

Sawmill Slough Preserve Prescribed Burn Plan 2014 – 2019

Objectives

This is the second formal prescribed burn plan at UNF. The first five-year plan was provided by Scott Sager at Environmental Services Inc. (ESI) in 2006 and implementation began in 2007. The original plan time frame was extended due to a two-and-a-half year drought. Working through this plan gave the participants some insights that were not obvious when the burn plan was first written.

As stated in the original plan, "...prescribed fire will be utilized to the extent feasible to mimic the natural fire regime."

The rationale for prescribed burns in the first plan was correct but incomplete. It is true that the flora and fauna of fire-dependent environmental communities are adapted to and benefit from periodic fires. However, institutional liability for increasing fuel loads and the potential risk of wildfire is another compelling reason to conduct prescribed burns on a regular basis.

Significant Site Related Issues

As stated in the first plan, the Sawmill Slough Preserve is critically smoke-sensitive. It is bounded by I-295 on the west, by Butler Boulevard on its south, by the campus on its east and by the suburban and business development on its north.

Fire Management Units

The original prioritization of burn units in this plan was appropriate and was followed closely in the southern portion during the first period. However, Sager modified the boundaries of his units to the north immediately upon four issues arose that changed the latest plans.

- 1) An extended drought interrupted progress on the burn plan for two and a half years. Drought status reached "Severe" and then "Exceptional" during its span.
- 2) Also, after two years, Sager left ESI and a new burn manager assumed his role. The new manager had concerns about some of the original burn unit designations. Pine ridges and prairies remained the highest priority. However, some of the original unit designations were considered too large or otherwise too complicated for fire and smoke control. Some situations, such as the narrow prairies to the north, may require mechanical chopping instead of burning.
- 3) The original plan was drawn from an aerial photograph. As we walked the ground and learned the topography of the Preserve, we learned the extent of the swamps better. Because the interiors of swamps burn very rarely in nature, they are excluded from this second burn plan. The 2006 units excluded in the 2014 Burn Plan include: S10, S11, S14, NO8, and NO9. The trees in the swamps should be given the opportunity to grow to great size and age. Fires in adjacent areas will be allowed to burn to the edges of swamps when water levels are high.
- 4) Most of the Preserve had not been burned for many years when the first plan was implemented in 2007 – not for ten to thirty years according to oral history. The saw palmetto and other understory shrubs bounce back very quickly and the canopy remains comparatively dense after the first burn. In some cases, the duff layer was so thick that it was not removed sufficiently in the first burn. Within two to three years, depending on rain and soil moisture, the understory returned to its previous height and density. Second burns have had much greater impacts in opening the canopy, reducing fuel loads and controlling the woody understory. Instead of waiting for five years to return to a burned unit, we found that it was necessary to return in two to three years. After the second or third burn, some of these units may return to the previously scheduled five year cycle.

- 5) In 2006, Unit S16 was designated for burning. This section is outside of the Preserve. It includes a picnic and ropes course area, and is heavily used by Recreation, various campus groups and by outside interests. It was removed from the 2014 revision of the Burn Plan. It may be necessary to return it to the Burn Plan in the future if the risk of wildfire risk is determined to outweigh other liability issues.

As in the original plan, burn units are designated to allow efficient and successful use of prescribed fire. They will be limited in size so as to limit smoke production. After one or more burns reduce the fuel load and palmetto understory (and the subsequent potential for large amounts of smoke) some of these sections may be merged for increased efficiency. A rough prioritization is indicated by the burn unit number with "1" being the highest priority. This prioritization is based on the need for environmental restoration and the risk posed by the fuel load. However, it is subject to change based on opportunity and observed needs.

Firebreaks Establishment and Maintenance

Firebreaks are necessary to control the spread of a prescribed burn. Breaks will be a minimum of four feet wide and will be clear of significant vegetative material. Wherever possible, existing trails, roads and natural waterways will be used as fire breaks. This minimizes the ecological disturbance of establishing new fire breaks, the creation of new points for public access and the creation of new maintenance requirements.

In areas where new firebreaks must be established, efforts will be taken to minimize the short-term vegetative impacts and longer-term hydrologic impacts. To as great an extent as possible, firebreaks will run perpendicular with the existing slope.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit SO1

19.7 acres

Boundaries	North and East – existing truck trails. West – I-295 boundary fence. South – cart trails.
Current Condition	Overstory dominated by longleaf pine (<i>Pinus palustris</i>) with interspersed turkey oak (<i>Quercus laevis</i> .) Midstory contains longleaf pine saplings and a few scattered hardwoods. Understory dominated by saw palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>) with some gallberry (<i>Ilex glabra</i>) and scattered wiregrass (<i>Aristida stricta</i>) and other forbs and graminoids. Prior prescribed burns in 2010 and 2013.
Desired Condition	Overstory dominated by longleaf pine with scattered mature turkey oak and other hardwoods. Midstory generally absent except for longleaf pine and turkey oak saplings. Understory dominated by wiregrass with significant component of forbs and other graminoids, and isolated patches of bare sand.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Growing season, avoiding late summer gopher tortoise hatchings
Frequency/Intensity	Every two to three years to provide optimal gopher tortoise conditions, alternating with SO2
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Fire will be visible from I-295, including the Butler Blvd. interchange. Coordinate with Jacksonville Fire Rescue. Gopher tortoises hatch in August and September. Avoid burning these months.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit SO2

30.4 acres

Boundaries	North, West, East and South – existing trails. Continue the burn east to the western edge swamp.
Current Condition	Overstory dominated by longleaf pine (<i>Pinus palustris</i>) with interspersed turkey oak (<i>Quercus laevis</i> .) Midstory contains longleaf pine saplings, grape vines and, in the south, hardwoods. Understory dominated by saw palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>) with some gallberry (<i>Ilex glabra</i> .) running oak and blackberry. Wiregrass (<i>Aristida stricta</i>) and other forbs and graminoids are present. Prior prescribed burns in 2009, 2011, and 2014.
Desired Condition	Overstory dominated by longleaf pine with scattered mature turkey oak and other hardwoods. Midstory generally absent in the north end except for longleaf pine and turkey oak saplings. Understory dominated by wiregrass with significant component of forbs and other graminoides, and isolated patches of bare sand.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Growing season, avoiding late summer gopher tortoise hatchings
Frequency/Intensity	Every two to three years to provide optimal gopher tortoise conditions, alternating with SO1
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Fire will be visible from I-295, including the Butler Blvd. interchange. Coordinate with Jacksonville Fire Rescue. Gopher tortoises hatch in August and September. Avoid burning these months.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit SO3A, SO3B

7.7/4.4 acres

Boundaries	West, East and North – swamp, past the original designation. South – to the Butler Blvd. fence. Bisected east to west by a cart trail so it may be burned in two sections.
Current Condition	Overstory dominated by dense stand of planted loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>) and loblolly bay (<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i>) with interspersed oaks (<i>Quercus</i> spp.) Midstory dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory dominated by saw palmetto (<i>Serenoa repens</i>) and gallberry (<i>Ilex glabra</i> .) Units A and B were burned together for the first time in many years in 2011. Unit B was burned for the second time separately in 2014.
Desired Condition	Overstory dominated by mixed pine with scattered loblolly bay and other hardwoods. Midstory generally absent except for isolated pine and hardwood saplings. Understory dominated by low saw palmetto/gallberry complex (less than 3 feet in height on average.)

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Transition from dormant to growing season, as dictated by fuels and operational comfort.
Frequency/Intensity	Every three to five years, low to moderate intensity.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing (minimum of four) for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	A small section of fire will be visible from Butler Blvd. Coordinate with Jacksonville Fire Rescue.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit SO4

20.3 acres

Boundaries	North, West, East and South – existing trails.
Current Condition	Overstory dominated by dense stand of planted loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>) with interspersed loblolly bay (<i>Gordonia lasianthus</i> ,) water oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i>) and associated hardwoods, including an isolated bald cypress dome internal to the unit. Midstory with hardwood regeneration. Understory dominated by saw palmetto/gallberry complex. Previous prescribed burn in 2013.
Desired Condition	Overstory dominated by mixed pine with isolated cypress and hardwoods. Midstory generally absent. Understory dominated by low saw palmetto/gall berry complex (less than 3 feet in height on average.)

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort.
Frequency/Intensity	Second burn should occur two to three years after the initial burn. Then, every three to five years as weather and conditions dictate.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	none

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit SO5

22.3 acres (including swamp)

Boundaries	North – UNF Drive. West – I-295 boundary. East – swamp. South – existing trails.
Current Condition	Overstory dominated by high longleaf pine (<i>Pinus palustris</i>) and loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>) transitioning into cypress and hardwood swamp. Midstory mixed, dominated by hardwood saplings and shrubs, increasing as the elevation drops. Understory dominated by saw palmetto/ gallberry complex. Prior prescribed burn in 2014.
Desired Condition	The burn focuses on the western portion where the overstory is dominated by pines (<i>Pinus palustris</i> and <i>P. taeda</i> .) When water levels are high, allow the fire to burn to the swamp. Midstory generally absent in the drier, western portion. Understory in the drier, western portion dominated by wiregrass with significant component of forbs and other graminoides, and isolated patches of bare sand.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort. Avoid late summer gopher tortoise hatchings.
Frequency/Intensity	Every two to three years to provide optimal gopher tortoise conditions, alternating with SO1
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Fire will be visible from I-295, including the UNF Drive interchange. Coordinate with Jacksonville Fire Rescue. Burning should focus on the higher, dry western portion of the site. To prevent extensive fire damage to the swamp, burning should be done during periods of high water table. Gopher tortoises hatch in August and September. Avoid burning these months.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit SO6

13.5 acres

Boundaries	North – lake. West – existing trail. East – swamp. South – existing trails.
Current Condition	Overstory dominated by loblolly pines (<i>Pinus taeda</i>) transitioning into cypress and hardwood swamp. Midstory with hardwood saplings and shrubs, increasing as the elevation drops. Understory dominated by saw palmetto/ gallberry complex. No evidence of recent fire occurrence.
Desired Condition	The burn focuses on the southwestern portion where the overstory is dominated by loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i> .) When water levels are high, allow the fire to burn to the swamp. Midstory generally absent in the drier, southwestern portion. Understory in the drier, western portion dominated saw palmetto/gall berry complex.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort. Burn when swamp water levels are high.
Frequency/Intensity	Every four to eight years as weather and conditions dictate. Low to moderate intensity.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Significant fuel and soil organics present – burning should be done during periods of high water table. Burning should be focused on the high, dry portions of the site.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit SO7

17.6 acres

Boundaries	North – existing trail. West – I-295 boundary. East – swamp. South – Butler Boulevard.
Current Condition	Overstory composed of mixed loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i> ,) hardwoods and bald cypress. Midstory at variable densities, dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory largely open but composed of saw palmetto/ gallberry complex. No evidence of recent fire occurrence.
Desired Condition	The burn focuses on the drier portions of the unit where the overstory is dominated by pines. Midstory mostly open under pines. Understory with isolated, low saw palmetto/gallberry complex (under 3 feet in height on average) but largely absent.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort. Burn when swamp water levels are high. Avoid late summer gopher tortoise hatchings.
Frequency/Intensity	Every five or more years as weather and conditions dictate.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Fire will be visible from the I-295/Butler Blvd interchange. Coordinate with Jacksonville Fire Rescue. Significant soil organics are present – burning should be done during periods of high water table. Burning should be limited to drier fringes and other high, dry portions of the site.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit SO8

6.2 acres

Boundaries	Northeast – cart path/swamp. Southwest – I-295 boundary. Southeast – lake.
Current Condition	The overstory is dominated by pines in the higher, drier portion. Midstory mostly open under pines. Understory with isolated, low saw palmetto/gallberry complex (under 3 feet in height on average) but largely absent. No evidence of recent fire occurrence.
Desired Condition	The burn focuses on the large, drier portion of the unit where the overstory is dominated by pines. Midstory at variable densities, dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory largely open but composed of saw palmetto/ gallberry complex.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort.
Frequency/Intensity	Every four to eight years as weather and conditions dictate.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Significant soil organics are present – burning should be focused on the high, dry portions of the site.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit S10

73.6 acres (including swamp)

Boundaries	North – public paved road. West – existing trails / new firebreak. East – paved public road/campus facilities. South – swamp.
Current Condition	The overstory is dominated by pines in the higher, drier eastern portion. Midstory mostly open under pines. Understory with isolated, low saw palmetto/gallberry complex (under 3 feet in height on average) under the pines but largely absent. No evidence of recent fire occurrence.
Desired Condition	The burn focuses on the drier, eastern portion of the unit where the overstory is dominated by pines. Midstory at variable densities, dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory largely open but composed of saw palmetto/ gallberry complex.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort.
Frequency/Intensity	Every four to eight years as weather and conditions dictate.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Significant soil organics are present – burn during periods of high water tables. Burning should be focused on the high, dry portions of the site. Coordinate with nearby Housing and University Center offices.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit S14

13.3 acres

Boundaries	Northwest – paved public road. Northeast/East – campus facilities, ponds, parking. South/West – paved public road.
Current Condition	Overstory composed of loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>)/hardwoods. Midstory at variable densities, dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory dominated by saw palmetto/ gallberry complex. No evidence of recent fire occurrence.
Desired Condition	Overstory dominated by loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>) and slash pine (<i>Pinus elliotti</i> .) Midstory generally absent with isolated pine and hardwood saplings. Understory generally dominated by low saw palmetto/ gall berry complex (less than 3 feet high, on average.)

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort.
Frequency/Intensity	Low priority. Every four to five years as weather and conditions dictate. Low to moderate intensity.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Significant fuel and soil organics present. Since this is adjacent to campus housing, burning will be challenging. Coordinate timing with the Housing office to avoid conflicts.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit S15A/S15B

2.0/2.6 acres

Boundaries	SO15A – lake. SO15B – lake.
Current Condition	Overstory composed of loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i> ,) hardwoods and bald cypress. Midstory dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory largely dominated by saw palmetto/ gallberry complex. No evidence of recent fire occurrence noted.
Desired Condition	Overstory is dominated by mixed pines. Midstory generally absent with the exception of isolated saplings. Understory generally dominated by saw palmetto/gallberry complex (under 3 feet in height on average) but largely absent.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort.
Frequency/Intensity	Every four to five years as fuel loads and control issues dictate.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Low staffing levels due to isolation of these islands.
Special Concerns	Highly visible from I-295/Butler Blvd interchange. Smoke is a big concern for major roads to the south and west. Significant soil organics anticipated. Access for mop-up limited – burning immediately ahead of significant storm event is necessary.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit S16

18.7 acres

Boundaries	North – campus facilities/paved road. West – lake. East – new firebreak. South/West – new firebreak.
Current Condition	Overstory composed of pines and low areas dominated by hardwoods. Midstory at variable densities, dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory dominated by saw palmetto/ gallberry complex. No evidence of recent fire occurrence.
Desired Condition	On the higher, drier ground, the overstory is dominated by pines. Midstory mostly open with scattered saplings. Understory with low saw palmetto/gallberry complex (under 3 feet in height on average.)

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort. Burn when swamp water levels are high.
Frequency/Intensity	Every five or more years as weather and conditions dictate.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Focus is on the pine-dominated higher ground, avoid the moist hardwood area of the eastern fringe. Significant soil organics are present – burning should be done during periods of high water table.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit NO1A/NO1B

16.6/7.5 acres

Boundaries	North – existing trail, former easement. West – cart trail. East – paved road. South – paved road.
Current Condition	Overstory composed of mixed loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i> ,) loblolly bay, bald cypress and hardwoods. Midstory at variable densities, dominated by loblolly bay. Understory dominated by saw palmetto/ gallberry complex with an isolated pitcher plant bog. Units A and B both previously burned in 2010.
Desired Condition	Overstory is dominated by loblolly pine with isolated loblolly bay intermixed with bald cypress. Midstory generally absent with isolated pine and hardwood saplings. Understory dominated by low saw palmetto/gallberry complex (under 3 feet in height on average.) Pitcher plant bog dominated by hydric grass/sedge/forbs complex.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort. Burn when swamp water levels are high.
Frequency/Intensity	Every three to five years as weather and conditions dictate.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Significant soil organics are present – burning should be done during periods of high water table. Orchids, toothache grass and other wildflowers reappear in the bog after each burn.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit NO2

8.1 acres

Boundaries	Northeast/Southwest – new firebreak. West/Southwest – lake. Bisected by a cart trail.
Current Condition	Overstory dominated by longleaf pine (<i>Pinus palustris</i> ,) mixed with turkey oak (<i>Quercus laevis</i>) and other hardwoods. Midstory dominated by hardwood regeneration, primarily turkey oak, laurel oak (<i>Quercus laurifolia</i> ,) water oak (<i>Quercus nigra</i> ,) Understory dominated by saw palmetto/ gallberry complex with an significant but isolated occurrence of wiregrass (<i>Aristida stricta</i>) and broomsedge (<i>Andropogon</i> sp.) No evidence of previous fire.
Desired Condition	Overstory dominated by longleaf pine with isolated mature turkey oak and associated hardwoods. Midstory generally absent with isolated pine and hardwood saplings. Understory dominated by wire grass with significant component of forbs and graminoids, and isolated areas of bare sand.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Growing season.
Frequency/Intensity	Every two to four years as weather and conditions dictate.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	A fire break was cut in 2010 but drought prevented the planned burn. It will need to be cleared again.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit NO3

25.8 acres

Boundaries	North – paved public road. West – paved public road. East – campus facilities/public road. South- paved walking trail.
Current Condition	Overstory dominated by loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>) in the northwest, hardwoods in the southeast. Midstory in variable densities, dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory dominated by saw palmetto/ gallberry complex. Previously burned in 2010.
Desired Condition	Overstory dominated by loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>) with locally high densities of hardwoods and bald cypress in wetter areas of unit. Midstory generally absent with isolated pine and hardwood saplings. Understory generally dominated by saw palmetto/gallberry complex (less than 3 feet in height, on average.)

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort.
Frequency/Intensity	Every three to five years as weather and conditions dictate, low to moderate intensity.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Significant soil organics are present – burning should be done during periods of high water table. Burn to the road on the west through the roadside wildflowers.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit NO5A/NO5B

3.5/6.0 acres

Boundaries	North – cart trail. West – ditch/new fire break. East – parking lot/campus facilities. South – public paved road.
Current Condition	Overstory composed of longleaf pine (<i>Pinus palustris</i>)/hardwood/bald cypress. Midstory in variable densities, dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory dominated by saw palmetto/gallberry complex but largely absent. Unit A was burned in 2013.
Desired Condition	Overstory composed of longleaf pine (<i>Pinus palustris</i>)/hardwood/bald cypress. Midstory generally absent in drier areas of the unit, dominated by hardwood saplings otherwise. Understory generally dominated by saw palmetto/gallberry complex (less than 3 feet in height, on average.)

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort. Avoid gopher tortoise hatching times.
Frequency/Intensity	Every four to eight years as weather and conditions dictate, low to moderate intensity.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Significant soil organics are present – burning should be done during periods of high water table. Burns should be limited to the higher, drier portions of the unit. Gopher tortoises hatch in August and September. Avoid burning these months.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit NO6

24.5 acres

Boundaries	North – paved walking trail. West – paved public road. East/Southeast – paved public road. South/Southwest – paved public road.
Current Condition	Overstory composed of loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>)/hardwood – dominated by pine in the west and hardwoods in the east. Midstory in variable densities, dominated by hardwood saplings. Understory dominated by saw palmetto/ gallberry complex. Previously burned in 2010. Heavy fuel load remains.
Desired Condition	Overstory dominated by loblolly pine (<i>Pinus taeda</i>) with locally high densities of hardwoods and bald cypress in wetter areas of unit. Midstory generally absent with isolated pine and hardwood saplings. Understory generally dominated by saw palmetto/gallberry complex (less than 3 feet in height, on average.)

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort.
Frequency/Intensity	Every three to five years as weather and conditions dictate, low to moderate intensity.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Significant soil organics are present. In 2010, NO6 was burned- smoldering duff layer was very difficult to extinguish and the winds shifted to create a significant smoke event on campus for several days. Burn should be conducted during periods of high water table and when a significant rain is forecast at a high percentage. Or, split this zone into two burns for the next time.

Prescribed Fire Plan – Unit NO9

39.9 acres

Boundaries	North – cart trail. West – swamp. East – lake/ cart trail. South – old utility easement/cart trail, 1600 ft.
Current Condition	Much of the area is wet and holds water. Burns will focus on the drier glades of prairie where loblolly pines, loblolly bay and other trees are invading. No evidence of recent fire.
Desired Condition	Open prairie glades dominated by hydric grass/sedge/forbs complex with trees restricted to waterways and swamps.

General Prescription Conditions

Seasonality	Dormant season initially, transitioning to growing season as dictated by fuels and operational comfort.
Frequency/Intensity	Every four to eight years as weather and conditions dictate, low intensity.
Special Staffing and Equipment Needs	Significant staffing for thorough mop-up but not anticipated for fire control. Brush truck (minimum 150 gal.) and tank equipped ATV for mop up.
Special Concerns	Significant soil organics are present – burn during periods of high water table. Burn should be limited to drier portions of site. If unit deemed too complicated for fire and smoke control consider mechanical chopping instead of burning.



1 inch = 300 feet



Break Type

- Exist
- New
- OW
- Burn Units



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