



Private Family Landowner



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DOUG MOORE IS A LIFE-LONG RESIDENT OF JACKSONVILLE,

Florida, and was a third generation dairy farmer until 2004. He phased out of the dairy business because of the urban development in his area. He wanted to stay in agriculture and had always wanted a big piece of timberland. There was a lot of timberland being sold by the forest companies in Baker County, and he purchased 2,400 acres in 2002.

Mr. Moore wants to balance the benefits of both forestry and wildlife on the land he purchased. He is interested in both wildlife and timber management because his family needs the timber income, and he also loves to hunt. While it

Landowner Doug Moore manages his forest for both timber and wildlife.

would be nice to have plenty of money and manage the forest only for wildlife, the timber income allows him to pay for the property, taxes, and necessary management practices. He thinks landowners can manage for both objectives without sacrificing either one of them very much.

Prescribed burning is one of the most beneficial management treatments for wildlife, and it also lowers his risk for wildfires and reduces the understory competition that impacts tree growth. As a certified prescribed

burn manager, Mr. Moore has established a regular burning schedule on the property.

Since he acquired the property, he has had the opportunity to harvest trees. As soon as he started cutting timber, he planted food plots to attract wildlife. In the open areas where trees were piled during the harvest, he removed the stumps and added lime to improve the soil nutrients. He used his farming background to create 40 different food plots on about 50 acres. When he replants trees, Mr. Moore uses a range of genetically diverse seedlings.

He also thins the forest, which is beneficial for wildlife and timber. He typically removes the slow growing and diseased trees and never lets the forest get too crowded or stressed. He conducts the first thinning when the trees are about 17 years old. In addition, three to four years later, he comes back and takes out trees that he can sell for pulpwood. He cuts the forest back from 400 trees per acre to about 250 trees per acre. This allows the remaining trees to grow larger and produce more timber. Simultaneously, he does some additional burning, which benefits the wildlife.

Thanks to Doug Moore, landowner, for sharing this information about his forestland in Northeast Florida.