

FLORIDA LAND STEWARD



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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Florida Land Steward Partners Introduce a New Web Map Resource for Landowners

By Joseph Prenger, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Production of food and fiber are fundamental to our society and important contributions to Florida's economy and quality of life. In addition to these services, private lands provide other important benefits including protection of water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. We in the Florida Land Steward Partnership (FLSP) continuously strive to provide better outreach and information on programs that can help landowners achieve their goals, while improving the many environmental benefits they provide to society. To that end FLSP, in conjunction with the Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative (PFLCC), have launched a web-based map that allows landowners to identify specific assistance programs available at the local level.

The PFLCC is part of a national network of Landscape Conservation Cooperatives. These partnerships are designed to address resource issues in an integrated way at a broader scale than can be achieved by the individual partners. Issues of concern include landscape scale stressors like water resource issues, invasive species, wildlife habitat, urbanization, and habitat fragmentation.

The natural resource, forestry, and agriculture agencies in our state established FLSP with the common objective of assisting and encouraging landowners to

manage their lands for long term environmental, economic, and social benefits. Our goal is to promote voluntary stewardship on private lands by addressing the needs of private landowners while acknowledging and respecting private property rights. One important approach has been to develop and implement a unified landowner outreach program that provides information on resources available to landowners and promotes land stewardship by increasing cooperation between natural resource agencies.

Each of the agencies making up the FLSP provides technical and/or financial assistance to landowners in order to help them achieve their production and conservation goals. These programs complement one another, but may not always be easy for the public to navigate or understand where and how those programs may apply. Although each agency has resources available at the local level, it may not be easy for a landowner to understand the overlaps and gaps, or the opportunities available on their specific plot of land or for their individual need. In an attempt to address this need, we have developed a way to identify programs at the watershed level. While watershed boundaries may not be obvious in Florida's low topographic relief geography, it is a convenient way to divide the landscape at a finer scale than by county (see Figure 1 on next page).




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Using the Peninsular Florida LCC Map Viewer

The PFLCC website provides access to natural resource information, including an on-line web tool that can be used to identify resources at the local watershed scale. The map is at this link: <http://viewer.apps.pflcc.databasin.org/v1/index.html>.

By clicking on the icon,  located in the upper right corner of the page, and entering the nearest town, you can navigate to the watershed that includes your property. Selecting (or clicking once on) the watershed will bring up a window with several tabs at the left side of the page. Select the **Partners** tab and then select **Private Landowner Opportunities** (Figure 2). Information is provided on programs available in your immediate area and by habitat or land use type, with links to program web pages with details on program priorities, application process, contacts, and other details.

The Florida Forest Service provides technical and financial assistance for southern pine beetle prevention and longleaf pine establishment, as well as general forestry guidance and Best Management Practices (BMPs). The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services provides information on BMPs for other types of agriculture. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provides financial assistance through the

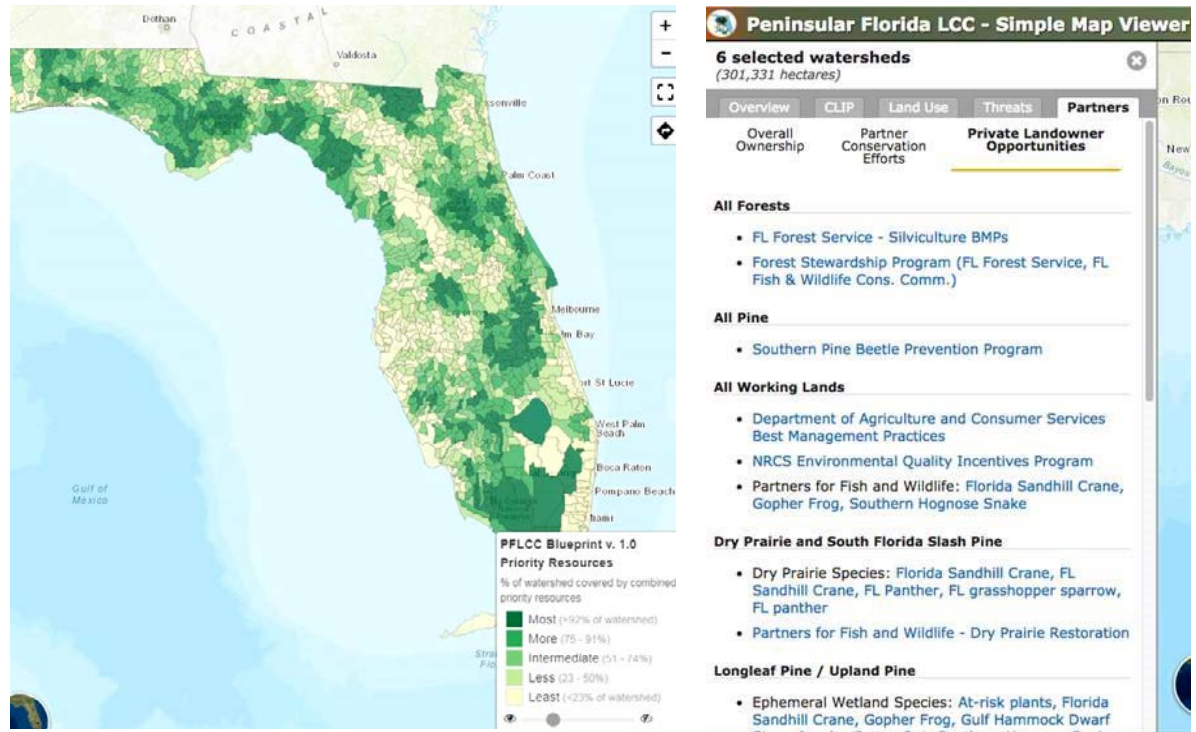


Figure 1 (Left). Peninsular Florida LCC – Simple Map Viewer. Figure 2 (Right). The Private Landowner Opportunities tool allows you to find programs available in your immediate area, and by habitat or land use type, with links to program web pages with details on program priorities, application process, contacts, and other details.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and additional information and general technical assistance is available through their local service centers. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission provides technical assistance on wildlife habitat management and helps to administer the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and NRCS incentive programs dealing with wildlife habitat. The USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program provides technical and financial assistance on habitat restoration, with a focus on habitat for listed species or those that have been petitioned for listing. The emphasis for PFW is to avoid the need to list species as threatened or endangered and to help recover populations of those already listed so that they can be removed from the endangered species list.

If you have any questions about the watershed map or the programs listed, please feel free to contact the author at the contact information below.

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Turpentine Education Site Added to the UF/IFAS Austin Cary Forest Campus, School of Forest Resources & Conservation

By Dr. Wayne Smith, Professor Emeritus, University of Florida IFAS

The A. Chester Skinner Jr. Family Turpentine Education Site at the Austin Cary Forest is celebrating its first birthday. With the help of many generous supporters, the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources & Conservation has developed this educational facility to recognize the historic value of this industry and the contemporary role of the pine chemicals industry.

The centerpiece of the Skinner Family Turpentine Education Site is an authentic fire still restored to historic accuracy. The still, donated by William Harrell, was operated by the family in southern Georgia until the 1950s. Traditional chip, gutter and cup, and the modern bore-hole gum collection systems are displayed on trees on the site. The site also boasts displays for artifacts and memorabilia, cups and tools, and educational kiosks on the historic and modern processing techniques

and the utilization of gum in dozens of common consumer products such as Gatorade, chewing gums, food flavors, household fragrances, and various adhesives.

The harvesting and processing of pine resin was a major industry across the Southeast – providing employment for a wide variety of residents post-Civil War; supporting the development of towns, railroads, and other infrastructure; providing an economic value to forests which would have otherwise been seen as an impediment to agriculture; and encouraging the continued use of prescribed fire. Florida led the world in turpentine and gum production by 1913. Around 2,000 stills operated in the Southeast US, with as many as 100 located within 50 miles of Gainesville, Florida.

The site remains a work in progress. Since dedicating the site in April

2017, the site has seen more than 500 visitors. Many have encouraged the enhancement of the site through critical additions such as a cooper's shed (barrel-making workshop), haul wagon stall, and additional space for artifacts, equipment, and exhibits, to create an authentic, engaging and interactive educational resource.

An anonymous donor has committed a \$15,000 matching gift to help secure the resources needed for these additions. You can help meet the match and develop this historical site with your gift. To make a gift visit tinyurl.com/SFRCturp or contact Caylin Hilton, UF/IFAS Advancement, cnewbern@ufl.edu or (352) 392-5432.

Visitors to the site are welcome. To schedule a tour or arrange a program, contact Wayne Smith, whsmith@ufl.edu or (352) 475-2439.



Top Left: A guided tour group views pine resin harvest and collection methods at the Turpentine Education Site. Bottom Left: Restored turpentine fire still at the Skinner Family Turpentine Education Site at the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation Austin Cary Forest Campus. Right: Separator Barrels. The fire still vaporized turpentine and water from the pine resin. The vapors then condensed and collected in a barrel where the water was separated from the turpentine.

Florida Forest Service BMP Survey Shows High Implementation Rate

By Roy Lima, Florida Forest Service

Florida's Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) identify the minimum standards for protecting and maintaining water quality and certain wildlife habitats in Florida. When properly applied, silviculture BMPs provide a balance between forest resource use and natural resource protection.

The 2017 Florida silviculture BMP implementation survey showed a 99.6% implementation rate among forestry operations. This indicates that water quality protection remains a high priority for Florida's foresters, land managers, loggers, and silviculture contractors.

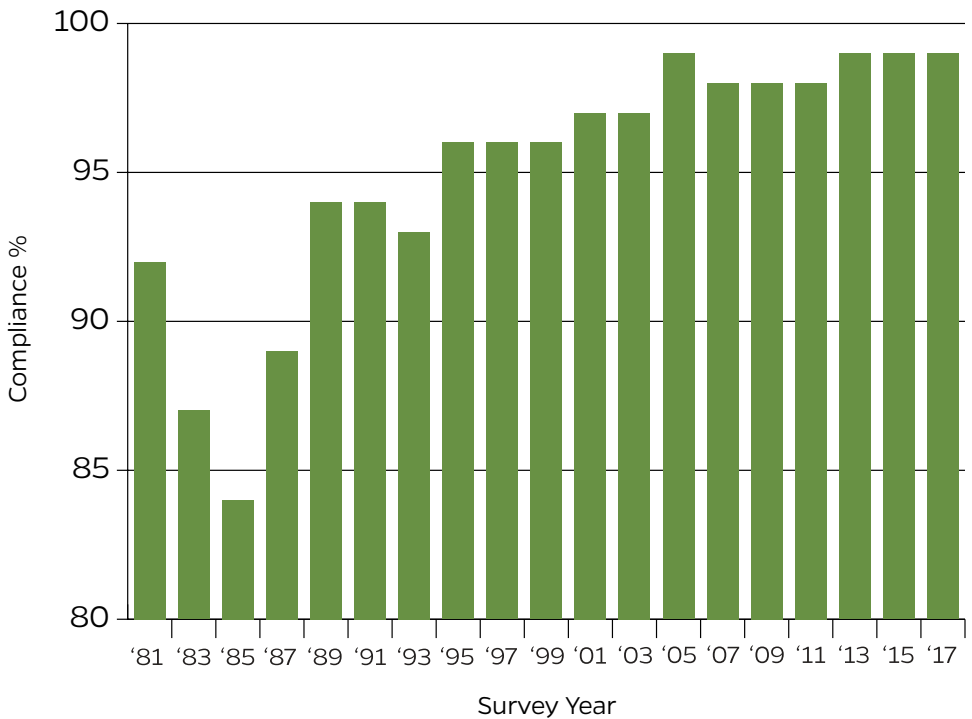
The 2017 survey evaluated 3,074 practices on 163 individual forestry operations (sites). This cooperative effort involved 108 individual public and private landowners and covered 34,492 acres in 44 Florida counties. Eighty-two sites were on private non-industrial forestland, 55 on industrial forestland, and 26 on public forestlands. The findings of the survey include:

- Industry lands scored a 99.9% overall implementation rating, the highest among all forest ownerships.
- Private non-industrial lands scored a 99.6% overall implementation rating.
- Public ownerships scored a 99.8% overall implementation rating.
- Nearly 97% of all sites surveyed this year scored a 100% implementation rating.
- All sites surveyed scored at or above 87% in overall BMP implementation.
- The average for overall BMP compliance was 99.6%, a slight increase from 2015.
- The average compliance for the 36-year period since 1981 is 95%.
- A total of 5,859 individual forestry operations have been surveyed since 1981.



Florida's Silviculture BMPs identify the minimum standards for protecting and maintaining water quality and certain wildlife habitats during silvicultural activities.

BMP Implementation by Survey Year



Continued on next page

Since 1981, the Florida Forest Service has monitored forestry operations for BMP implementation by conducting biennial statewide implementation surveys. High implementation over the years illustrates the Florida forestry community's strong commitment to protect the state's water resources.

The implementation of Florida silviculture BMPs is carried out under an educational format designed to transfer BMP technology to forest practitioners through continued

workshops and field demonstrations. Currently, Florida Forest Service personnel conduct twenty to thirty workshops annually, involving over 600 participants per year. In addition, the Florida Forest Service provides BMP training directly to loggers through the Southeastern Wood Producers Association and Florida Forestry Association's Master Logger Program.

The 2017 Implementation Survey Report details compliance levels in all 14 Silviculture BMP categories.

For more information, contact Jeff Vowell, Florida Forest Service, at (850) 681-5820 or Jeff.Vowell@freshfromflorida.com. The Florida Forest Service manages 1 million acres of public forest land while protecting more than 26 million acres of homes, forestland, and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire. To learn more about the Florida Forest Service, visit www.FloridaForestService.com.

Florida Tree Farm Program Preparing for 2019 Audit

The Florida Tree Farm Program is preparing for a 2019 audit. The purpose of the audit is to verify that certified Tree Farms are compliant with the 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability (<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-review>). A relatively small sample of Tree Farms will be selected for the audit. The audit team will visit selected Tree Farms to review the landowners' management plans and conduct a brief interview. The inspector of the property and a Florida Tree

Farm representative will accompany the auditor. **We will begin the audit process in January 2019.** Selected sample Tree Farm landowners will receive a phone call in early January 2019.

The Florida Tree Farm Program wants to make sure this audit goes well so it is extremely important for **ALL certified Tree Farms in the state to have a current written management plan.** Current means **updated in the last 5 years.**

Contact your Florida Forest Service County Forester, forestry consultant, or your Tree Farm District Representative if you need an update to your management plan, or if you have not been inspected **since 2014.** Please share this information with fellow Tree Farmers that you are in contact with.

Find your Florida Forest Service County Forester at <http://freshfromflorida.com/CountyForester>

Get Email Updates!

Don't miss out on upcoming events and news! A lot happens between issues of this quarterly newsletter. Send an email to cdemers@ufl.edu to be added to the stewardship listserv. Updates are sent every week or two and include the latest calendar of workshops, tours and other events; a link to the current issue of this newsletter; updates on cost-share and other assistance programs and resources; and other stewardship related news and information.

TIMBER PRICE UPDATE

The timber pricing information below is useful for observing trends over time, but does not reflect current conditions at a particular location. Landowners considering a timber sale are advised to solicit the services of a consulting forester to obtain current local market conditions.

Average stumpage prices for the three major products in Florida, as reported in the **1st Quarter 2018** Timber Mart-South report were:

Florida Stumpage Prices

Pine pulpwood: \$37/cord (\$14/ton), same as 4th Qtr. 2017

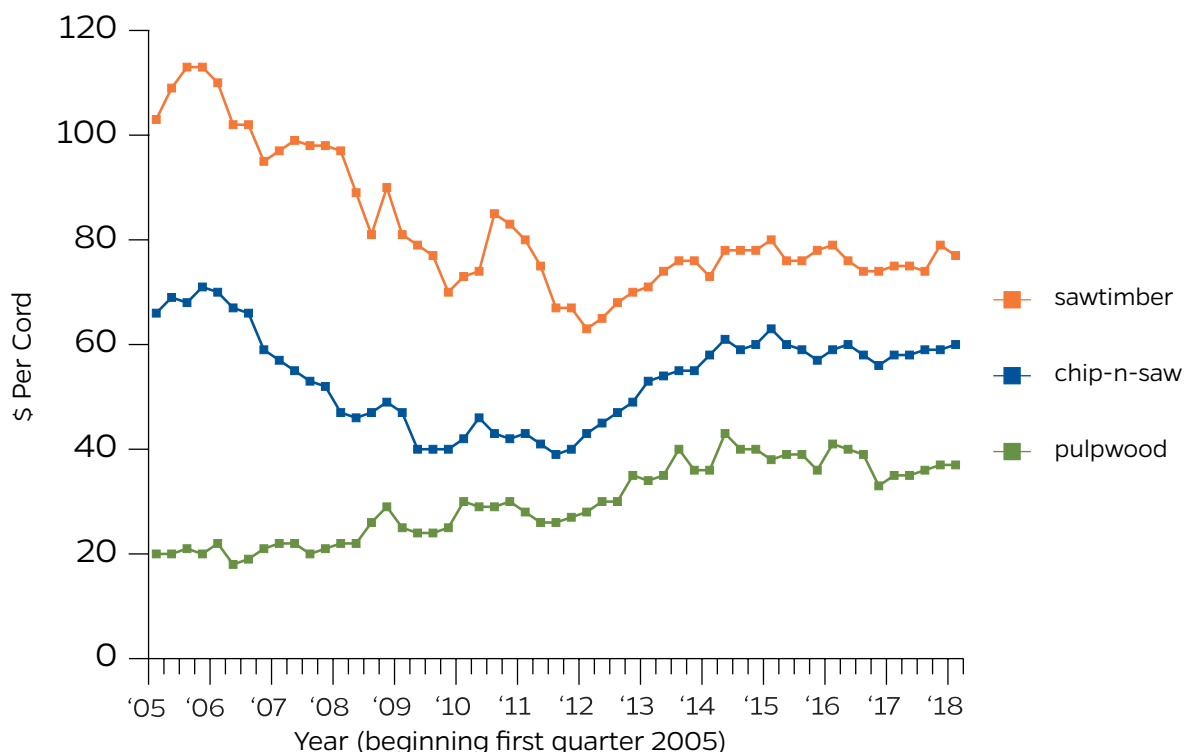
Pine C-N-S: \$60/cord (\$22/ton), same

Pine sawtimber: \$77/cord (\$29/ton), ↓

Trend Report

Overall average forest product price trends remain steady across Florida and the Southeastern region. Since bottoming out in 2011, pine sawtimber prices have increased at a slow annualized rate of 1% per year across the region. U.S. building construction continues its slow improvement. Housing starts and remodeling were up 2% compared to the same period in 2017. Recent wet weather in some regions of Florida may tighten supplies locally and potentially increase stumpage prices for wood on high ground. However, well stocked wood yards will dampen that impact.

Average Pine Stumpage Prices for Florida
1st Qtr 2005 through 1st Qtr 2018



Timber Mart-South is compiled and produced at the Center for Forest Business, Warnell School of Forest Resources, University of Georgia, under contract with the Frank W. Norris Foundation, a non-profit corporation serving the forest products industry. See <http://www.tmart-south.com/> for information on subscriptions.

CONGRATULATIONS

CERTIFIED FOREST STEWARDS AND TREE FARMERS

For more information about becoming a Certified Forest Steward or Tree Farmer, contact your Florida Forest Service County Forester, consultant or learn about it at:

<https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/For-Landowners/Programs/Forest-Stewardship-Program>

or

<http://floridaforest.org/programs/florida-tree-farm/>

These landowners have achieved certification in the Tree Farm, Forest Stewardship, and/or Forces Forest Programs and demonstrate excellent stewardship of their land resources.



Mirlyn Hurry and Colin Ramcharitar,
Putnam County



Kurt Olsen, Highlands County



Mike and Robin Carlisle,
Santa Rosa County



Laura Smith with Conrad Wysocki, Putnam County



Ernie Schluter with Cathy Hardin, Santa Rosa County

Upcoming Stewardship, Small Farm and Other Events

Date	Event, Location, Contact
May 23-24	Wildlife and Invasive Species Education (WISE) Workshop , UF/IFAS Extension Sumter County, Bushnell, FL. WISE is a continuing education event for Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists and others interested in these topics. Registration is \$40.00 for both days or \$25.00 for one day, lunch included. See http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/sumter/ for details and registration.
May 26	Family Heirs Property in Florida: "Cloudy Titles" 2018 Workshop Series - Session 4 , 9 am to 11 am ET, FAMU CEP Teleconference Center, 2010 Pinder Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32307. Presented by Florida A&M University. What steps help families resolve family conflict about Family Heirs' Property? For more information, contact Sandra Thomson, Ed.D. at (850) 599-3546, sandra.thompson@famu.edu
June 7	2018 Silviculture BMPs & Forestry Wildlife BMPs Workshop , 10 am to 3 pm ET, Florida Forest Service Office, 5353 NE 39 th Avenue, Gainesville. Free workshop about Silviculture BMPs for Water Quality and the Forestry Wildlife BMPs for State Imperiled Species. Participants will receive 4 hours of SAF CAT-1 CFE's. Lunch on your own. To register contact Robin Holland, (352) 732-1781, Robin.Holland@freshfromflorida.com
July 17	2018 Silviculture BMPs & Forestry Wildlife BMPs Workshop , 10 am to 3 pm ET, Suwannee River Water Mgt District Office, 9225 CR 49, Live Oak. Free workshop about Silviculture BMPs for Water Quality and the Forestry Wildlife BMPs for State Imperiled Species. Participants will receive 4 hours of SAF CAT-1 CFE's. Lunch on your own. To register contact Robin Holland, (352) 732-1781, Robin.Holland@freshfromflorida.com
Aug. 28	Family Heirs Property in Florida: "Cloudy Titles" 2018 Workshop Series - Session 5 , 9 am to 11 am ET, FAMU CEP Teleconference Center, 2010 Pinder Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32307. Presented by Florida A&M University. What is the impact of clear title property and Family Heirs' property on economic wealth building and intergenerational transfer? For more information, contact Sandra Thomson, Ed.D. at (850) 599-3546, sandra.thompson@famu.edu
Aug. 29-30	Florida Forestry Association Annual Meeting, Omni Amelia Island Plantation Resort . Details TBA. Contact Florida Forestry Association for more information (850) 222-5646.
Sept. 18	2018 Silviculture BMPs & Forestry Wildlife BMPs Workshop , 10 am to 3 pm ET, Southwest FL Water Mgmt District Office, 2379 Broad Street, Brooksville. Free workshop about Silviculture BMPs for Water Quality and the Forestry Wildlife BMPs for State Imperiled Species. Participants will receive 4 hours of SAF CAT-1 CFE's. Lunch on your own. To register contact Robin Holland, (352) 732-1781, Robin.Holland@freshfromflorida.com

For many more events and information see: floridalandsteward.org

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