "report card" on Silviculture BMP implementation for recent or ongoing forestry operations. This helps with future management planning as well as evaluating the performance of contractors on your property.

SILVICULTURE BMP SITE ASSESSMENTS

On-the-ground Silviculture BMP site assessments are available to discuss which Silviculture BMPs will apply to planned operations on a specific site. This helps with harvest plan development, road layout, mitigation of existing problem areas, etc.

SILVICULTURE BMP NOTICE OF INTENT

The Silviculture BMP Notice of Intent (Rule 5I-6 F.A.C.) is a one-time pledge that a landowner signs to indicate his or her intention to follow Silviculture BMPs on their property. Once a landowner has signed the Notice of Intent, he or she will become eligible to receive a *presumption of compliance* with state water quality standards during future bonafide ongoing forestry operations. This is very important if the landowner's property falls within an area covered by a Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Basin Management Action Plan for impaired waters.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

For information on the services listed above or any other services provided by the Florida Forest Service's Hydrology Section please visit www.fdacs.gov/bmps or contact:

Robin Holland
BMP Program Manager
Florida Forest Service
(352) 732-1781
Robin.Holland@FDACS.gov



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices for State Imperiled Species



- Forestry Wildlife Best Management Practices for State Imperiled Species (WBMPs) were adopted into Florida Administrative Code (Rule 5I-8) on October 21, 2014.
- WBMPs were developed through a partnership between the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Florida Forest Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).
- WBMPs are **voluntary** practices designed as a practical approach for avoiding and minimizing the loss of **State Imperiled Species** due to silviculture operations.
- WBMP practices address the 16 State Imperiled Species which are considered to be potentially vulnerable to silviculture operations including ten aquatic species, two burrowing animals, and four nesting birds.
- WBMPs are designed to supplement the existing water quality-based Silviculture BMPs which already provide many valuable benefits to the conservation and management of fish and wildlife in Florida.
- Landowners and other forestry resource professionals can enroll in the voluntary program by completing a WBMP Notice of Intent. Those who do not wish to enroll will continue to be subject to all current laws and regulations regarding State Imperiled Species.
- Once enrolled, applicants who **properly implement** WBMPs will no longer be required to obtain a permit authorizing the incidental take of State Imperiled Species during bonafide ongoing forestry operations. In addition, they will not be subject to any fines or penalties associated with an incidental take of the State Imperiled Species covered by the WBMP Manual.
- WBMPs are not designed to facilitate wildlife habitat restoration or species recovery and expansion. Also, they do not address any Federally Listed Species. For information on Federally Listed Species, refer to FWC's online "Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide."
- For more information or to request a copy of the Forestry WBMP Manual and Notice of Intent contact:

Robin Holland
BMP Program Manager
Florida Forest Service
(352) 732-1781
Robin.Holland@FDACS.gov
www.fdacs.gov/bmps



5

Steps to Assistance

How to Get Assistance from NRCS
for Farms, Ranches and Forests

1 PLANNING

Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2 APPLICATION

With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3 ELIGIBILITY

Find out if you're eligible for NRCS' variety of financial assistance programs.

4 RANKING

NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5 IMPLEMENTING

Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.

Get Started with NRCS

Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease?

Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

1 Planning

To get started with NRCS, we recommend you stop by your local NRCS field office.

We'll discuss your vision for your land.

NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

2 Application

We'll walk you through the application process. To get started on applying for

financial assistance, we'll work with you:

- To fill out an AD 1026, which ensures a conservation plan is in place before lands with highly erodible soils are farmed. It also ensures that identified wetland areas are protected.
- To meet other eligibility certifications.

Once complete, we'll work with you on the application, or CPA 1200.

Applications for most programs are accepted on a continuous basis, but they're considered for funding in different ranking periods. Be sure to ask your local NRCS district conservationist about the deadline for the ranking period to ensure you turn in your application in time.

3 Eligibility

As part of the application process, we'll check to see if you are eligible.

To do this, you'll need to bring:

- An official tax ID (Social Security number or an employer ID)
- A property deed or lease agreement to show you have control of the property; and
- A farm tract number.

If you don't have a farm tract number, you can get one from USDA's Farm Service Agency. Typically, the local FSA office is located in the same building as the local NRCS office. You only need a farm tract number if you're interested in financial assistance.

4 Ranking

NRCS will take a look at the applications and rank them

according to local resource concerns, the amount of conservation benefits the work will provide and the needs of applicants.

5 Implementing

If you're selected, you can choose whether to sign the contract for the work to be done.

Once you sign the contract, you'll be provided standards and specifications for completing the practice or practices, and then you will have a specified amount of time to implement. Once the work is implemented and inspected, you'll be paid the rate of compensation for the work if it meets NRCS standards and specifications.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To find out more, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted

FSA DOCUMENTS NEEDED FOR CUSTOMERS APPLYING FOR NRCS PROGRAMS

If you have not worked with the USDA before you will need to make an appointment with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at your local USDA Service Center. To find your local office, visit www.farmers.gov/working-with-us/service-center-locator.

What to bring with you

Bring the following documentation:

- Proof of your control of the land you wish to enroll by providing a lease or a copy of the deed to the property.
- Parcel ID number from the County Property Appraiser site for locating the farm.
- Provide your Social Security or Employer Identification Number and contact information.
- For entities, partnerships, or joint operations you will need to provide information documenting those individuals with authority to represent the business.

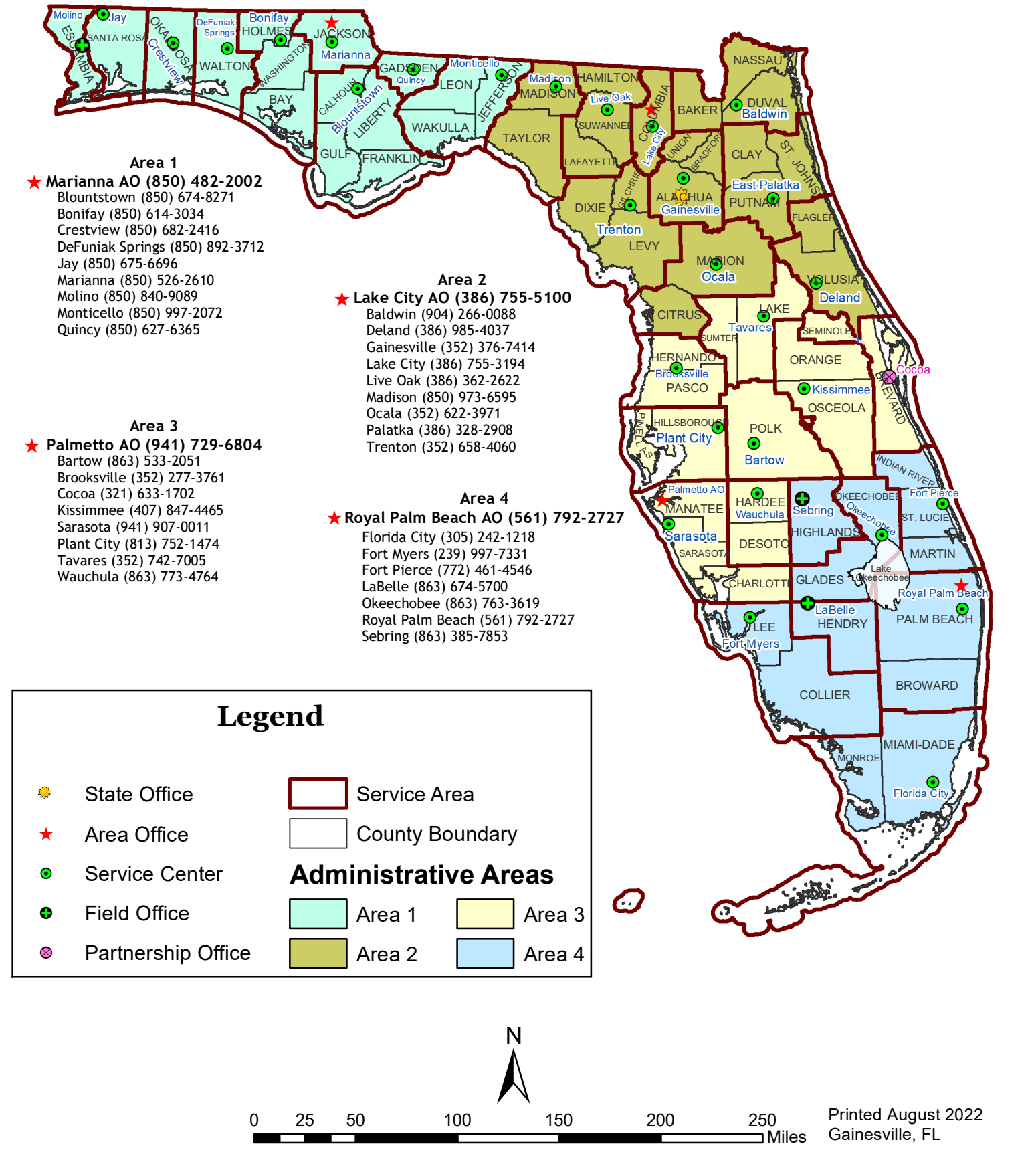
What you will need to complete for the Farm Service Agency

- **AD-2047 For Individuals and Entities – Form is required for all members of the entity.**
- **CCC-941 - Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) – Form is required for entity and all members of the entity.**
- **CCC-901 and CCC- 902 - Members' Information for entities and joint operations.**
- **AD-1026 - Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification – Form is required for all individuals, LLC and all its members, corporations and all its members with more than 20% shares.**

It takes time for the paperwork to be processed and additional information may be needed. Please start this process early in order to insure you are eligible prior to any program sign-up cut-off dates. If you apply for a USDA program and the system does not show you or your entity as eligible, your application will not be processed or funded.

USDA-NRCS ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS & LOCAL OFFICES

FLORIDA



Planting Southern Pines in Florida



Florida landowners have contributed vastly to the Southeast's planting of pines over many decades. Understanding the factors that affect pine seedling quality and survival will assure a more successful forest plantation, whether objectives focus on timber production, recreation, wildlife habitat, water quality protection, etc.

Seven pine species (*Pinus* spp.) are considered to be native to Florida. These species are loblolly pine (*P. taeda*), longleaf pine (*P. palustris*), shortleaf pine (*P. echinata*), slash pine (*P. elliottii*), sand pine (*P. clausa*), spruce pine (*P. glabra*), and pond pine (*P. serotina*), and each varies in the site conditions where it grows as well as in its commercial utility and availability.

The publication below discusses the importance of site selection and soils as they relate to each species, the landowners' objectives, and their target markets. This publication is a guide to facilitate selection of appropriate pine species and offers guidance on best practices for handling seedlings throughout all stages of tree planting.

Planting Southern Pines in Florida:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR456>



Longleaf Pine



Longleaf pine is a great choice for landowners interested in using prescribed fire to manage forests to accommodate multiple benefits such as wildlife habitat and timber. It's also a great choice for pine straw production on upland sites.

Longleaf Pine Regeneration:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr064>

Genetically Improved Pine Stock

Landowners have many options in regenerating forest stands with genetically improved pine stock. Learn about genetically improved pines and see if they might be a good fit for your site and objectives.

Genetically Improved Pines for Reforesting Florida's Timberlands:

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr007>



Prescribed Fire

Prescribed burning is the carefully planned and directed use of fire to achieve land-management goals. This tool is used to achieve a variety of objectives; including restoring fire-dependent ecosystems, enhancing forage for cattle, improving wildlife habitat, preparing sites for reforestation, and reducing hazardous fuel loads. Prescribed burns achieve many benefits for the environment and for people, but they have the potential to impact the public via smoke. Smoke is a mixture of water vapor, carbon dioxide and combustion products, including tiny particles of organic matter.

The potential for harm from smoke can be reduced with the use of smoke-management techniques. The movement of smoke plumes can be modeled with maps or computer programs long before anyone strikes a match. This allows land managers to avoid impacts on smoke-sensitive areas by burning under weather conditions that minimize smoke problems. As a result of pre-planning and careful smoke management, smoke impacts from prescribed fires are generally far less detrimental than smoke impacts from a wildfire burning over the same area. It is extremely important to mitigate problems associated with smoke so we can continue to use this critically important land management tool.



Benefits of Prescribed Fire: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR468>



Where there's Fire there's Smoke: Air Quality and Prescribed Fire in Florida: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR058>

Thinning Southern Pines

Many landowners plant pines with the intention of harvesting them at some point in the future. When pulpwood markets are favorable, a complete stand harvest within 15 to 20 years is possible and may bring an acceptable return. However, longer rotations can bring higher financial returns on larger diameter trees if landowners are willing to begin thinning their pine stands when trees are 10 to 15 years old. Pine sawtimber, poles, and/or plylogs are most often the forest products with the highest value and, if economic returns are a



priority, the most desirable products to come out of a timber stand. Thinning is a partial tree harvest in an immature stand to maintain or accelerate diameter growth of the remaining trees. If it is done properly, thinning can bring substantially higher revenues when trees are harvested at 25 to 40 or more years of age. Trees will respond to thinning best if they are thinned before 16 or 17 years of age.

The increased diameter growth after thinning results from the greater availability of light, water, and nutrients to the remaining trees. Ideally, the best and biggest trees should be retained to assure the most rapid increase in timber value. For best results, thinning should favor the tallest, best-formed trees over those that are overtopped, crooked, forked, diseased or otherwise undesirable. Timberland owners who wish to harvest high-value sawtimber-, plylog-, or pole-sized products at the end of the rotation should consider thinning a necessity.

For the landowner, thinning can bring

1. increased return on investment from the sale of higher-value forest products;
2. periodic income from the multiple harvests that lead to those higher-value forest products;
3. improved access for equipment, people, and wildlife;
4. a healthy, vigorous forest with less risk of insect infestation, destructive fire, and wind damage; and
5. enhanced wildlife habitat with increased herbaceous ground cover

Thinning Southern Pines - A Key to Greater Returns

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr159>



Marking First Thinnings in Pine Plantations: Potential for Increased Economic Returns

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr410>

Enhancing Habitat for Wildlife

Southern forests and ranges have the potential to provide productive wildlife habitat for a variety of species. Landowners interested in promoting wildlife must recognize that each wildlife species requires a specific set of habitat conditions. Animals will frequent your property depending on the condition, type, and variety of food and cover that are present.



Timber, livestock, and crop production objectives can be compatible with enhancement of wildlife habitat and diversity. However, some tradeoffs may be necessary because strategies that maximize commodity outputs are typically not the same as strategies that will provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife species. For this reason, it is important to prioritize your objectives and decide where wildlife ranks relative to the commodities you produce in your land use planning.

Establishing and Maintaining Wildlife Food Sources:

<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr062>



Providing Wildlife Cover: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr124>

Japanese Climbing Fern Biology and Management

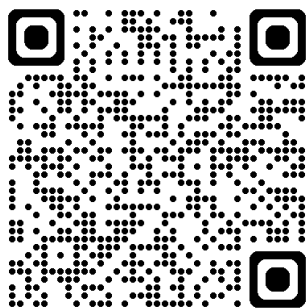
Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum* (Thunb.) Sw.) is a non-native, invasive vine that from its introduction around 1900 has become established throughout the southeastern Coastal Plain from the Carolinas to Texas and Arkansas.

Japanese climbing fern has climbing, twining fronds of indeterminate growth and can reach lengths of 90 feet. Above-ground growth occurs along wiry main stems, properly called "rachises" (the singular is "rachis"). Japanese climbing fern is closely related to Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*), another non-native invasive species in the United States. Both species are listed as Category I noxious weeds by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, with the ability to "alter native plant communities, change community structures and ecosystem function" (FLEPPC 2016).



As a fern, it reproduces by spores that are extremely numerous, long-lived, and readily disseminated. Moreover, it can reproduce by self-fertilizing. Spore abundance increases through the growing season as the rachis grows. In north Florida, peak spore release occurs in October (Van Loan 2006). Japanese climbing fern also spreads vegetatively by rhizomes located 1 to 3 cm below the soil surface.

Glyphosate and metsulfuron methyl, used alone or in combination, are the most common treatments. The effectiveness of glyphosate treatments was observed in early studies of Japanese climbing fern. Van Loan (2006) examined 15 herbicide treatments for selective control of Japanese climbing fern in three north Florida pine forests. She found best results using glyphosate, imazapyr, and metsulfuron methyl, herbicides that inhibit the formation of amino acids in plants.



Biology and Control of Japanese Climbing Fern
(*Lygodium japonicum*): <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR280>

Cogongrass Control

Cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrical*) is a warm-season perennial grass species found throughout tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world. Native to Southeast Asia, cogongrass is an aggressive invasive plant that has spread to all continents except Antarctica and is considered among the worst problematic weeds in the world. In the United States, it is naturalized in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida,

Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Oregon. It was first accidentally introduced in the United States near Mobile Alabama in 1912 and subsequently intentionally introduced from the Philippines into Mississippi as a forage crop in 1921. Early regional introductions contributed to the establishment of cogongrass in the Southeast. Cogongrass is regulated as a federal noxious weed.



Control of cogongrass is difficult because it spreads in two ways: by extensive rhizome systems and by seeds. Cogongrass rhizomes can comprise more than 60% of the total plant biomass. The rhizomes support rapid re-growth following mowing or burning.

Control in Pine Forests

Chemical control is required. Glyphosate, imazapyr, and combinations of the two herbicides are most effective. Eradication requires multiple applications. In many instances, selective control of cogongrass without damage to desired vegetation is not possible, but where the canopy of shrubs and trees is above that of cogongrass, glyphosate sprays may be directed to cogongrass in the understory with fair selectivity to the taller vegetation. Imazapyr, however, used in the quantities and at the application frequencies necessary to eradicate cogongrass, will kill hardwood trees and shrubs.

Control in Hardwood Forests

To avoid injury to hardwood trees or shrubs in mixed pine-hardwood stands, glyphosate alone is commonly used at 3 to 4 lb ai/acre (3 to 4 quarts per acre for many common 4 lb ai/gallon product formulations), and selectivity is obtained by spraying cogongrass in the understory and avoiding any spray contact near the crowns of trees and shrubs. Imazapyr will kill hardwood trees and shrubs.

Controlling Invasive Plants in North Florida Forests (various species including cogongrass): <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FR133>



Biology and Control of Cogongrass in Southern Forests:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr411>

Cogongrass Biology, Ecology, and Management in Florida Grazing Lands:
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/WG202>



Marketing Your Timber



Marketing timber involves selling forest products in a competitive market to get the best return on your investment or to meet other objectives. This process requires some planning and pre-sale preparation before you advertise or talk to prospective buyers. Timber sales should be approached in a business-like manner to ensure that both the seller and buyer are satisfied with the results. Following are some important guidelines to follow when planning and conducting a timber sale.

Start with Your Objectives and Financial Situation

Timber is sold for many reasons. The most obvious reason is to convert the timber asset into money. However, the decision to sell timber should be based on the objectives you have for your land. You may harvest trees in order to regenerate or improve the future value of a stand, reduce stand density (thinning), salvage damaged timber, maximize profits, improve wildlife habitat, or develop recreational opportunities. These types of management decisions should start with a written management plan, which outlines your objectives, identifies the steps necessary to achieve them, provides a timetable to guide management activities, and is the first step to a successful harvest.

Work with a Forester

A forester can accurately estimate the number and volume of trees by product class and then appraise the current market value of the timber you want to sell. This is extremely important because the price of different product classes can vary significantly and will dictate in part how much the buyer will pay for the timber. This information will be worth the price of the inventory when it is time to sell.

Steps to Marketing Timber: <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr130>

Selecting a Consulting Forester: <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr125>

UF/IFAS Stewardship Publications



- [Planting Southern Pines in Florida](#)
- [Benefits of Prescribed Fire](#)
- [Assessment and Management of Hurricane Damaged Timberland](#)
- [Florida's Forest Stewardship Program: An Opportunity to Manage Your Land for Now and the Future](#)
- [Forest Resource Information on the Internet: Connecting to Today's Online Resources](#)
- [Genetically Improved Pines for Reforesting Florida's Timberlands](#)
- [Improving, Restoring, and Managing Natural Resources on Rural Properties in Florida: Sources of Financial Assistance](#)
- [Improving, Restoring, and Managing Wildlife Habitat in Florida: Sources of Technical Assistance for Rural Landowners](#)
- [Longleaf Pine Regeneration](#)
- [Marking First Thinnings in Pine Plantations: Potential for Increased Economic Returns](#)
- [Opportunities for Uneven-Aged Management in Second Growth Longleaf Pine Stands in Florida](#)
- [The Optimal Forest Management of an Even-Aged Stand: The Biological Rotation versus the Land Expectation Value](#)
- [Ownership Succession: Plan Now for the Future of Your Land](#)
- [Prepare Your Forest Property for Hurricane Season](#)
- [Selecting a Consulting Forester](#)
- [Steps to Marketing Timber](#)
- [Stewardship Ecosystem Services Study Series: Assessing Forest Water Yield and Regulation Ecosystem Services in the Lower Suwannee River Watershed, Florida](#)
- [Thinning Southern Pines—A Key to Greater Returns](#)
- [What if prescribed fire is not an option? An overview of alternative vegetation and fuel management treatments](#)
- [What Is in a Natural Resource Management Plan?](#)
- [What to Expect in a Forest Inventory](#)

See [**https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/**](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/) to access these and many more UF/IFAS Extension publications.





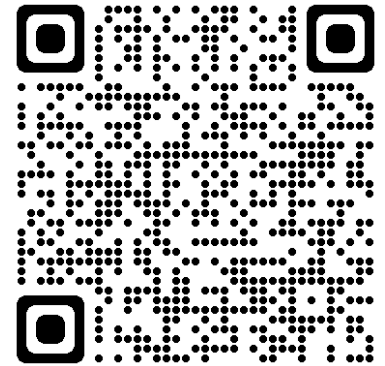
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