Blackwater River State Forest Tour
Florida Forest Service
Santa Rosa County, Florida

Date: October 24, 2019
Bear Lake Pavilion off Bear Lake Road, Milton, FL
Registration begins at 8:15 AM Central Time
Adjourn at 12:45 PM Central Time (lunch provided)

Thanks for joining us for a tour on Blackwater River State Forest as we learn about different facets of this working forest. Stops will include a demonstration of our sawmill and gristmill, the Seed Orchard processing facility, a timber stand improvement site, timber sale, and red-cockaded woodpecker cluster. Following the tour, lunch will be provided upon our return to Bear Lake.

This is a great opportunity to connect with the local Florida Forest Service personnel and other partners, and learn about part of the forest’s history and how the 211,100 acres it encompasses are managed. Most of the tour will involve riding in vans, with several discussion stops and one brief walk.

Funding for this event is provided by the USDA Forest Service via the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service’s Florida Forest Service, Florida Tree Farm Program, the Florida Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, and International Paper.
**Tour Stops**

1. Welcome/Sawmill
2. Krul Lake
3. Seed Orchard
4. Velpar Treatment
5. Striper Timber Sale
6. RCW Cluster
7. Bear Lake Pavilion

**Tour Route**

**Primary Roads**

**Secondary Roads**

**Tertiary Roads**

**BRSF**

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**Location**

- 1. Welcome/Sawmill
- 2. Krul Lake
- 3. Seed Orchard
- 4. Velpar Treatment
- 5. Striper Timber Sale
- 6. RCW Cluster
- 7. Bear Lake Pavilion
Blackwater River State Forest Tour

October 24, 2019

Agenda

8:15 – 8:35  Registration and Meet ‘n Greet

8:35  Tour Begins:

Stop 1 – Blackwater Forestry Center (District Headquarters)
   Welcome – Mike Hudson, Blackwater Forestry Center Manager
   Sawmill Demonstration - Jimmy McDaniel, Groundskeeping Supervisor III

Stop 2 - Krul Lake Recreation Area
   Gristmill – David Creamer, Forestry Recreation Administrator
   Restroom break

Stop 3 – Munson Seed Orchard
   Seed Processing Facility – Ian Stone, Environmental Specialist II

Stop 4 – Timber Stand Improvement Site
   Eric Howell, Forestry Resource Administrator

Stop 5 - Timber Sale
   Michael Baker, Forestry Supervisor II
   Wes Woodham, Forester

Stop 6 - Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Cluster
   Craig Iversen, Forestry Supervisor II
   Liz Langston, Biological Scientist II

12:00 – 12:45  Arrive Back at Bear Lake and Enjoy Lunch!
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We appreciate the support of our
2019 Florida Forest Stewardship and Tree Farm Program Sponsors
-listed on the back cover-
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Tour Stops

BLACKWATER RIVER STATE FOREST
WORKING FOREST TOUR MAP
KRUL LAKE GRIST MILL

Stop # | Location
-------|-------------
1       | Welcome/Sawmill
2       | Krul Lake
3       | Seed Orchard
4       | Velpar Treatment
5       | Striper Timber Sale
6       | RCW Cluster
7       | Bear Lake Pavilion
Tour Stops

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BLACKWATER RIVER STATE FOREST
WORKING FOREST TOUR MAP
RCW CLUSTER ROCK CREEK

TOUR STOPS
RCW TREES
BLACKWATER RIVER STATE FOREST
WORKING FOREST TOUR MAP

RCW CLUSTER ROCK CREEK

D. MARCANIO 9/25/2019

STOP # LOCATION
1 Welcome/Sawmill
2 Krul Lake
3 Seed Orchard
4 Velpar Treatment
5 Striper Timber Sale
6 RCW Cluster
7 Bear Lake Pavilion
Florida’s Forest Stewardship Program

Forest Stewardship is active management of forest land to keep it in a productive and healthy condition for present and future generations, and to increase the economic, environmental and social benefits of these lands. Forest Stewards are landowners who manage their forest lands on a long-term basis by following a multiple resource management plan.

The Forest Stewardship Program addresses the improvement and maintenance of timber, wildlife, soil and water, recreation, aesthetics, as well as forage resources.

Eligibility

Private forest landowners with at least 20 acres of forest land and a desire to manage their ownerships according to Stewardship principles can participate in the Forest Stewardship Program. Also, adjacent landowners, with similar management objectives, may combine their holdings to meet this acreage limitation.

Benefits to Landowners

- A customized management plan that is based on the landowner's objectives. The plan will include forest stand characteristics, property maps, management recommendations, and a five-year time line for future planning. This plan also serves as documentation of active management on the property that may help reduce tax liability.
- An opportunity for public recognition as a certified "Forest Steward".
- Educational workshops and tours, weekly Florida Land Steward email updates, and the quarterly Florida Land Steward newsletter produced by the University of Florida, IFAS Cooperative Extension Service and other partners.

How to Enroll

Contact your local Florida Forest Service County Forester and tell them that you would like to have a Forest Stewardship Plan prepared for your property. More information and application online at:

http://FDACS.gov/ForestStewardship
Tree Farm Program

The American Tree Farm System® is a program of the American Forest Foundation and was founded in 1941 to promote the sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to family forest landowners. Nearly 26 million acres of privately owned forestland and 80,000 family forest landowners in 46 states are enrolled in the program and committed to excellence in forest stewardship. About half of all Tree Farms are located in the South.

Eligibility

Private forest landowners with at least 10 acres of forest land and have a desire to manage their ownerships according to sustainable forestry guidelines can participate in Tree Farm.

Benefits to Landowners

Tree Farmers are good stewards of their forestland, committed to protecting watersheds and wildlife habitat and conserving soil. They manage their forestland for various reasons, including timber production, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, and education/outreach. Florida Tree Farmers receive many benefits:

- Representation on local, state, and federal issues affecting forestland owners.
- Exposure to a network of forestry professionals and landowners committed to sustainable forestry.
- Invitations to workshops and tours, weekly Florida Land Steward email updates, and the quarterly Florida Land Steward newsletter produced by University of Florida IFAS and other partners.
- Certification that meets international standards of sustainable forest management.
- Participation in local, state, regional, and national Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year awards and recognition.

Getting into the Program

Contact your local Florida Forest Service County Forester and tell them that you would like to join the Tree Farm program. More information is available at:

https://www.treefarmsystem.org/florida
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Florida Tree Farm Program, Inc.  
Districts, Officers, and District Reps.  
Administered by the Florida Forestry Association  
Revised: September 3, 2019

501(c)3

Prepared by: S. Lloyd
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 voluntary 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 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 contact your local BMP Forester.

William McCarthy
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(850) 681-5942

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Forestry
Wildlife Best Management Practices

- 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.”
- To obtain more information or a copy of the WBMP Manual and Notice of Intent, contact your local Florida Forest Service BMP forester (see below) or a FWC Landowner Assistance Program biologist (850) 488-3831.

Florida Forest Service BMP Foresters

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Got Invasives?

Invasive exotic plant problem? Find a program to help by using FloridaInvasives.org.

The Florida Invasive Species Partnership has collected, evaluated and categorized assistance programs into a single resource, making it easier to find the financial and/or technical assistance available to Florida landowners to prevent or control invasive exotic species problems. FloridaInvasives.org has an online resource of management assistance programs to help in your fight against problematic plant species. This resource takes the guesswork out of finding the agencies or organizations offering assistance and will direct you to available programs. The Landowner’s Incentives Database will also provide the requirements for each program, to help you decide if they are a good match for your needs.

Why was FloridaInvasives.org developed?
Invasive species have been identified as being costly ecologically and economically statewide in Florida. The Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) is a collaboration of public and private entities in Florida, formed to link efforts at preventing and controlling invasive exotic plants across agency and property boundaries. FISP has developed an on-line tool of available financial and technical assistance sources to make it easier for landowners and land managers to find them.

How does FloridaInvasives.org help you?
FISP has created a searchable database, the Florida landowner incentives database, accessible at FloridaInvasives.org that allows you to find an assistance program for your needs. Search by your county, target species or other pertinent information into the online tool, and you will retrieve a current list of available programs. FloridaInvasives.org will help provide focus to your search so that you can get the right person at the right program.

FloridaInvasives.org:
- Builds community awareness,
- Leverages limited resources through cooperation and
- May reduce individual land management costs.

This resource will be regularly updated with the most current program information to provide you the most up-to-date opportunities.

Go to FloridaInvasives.org to find out more.

Species Shown from top to bottom: Mexican Petunia, Boston Fern, Mimosa, Cogongrass, Camphor
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

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.

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.

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.

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.

To find out more, go to: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted)

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Genetically Improved Southern Pines

Planting genetically improved varieties of pines can increase the productivity, health and value of reforested Florida timberlands. Genetically improved varieties of pines can be purchased from forest tree nurseries. Just as farmers plant the best-available varieties of crops that have been developed through many generations of breeding (often called breeding cycles), forest landowners should plant the best-available genetically improved varieties of pines for reforestation of their timberlands.

Planting Decisions

When a landowner plans to regenerate a site with pines, two genetic decisions must be made:

1) Selection of the **appropriate pine species** (for example loblolly, slash, longleaf, or sand pine) and seedling type (bare root or containerized) and

2) Selection of the **best available genetic variety** of the appropriate pine species for planting on the landowner’s site. Some forest tree nurseries have better varieties of pines then others, so when ordering genetically improved seedlings from a forest tree nursery, landowners should inquire about their seedlings’ degree of genetic improvement. For example, seedlings with more genetic improvement will generally grow faster, have better form and be more resistant to tree diseases.

Tree-improvement breeding programs have the same goal as animal and plant breeding programs: 1) Develop genetically improved planting stock that produces healthier, higher-yielding, and higher-valued plantations; and 2) Maintain a broad genetic diversity within each new variety to help buffer the variety against the varied and changing environments of a long plantation life.

Tree-improvement breeding programs began in the 1950s in the southeastern United States and have since developed genetically improved varieties of loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda* L.), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* Engelm. Var. elliottii), longleaf pine (*Pinus pulultris* Mill.), and sand pine (*Pinus clausa* (chapm. Ex Englem.) Vasey ex Sarg.). Improved varieties are hardy, but not invulnerable to poor husbandry: producers must continue to use good, well-grown nursery seedlings, to properly prepare planting sites, and to use appropriate silvicultural treatments for reforestation. When used in combination with these best management practices, genetically improved seedlings can greatly increase plantation growth, yield, and value.

Genetically Improved Pines for Reforesting Florida’s Timberlands:  
[https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr007](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr007)
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

More on thinning: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr159](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr159)

Marking First Thinnings in Pine Plantations: Potential for Increased Economic Returns: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr410](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr410)
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](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr130)

Selecting a Consulting Forester: [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr125](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr125)
Enhancing Habitat for Wildlife

Southern forests 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.

Production of timber products and enhancement of wildlife diversity are compatible objectives. However, some tradeoffs may be necessary because strategies that maximize timber growth are typically not exactly 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 timber production in your land use planning.

Ten Tips for Increasing Wildlife Biodiversity in Your Pine Plantations: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw319

Ten Tips for Encouraging the Use of Your Pine Plantations by Game Species: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw318

The Importance of Bottomland Hardwood Forests for Wildlife: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw316

Establishing and Maintaining Wildlife Food Sources: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr062

Making the Most of Your Mast: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr036

Managing Oaks to Produce Food for Wildlife: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw293

Providing Wildlife Cover: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fr124
Forest Management and Stewardship Publications:
http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ TOPIC_Forest_Management_and_Stewardship

- Assessing the Economic Feasibility of Short-Rotation Woody Crops in Florida
- Assessment and Management of Hurricane Damaged Timberland
- Beyond the Trees: A Systems Approach to Understanding Forest Health in the Southeastern United States
- Carbon Stocks on Forest Stewardship Program and Adjacent Lands
- Cooperation and Communication: Benefits for Non-Industrial Private Forest Landowners
- Dead Wood: Key to Enhancing Wildlife Diversity in Forests
- Florida’s Forest Stewardship Program: An Opportunity to Manage Your Land for Now and the Future
- Forest Management in the Interface: Forest Health
- Forest Management in the Interface: Practicing Visible Stewardship
- 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
- Making the Most of Your Mast
- Management Practices to Support Increased Biodiversity in Managed Loblolly Pine Plantations
- Marking First Thinnings in Pine Plantations: Potential for Increased Economic Returns
- Opportunities for Uneven-Aged Management in Second Growth Longleaf Pine Stands in Florida
- Ownership Succession: Plan Now for the Future of Your Land
- 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
- Ten Tips for Encouraging the Use of Your Pine Plantations by Game Species
- Ten Tips for Increasing Wildlife Biodiversity in Your Pine Plantations
- Thinning Southern Pines—A Key to Greater Returns
- Tips for Integrating Land and Wildlife Management: Deer in Forests
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- What is in a Natural Resource Management Plan?
- What to Expect in a Forest Inventory
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