

Ecosystem Restoration

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Research: Restoration of a Severely Impacted Riparian Wetland System - The Pen Branch Project

The Savannah River Swamp is a 3020 ha forested wetland on the floodplain of the Savannah River and is located on the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, SC. Historically the swamp consisted of approximately 50% bald cypress-water tupelo stands, 40% mixed bottomland hardwood stands, and 10% shrub, marsh, and open water. Tributaries of the river were typical of southeastern bottomland hardwood forests. The hydrology was controlled by flow from four creeks that drain into the swamp and by flooding of the Savannah River. Upstream dams on the Savannah River have caused some alteration of the water levels and timing of flooding within the floodplain. Research was conducted to determine methods to reintroduce tree species characteristic of more mature forested wetlands.

For more information about this research, visit: http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_barton001.pdf

Upcoming Event: Third National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

This conference provides the opportunity for natural resource planners, managers and policy makers working in ecosystem restoration to expand their knowledge, share their experience, and network with colleagues from across various disciplines such as engineering, science, economics and the social sciences. This conference offers traditional technical session, interactive panel discussions, training workshops, and scheduled times to “meet and greet” diverse exhibitors and partners. Large scale ecosystem restorations including the Chesapeake Bay, Coastal Louisiana, Everglades, and Great Lakes, will be highlighted in interactive panel discussions. National and international perspectives on coastal, near-shore, riverine, and upland habitats, and urban ecosystem restoration will also be presented. This event takes place from July 20-24, 2009 in Los Angeles, CA.

For more information visit: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NCER2009/>

For more upcoming events visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/events.html>

In the News: Land Buy Boosts Restoration

Everglades restoration has been a priority for the South Florida Water Management District for more than a decade. That priority was underscored this month with a landmark decision by the district's Governing Board to invest \$536 million in the largest land buy in the agency's history -- a 73,000-acre acquisition that will provide unprecedented opportunities for preserving the famed River of Grass. When the multi-billion state-federal partnership to restore the Everglades was first developed in the 1990s, access to vast areas of agricultural land south of Lake Okeechobee to construct restoration projects was not a possibility. But that changed last June when Gov. Charlie Crist announced the willingness of the U.S. Sugar Corporation to sell its land holdings to the district for Everglades restoration. It was a milestone moment for the environment -- followed by months of complex negotiations, hard work and due diligence.

To read the full story, visit: <http://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/other-views/story/1066005.html>

For additional current news articles on WUI topics, visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/inthenews.html>

Literature: Restoration of Southern Ecosystems

Restoration of the myriad communities of bottomland hardwood and wetland forests and of the diverse communities of fire-dominated pine forests is the subject of intense interest in the Southern United States. Restoration practice is relatively advanced for bottomland hardwoods and longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris* Mill.), and less so for swamps and shortleaf pine (*P. echinata* Mill.). Most bottomland hardwood restoration is taking place on private land, while restoration of swamps and shortleaf pine occurs mostly on public land. Both public and private landowners are involved in the restoration of longleaf pine. Proper matching of species to site is critical to successful restoration of bottomland hardwoods. Techniques for longleaf pine restoration include the reintroduction of growing-season fire and the planting of longleaf pine seedlings and understory species. Safely reintroducing growing-season fire, however, may require initial manipulation of other vegetation by mechanical or chemical means to reduce built-up fuels.

To read the full article, visit: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/files/restoration%20of%20southern%20ecosystems.pdf>

For more articles on WUI issues visit InterfaceSouth at: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/literature.html>



Interface South Update

Website: The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) International

SER is a non-profit organization with 2300 members – individuals and organizations who are actively engaged in ecologically-sensitive repair and management of ecosystems through an unusually broad array of experience, knowledge sets and cultural perspectives. Their website provides several resources, including a job board, upcoming conferences, literature and educational materials, and a connection to other organizations working toward ecosystem restoration. It also provides news and upcoming events and serves as a central information source on current and future restoration activities.

To view this website, please visit: http://www.ser.org/reading_resources.asp

For more Web links about interface issues, visit: <http://www.interfacesouth.org/resources/websites.html>

The USDA Forest Service created Interface South to heighten awareness of and provide information about wildland-urban interface (WUI) issues, serving a diverse audience of natural resource professionals, private forestland and homeowners, planning departments, local policy-makers, and many more.

Contact Us!

If you have any questions or comments please contact Annie Hermansen-Baez, ahermansen@fs.fed.us, 352-376-3271 or the project intern at swuintern@yahoo.com