

STATE FOREST SPOTLIGHT

Prescribed Burning

Pine Log State Forest encompasses many natural communities that are fire dependent. An abundance of wildlife makes their home on the forest, such as deer, turkey, squirrels, rabbits, water fowl, bobcats, coyotes and many others. The gopher tortoise, which is currently listed as a species of special concern, also makes its home on Pine Log State Forest.

Florida Forest Service staff use prescribed fire to improve wildlife habitat and to reduce unwanted pests and diseases through the forest. Annually, roughly a third of Pine Log's acreage is prescribed burned and its impacts have a direct benefit to the plants and animals that call the forest home!

Love the state forests? So do we!

The Friends of Florida State Forests is a direct-support organization of the Florida Forest Service dedicated to ensuring Florida's State Forests are available for future generations to enjoy. Make a difference by joining today to help protect Florida's forests.

Membership dues go to the forests for conservation and improvement projects. To join Friends or for more information, visit:

www.FloridaStateForests.org



Things to Know When Visiting Florida's State Forests

In keeping with its mission to protect and manage Florida's forest resources for the present and future enjoyment of all Floridians, the Florida Forest Service has developed rules which apply to all visitors to Pine Log State Forest.

Some of the more important rules are:

- Trails are open daily from sunrise to sunset. After hour use requires a State Forest Use Permit. These permits may be obtained by calling the forest office at (850)535-2888.
- Unlicensed motorized vehicles and ATVs (all-terrain vehicles) are not allowed on the forest. Licensed motor vehicles are allowed on designated open forest roads only.
- Parking is available at trailheads along highway 79 and the pavilion area. The Florida Forest Service is not responsible for articles lost or stolen.
- The Sand Pond Recreation Trail system and the Crooked Creek Trail are designed for foot and bicycle traffic only. Horses are only allowed on the Old Sawmill Horse Trail.
- Nineteen campsites with water and electricity are available in the Sand Pond Recreation Area. These campsites, four primitive campsites and two group areas are available by reservation at FloridaStateForests.ReserveAmerica.com or by calling (877)879-3859 or (800)373-3851 (TDD).
- See the "Pine Log Wildlife Management Area" brochure for the hunting and fishing rules and regulations administered by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or visit www.myfwc.com.
- Help keep the forest clean by taking all garbage with you when you leave. Do not bury it or burn it. Please report suspicious activity to the Pine Log State Forest Field Office.

For more information, visit:

www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

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Florida Forest Service

Pine Log State Forest



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

History

The Pine Log State Forest is comprised of approximately 8,000 acres located in northwestern Bay and southwestern Washington Counties. It lies approximately 13 miles north of Panama City Beach. In the mid-1930s, at the request of President Roosevelt, Florida Governor David Sholtz appointed a Conservation Committee. This committee drafted legislation, eventually passed by the Florida Legislature in 1935, authorizing the acquisition, development and management of a system of state forests and parks with appropriated funds. In 1936, Pine Log State Forest became the first state forest obtained through this program and was initially comprised of 6,960 acres.

The first tract consisted of 6,670 acres and was purchased from Henderson-Waits Lumber Company at a cost of \$11,573.16 (equivalent to \$1.73 per acre) in 1936. In 1938, 240 acres were purchased from Mrs. Bessie Lee Kemp and Mr. Wiley Kemp for \$840.00 (equivalent to \$3.50 per acre). In 1938, one acre was obtained from John Holmes through a quitclaim deed.

Forestry

The Florida Forest Service's mission is to protect and manage the forest resources of Florida, ensuring that they are available for future generations. This is exemplified on Pine Log State Forest through hard work and a stewardship ethic. The primary forest management tool is prescribed fire. Through prescribed burning, Florida Forest Service can help perpetuate and protect native ecosystems, and ensure the long-term viability of populations and species listed as endangered, threatened or rare. Another key management component is the practice of sustainable forestry.

The Florida Forest Service employs additional management roles that protect known archaeological and cultural resources, along with maintaining and protecting various wetlands and aquatic natural communities. Keeping this multiple-use management on Pine Log State Forest ensures that it will be there for future generations to enjoy.



Pine Log flatwoods



Small dock overlooking cypress pond



Sand Pond Recreation Area

For more information contact:
Pine Log State Forest
5583-A Longleaf Road, Ebro, Florida 32437
(850)535-2888
www.FDACS.gov/FLStateForests

Natural Resources

Pine Log State Forest is home to a diverse mixture of indigenous animal and plant species. The animals and plants currently listed as endangered, threatened or of special concern identified at the forest include: flatwoods salamander, gopher tortoise, southern milkweed, white-top pitcher-plant and Chapman's crownbeard.

There are various natural communities found on the forest. They include sandhills, flatwoods, cypress ponds and titi swamps. Pine Log State Forest has three named streams (Pine Log Creek, Little Crooked Creek and Ditch Branch) as well as several small lakes and ponds.

Recreation

The forest offers recreational opportunities including camping, hiking, biking, birding, fishing, hunting and horse trails. A campground with twenty campsites can be found at the Sand Pond Recreation Area. All sites are fully equipped with electric and water hook-ups. Restrooms are available on site.

Over thirteen miles of hiking and biking trails have been developed on Pine Log State Forest. These trails include a segment of the Florida National Scenic Trail which covers approximately eight miles. The Dutch Tiemann Trail and the Campground Loop begin and end in the recreation area. The Crooked Creek Trail is a multi-use 9 mile loop trail. Parking is located on Highway 79, one mile south of the recreation area. This trail was developed for off-road bicycle use; however, foot traffic is welcome. The Old Sawmill trail was developed as an equestrian trail. The 9.1-mile loop trail follows existing open roads, closed roads and old firebreaks. The trail weaves through the southeast portion of Pine Log State Forest.