

June Management Recommendations

Fire Ecology

- Continue to conduct prescribed burns as needed.
- Burning during this month appears to be an effective means of reducing vigor of re-sprouting woody stems on sites with native ground cover, less so on old-field lands.
- Own your smoke! Be aware that smoke can settle in drainages and mix with early morning or evening fog to form a dense “fog” that creates traffic safety issues.
- Conduct post-burn evaluations to determine success of woody control

Forestry

- Finish timber harvests and clean up operations by mid to end of June.
- Avoid having heavy equipment in the woods when soils are wet.
- Where adequate longleaf cone crops are present continue conducting burns to capture seed fall that will occur later in the year. Some regrowth of understory vegetation will lower seed predation by providing some cover for seed.

Game Bird

- Continue to supplemental feed at 1 to 2 bu/ac/yr. Adjust as necessary given weather conditions.
- Nest predator management if needed.
- Begin to mow roads as needed.
- Begin herbicide applications for bicolor and bahia grass control.

Land Management

- Continue treating cogon grass infestations as weather permits.
- Disk strips to encourage the production of Florida pussley, a highly preferred deer forage.
- Get soil tests for fall food plots at least once every two years.
- Continue planting summer food plots.
- Apply lime according to soil test results.
- In most parts of Florida, June is usually the last month to plant aescynomene (joint vetch), to achieve adequate reseeding in November.

Vertebrate Ecology

- Leaving dead trees or snags provides valuable habitat for cavity nesters.
- One of the loudest songsters in our pinewoods this time of year is the elusive Bachman’s Sparrow. This endemic sparrow is abundant on sites burned within the past 12 months, but its numbers can be almost halved on sites coming into a 2-year rough. Bachman’s Sparrow is often thought to have one of the prettiest songs of any songbird, and to hear an example, simply follow this link: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/natsci/ornithology/sounds.htm>
- Lots of fledgling birds wandering the woods. Many use small brushy thickets, so hold off on mowing until late August if possible. Also a good time to keep cats in doors.
- Gopher tortoise nesting reaches a peak in early June. Watch for females laying eggs and consider nest protection and predator-proof fencing.

- Female free-tailed bats give birth to a single pup from May to June.
- Pine snakes lay 5–12 large eggs in a burrow during June or July. The young hatch a couple of months later and start to look for mice and other rodents. TTRS research suggests pine snakes are closely associated with longleaf pine/wiregrass sites.