

Combining Herbicides and Prescribed Burning for Timber and Wildlife Objectives

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Who Is Seth Ward

- ◉ Forest Management degree from UF
- ◉ NC Licensed Pesticide Applicator
- ◉ NC Registered Forester
- ◉ SAF Certified Forester
- ◉ NC Certified Prescribed Burn Manager
- ◉ 10+ years experience:
 - Forest Management



Who We Are

● Forestry & Environmental Consulting Firm

- Service Lines Include:
 - Forest Management
 - 35,000 Acres
 - Prescribed Burning
 - Herbicide Application
 - GIS
 - Wildlife Management
 - Wetland Delineation & Permitting
 - Timber Inventory
 - Land Management Planning
 - Timber Sale Management



Timber and Wildlife Objectives

- ◉ Timber objective – maximize economic returns from timber production, grow better trees, faster
- ◉ Wildlife objective – improve habitat for desired species (hunting, observation, conservation)

Herbicide Application

- Timing of applications
 - Site prep, Early rotation
 - Mid-rotation
 - Late rotation
- Typically, mid-rotation release is best for timber & wildlife objectives



Mid-Rotation Release Herbicide



- ◉ Allows for increased tree nutrient uptake
- ◉ Increase timber revenue
- ◉ Ease of access
- ◉ Remove unwanted vegetation structure
- ◉ Mitigate wildfire threat
- ◉ Increase evaporation of surface water

Timing of a Release Application

- Typically following 1st thinning
- Growing season



Typical Prescription

- Chopper, Garlon XRT, Escort, Surfactant
 - For waxy's
- Chopper, Accord, Escort, and Surfactant
 - For non-waxy's



Examples



Why Do We Burn?

- ◉ Wildfire hazard reduction
- ◉ Control of undesirable species
- ◉ Wildlife habitat improvement
- ◉ Improved access and visibility
- ◉ Disease control
- ◉ Enhancement of aesthetics
- ◉ Manipulation of woody material decomposition

Wildfire Hazard Reduction

- ◉ Removes fuel loading
- ◉ Reduces flashy fuels
 - Bay/waxy fuels
- ◉ Mitigate timber loss from wildfire



Control of Undesirable Species

- Fire dependent ecosystems
- Control hardwood competition



Wildlife Habitat Improvement

- ◉ Increased yield of herbs and legumes
- ◉ Increase in browse amount and quality
- ◉ Openings for feeding and travel
- ◉ Increased carrying capacity



Combining Herbicide & Fire

- Spray first, then burn
 - Spray takes place of first 'killing burn'
- Many sites too thick/dangerous to lead with a burn
 - Gets fuels on the ground, decreases volatility of subsequent burns
- Wider window to spray than burn
 - Weather restrictions
 - NC Smoke Management guidelines

Summary

- ◉ Herbicide and fire alone are beneficial...
- ◉ Combined, the additive effects are notable!
- ◉ One allows you to do the other...
- ◉ A mid-rotation release herbicide application often provides the opportunity to burn

Questions?

Thank You

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