

Dormant Season

Land Management



Fireline Maintenance

As we head into the dormant season, it is time to start thinking about refreshing or establishing firelines around timberlands. Prescribed burning is a great timber management tool, and fire lines are needed to prepare for burning.

- Remove materials within fire lines, down to mineral soil. It is important to remove all potential fuels from the fire line to prevent the spread of fire.
- Remove low hanging limbs that reach within or over the fire line. Limbs can catch fire and cause spot fires to appear in undesirable areas.
- Remove ladder fuels on fire line edges. Any material that allows fire to climb and spread by wind to adjacent blocks should be removed.

Hardwood Reduction

It is ideal to chemically treat hardwoods during the dormant season. As hardwoods move into a dormant stage, they begin moving sugars & other materials into root system storage. Using hack & squirt or cut stump herbicide treatments will ensure greater control levels as herbicide is transferred to the roots.

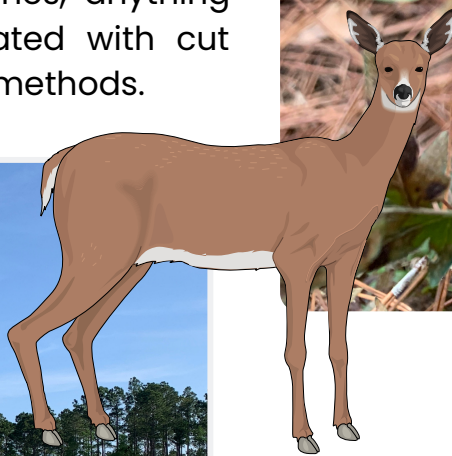
Treatment conducted in the fall or winter reduce the chance of re-sprouting.



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Invasive Plant Species Control

Leading into dormant season is a good time to scout for invasive plant populations and mark where control efforts may need to take place. Invasive species populations can quickly become a problem during the growing season. Mechanical removal with equipment or hand removal, in addition to chemical control, can prevent invasive species growth. It is important to research which herbicides to use along with what rate to apply it. Application methods will also vary depending on what species is being targeted. Foliar applications are great for smaller plants and vines, anything overhead should be treated with cut stump or hack and squirt methods.



Winter Forages

Wildlife depend on winter forages, whether planted or native species, to maintain body condition and have a successful breeding season. If you are interested in supplemental feeding through the winter, consider planting cool season forages. Highly nutritive species like clover, and grain species that produce a seed, will be attractive to a wide variety of wildlife. Plant forages in long, narrow blocks where wildlife have easy access to cover.