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# The Florida Forest Steward



A Quarterly Newsletter for Florida Landowners and Resource Professionals

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Volume 14, No. 3

Winter 2007

## In this issue:

- Forest Stewardship Update
- BMP Update: New Mat Logging Provisions
- Operation Oak: Free Trees!
- Timber Price Update
- Congratulations Certified Stewards
- Get Stewardship Announcements by Email!
- Tour Announcements
- Events Calendar



*It's tour season!*

*Join us for a property tour in your region.*

*Photo by Chris Larson, Shoal Sanctuary, 2006*

## Forest Stewardship Program Update

By Chris Demers

The Forest Stewardship Program was founded in 1990 by Congress to encourage and help landowners to actively manage their forest resources for multiple benefits including habitat for fish and wildlife, wood products, clean air and water, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic beauty. Another function of the program is to recognize landowners who practice good land stewardship through certification. The Florida Division of Forestry administers Florida's Forest Stewardship Program and provides technical assistance with forest management. Technical assistance for wildlife management is provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and educational services are provided by the University of Florida. As of September 30, 2007 there are 2,784 landowners enrolled in Florida's Forest Stewardship program, collectively owning over 780,785 acres across the state. Of these ownerships 375 are certified Forest Stewards. We recognize those achieving certification so far in 2007 in this issue.



The leaves on the tupelo trees on my property in Gainesville have been bright red since early September and a few more species are following suit - it must be tour season! This year our geographic range for tours has expanded greatly. We're getting down to Lee County to visit three properties on October 26, which will have come and gone by the time you read this. We'll be in Gadsden County on November 14 to visit a property certified in both the Stewardship and Tree Farm programs. On December 6 we'll finally get to Cognito Farm in Bradford County, a tour that was rescheduled from October due to flooding. Ernest and Jo Ann Palmer are hosting us on January 8 at their Tree-Top Lodge in Lake County, a property surrounded by Ocala National Forest; and back up to northeast Florida in February (date to be arranged) to visit Doug Moore's property in Baker County. We may have one more in West Florida before all is said and done. Hope you can join us for at least one of these.

## **Best Management Practices Update: New Mat Logging Provisions**

By Robin Holland, Florida Division of Forestry

The Florida Division of Forestry's Silviculture Best Management Practices Program was originally established as a result of the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act. The objectives of the Program as given by Florida's Department of Environmental Protection are to develop, implement, and monitor the use of Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Florida. Regulation of BMPs is not a responsibility of the Division of Forestry but is carried out by DEP, the

Water Management Districts, and in some cases local governments.

Monitoring of BMPs is accomplished through a biennial sampling of silviculture activity within the state to determine the overall level of BMP compliance. Implementation is accomplished through a variety of outreach programs including voluntary BMP Compliance Surveys, BMP training workshops, and field visits by one of the State's three BMP Foresters.

Since 1991, the development of Silviculture BMPs has been accomplished through a 22 member Technical Advisory Committee consisting of a variety of professionals in the field of forestry including loggers, timber industry representatives, academia, government agency representatives, and environmental organizations. This committee meets as needed to examine current BMPs and determine what, if any, changes are needed.

The most recent meeting occurred in March 2007. At that meeting the Committee approved the adoption of several new BMPs to cover the use of mat logging in forested wetlands. While mat logging has been a practice used by loggers for many years, no BMPs existed which specifically addressed the use of such mats. Below is a listing of the new BMPs to cover Mat (Shovel) Logging:

- Minimize the width of skid trail mats – mats should not exceed 20 feet in width, on the average, except for sections of the trail where it is necessary for equipment to pass – in these sections the minimum width may be doubled.

- Minimize the number of skid trail mats – typically, trails should not be spaced closer than 200 feet, on the average. Where conditions prohibit tracked machines from operating off the mat, spacing may be reduced to 50 feet in order to minimize site disturbance. However, under no conditions should skid trail mats exceed 25% of the harvest area.
- Timber for skid trail mats should be laid down (lengthwise) in the direction of the trail under normal conditions.
- Use only one layer of timber for skid trail mats, except where multiple layers are necessary to prevent site disturbance.
- Where multiple layers of timber are necessary to construct the skid trail mat, the bottom layer may be laid down perpendicular to the trail, and may exceed 20 feet in width to maximize weight distribution.
- Merchantable material in skid trail mats should be removed after logging operation is complete.
- For stream crossings with skid trail mats, refer to the stream crossing section of the BMP Manual.

When wetland harvesting is conducted, the use of mats to build skid trails can significantly reduce the negative impacts of the heavy equipment used for logging on the site by reducing the disturbance to the soil. Reduced disturbance means reduced potential for erosion on the site and a shorter time for the site to recover from the logging activities.

Other categories covered in the BMP Manual include: Special Management Zones, Public Lands, Wetlands, Canals, Sinkholes, Forest Roads, Stream Crossings, Timber Harvesting, Site Preparation and Planting, Firelines,

Pesticide and Fertilizer Application, Waste Disposal, Wet Weather Operations, and Emergency Conditions. Any questions about the new Mat (Shovel) Logging BMPs, the BMP Manual in general, or any of the many other outreach programs offered through DOF's Silviculture BMP Program should be directed to your local BMP Forester:

The Panhandle: Cathy Hardin in Bonifay, FL; (850) 547-7008

North Florida: Greg Marshall in Lake City, FL; (386) 758-5706

Central & South FL: Robin Holland in Ocala, FL; (352) 732-1273

### **National Wild Turkey Federation: Operation Oak Landowner Program for 2007-08**

By Brian M. Zielinski, National Wild Turkey Federation

The National Wild Turkey Federation announces the continued expansion of its Operation Oak Program that is dedicated to restoring and creating wildlife habitat throughout the Southeast. The FL State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has made 10,000 select oak seedlings available FREE to private landowners in Florida. A total of 4,000 Live Oak, 3,500 White Oak, 1,500 Swamp Chestnut Oak, and 1,000 Persimmon will be available to landowners, with a minimum order of 100 trees. In addition, membership to the NWTF will also be required of all participants. These native seedlings are grown under a specialized nursery protocol at the Flint River Nursery in Georgia. The result of this nursery protocol is a large, vigorous seedling with high survivability, high growth potential, and the potential to produce mast in 7-10 years.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PICK-UP THEIR SEEDLINGS FROM A PRE-DETERMINED LOCATION WITHIN THE STATE. Pick-up locations and dates will be finalized in January and trees will be made available in early to mid February.

If you are interested in receiving FREE seedlings you must complete an application form and mail, e-mail or fax it back to the attention of:  
 Kay Morris, Operation Oak, P.O. Box 530, Edgefield, SC 29824,  
[kmorris@nwtf.net](mailto:kmorris@nwtf.net), fax (803) 637-9180.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN EDGEFIELD ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2008.

If you would like to receive an application or have additional questions about participating in our 2007-08 program, please contact Brian M. Zielinski, NWTf Regional Biologist, @ 386-804-6691 or via email: [bzielinskinwtf@hotmail.com](mailto:bzielinskinwtf@hotmail.com). Thank You!

### Timber Price Update

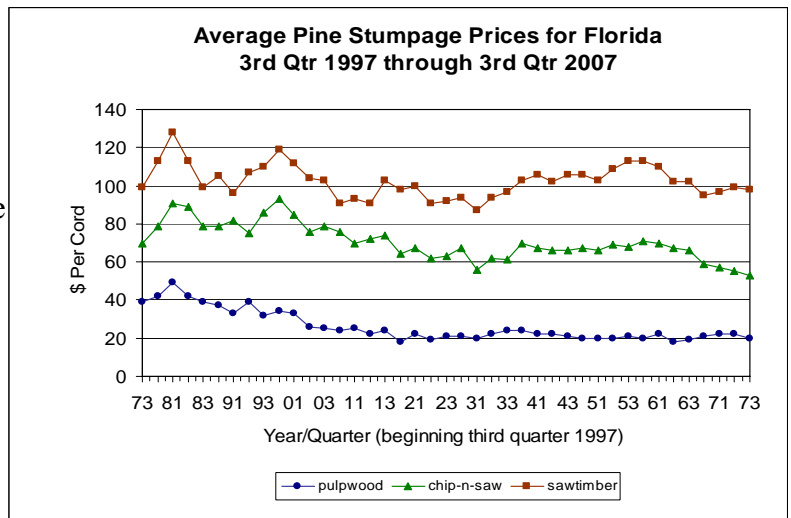
The timber pricing information below is useful for observing trends over time, but does not necessarily reflect current conditions at a particular location. Landowners considering a timber sale are advised to solicit the services of a consulting forester to obtain current local market conditions. Note that price ranges per ton for each product are included in parentheses after the price per cord.

Stumpage price ranges reported across Florida in the **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2007** Timber Mart-South (TMS) report were:

- Pine pulpwood: \$15 - \$26/cord (\$6 - \$10/ton), ↓ (on average from 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter)
- Pine C-N-S: \$46 - \$62/cord (\$17 - \$23/ton), ↓
- Pine sawtimber: \$81 - \$113/cord (\$30 - \$42/ton), ↓
- Pine plylogs: \$86 - \$111/cord (\$32 - \$41/ton), ↑
- Pine power poles: \$111 - \$203/cord (\$41 - \$76/ton), ↑
- Hardwood pulpwood: \$12 - \$25/cord (\$4 - \$9/ton), ↑

### Trend Report

Average South-wide sawtimber and pulpwood prices remain steady with pulpwood prices continuing their slow rise, nearly back to 1999 values. Average prices for chip-n-saw continue to fall due to a flooded market and are now at a 10-year low. Hardwood pulpwood was the biggest winner this quarter with the regional average price up over 20% from last quarter. The financial market crisis continues; driven by foreclosures and poor housing sales; and fuel prices are high.





**Congratulations to these Landowners Achieving Forest Stewardship Certification in Spring and Summer 2007**

The following landowners have achieved Forest Stewardship certification and been recognized by Florida Division of Forestry for meeting Forest Stewardship Program standards for land stewardship:

<b>Landowner</b>	<b>County</b>
Thomas G. Jackson	Bradford
Gerald Williams	Bradford
David Evans	Calhoun
Leila Shiver	Calhoun
Helen Griffith	Calhoun
Randy Hulsey	Calhoun
Paul Wikle	Dixie
Charles Maynard	Gadsden
Rick Beauchamp	Gilchrist
Willard Gilbert	Gilchrist
Don May	Gilchrist
Ben Williams	Holmes
D. Dykes	Jackson
Steven Smith	Jackson
C. L. Thomas	Jackson
A. C. Beal	Jefferson
John Brinson	Jefferson
Roger Joyner	Jefferson

<b>Landowner</b>	<b>County</b>
Fred Butler	Lafayette
Schulz Partnership	Lake
Matthew Ragan	Lake
John Verscharen	Levy
William Winter and Nancy Hardt	Levy
Gordon Parker Revell	Liberty
Bill Querin	Madison
Kent Adams	Putnam
Robert Jenkins	Putnam
Edward Lehmann	Putnam
Wayne Frier	Suwannee
Robert McGranahan	Suwannee
James McMillan	Suwannee
Calvin Melton	Volusia
Schweizer / Cook Family	Walton
Forest Townsend	Walton
Dwight Brock	Washington

**Receive Stewardship Program Event Announcements by Email**

Email is the quickest and cheapest way to get the word out about upcoming Stewardship workshops, tours and other events. Email announcements go out before mailings so it's the best way to stay informed of upcoming programs. If you don't get announcements by email yet and want to, just send an email to Chris Demers at [cdemers@ufl.edu](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu) and you'll be included in periodic electronic mail-outs.

*It's all on the Web too: a calendar of all upcoming events is on the Florida Forestry Information Web site. Google "Florida Forest Stewardship" or use the link below the calendar on the back page of this newsletter.*





Mr. and Mrs. David Evans, Calhoun County



Ms. Helen Griffith, Calhoun County



Mr. Randy Hulsey, Calhoun County



Ms. Leila Shiver, Calhoun County

Calhoun County Forester John Sabo presenting certifications, photos by Jayne Foran, Florida DOF.

If you have a Forest Stewardship Management Plan and have some or all of the recommended management practices in your plan implemented you may be eligible for Forest Stewardship certification. Contact your County Forester to see if you meet the standards.



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## Farm Tour

### *Cognito Farm*

*Stewardship Property of Jerry and Sandra Williams*

*Bradford County, FL*

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**Date:** *Rescheduled for Thursday, DECEMBER 6, 2007; meet at 9:00 AM ET*

**Activity:** In 2004 Jerry and Sandra Williams found themselves semi-retired and looking for a “project”. They bought about 200 acres in Starke in April 2005 and called it “Cognito Farm”. Some of the projects they started here include managing cattle for “all natural” beef; raising chickens for cage-free eggs; growing herbs with no pesticides, herbicides or synthetic fertilizers for a Farmers Market; providing pasture for a goat retirement program; managing timber and providing wildlife habitat. With the help of the University of Florida, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, USDA and the Internet they have made great progress on all of these projects. The services provided by the Forest Stewardship Program provided a holistic plan for timber harvesting, natural regeneration of harvested stands, and promoting diverse wildlife habitat, while reducing invasive plants using a minimal amount of herbicides. Join us for a tour of Cognito Farm to see a naturally managed forest stand with multiple successional stages for wildlife, a growing cattle operation that includes rotational grazing and a cattle-working area, a place for 4-H show goats to retire, and cage-free chickens that also help maintain a vegetable garden. Last year Jerry and Sandra started and finished building a home on the farm, doing a lot of the work themselves, which led to the creation of a pond that will eventually support catfish and wildlife. This will be a walking tour so please wear appropriate clothing and boots. Take a pre-tour look at <http://cognitofarm.com/>.

**Register:** A sponsored lunch will be served on-site after the tour, sponsors TBA. This program is free but you must preregister. **Contact Chris Demers at [cdemers@ufl.edu](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu) or (352) 846-2375. *Attendance will be limited so please register soon!*** We’ll meet at 9:00 AM ET at the property and the tour will begin promptly at 9:30 AM. Directions are on the back of this announcement. Please share with others who may be interested.

**A Service of:** **Florida Division of Forestry, Forest Stewardship Program**  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
University of Florida, IFAS, School of Forest Resources and Conservation  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Cognito Farm  
Forestland Management, Inc.  
Shongaloo Fisheries

**Funding for Florida’s Forest Stewardship Program is provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry and a grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.**

## **Directions to Cognito Farm**

### **CARPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED**

- Take SR 301 to Starke.
- Follow the billboards to “Ceremonial Fireworks”. Ceremonial Fireworks is on the corner of SR 301 and NW 185<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Turn onto NW 185<sup>th</sup> Street by the yellow roofed fireworks store, heading East on NW 185<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Cross the railroad tracks and continue one mile.
- Look for an orange and blue “Cognito Farm” sign and the green and white Forest Stewardship Property sign on the left hand side.
- Turn left up lane. Park next to the lane near the house.

**If you need assistance call the house at 904-964-2616 or Jerry’s cell: 904-364-8395.**

**Meet at the property at 9:00 AM ET  
DECEMBER 6, 2007**

**Questions about this or other Forest Stewardship Program activities can be directed to Chris Demers at 352-846-2375 or by email at [cdemers@ufl.edu](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu). For more information and events see the UF Forest Stewardship Web site at:**

**[http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida\\_forestry\\_information/index.html](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/index.html)**







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## Property Tour

### *Tree-Top Lodge*

*Stewardship Property of Ernest and Jo Ann Palmer  
Lake County, FL*

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**Date:** *Tuesday, January 8, 2008; meet at 9:00 AM ET*

**Activity:** Venture in to the largest concentration of sand pine in the world! Tree-Top Lodge, on CR 42 in Lake County, is surrounded by the 400,000 acre Ocala National Forest. This habitat is commonly referred to as "scrub" and has many characteristics of a desert (sandy, dry, scattered dense shrubs and trees). Ernie and Jo Ann Palmer started buying the property in 1971, now totaling 80 acres. It is a place for their young family to fish, swim, breath clean air, plant pine trees, build a cabin (now 30 years old) and explore the aesthetic beauty of Central Florida. With the help of all those connected to the Forest Stewardship Program, we have created fire breaks, planted food plots, built brush piles established wildlife corridors, managed timber and are leaving a legacy for our family to enjoy for many years to come. This will be a walking tour of trails, firebreaks, wildlife corridors, and balm for the soul! Wear appropriate clothing and boots.

**Register:** A sponsored lunch will be served on-site after the tour, sponsors TBA. This program is free but you must pre-register. **Contact Martha Thomas, Lake County Extension Office at [marthat@ufl.edu](mailto:marthat@ufl.edu) or (352) 343-4101. Attendance will be limited so please register soon!** We'll meet at 9:00 AM ET at the property and the tour will begin promptly at 9:30 AM. Directions are on the back of this announcement. Please share with others who may be interested.

**A Service of:** **Florida Division of Forestry, Forest Stewardship Program**  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
University of Florida, IFAS, School of Forest Resources and Conservation  
University of Florida, IFAS, Lake County Cooperative Extension Service

**Funding for Florida's Forest Stewardship Program is provided by the USDA Forest Service through the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry and a grant from the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.**

## Directions to Tree-Top Lodge

### CARPOOLING IS ENCOURAGED

#### From I-75, SR 40, SR 19:

- From I-75, take SR 40 east past Ocala and Silver Springs to SR 19 (which runs north-south through the middle of the Ocala National Forest).
- Go south (right) on SR 19 to Altoona.
- Turn left on CR 42 and take it east through Paisley.
- Travel 5 miles past Paisley, and ¼ mile past DeerHaven Rd to 30019 CR 42 on the left (north). Look for the “Tree-Top Lodge” sign and green gate.

#### From US 17/ 92, SR 44 / DeLand:

- From US 17/92 DeLand, take SR 44 west, over the St. Johns River.
- ¼ mile past the St. Johns River, turn right on CR 42, go 5 miles to 30019 CR 42. Look for the “Tree-Top Lodge” sign and green gate.

#### From US 441 / Tavares:

- Take US 441 south to SR 19.
- Travel north on SR 19 past Eustis and Umatilla to Altoona.
- Turn right (east) on CR 42 and take it through Paisley.
- Travel 5 miles past Paisley, and ¼ mile past DeerHaven Rd to 30019 CR 42 on the left (north). Look for the “Tree-Top Lodge” sign and green gate.

Mobile contact if necessary: Chris Demers, (352) 514-0819

**Meet at the property at 9:00 AM ET  
January 8, 2008**

Questions about this or other Forest Stewardship Program activities can be directed to Chris Demers at 352-846-2375 or by email at [cdemers@ufl.edu](mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu). For more information, events, information and program sponsors see the UF Forest Stewardship Web site at:

[http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida\\_forestry\\_information/index.html](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/index.html)



## **Thanks Deer & Turkey Shortcourse Sponsors**

Mike Wilson, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

On behalf of everyone involved, we would like to acknowledge and thank the following companies for their support and generosity by donating their products to be given away at the 2007 Deer & Turkey Short Course held on October 4-5<sup>th</sup> in Quincy, Florida. They helped make the Course a great success.

### **Real Turkeys™**

Dr. Lovett Williams-Owner  
[www.lovettwilliams.com](http://www.lovettwilliams.com)  
(352) 543-9530

### **Seminole Outdoors & Archery Pro Shop**

Tray Brittle-Owner  
[www.seminolehuntingsupply.com](http://www.seminolehuntingsupply.com)  
(850) 576-5103

### **Hunters Edge, Inc**

Jamie Bulger-Owner  
[www.Hunter's-Edge.com](http://www.Hunter's-Edge.com)  
(888) 455-0970

### **Messina Wildlife Management**

[www.MessinaWildlife.com](http://www.MessinaWildlife.com)  
(888) 411-3337

### **Kershaw Knives**

[www.Kershawknives.com](http://www.Kershawknives.com)  
(800) 325-2891

### **Moultrie Feeders**

[www.moultriefeeders.com](http://www.moultriefeeders.com)  
(800) 653-3334

### **Whitetail Institute**

[www.whitetailinstitute.com](http://www.whitetailinstitute.com)  
(800) 688-3030

### **BuckWing Products, Inc**

[www.buckwing.com](http://www.buckwing.com)  
(800) 555-9908

### **Cabelas, Inc**

[www.cabelas.com](http://www.cabelas.com)  
(800) 237-4444

### **Outside Ideas, LLC**

[www.bigazfeeders.com](http://www.bigazfeeders.com)  
(334) 272-5559

### **Evolved Habitats**

[www.evolved.com](http://www.evolved.com)  
(225) 638-4094

### **Antler King**

[www.antlerking.com](http://www.antlerking.com)  
(888)268-5371

### **Pennington Seed Company**

[www.penningtonseed.com](http://www.penningtonseed.com)  
(800) 285-7333

### **Quaker Boy, Inc**

[www.quakerboy.com](http://www.quakerboy.com)  
(800) 544-1600

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event, Location, Contacts
November 14	<i>Forest Stewardship Property Tour at Buford-Cochran Tract, Gadsden County, 9 am - 12:30 pm ET.</i> Call the Gadsden County Extension Office at (850) 875-7255 to register.
December 6	<i>Forest Stewardship Property Tour at Cognito Farm (Rescheduled from 10/10), 9 am - 12:30 pm ET, Starke, FL.</i> Contact Chris Demers at <a href="mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu">cdemers@ufl.edu</a> or (352) 846-2375 to register.
January 8, 2008	<i>Forest Stewardship Property Tour at the Property of Ernie Palmer, Lake County, 9 am - 12:30 pm ET.</i> Contact Martha Thomas, Lake County Extension at <a href="mailto:marthat@ufl.edu">marthat@ufl.edu</a> or (352) 343-4101.
January 23	<i>Forest Stewardship Workshop: Invasive Exotic Plants and Their Control, 9 am - 4 PM CT, Jackson County Extension Office, Marianna, FL .</i> \$20 collected at the door (cash only). CEUs and CFEs for pesticide applicators and foresters. Contact the Jackson County Extension Office at (850) 482-9620 to register.
January 31	<i>Forest Stewardship Workshop: Invasive Exotic Plants and Their Control, 9 am - 4 PM ET, Lee County Extension Office, Fort Myers, FL .</i> \$20 collected at the door (cash only). CEUs and CFEs available for pesticide applicators and foresters. Call Letha Giacinti at (239) 461-7514 to register
February 7	<i>Forest Stewardship Workshop: Invasive Exotic Plants and Their Control, 9 am - 4 PM ET, Austin Cary Memorial Forest near Gainesville, FL .</i> \$20 collected at the door (cash only). CEUs and CFEs available for pesticide applicators and foresters. Contact Chris Demers at <a href="mailto:cdemers@ufl.edu">cdemers@ufl.edu</a> or (352) 846-2375 to register.

**For more information about Florida's Forest Stewardship Program and forest management visit:**  
[www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida\\_forestry\\_information/index.html](http://www.sfrc.ufl.edu/Extension/florida_forestry_information/index.html)

The Florida Forest Steward is a University of Florida Cooperative Extension Service and Florida Division of Forestry joint project:

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