

Managing Woodlands for Wildlife

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- **Wildlife Consulting**
 - 14 states across Southeast
 - 375,000 acres
 - 150+ landowners



Improving Woodlands for Wildlife

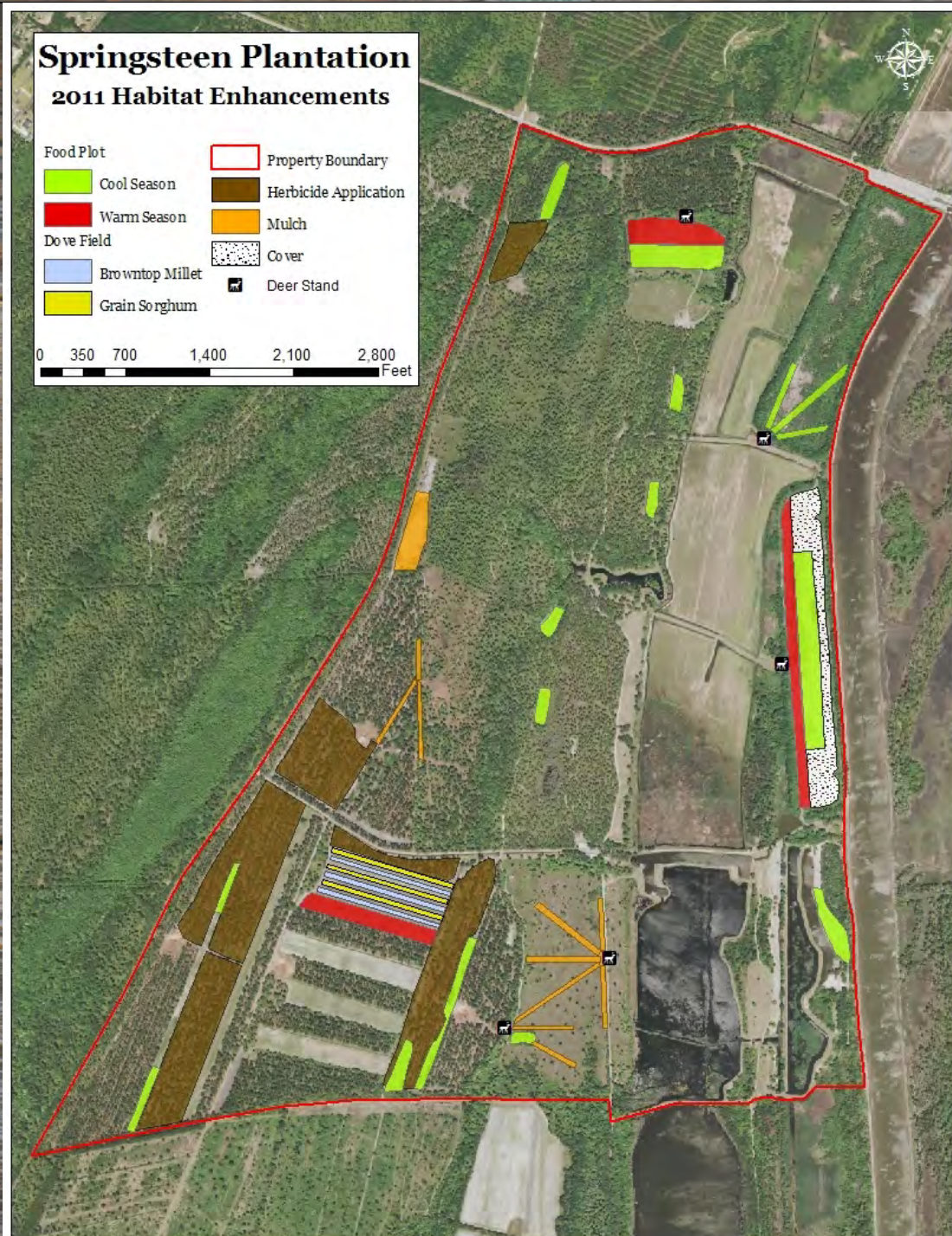
Strategies for Success

- **Establish management goals**
- **Develop a timber and wildlife management plan**
- **Stick with the plan**



Habitat Delineation & Mapping

- Incorporate into property management plan
- Facilitates management activities



Forest Cover Types

- **Pine**
- **Hardwood (upland/bottomland)**
- **Mixed pine-hardwood**



Pine Management

- **Maximize diversity**
 - Stand age
 - Compartment size
- **Promote and maintain early succession**

Pine Management

- **Commonly used practices**
 - **Thinning**
 - **Clearcutting**
 - **Herbicides**
 - **Burning**



Clearcutting

- **Can provide excellent habitat**
 - Early successional species
- **Size matters**
- **Distribution**
- **Consider shape**
- **Replanting**
 - Wide spacing
- **Site prep / release treatments**







• **Prescribed Fire**

Benefits:

- **Herbaceous vegetation**
- **Browse for deer**
 - Maintains within reach
- **Brood-rearing habitat**
 - Insects
 - “Umbrella” canopy
- **Nutrient availability**
- **Hardwood control**
- **Visibility**
 - Hunting, stand access, etc.



Prescribed Fire



- **Size of burn units**
 - Smaller is better
- **Timing**
 - Depends on objectives
- **Frequency**
 - Typically 2-4 year rotation for wildlife, depending on goals
- **Burn different stands each year**



September



A photograph of a forest in October. The scene is dominated by tall, slender pine trees with dark trunks. The ground is covered in a dense layer of green and yellowing undergrowth, including various shrubs and small trees. The overall atmosphere is that of a late autumn forest. In the upper right corner, the word "October" is written in a white, serif font on a dark, semi-transparent rectangular background.

October

February



A photograph of a pine forest in March. The scene is dominated by tall, slender pine trees with dark, textured bark. The ground is covered in a dense layer of green plants, likely young saplings or groundcover, interspersed with bare, brown branches. The lighting is soft, suggesting an overcast day. The overall atmosphere is one of a quiet, natural setting.

March

A photograph of a forest floor in May. The scene is dominated by lush green vegetation. In the foreground and middle ground, there are numerous ferns with finely divided fronds. Interspersed among the ferns are several young trees with large, broad, ovate leaves, likely species of Liquidambar or similar. The ground is covered with a layer of brown leaves and twigs. In the background, the forest floor is more densely packed with similar plants, leading up to a line of taller, darker trees. The overall atmosphere is vibrant and full of life. A dark rectangular box in the upper right corner contains the word "May" in a white, serif font.

May

3 years post-treatment



Treatment

Control



Firebreak Management

- **Install well ahead of time**
- **Make as wide as possible**
- **Plant desirable crops**



Hardwood Management

- **Common management practices**
 - **Clearcutting**
 - **Thinning**
 - **Prescribed burning**
 - **Upland stands**









Roadside Management

- **Increase food plot acreage**
- **Increase sunlight availability**
- **Hunting / wildlife viewing**
- **Aesthetics**



Roadside Management



Edge Feathering

30-40+ foot buffer











Summary

- **Clearly define objectives**
- **Develop a plan**
- **Stick to the plan**
- **Promote diverse habitats**
- **Actively manage**
- **Seek cost-share opportunities**