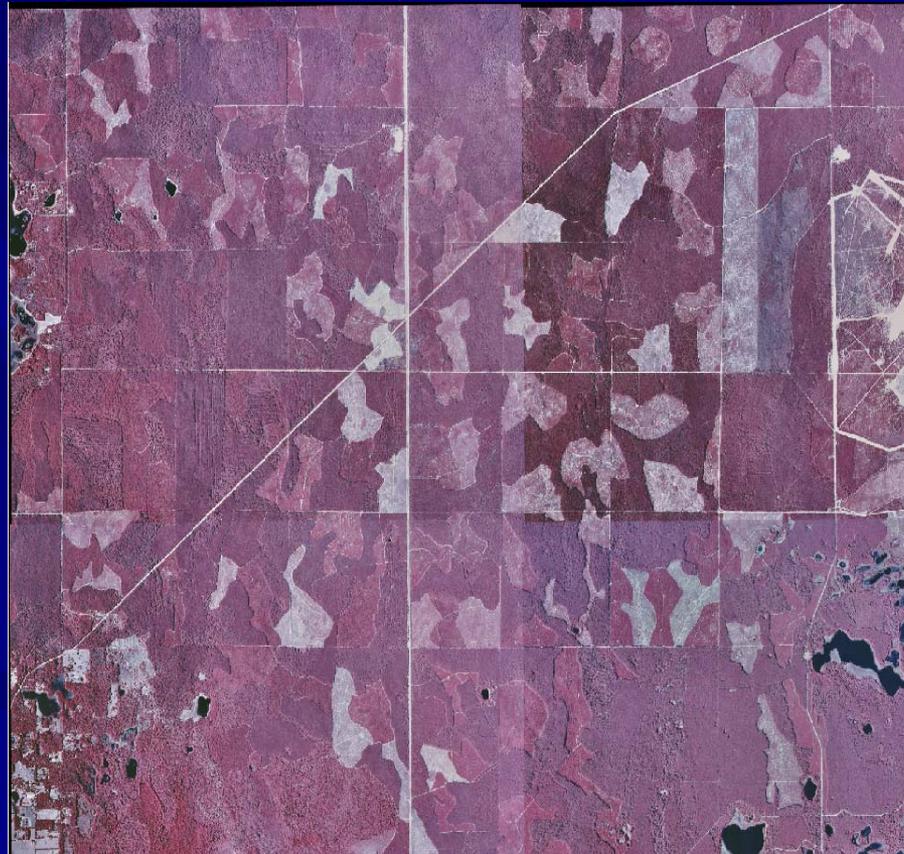


**SAND PINE  
SCRUB  
MANAGEMENT**

# Ever wonder why you see the big cut areas on the Ocala National Forest?



# Sand Pine Scrub

The answer is sand pine scrub  
which is unique to the Ocala  
National Forest.

# Sand Pine Scrub Ecosystem

- This ancient sandridge running north-south through the forest is what is left of a chain of islands before the sea retreated over 25 million years ago.
- Today instead of water these “islands” are surrounded by land. Sand pine is the dominate species in the Ocala’s scrub ecosystem.

# Unique Characteristics

- Scrub
- Wildfire Protection
- Saving Rare Species



# WHAT IS SCRUB?

- Deep sandy soil - droughty
- Low soil fertility
- Shrubby
- Sand pines may be present
- Adapted to large disturbances such as a catastrophic wildfire



**sand pine scrub**



**oak scrub**



**rosemary shrubs**



**pond**

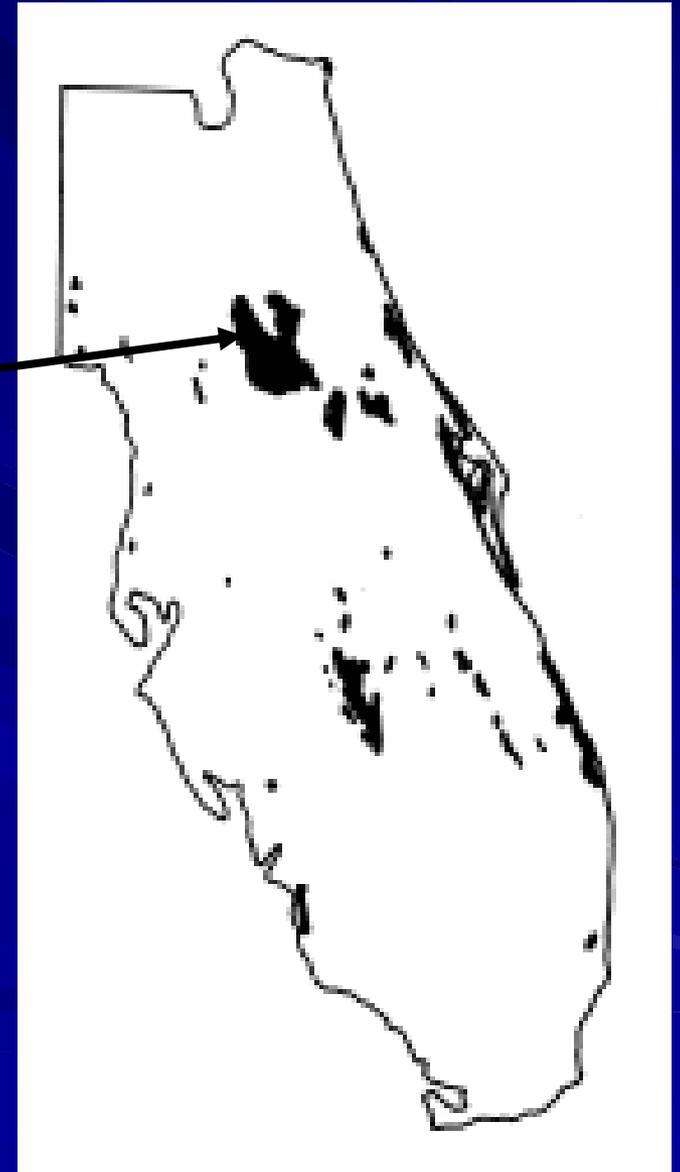


# LOCATION OF FLORIDA SCRUB

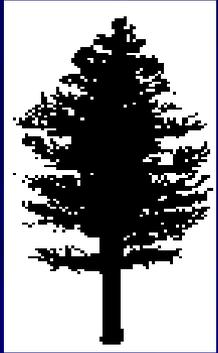
Ocala National  
Forest

Florida Scrub is:

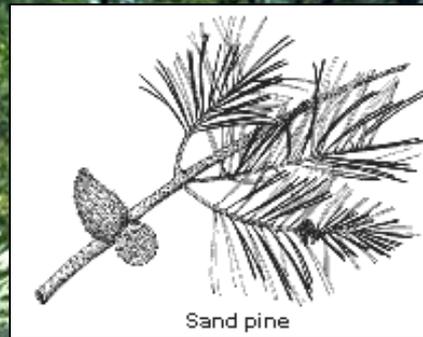
- Unique to the state of Florida
- Coastal or peninsular depending on location
- Full of unique species, both plant and animal



# SAND PINE



- Short needles
- Small cones
- thin bark
- Short-lived
- Adapted to droughty soils



# WILDFIRE

- A natural occurrence
- Every 20-80 years
- Key to regeneration in the scrub
- Sand pine covers itself and the understory with sap to encourage fire
- Cones open due to heat from fire
- Plants & animals living in scrub are adapted to fire
- Usually all vegetation killed above ground
- Sand pine burns in uncontrollable fires called “crown fires”. These fires move with great speed through the tops of trees

# HISTORY

- One of the fastest growing fires in the United States occurred on the Ocala National Forest in the spring of 1935 burning 35,000 acres in four hours.
- Estimates were the fire burned 10,000 acres in the first three hours and 25,000 acres in the last hour.
- Ocala District Ranger John Cooper (1938-1943) stated, “The best fire control in the Big Scrub is and always has been to never let a forest fire get in the sand pine.”





**How do we balance our mandate to protect life, property, and resources within a fire adapted ecosystem that we are required to manage?**



# FIRE-MAINTAINED ECOSYSTEMS



- All uplands in the Ocala National Forest: sand pine scrub, longleaf wiregrass, flatwoods ecosystems
- For thousands of years fires were caused by lightning
- Fire drives diversity of natural system
- Due to habitat loss across their range, many now rare species rely on the Ocala National Forest for their survival

# SAND PINE NATURAL REGENERATION

- Scrub usually fire resistant
- When it burns, it is extremely hot
- Sand pine cones do not open unless there is high heat



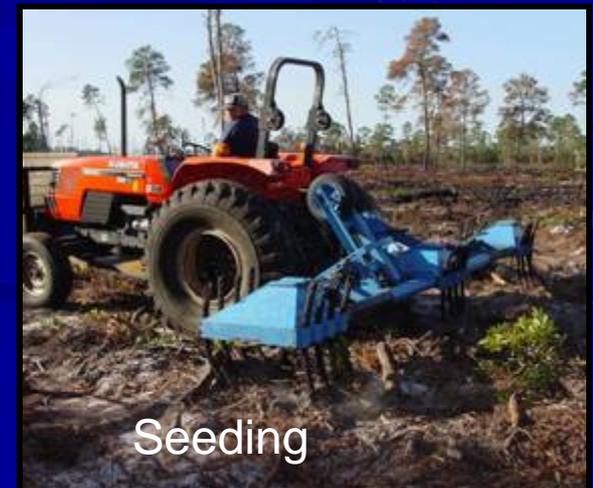
# MECHANICAL = SURROGATE TO FIRE

- Ocala National Forest  
384,000 acres
- Sand Pine Scrub Ecosystem  
200,000 acres



The Forest Service tries to maintain 45,000 to 55,000 acres in the 3 to 15 year old age classes

Mechanical work imitates fire while providing habitat for threatened, endangered, endemic, game and non-game species.





- ✓ NOT ALL AREAS ARE MANAGED WITH HARVEST
- ✓ THERE ARE SCRUB AREAS MANAGED WITH PRESCRIBED BURNING



- Scrub-Jay Mgt Area
- Wilderness Areas
- Pinecastle Range



# THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANTS INCLUDE:

BONAMIA



Scrub morning glory

# FLORIDA SCRUB-JAY

- A threatened species
- Scrub is its preferred habitat



Fibers from scrub palmetto is used by Florida Scrub-Jays to line their nests.

## UNIQUE ANIMALS

# OTHER ANIMALS FOUND IN SCRUB

**Sand skink**



**Sand skink tracks**



**Rufous-sided  
Towhee**



**Florida Mouse**



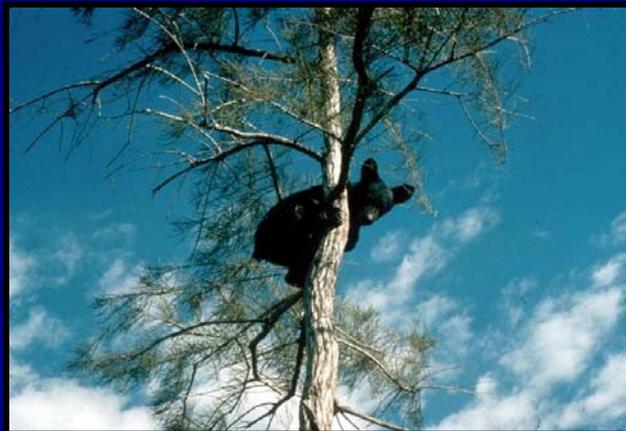
**White-tailed deer**



**Scrub lizard**



**Florida black bear**



# FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please call: 352-669-3153

