



# 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:

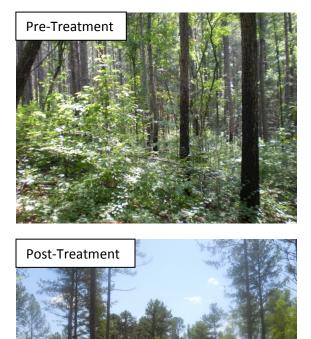
- NEPA competed in 2009 (Decision Memo)
- Thinning treatments completed in 2013
- Most recent controlled burn completed in 2014. Controlled burns were also completed in 2005 and 2008.



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



## <u>Photos</u>:







Watergauge



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