



## **Watergauge Forest Health / Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project Field Trip**

### **Trip Leader:**

Mike Brod, Fire and Natural Resources Staff Officer  
Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest

### Meeting Logistics/Information:

- Meet at the Chattooga River Ranger District Office at 9 AM and carpool to the project area (drive time from CRRD office is approximately 15 minutes).
- High clearance vehicles are recommended
- Long pants and hiking boots are required – Forest Service will provide Hard Hats
- Please bring lunch and plenty of water
- Field Trip will conclude at 1 PM.

### Project Details:

- Commercially thin approximately 245 acres of Upland Pine / Hardwood Habitat to improve forest health and wildlife habitat.
- Non- commercially thin (saw down) approximately 100 acres to improve wildlife habitat and improve growing conditions for young oaks and pines.
- Control burn approximately 1,000 acres on a 3 – 5 year rotation, to maintain open forest conditions created by the thinning operations, as well as to create woodland habitat.
- Cut and pile encroaching woody shrubs within 7 acre area to restore a mountain bog.

### Timeline:

- NEPA completed in 2009 (Decision Memo)
- Thinning treatments completed in 2013
- Most recent controlled burn completed in 2014. Controlled burns were also completed in 2005 and 2008.

Photos:

Pre-Treatment



Post-Treatment



Erosion Control



Prescribed Fire





Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest  
Foothills Stakeholder Field Trip  
May 12, 2017

