Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge

Forest Management

Long-term Goal:
Enhance the diversity and resiliency of native forest communities through hazard fuel reduction, low intensity prescribed burns, invasive species control, and other forest management actions.

Purpose

In 2024 Pinckney Island NWR received funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to enhance forest habitat conditions, primarily through hazard fuel reduction. The forested habitats of Pinckney provide important habitat for many species of migratory birds as well as reptiles and amphibians. The introduction of invasive species, such as Chinese Tallow, has reduced the diversity of the forests and made forest management difficult. This project will provide both a much-needed boost to improve the existing forests and a more feasible approach for long-term management.

Objectives

- Reduce invasive Chinese tallow trees and replace with fire-adapted native trees, such as longleaf pine
- Promote an understory dominated by native warm season grasses
- Increase the use of prescribed fires to minimize catastrophic wildfire hazard

Methods

Year 1
➤ Use mechanical actions to thin areas of pines and hardwoods to create suitable conditions for planting longleaf pines
➤ Improve the existing longleaf pine stands through removal of non-desirable understory
➤ Reduce hazard fuel levels to minimize adverse impacts from wildfires

Year 2
➤ Follow-up control of Chinese tallow
➤ Plant longleaf pines in areas previously thinned or cleared

Long Term
➤ Maintain diversity and resiliency through prescribed fire on a 1-3 year rotation.

For more information, please visit our website at:
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/pinckney-island

Pinckney Island NWR
Proposed Forest Management Action

N

Parking area

Refuge boundary

0   0.5 Miles

Map prepared by SCRC
Biology Program
7 May 2024

- 645 acre Project Area boundary (shaded in yellow)
- approximately 50% of the Project Area will be mechanically treated

Thank you for supporting your Pinckney National Wildlife Refuge!

We hope you enjoyed your visit. Please come back and see the progress of our comprehensive hazard fuel reduction and forest enhancement project as it is completed over the next few years.

Safe travels.