

# Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club



Future Training Ground Development Plan Presentation

May 2010

# Future Training Ground Development Plan Goals

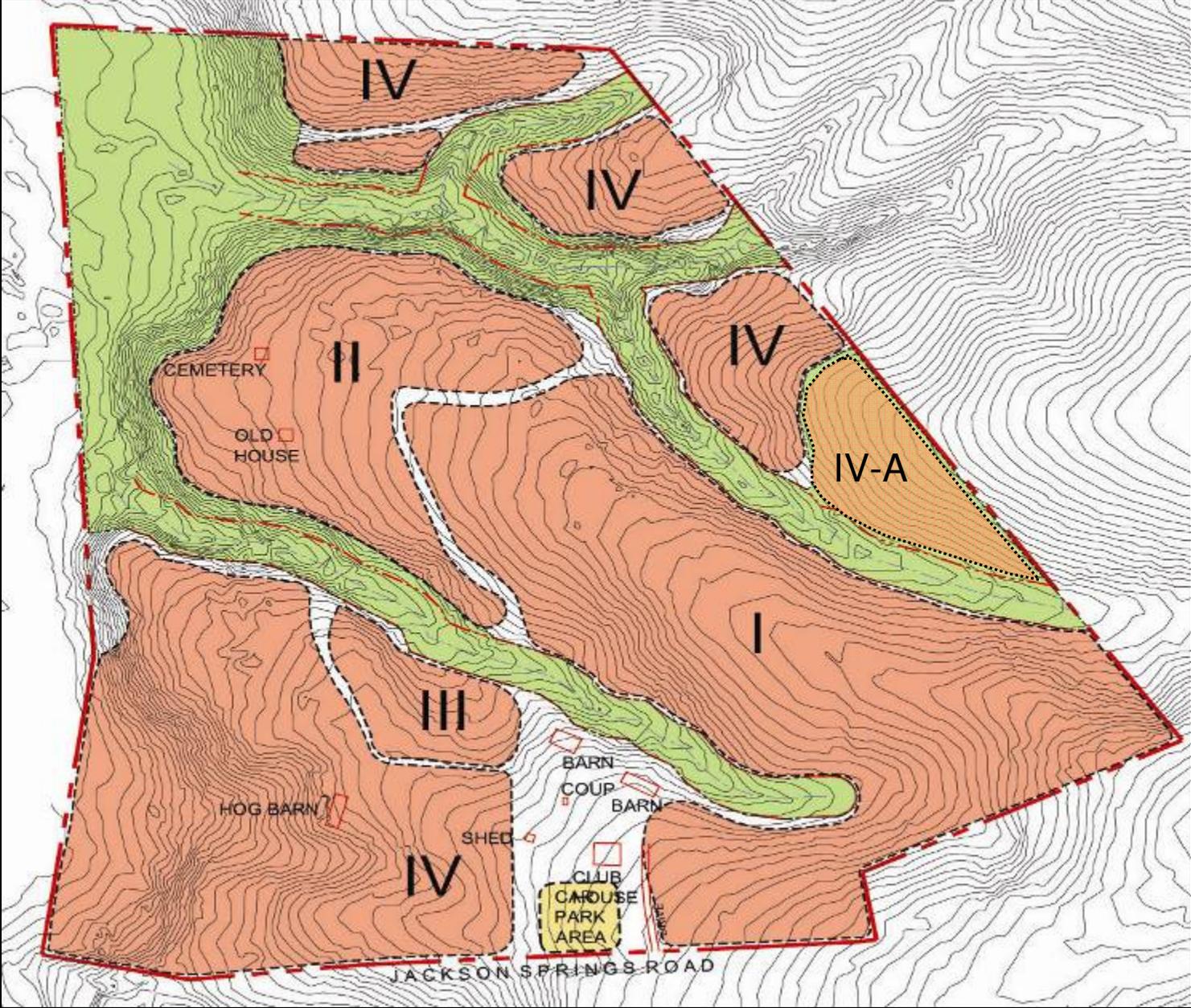
Goal: Establish an uneven aged stand of native Longleaf Pine trees and native warm season grasses to provide excellent training grounds with a high conservation value that meet mutually beneficial goals of Sandhills Area Land Trust and Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club.

Objective: Utilize the Federal Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) to cost share overall cost burden to the SPBC.

## Strategies:

1. Remove thick post-clear cut timber on remainder of upland areas while pulp wood and chip wood values are high.
2. Manage timber to have 15-20 trees per acre at maturity using timber thinning techniques that will in turn promote a thick groundcover of native warm season grasses managed with an active prescribed burn regiment.

Areas to be timbered and re-set in pine and warm season grasses: II, III, IV, IV-A



Plan Year	Plan Objective
0	Timber harvested, Possibly a site preparation controlled burn in cleared areas, Longleaf Pines planted
1	Grind stumps in 6-8 small annual patch planting areas throughout cleared areas, herbicide as needed to control undesirables, plant annual patches
2	Plant native warm season grasses (WSGs) to augment areas where grasses did not volunteer after site preparation controlled burn, prescribed burn in new Longleaf Pine areas, plant annual patches
3-9	Winter burn alternating areas on alternating years, plant annual patches as desired, thin pines to maintain thick grass cover in pine stands.
10-19	Create progressively smaller burn blocks in pine stands, possibly transition annual patches to native WSGs or plant annuals, transition from every other to every 3 year winter burns, continue thinning pines as necessary
20+	Winter burn small blocks on alternating years with maximum three (3) years between burns, plant annual patches as desired, thin pines to maintain thick grass cover and age diverse stand of pines.

## Feller Buncher used to cut and move existing trees

Through the oversight of a NC certified and SALT approved forester the plan is to remove timber in the areas represented on the previous slide's map. Approximately \$2,500 of income is expected to be generated from this activity, some from pulpwood sales and some from the sale of small trees that can be ground and sold as "chips". Income from the sale of the timber must be utilized improve the club grounds.



0

Timber harvested, Possibly a site preparation controlled burn in cleared areas, Longleaf Pines planted

## Chipping Machine and Hauling Trailer



0

Timber harvested, Possibly a site preparation controlled burn in cleared areas, Longleaf Pines planted

## Post-Clearcut Landscape

This image may accurately represent what we can expect to see once the clear cutting is complete, and if a site preparation burn is deemed necessary. Note there will be stumps, and some logging debris left behind. However, pine stumps naturally decay within about 12-18 months minimizing grinding/stumping work.



0

Timber harvested, Possibly a site preparation controlled burn in cleared areas, Longleaf Pines planted

## Post-Clearcut Landscape and Re-Planting of Longleaf Pines

Adjacent images represent a crew of workers as they re-plant Longleaf Pines in a post clearcut area. These images represent the look we can expect to see in December 2010-February 2011 when the new pines will need to be re-planted.



0

Timber harvested, Possibly a site preparation controlled burn in cleared areas, Longleaf Pines planted

## Longleaf Pine Seedlings

Once timber is cleared a determination will be made whether or not a “site preparation” burn will need to be done. Typically it depends on how much timbering debris is left and the condition of the “mulch” layer following the clearing work. Any burning costs, the cost of the Longleaf Pine seedlings and their installation is all paid through EQIP at a maximum of \$300/acre. If herbicide application is necessary in the future EQIP will pay for that as well.



0

Timber harvested, Possibly a site preparation controlled burn in cleared areas, Longleaf Pines planted

## Longleaf Pine Seedlings



**0**

Timber harvested, Possibly a site preparation controlled burn in cleared areas, Longleaf Pines planted

## Skidsteer and grinder (left), Annual Food Plot (Proso Millet) (below, right)

In the spring following the timber harvesting and seedling installation the plan is to utilize a small skidsteer type machine with a mulching head to grind leftover stumps creating small patches in key areas amongst the cleared areas to plant annuals.

Planting of annual patches in the first year will provide members with an “immediate” benefit from the clearing efforts. These annual plots will serve as small plots where birds can be planted for training while we are waiting for our warm season grasses to emerge.

Stump grinding and annual planting is estimated cost about \$600 per acre. This \$600/ac cost for the annual plots will be a first time rate as we are including the grinding work that will be paid for by the income of the timber sale. The plan calls for about 7 acres of annuals.

In subsequent years annual plots can be maintained for about \$150/acre.



1

Grind stumps in 6-8 small annual patch planting areas throughout cleared areas, herbicide as needed to control undesirables, plant annual patches

Longleaf Pine Seedlings (upper left), Freshly burned seedlings (alive and well) (lower left), Native Warm Season Grasses (right)

Both Longleaf Pines and native warm season grasses rely on fire to maintain their vigor. Fire relieves the trees and grasses from competition by oaks, and loblolly pines, as well as a way to return nutrients to the soil. The existence of grasses and trees are mutually beneficial ecologically as well as to the benefit of our club's training ground development goals.

A strict burn regiment is required to maintain these species to our liking. Prescribed burns will be paid for through the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) which cost shares the effort at a rate of 75%. Meaning the SPBC pays only 25% the cost of the burn.



2

Plant native warm season grasses (WSGs) to augment areas where grasses did not volunteer after site preparation controlled burn, prescribed burn in new Longleaf Pine areas, plant annual patches

## Longleaf Pines emerging from their grass stage

On the corner of NC Highway 73 and Jackson Springs Road there is a local example of a Longleaf Pine reforestation project. You can see the height and spacing is similar to what is planned on our Club grounds.

These pines were planted in about 2007, so it is a credible example of what we can expect to see from our reforestation efforts at the end of year 2 or 3.



2

Plant native warm season grasses (WSGs) to augment areas where grasses did not volunteer after site preparation controlled burn, prescribed burn in new Longleaf Pine areas, plant annual patches

## Warm Season Grass areas before pines grow out of their grass stage



2

Plant native warm season grasses (WSGs) to augment areas where grasses did not volunteer after site preparation controlled burn, prescribed burn in new Longleaf Pine areas, plant annual patches

## Young Longleaf Pines, and mature warm season grasses

During this period of time little in the way of maintenance will be required with the exception of a diligent burn plan.

Longleaf pines and grasses will remain low enough to see and shoot over.

During this time great training objectives will begin to exist with the grow-in of our grasses coupled with the annual food plots.



3-9

Winter burn alternating areas on alternating years, plant annual patches as desired, thin pines to maintain thick grass cover in pine stands.

## Young Longleaf Pines, and mature warm season grasses

This picture was taken of our neighbor to the north's Longleaf Pine reforestation project. These pines were planted in 2004 making them about 6 years old as of 2010.

Note these trees have not been thinned as our neighbor does not have the exact same management goal for his pine trees.

Remember our goal is to selectively remove trees to maintain a vibrant groundcover.



3-9

Winter burn alternating areas on alternating years, plant annual patches as desired, thin pines to maintain thick grass cover in pine stands.

## Young Longleaf Pines, and mature warm season grasses

This is another picture taken of our neighbor to the north's Longleaf Pine reforestation project. These pines were planted in 2004 making them about 6 years old as of 2010.

Note these trees have not been thinned as our neighbor does not have the exact same management goal for his pine trees. Also note that because little sunlight gets to the forest floor native grass growth is very limited to open patches.

Remember our goal is to selectively remove trees to maintain a vibrant groundcover.



3-9

Winter burn alternating areas on alternating years, plant annual patches as desired, thin pines to maintain thick grass cover in pine stands.

## Maturing Longleaf Pines, and mature warm season grasses

During this time period maturing pines will begin to shade out the warm season grasses if not appropriately thinned. A strict plan that describes exact thinning methods and timeframes is quite impossible to define exactly at this point.

Prescribed burns in the winter are recommended in a “patch-work” style. Winter burns don’t retard grass growth like summer burns and it also avoids disturbing any nesting quail that may exist on the grounds.

Our over arching goal for timber thinning will be to remove enough pines at applicable times to maintain a thick ground cover of grasses that provide us with ample training objectives.



**10-19**

Create progressively smaller burn blocks in pine stands, possibly transition annual patches to native WSGs or plant annuals, transition from every other to every 3 year winter burns, continue thinning pines as necessary

## Maturing Longleaf Pines, and mature warm season grasses



**10-19**

Create progressively smaller burn blocks in pine stands, possibly transition annual patches to native WSGs or plant annuals, transition from every other to every 3 year winter burns, continue thinning pines as necessary

## Mature Longleaf Pines, and mature warm season grasses, managed for lush groundcover

From about 20 years on our Longleaf pine stand with native grasses will begin to experience its highest conservation value of being an “uneven aged” stand. This means mature trees have dropped pinecones, seedlings have grown into saplings yielding trees within the stand of varying ages. This is important so that reproduction of the stand can continue on almost in perpetuity if fire remains in the stand’s management plan.



20+

Winter burn small blocks on alternating years with maximum three (3) years between burns, plant annual patches as desired, thin pines to maintain thick grass cover and age diverse stand of pines.

# Sandhills Pointing Breeds Club



Future Training Ground Development Plan Presentation

Thank you for your interest and support!