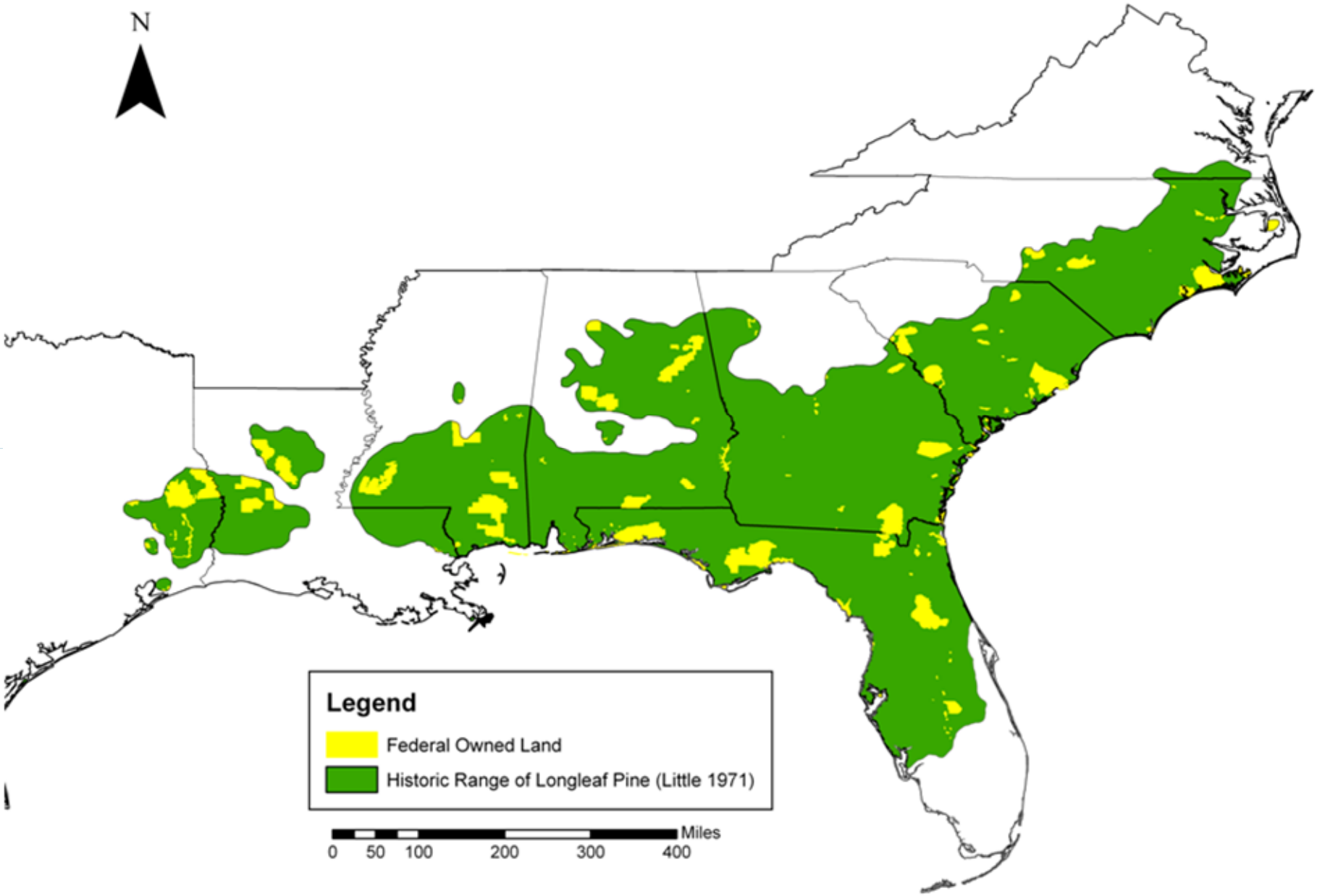
Restoring the Longleaf Pine/Fire Ecosystem

Restoring Existing Mixed-Pine Stands to Uneven-Aged Longleaf Pine



ESRI Data & Maps [CD-ROM]. (2002). Redlands, CA: Environmental Systems Research Institute.

Uneven-aged management of longleaf pine may be right for some landowners

Restoring the forest – working with what's left

Mixed pine stands

- Very common across longleaf range
- Arise from cutover or over-cut forests
- Fires are absent or infrequent
- Understory usually very brushy
- Hardwoods occupy midstory, sometimes overstory
- Longleaf may or may not be a significant component

Instead of starting over, consider a more gradual restoration.

Step 1: Reintroduce fire

Step 1: Reintroduce fire – first fires can be tricky

Photo by John Kush

Two years after first fire

One year after second fire

Step 2: Herbicide and burn

Step 3: Mark culls & hardwood

Purpose of thinning:

- Remove unwanted hardwood and pine
- Allow more sunlight to the ground
- Scarify the ground
- Produce income
- Create small, irregular openings and gaps in which to regenerate longleaf pine.

Step 4: Remove marked timber

Woods right after logging

Woods right after logging

Step 5: Plant gaps or…

…allow natural regeneration

4-yr old gap, natural

4-yr old gap, planted

To maintain:

- Continue burning on a 2 to 3-year cycle – forever
- Thin at regular intervals (5 to 10 years) using uneven-aged management techniques
- Plant gaps where longleaf seed source is inadequate

Before treatment

One year after completing treatment

One year after completing treatment

One year after completing treatment

One year after completing treatment

One year after completing treatment

Questions?

Photo by Randy Browning