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.
Photos:

- **Pre-Treatment**
- **Post-Treatment**
- **Erosion Control**
- **Prescribed Fire**