The FFS Study

Long-term

- A 5-year, national study, funded by the Joint Fire Sciences Program (US Department of Interior and USDA Forest Service)

Collaborative

- Over 100 scientists and managers, representing federal, state, private, and educational organizations

Integrated

- Interdisciplinary: how treatments affect whole systems

Built for Managers

- Will help land managers understand the appropriate balance of the use of prescribed fire and "fire surrogates" such as cuttings and mechanical fuel treatment.
- Includes economic and ecological relationships

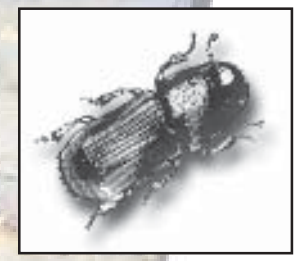
Tree Pathology

Wildlife

Photo by E.L. Bull

Vegetation

Fire and Fuels



Entomology
(primarily bark beetles)

Treatment Costs and Utilization / Economics

Photo by Trygve Steen, Portland State University

Soils and Forest Floor

For more information,
please visit the FFS website
http://ffs.fs.fed.us
or contact Jim McIver at jmciver@fs.fed.us

In the past. . . frequent, low-intensity fire managed many U.S. forests.

But over the last century, these forests have become more dense, with much more fuel. To avoid catastrophic fires and to restore forests to a more natural state, scientists and managers need better information.

Can "fire surrogates" such as cuttings and mechanical fuel treatments replace the ecological role of fire in the restoration of our forests?

The FFS Study is designed to answer that question with a national, long-term effort. Researchers will measure the effects of alternative fire and fire surrogate treatments on seven variable groups:

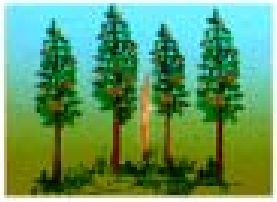
Fire and Fire Surrogate Study

A long-term study to understand effects of alternative methods for fuel reduction and forest restoration

US Department of Interior
USDA Forest Service

How it works...

The Fire and Fire Surrogate study will assess the economic and ecological consequences of four fuel reduction treatments:



Mechanical only; no use of prescribed fire

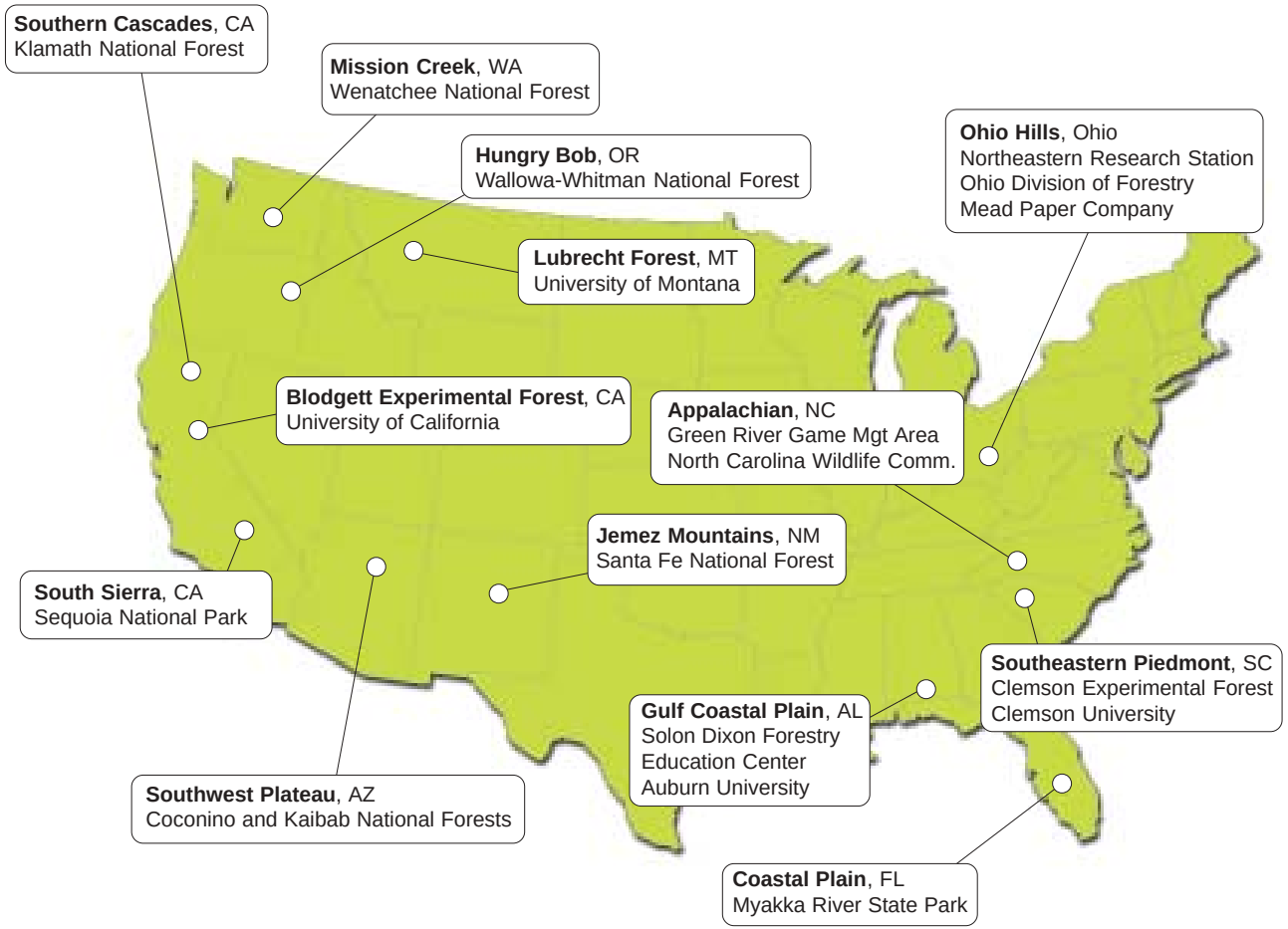
Prescribed fire only, with periodic reburns; no mechanical

Mechanical and prescribed fire

Untreated control

- Treatments are options available to managers.
- Experimental units are similar in size to typical stand management units.
- Each treatment is replicated three times per site.
- The information is kept in a national database.

The Study Sites



The FFS Network

The 5-year study applies a common experimental design on 13 sites nationwide. Each site represents a forest that is at risk of experiencing uncharacteristically severe wildfire.