

**BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST  
LIAISON PANEL WORKING MEETING SUMMARY  
September 6, 2007  
DOUBLE SPRINGS, ALABAMA**

**Liaison Panel Member Attendees**

Ron Eakes, Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries  
 Dave Borland, The Nature Conservancy  
 Hank Byrnes, Wild South  
 Laverne Matheson, Smith Lake Advocacy, Inc.  
 Randy Feltman, Logger  
 Bill Snoddy, Treasure Forest Landowner  
 Anthony Hood, Recreation  
 Mike Henshaw, Alabama Extension Service  
 Charles Chandler, Forester

**Additional Attendees**

Mark Kolinski, Wild South  
 Stewart Horn, Wild South  
 Ted Kuzma, Wild South  
 Kevin Holsonback, ADNCR

**Forest Service Attendees**

Glen Gaines, District Ranger  
 Stephanie Love, Silviculturist  
 Tom Counts, Wildlife Biologist  
 Jeremy McDonald, Forestry Tech. (Silviculture)

**Meeting Agenda**

- |      |  |                                  |
|------|--|----------------------------------|
| 6:05 | Review of Minutes from July 26 <sup>th</sup> meeting   | Glen Gaines                      |
| 6:15 | Alternative Analysis Results - Veg. Highlight Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Changes Desired Watershed Conditions</li> <li>▪ Changes in Proposed Treatments in the "Rolling" Alternative 2</li> <li>▪ Changes in Proposed Treatments in Alternative 3</li> <li>▪ Affects to Forest Community by Alternative</li> </ul> | Stephanie Love<br>USFS, Bankhead |
|      | Alternative Analysis Results - Wildlife Habitat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Predicted Affects/Changes to Terrestrial Wildlife Habitats by Alternative</li> <li>• Canyon Prescription Allocations by Alternative</li> </ul>  | Tom Counts<br>USFS, Bankhead     |
| 7:00 | Group Questions or Discussion on Findings  |                                  |
| 7:15 | The Rate of Restoring Desired Forest Communities<br>-Group Recommendation  | Stephanie Love                   |

7:45

The Use of Herbicides

Stephanie Love

- Group Discussion on Pros and Cons
- Group Recommendation on Using Herbicides

8:30

Closeout

Glen Gaines

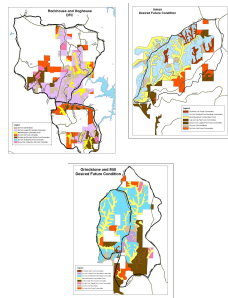
### Presentation of Watershed Affects Analysis

Stephanie

Here are the highlights of changes made based on information and recommendations from the previous meeting in July:

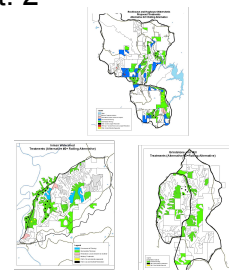
#### No Longleaf Forest DFC

- In existing longleaf stands where fire is excluded due to adjacency issues and topography, the DFC will be Oak and Oak-Pine forest (shown in brown) because longleaf cannot be sustained in the absence of fire.



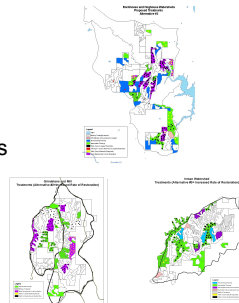
#### Rate of Restoration Increased in Alt. 2

- Rate of restoration in stands where loblolly stands are to be patch-cut was increased to 25% .



#### Patch Cuts to Restoration Cuts

- In stands where the area to be patch cut was 61% of the acreage of the entire stand, "patch cut" was replaced with "restoration cut" (shown in purple)
- Applies to Alt. 3

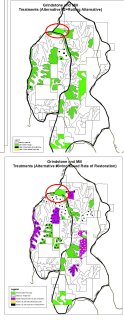


#### In Effects Analysis, Loblolly Woodland = Trt. + Burn

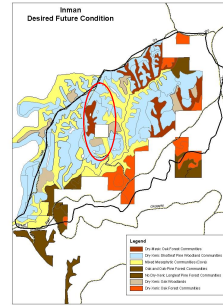
- If a stand received any type of treatment (thinning with or without midstory, and is burned or a short rotation (2-3 yrs), it will transition into a woodland structured forest in 10 years.

## Additional stand to be thinned

- Compt 126, stand 12 added to thinning schedule as a result of an ID Team meeting



## Additional Prescribed burn, resulting in changes to DFC



## Presentation of Effects to Habitat and Associated Wildlife

Tom

The following is revised results of analysis for habitats for wildlife associated with upland, fire adapted habitats:

### Southern Yellow Pine Forest

- Species Associates
  - Brown Headed Nuthatch
  - Pine warbler



### Grass Forb Seedling Sapling

General Characteristics

2 general conditions

- ✓ 0-10 year old cutover
  - Various stages of succession / treatment
- ✓ Herbaceous understory developed w/ p-fire
  - under open woodland conditions
  - NWSG – legumes - forbs

### Grass Forb Shrub Seedling Sapling

Prairie Warbler / Bobwhite / Field Sparrow  
Yellow Breasted Chat / Blue-Winged Warbler



## Southern Yellow Pine Woodland

- Species Associates
  - Brown-headed Nuthatch
  - Northern Bobwhite Quail
  - Pine warbler
  - Prairie Warbler
  - Blue-Winged Warbler
  - Yellow-Breasted Chat
  - Field Sparrow

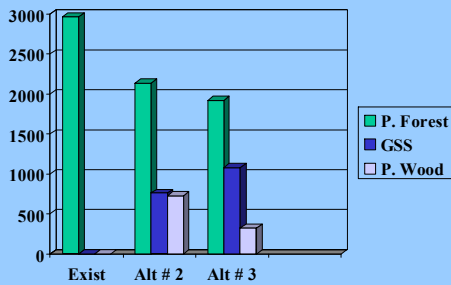
## SYP Woodlands

BWQ / Yellow Breasted Chat  
Brown Headed Nuthatch / Pine Warbler / Prairie Warbler / Blue Winged Warbler / Field Sparrow

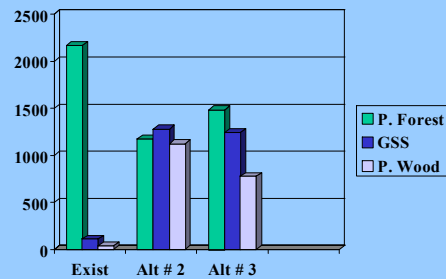


BA - 40	BA - 60	BA - 80
14" Trees per Acre - 37	14" Trees per Acre - 56	14" Trees per Acre - 75
Optimal BWQ	Favorable BWQ	Poor BWQ

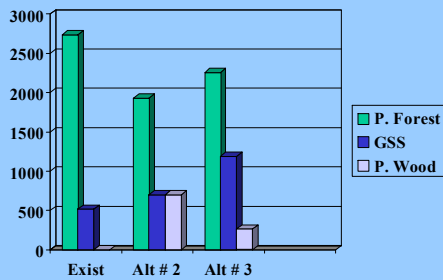
## Grindstone - Mill



## Inman



## Rock - Hog



## Rate of Restoration - Group Discussion

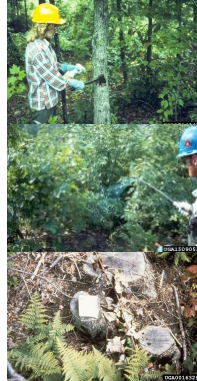
The panel reviewed the results of the analysis based on changes made since the July Liaison Panel meeting. One of the changes was to increase the amount of restoration patch cuts in Alternative 2 (rolling alternative) to address the need to restore longleaf and shortleaf at a faster rate. This increase equated to approximately 25% of the existing loblolly. There was agreement from the group to proceed with this level of restoration for the desired overstory trees. Alternative 3 was changed to reflect a higher rate of restoration (61% of loblolly), which is accomplished primarily through stand replacement.

## Use of Herbicides

The following presentation regarding the possible use of herbicides as a restoration tool was provided:

### How would we use Glyphosate as a Restoration Tool?

- Midstory Treatment
- Site Prep/Release
- Invasive Species Treatment (currently under a separate decision)



### Restoration Effectiveness?

#### Advantages

- Kills root stock of undesirables that would otherwise persist through several mechanical/ burn treatments
- Grassy understory is achieved faster
- In the absence of fire, competition to planted SLP would be reduced
- Herbicide use during site prep negates the need for release resulting in a decreased cost
- Reduced cost over time resulting from the decreased need for repeat treatments
- Reduces the risk of "losing" stand structure if we miss a burn season due to drought, etc.

#### Disadvantages

- Increased mitigation and organization of labor force



### Environmental Impacts?

#### Advantages

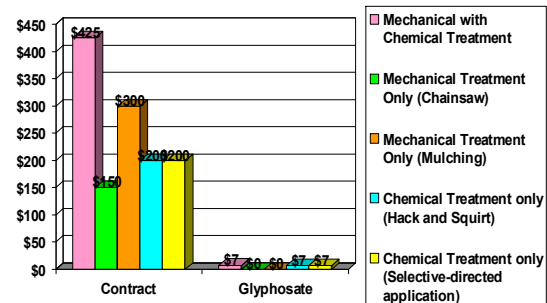
- Highly Adsorbed in soil resulting in <2% leaching
- Relatively low toxicity to fish and birds
- Short half-life (1-174 days)
- Labeled for use in wildlife plots, aquatic areas, and in conifer stands

#### Disadvantages

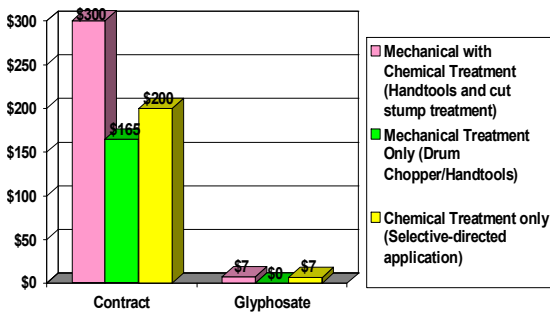
- Possible soil and water pollution
- Increased mitigation and organization of labor force
- Toxicity to humans and animals



### Midstory Treatment - Cost Comparison (per acre costs)



### Site Prep/Release – Cost Comparison (per acre costs)



### Cost Effectiveness?

**Bottom line:** NEPA aside (since we're writing the NEPA anyway), chemical treatment will be comparable to mechanical treatment initially. Due to the reduced need for repeat treatments, chemical treatment will be cheaper in the long-term.



## Can we do it without the use of herbicide?

- **YES**, but there are trade-offs



- Treatments are less effective
- Effects of treatments take longer
- Need for repeat treatments
- Less cost-effective in the long-term
- Missing a prescribed burn cycle can be a set-back
- SLP is more difficult to manage without herbicides

## Developing the Rolling Alternative

### Herbicide Use?

- A. Midstory Only
- B. Site Prep/Release Only
- C. Site Prep SL Only
- A and B
- A and C
- A only
- B Only
- C Only
- None of the Above



There were a wide range of opinions provided on the use of herbicides. Some shared that no herbicides should be used in the restoration project. Others shared a preference for a limited use of herbicides - site prep and release of shortleaf pine only. While a many felt that herbicides were a desirable tool for effective treatment of vegetation in the restoration project. Members of the group decided they could live with the use of herbicides:

- If needed to ensure successful restoration of fire-adapted conditions
- If other mechanical treatments were not proving successful in controlling vegetation or were not cost effective

### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Liaison Panel was set for October 18, 2007 in Double Springs.