



Managed Forest Project at Sandy Creek Nature Center

*Mayor and Commission Work Session
September 9, 2014*

Presentation Outline

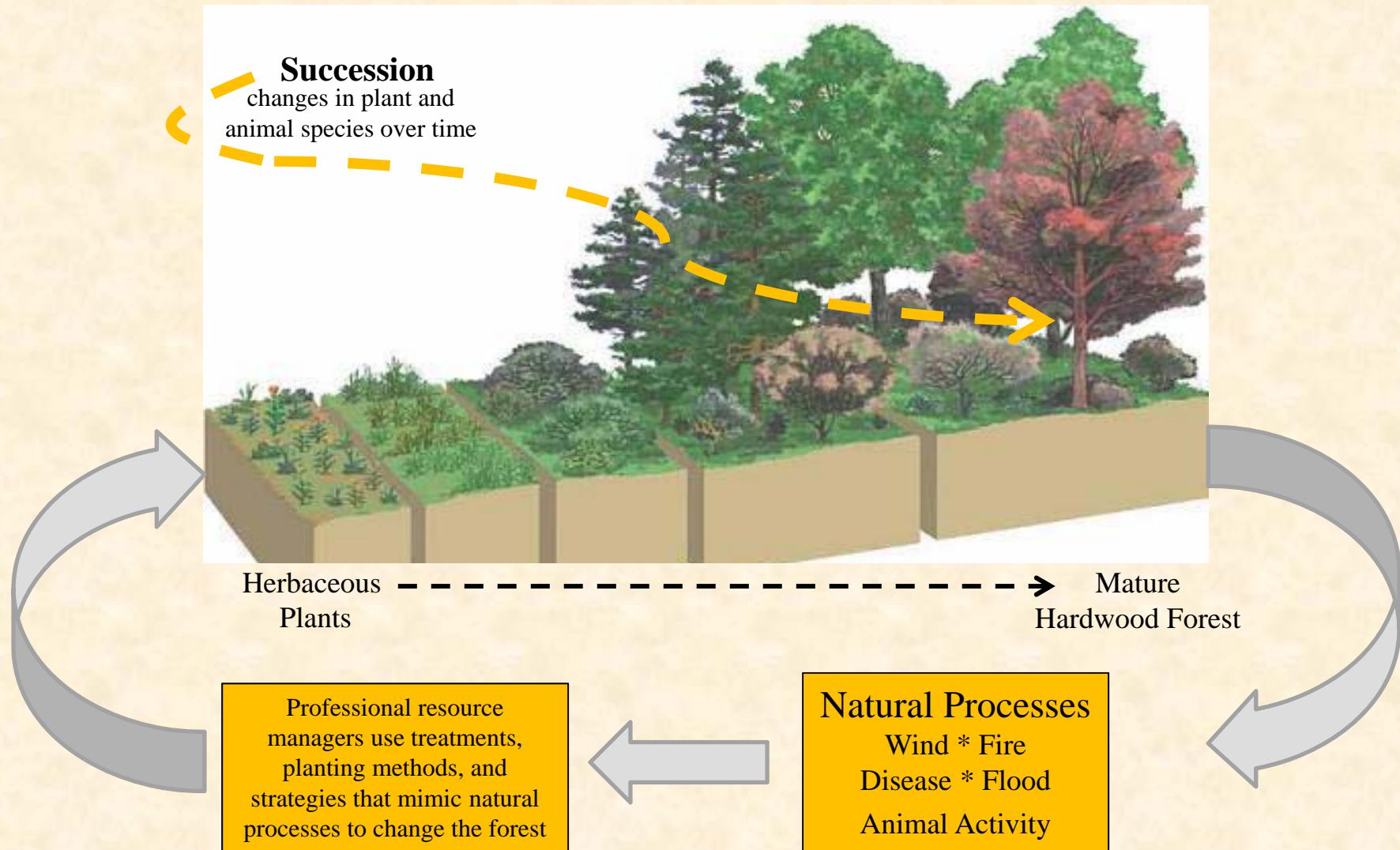
- Managed Forest Definition and Background
- Project Purpose and Goals
- Project History
- Project Concept
- Proposed Project Development
- Role of SCNC, Inc. in the Project
- Proposed Budget
- Next Steps
- Mayor and Commission Questions and Comments



What is a Managed Forest?

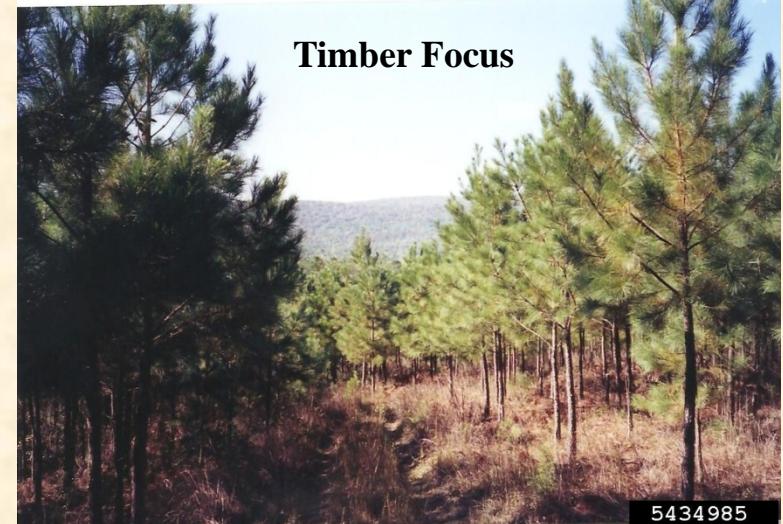
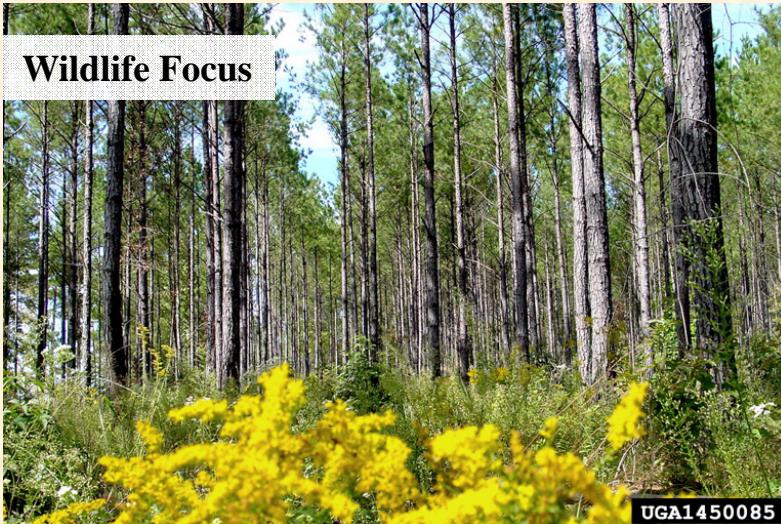
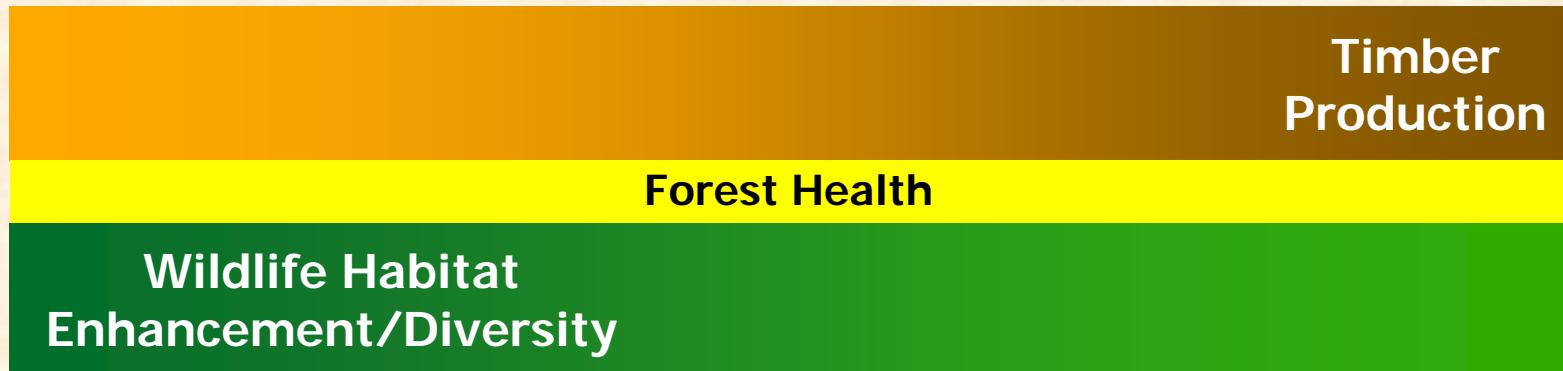
Using **naturally occurring processes**
to create a **land owner's desired**
habitat or forest outcome

What are “naturally occurring processes”?



What are “Landowner Desired Outcomes”?

Natural Resource Management Strategies





Why a Managed Forest at Sandy Creek Nature Center?

Goals:

- 1) Re-establish High Quality Habitat and Diversity
- 2) Enhance Educational and Community Learning Opportunities
- 3) Obtain certification, reflecting ACC's commitment to sustainable forestry and community resource stewardship

Goal 1: Re-establish High Quality Habitat

1980 – Diverse, High Quality Habitat



Many different species of plants and animals exist along with excellent learning opportunities

Goal 1: Re-establish High Quality Habitat

2013 – Less Diversity, Low Quality Habitat



Goal 2: Enhance Learning Opportunities



- Create an outdoor Forestry Teaching Area with hands-on science equipment, educational signs, and trails
- Provide outdoor programming for K-12 students to meet Georgia Performance Standards related to forests and natural science
- Demonstrate best forestry management practices with a living and changing forest ecosystem
- Keep ACCUG citizens informed and educated about our environment and natural resources

Create opportunities for interns and students to experience career-building forestry management skills

- Demonstrate that forests have ecological, educational, recreational, and economic value





Goal 3: Project Certification

The Managed Forest Project is intended to meet the requirements of and will seek certification as part of the:

Certified Forest Steward Program

Georgia Forestry Commission

American Tree Farm Program

a national certification program

These programs recognize outstanding efforts to practice sustainable and sound forest management. Certification reflects ACC's commitment to environmental stewardship and natural resource protection.

Project History



The concept of creating companion indoor/outdoor exhibits has developed over the past 20+ years.



Why Manage a Forest?



To manage a forest, start with a goal. What do you want from the forest? What does it provide now? How can you change the forest to reach your goal?

It's not always just about lumber. You might want more songbirds or young trees. You might want to hike on new trails under a canopy of leaves.



Think of a cool park on a hot day. Trees welcome us. Forests in cities improve our quality of life and shelter wildlife.



You use things every day that started out as trees. Forests are harvested to make lumber, paper, and thousands of other products. We replant trees for the future.



Plants, bacteria, fungi, and other living things need forests. Some forests are managed to protect sensitive species. Others are managed to be as wild as possible!

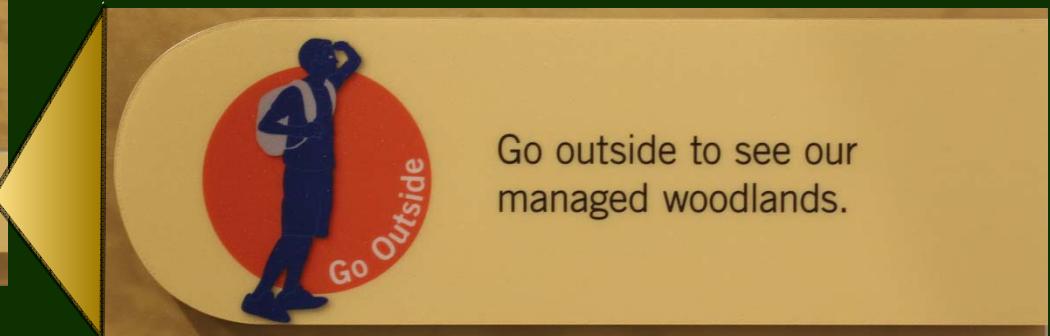


Go outside to see our managed woodlands.

In 2012, the indoor component of the companion exhibit was completed at the Education & Visitor Center and includes the

Woodland Interactive Learning Center

The indoor exhibit encourages people to “go outside” and explore.



Example of a “go outside” medallion

Why Manage a Forest?



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Go outside to see our managed woodlands.

The Managed Forest Project

*...Connects the
Woodland Interactive
Learning Center inside...*

Go outside to see our managed woodlands.

Example of a “go outside” medallion

...to the living forest outside



Where Should The Managed Forest Be Located And Why?

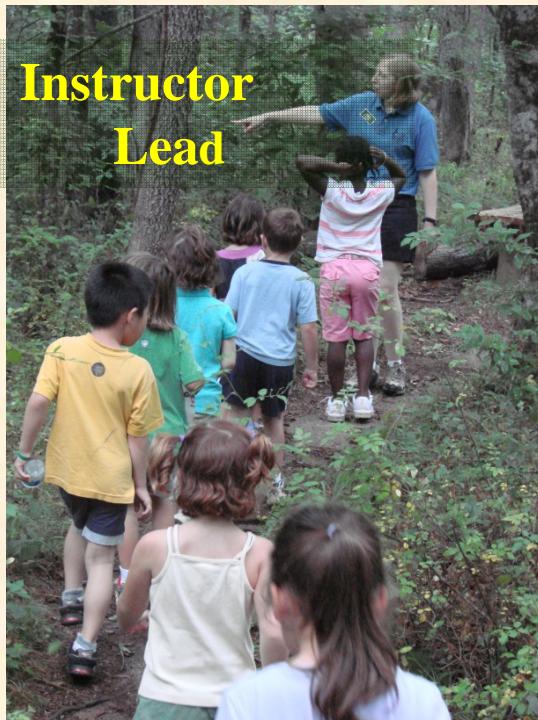
- Examined Historical Land Use
- Determined Existing Site Conditions

Used this info to establish the...



Site Selection Criteria

- Quality of existing habitat/wildlife food
- Degree of human disturbance
- Education potential



Site Selection Begins:

An Overview of the Nature Center

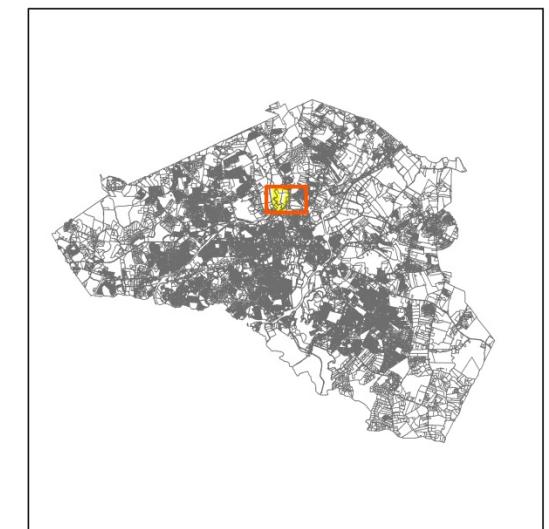


Sandy Creek Nature Center

225 Acres

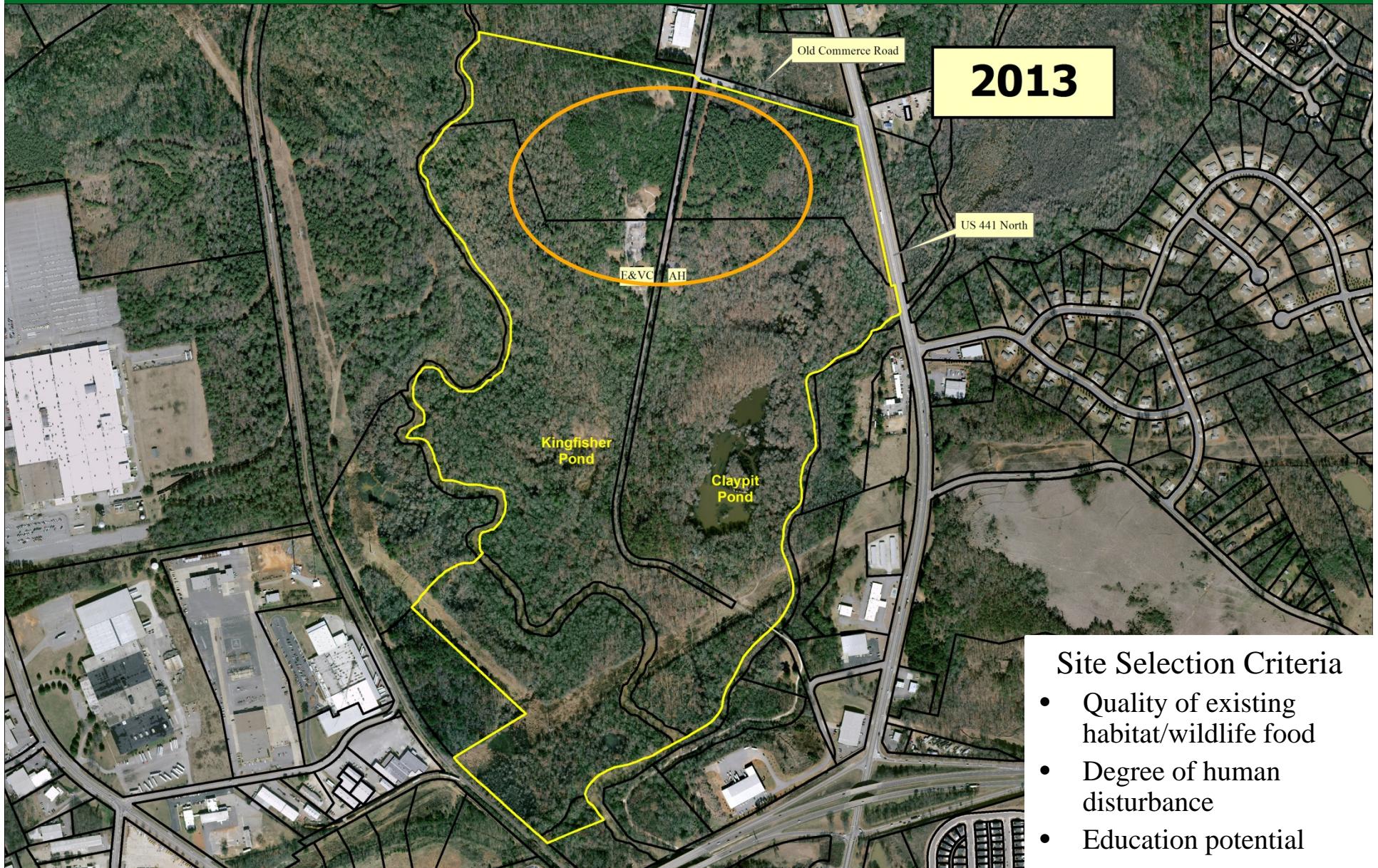


0 250 500 1,000 ft



Site Selection

The area that best matches the site selection criteria was determined



Site Selection Criteria

- Quality of existing habitat/wildlife food
- Degree of human disturbance
- Education potential

Site Selection: Proposed General Project Area



Site Selection: What does the site look like?



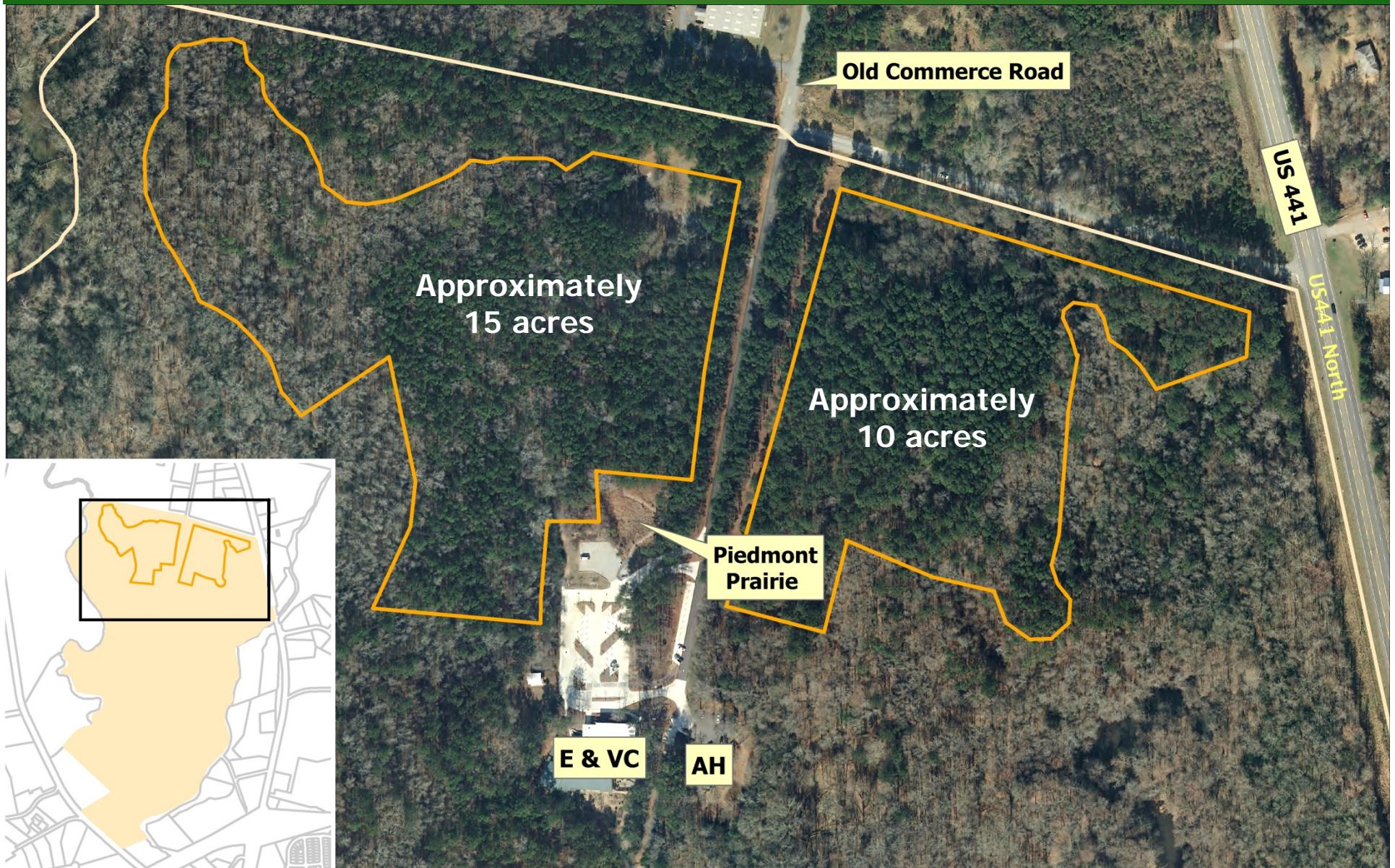
Existing
Forest Conditions



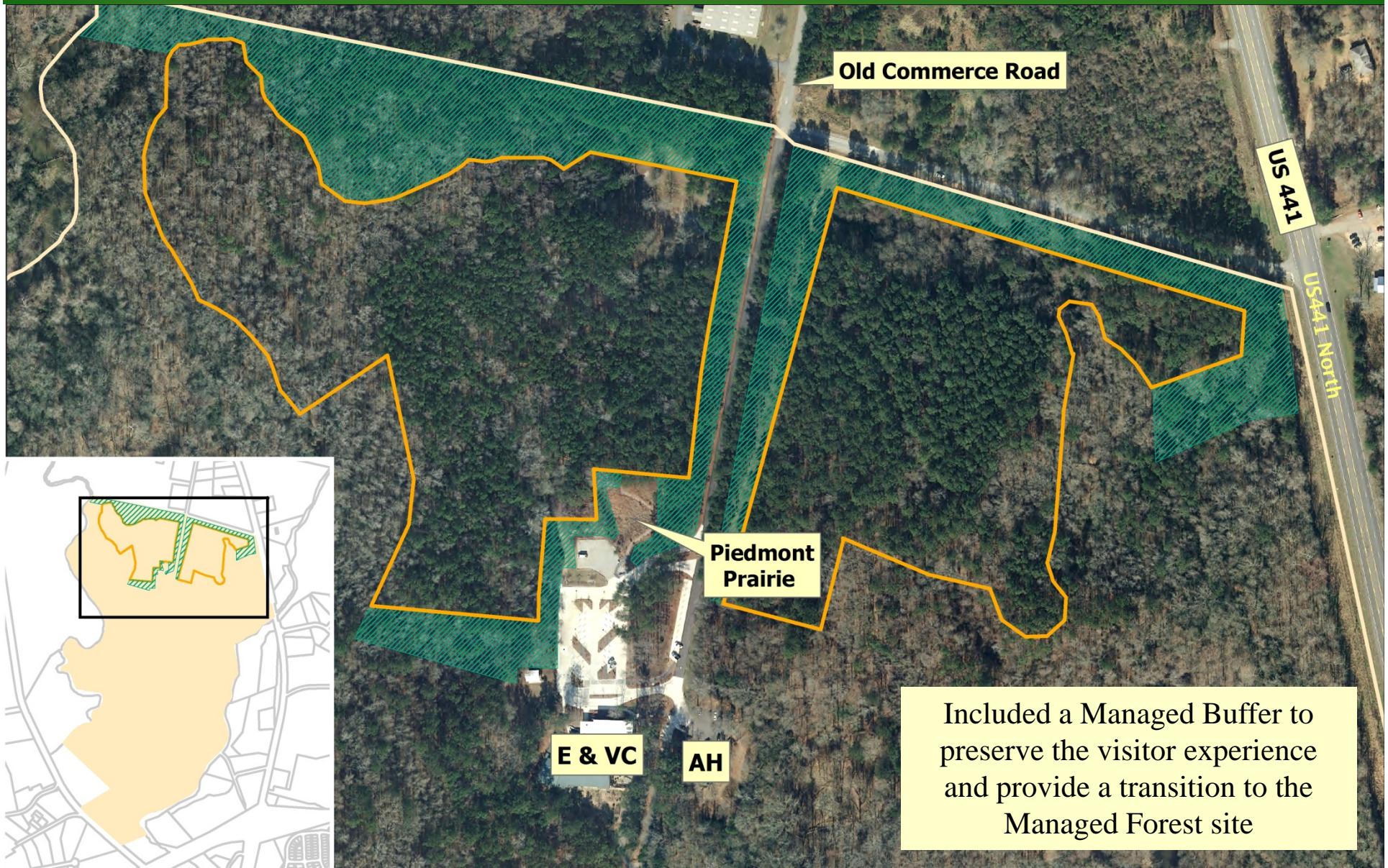
Based on the site review and
conditions, the next step was...

Will The 25 Acre Managed Forest Fit on the Site?

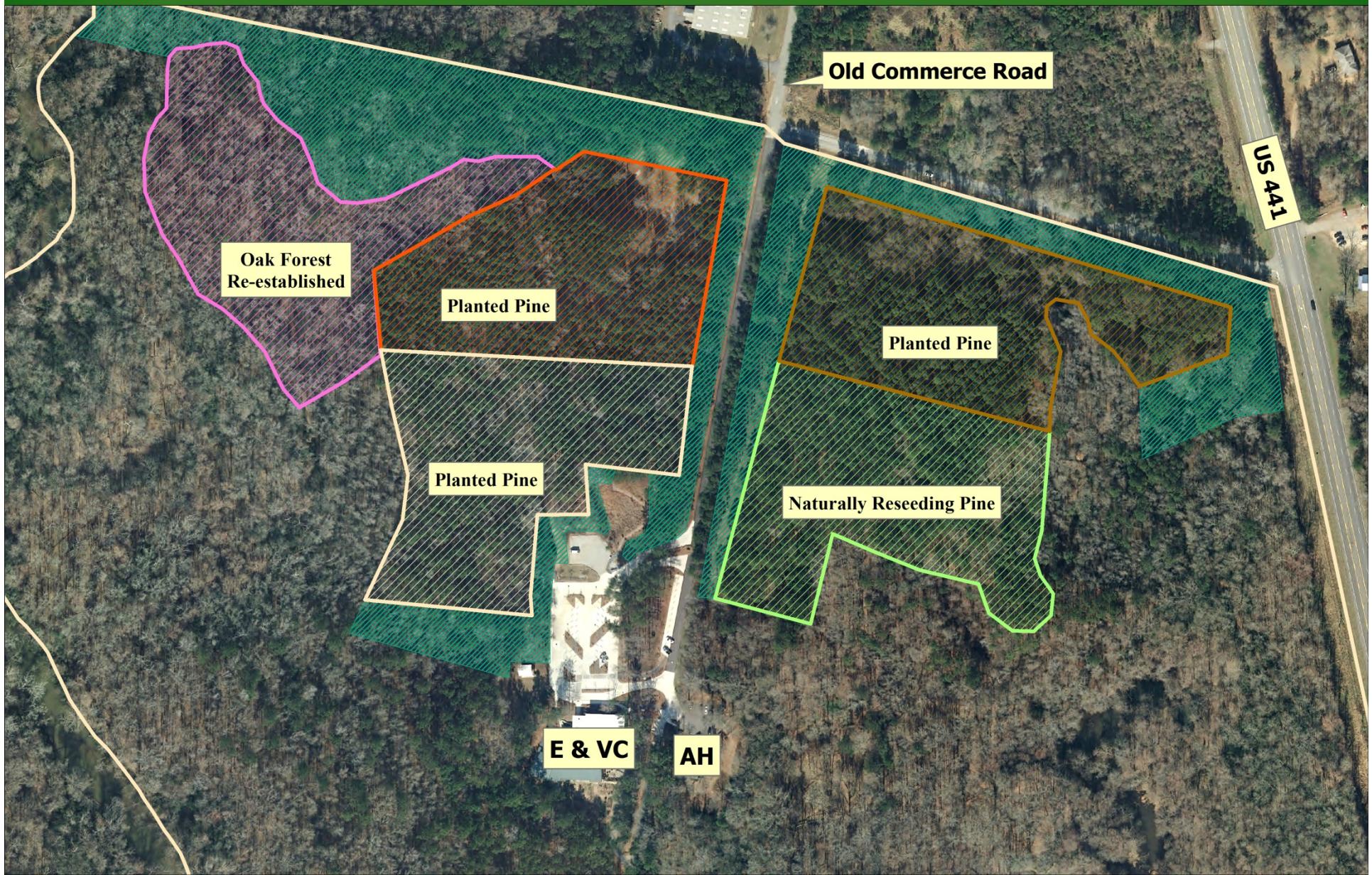
Proposed Project Boundaries



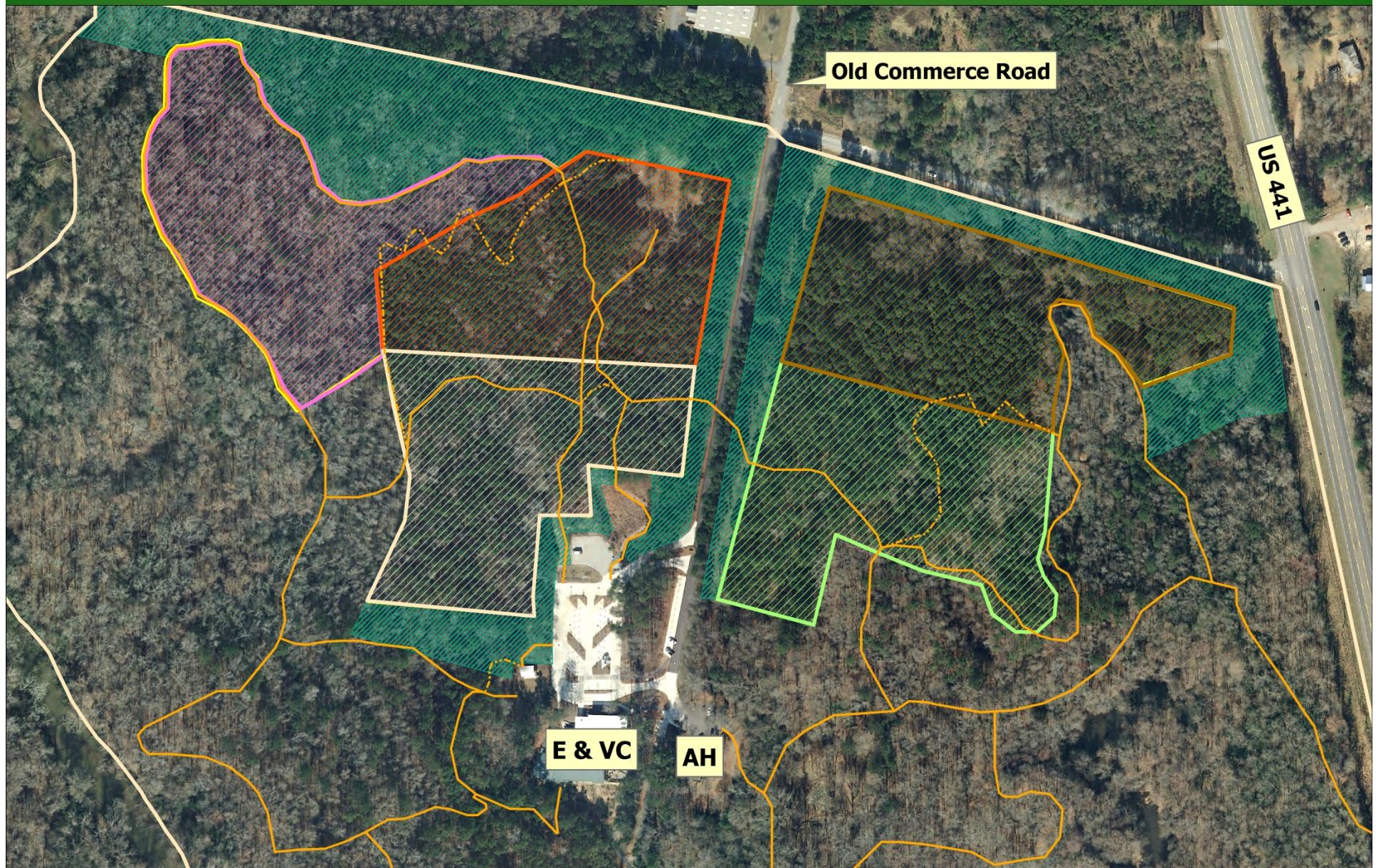
Site Selection: The Managed Forest and Managed Buffer



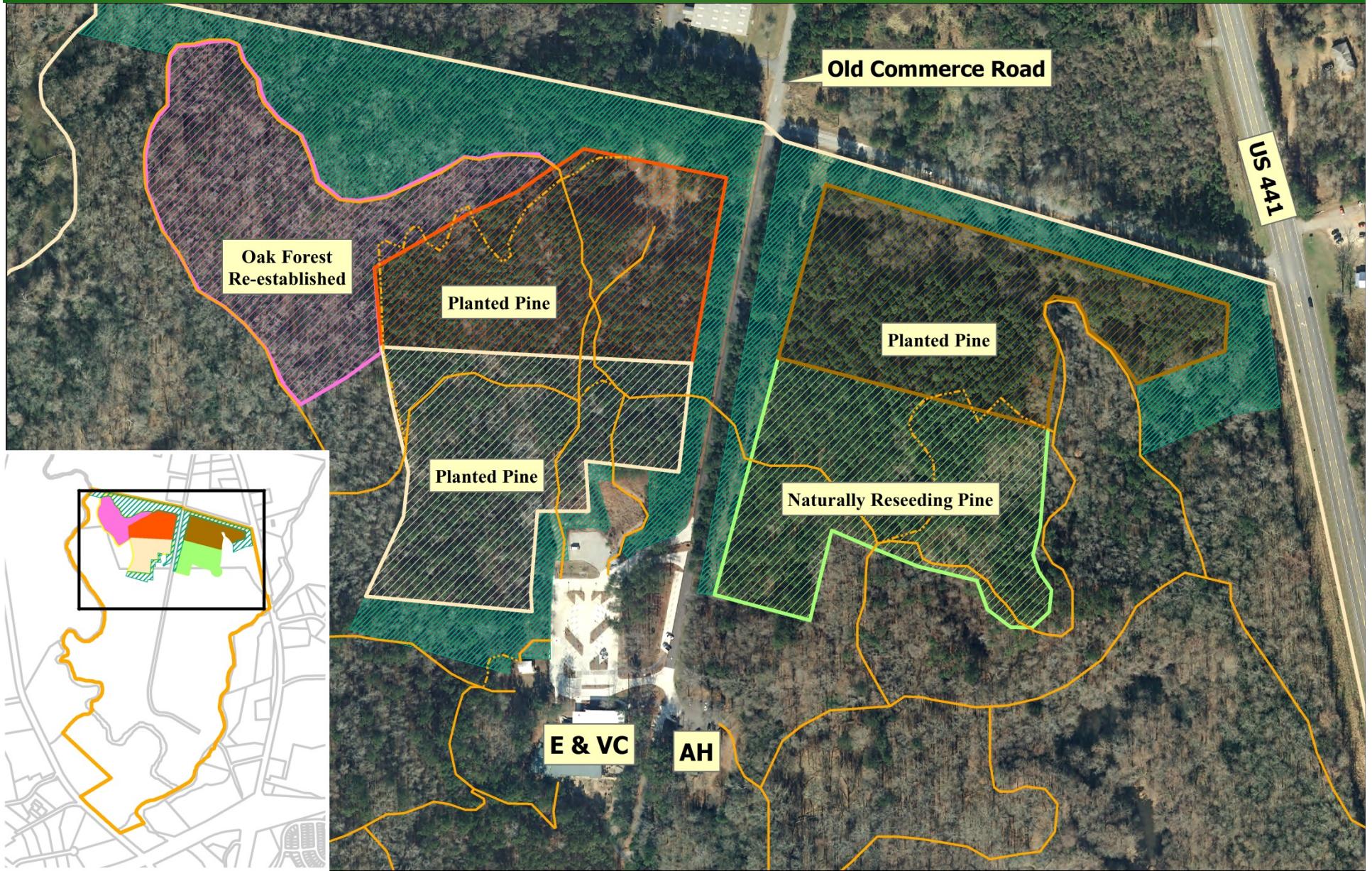
Site Selection: The Proposed Demonstration Plots



Site Selection: Trails and Firebreaks



Site Selection Summary Proposed Managed Forest Demonstration Project



What are some of the professional management activities that are needed to create the Managed Forest?



Management Activity: Thinning



Management Activity: Prescribed Fire

What will the forest look like after a prescribed burn?



The Fire is Set

*Prescribed Fire
permitted
ACC Ord. 4-4-1(4)*



After the Fire



First Grow Season



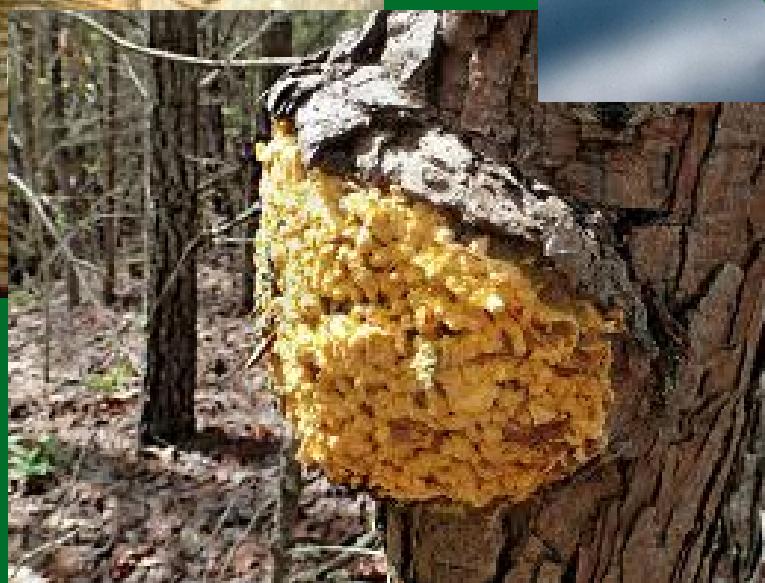
Management Activity: Invasive Species Control



Example: Selective Herbicide Use



Management Activity: Pest, Disease and Damaging Species Control (if needed)



Management Activity: Harvesting Trees

Cutting Trees

*Leaving stumps to provide
needed homes for wildlife*



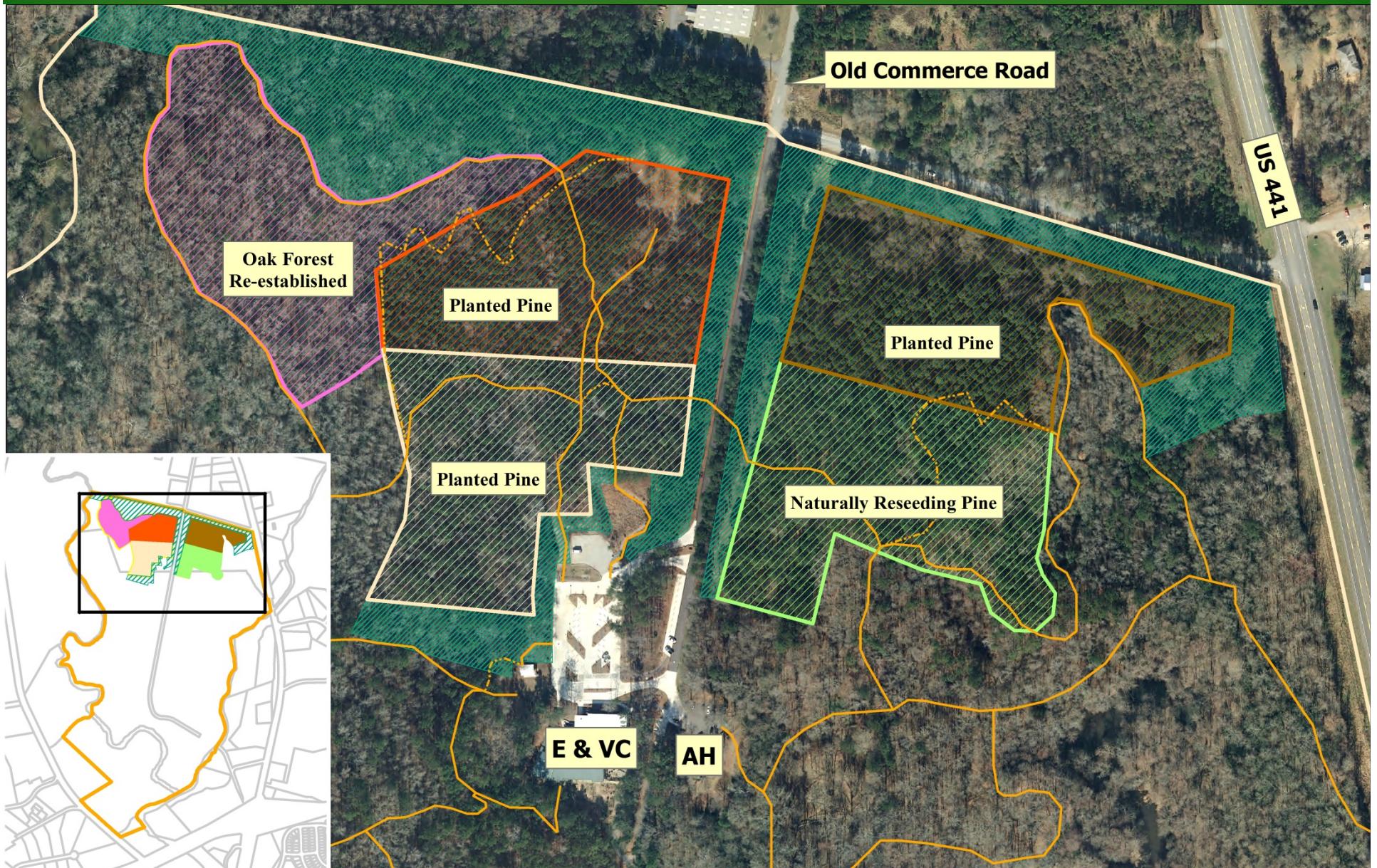
Regeneration

*Either by planting or natural re-seeding,
creating a healthier forest and higher
quality wildlife habitat.*

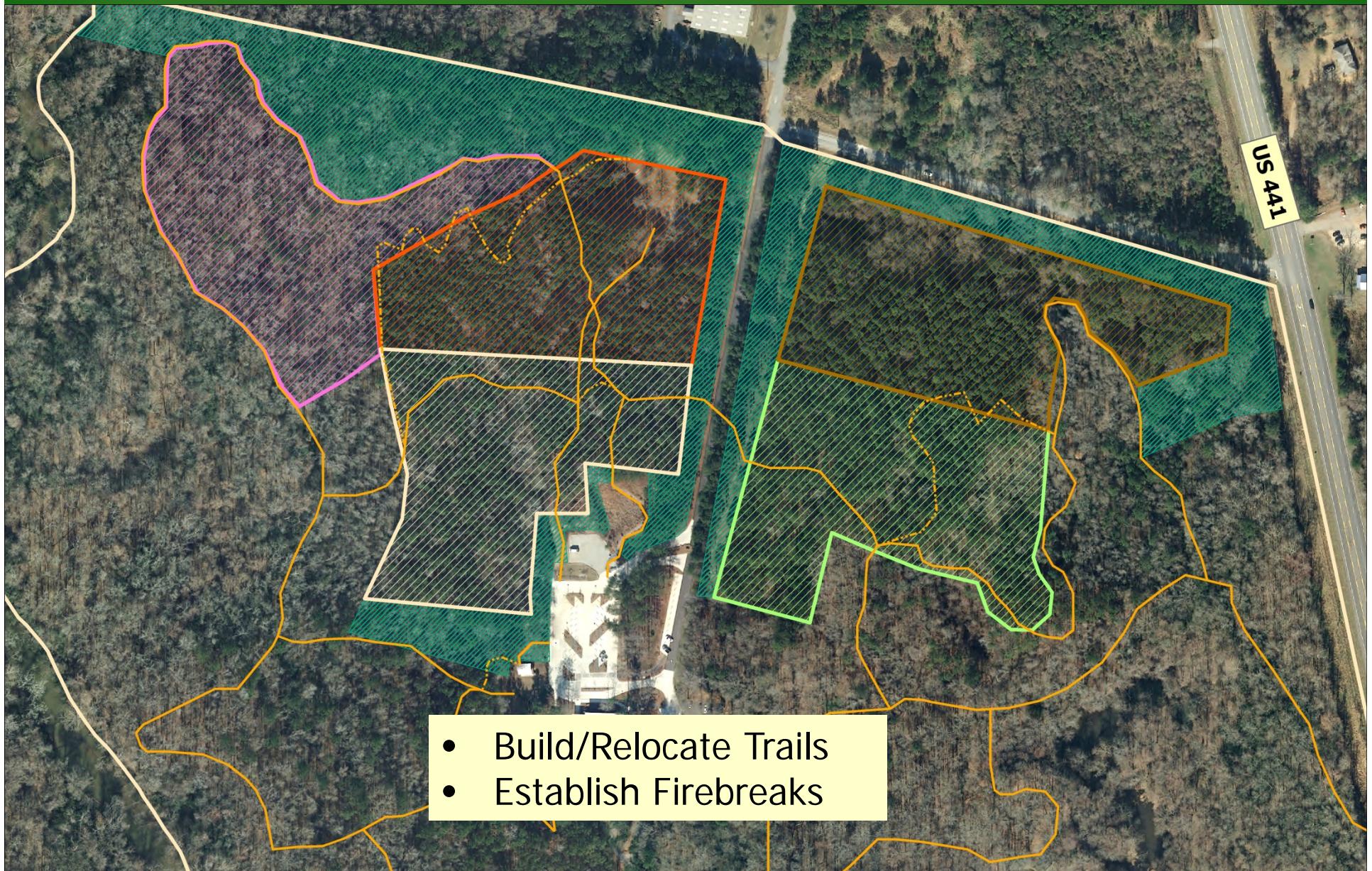


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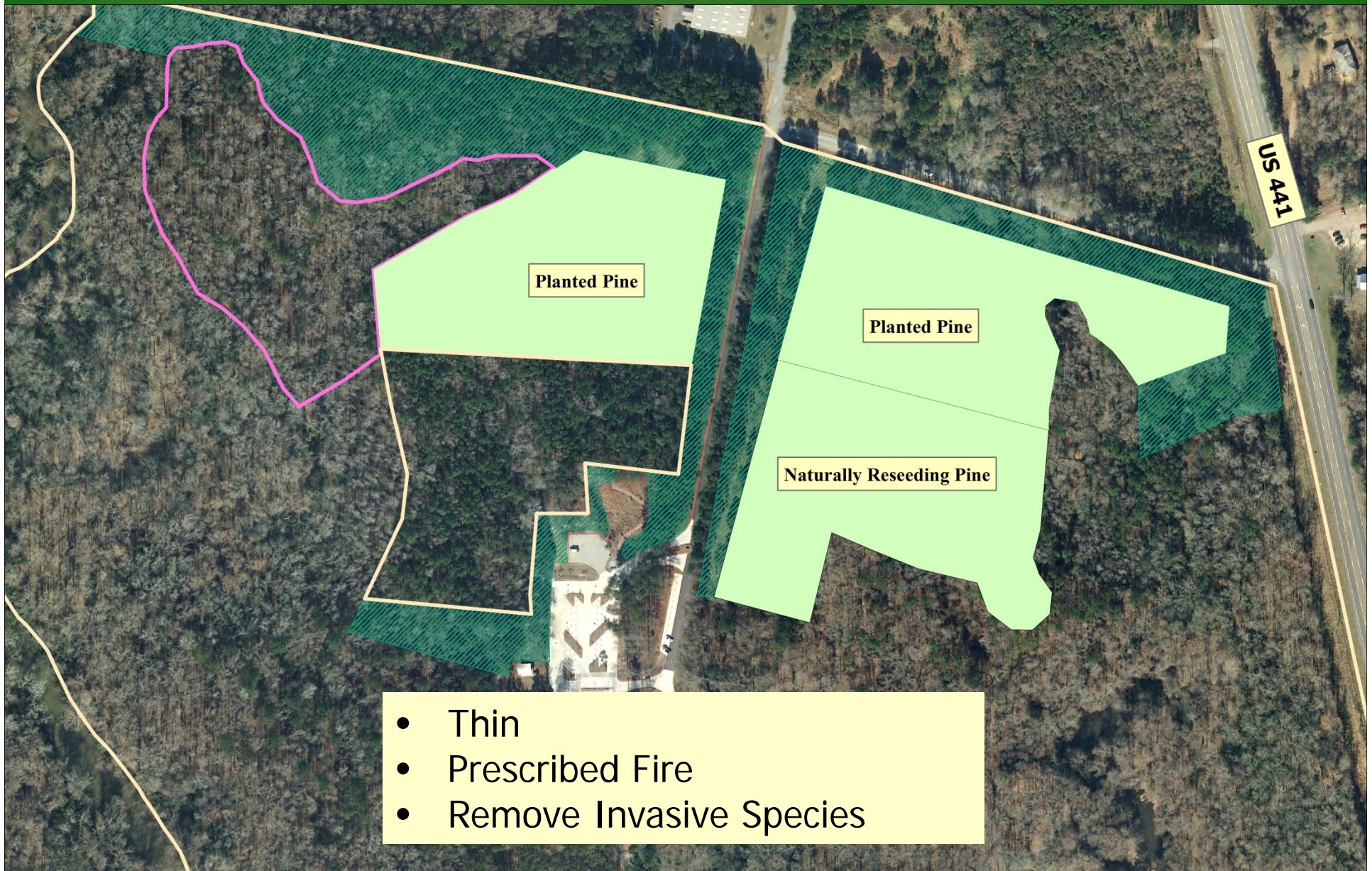
What Will Happen The First Year?



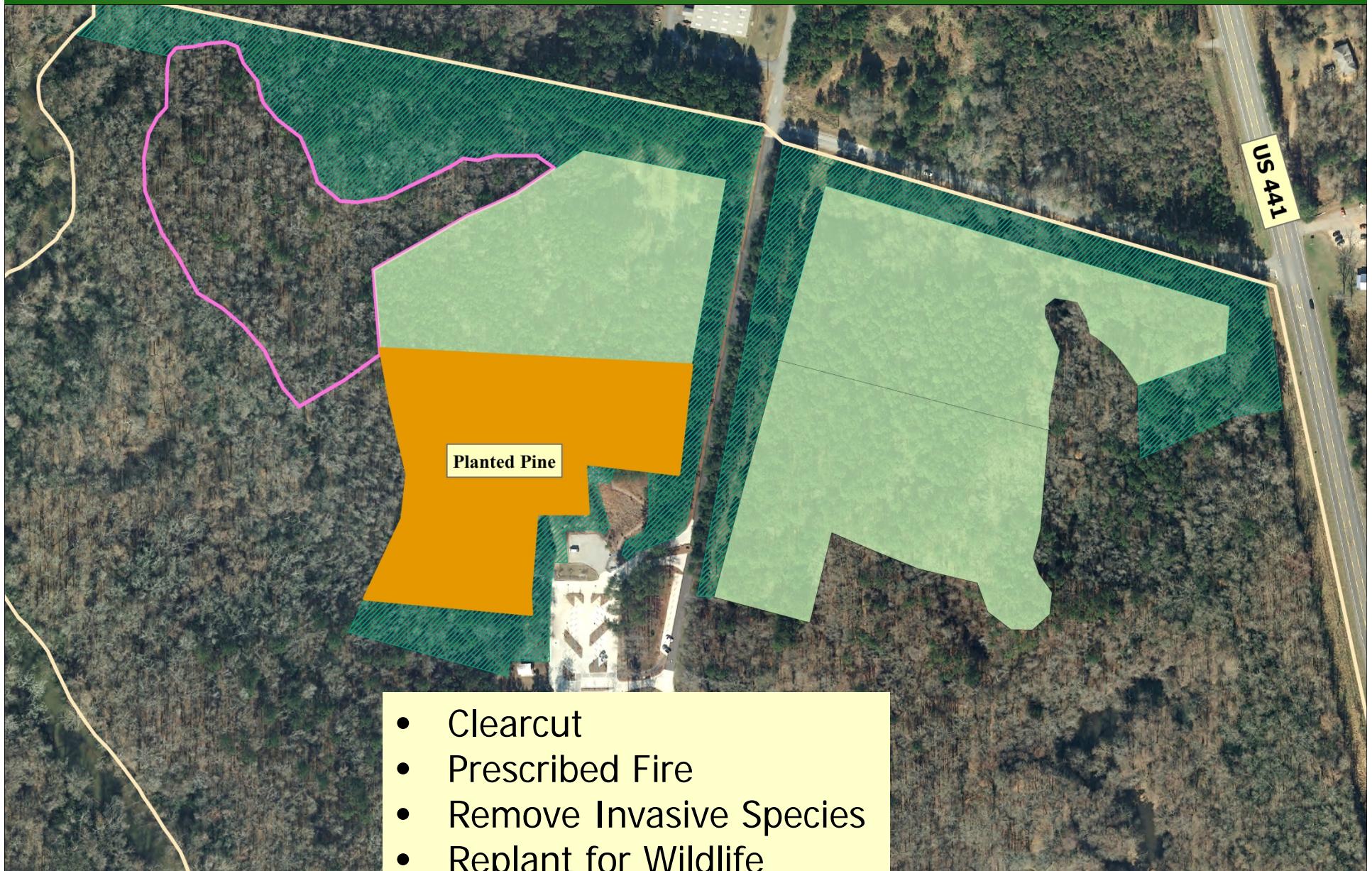
Anticipated First Year Activities



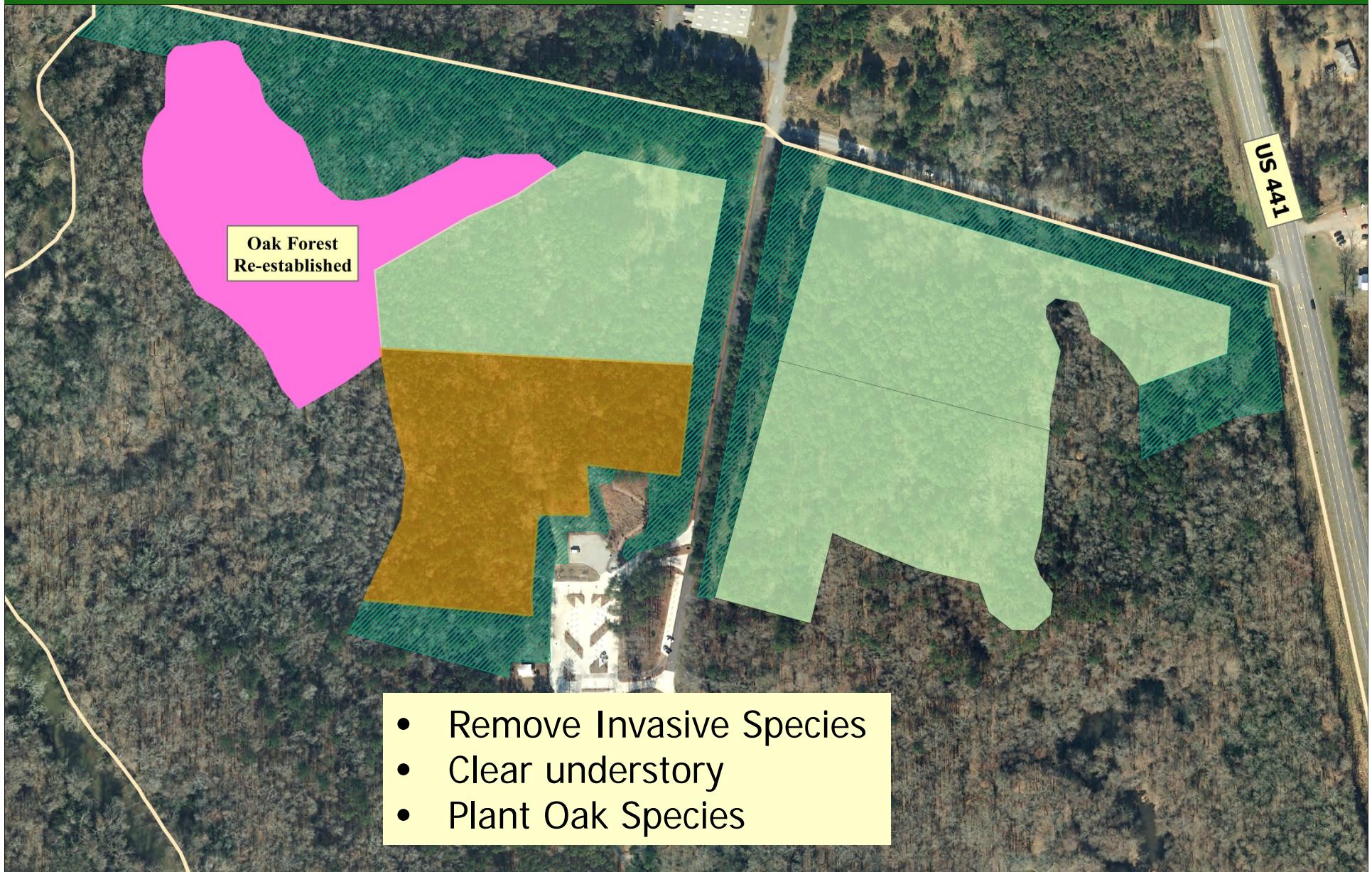
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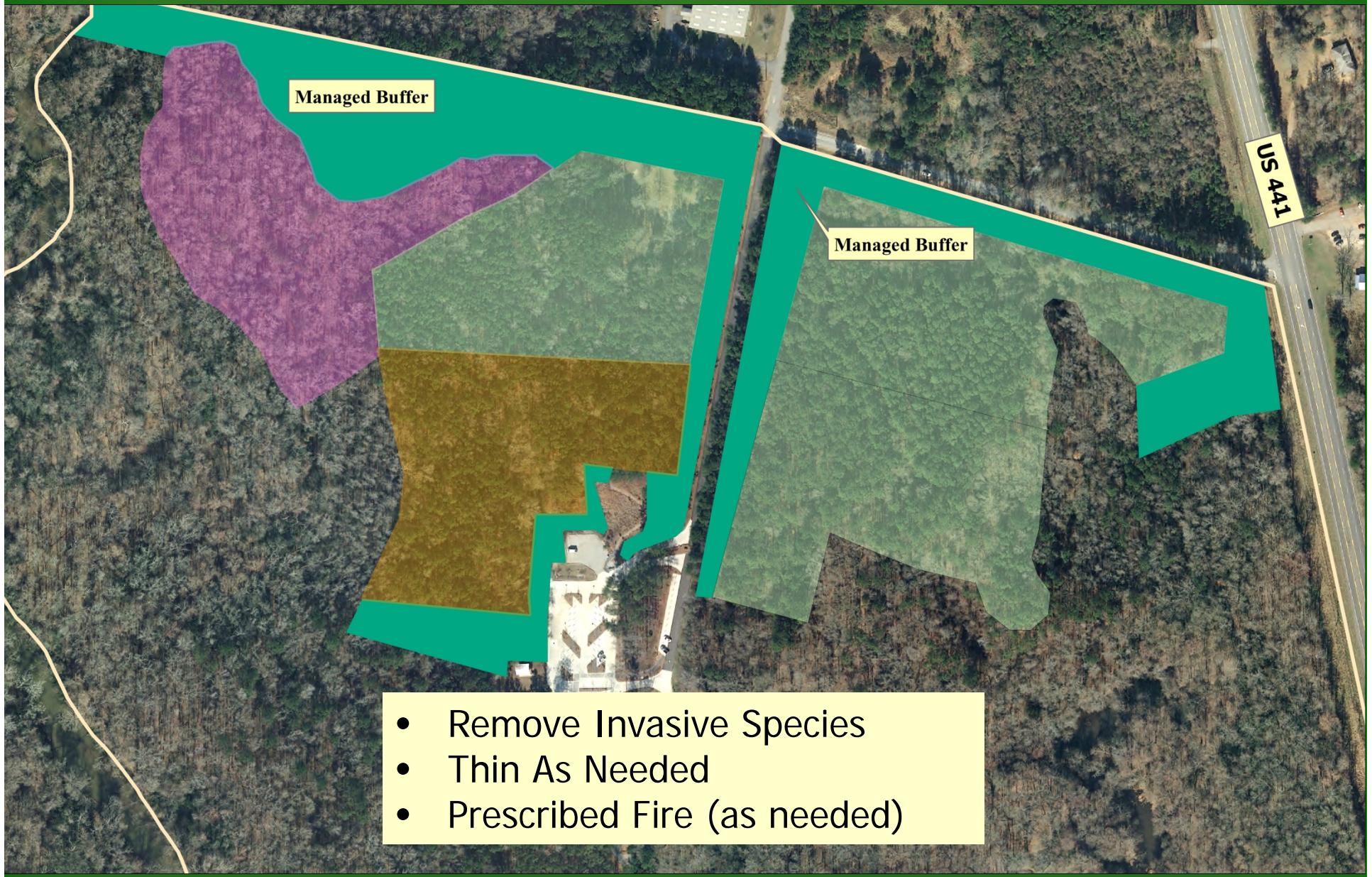
Anticipated First Year Activities



Anticipated First Year Activities



Anticipated First Year Activities



Role of SCNC, Inc.

Continuing its tradition of supporting the Nature Center and desiring to create a Demonstration Managed Forest, SCNC, Inc. has:

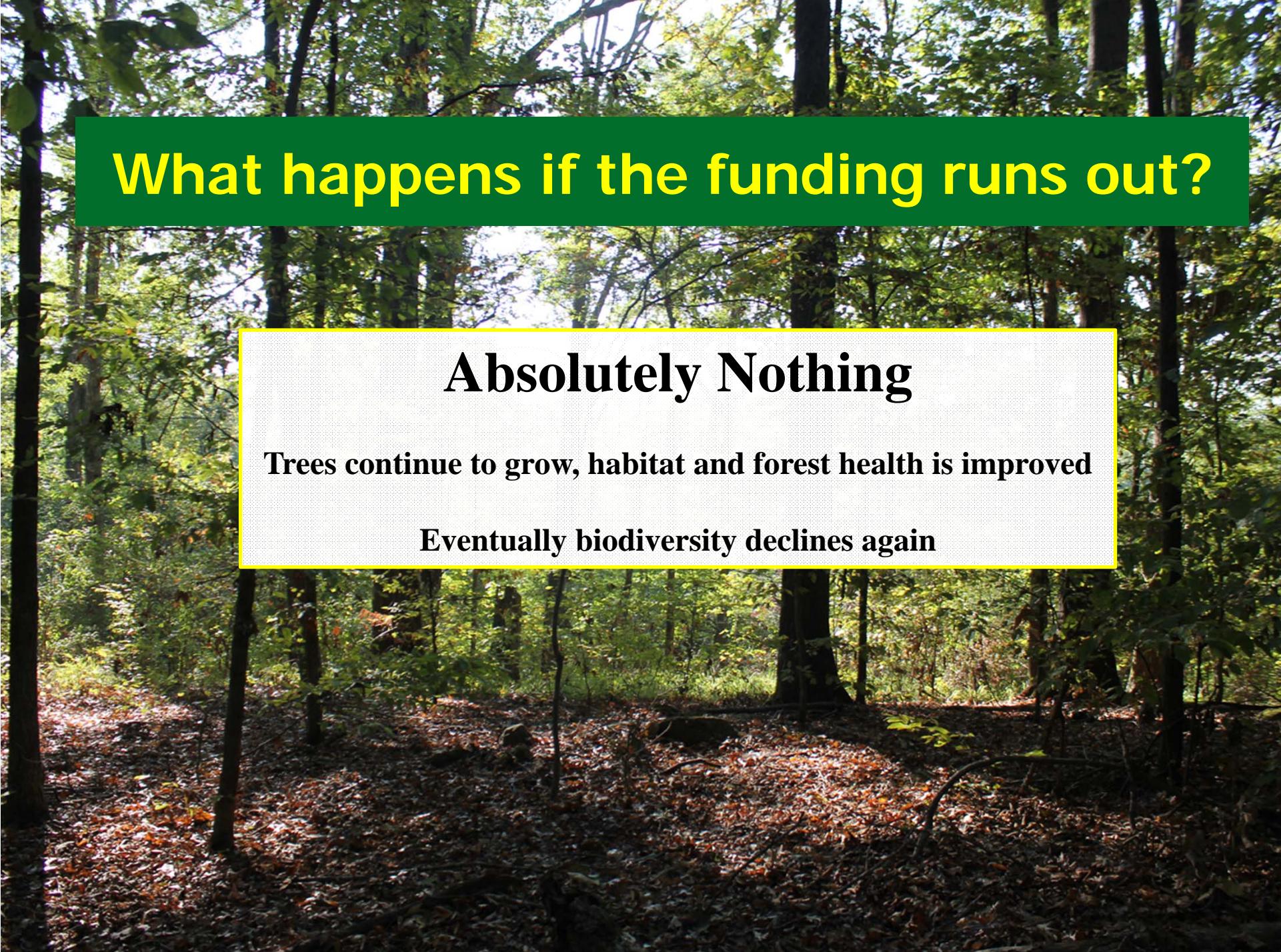
- Pledged a minimum of \$67,000 toward the project
- Offered Assistance with trail and firebreak design and construction, volunteer recruitment, and educational materials and exhibits
- Committed to pursuing grants, sponsorship, donations and other funding sources to create and maintain the forest

Other Support and Partners

- UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources
- Woodruff Foundation, Winthrop Foundation, Plum Creek
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Audubon, Cooperative Extension
- Forest, Wildlife, and Land Management Professionals

Funding

- SCNC, Inc. Financial Commitment \$67,000
- Expenditures
 - Land management \$17,100
 - Education materials/amenities \$29,400
 - Trail/firebreak construction \$ 8,600
- TOTAL** \$55,100
- Annual Operating \$ 5,900



What happens if the funding runs out?

Absolutely Nothing

Trees continue to grow, habitat and forest health is improved

Eventually biodiversity declines again

Next Steps

- Obtain public input via web posting, letters to SCNC, Inc. members, an on-site display and a public presentation scheduled – 10am, September 13, 2014 at the Nature Center.
- Request Mayor and Commission approval –Sept/Oct Cycle
- Develop educational materials -Fall 2014/Winter 2015
- Establish Managed Forest - Winter 2015
- Obtain certification through the Forest Steward or American Tree Farm program - Spring 2015

Questions?

