A Cogongrass Management Guide: Free!

In November 2007, the Regional Cogongrass Conference, “Confronting the Cogongrass Crisis Across the South”, was held in Mobile, Alabama where presenters expressed the latest understanding in restoring lands, managing, controlling and eradicating cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*). Cogongrass is an invasive plant that is rapidly spreading throughout the Southeast, destroying wildlife habitat, reducing forest productivity, and creating a tremendous fire hazard.

The proceedings of the conference are posted online in the form of a management guide, with a short paper and PowerPoint presentation from each speaker. Information in the management guide ranges from past success stories in controlling cogongrass to ways to organize with partners in combat the spread of cogongrass, as well as resources for available cost-share, incentive and grant programs. This information is available at [http://www.cogongrass.org/conference.cfm](http://www.cogongrass.org/conference.cfm).

Left Photo: Cogongrass encroaching on a longleaf pine stand.

### Upcoming Conferences

- **Ecological Dimensions of Biofuels**
  March 10, 2008 at Ronald Regan Building & International Trade Center, Washington DC
  For more information visit: [http://esa.org/biofuels/](http://esa.org/biofuels/).

- **Third Montane Longleaf Conference**
  March 11-12, 2008, Auburn Univeristy, Auburn AL
  Contact John Kush at 334-844-1065 or [kushjoh@auburn.edu](mailto:kushjoh@auburn.edu) for registration form
Recent Research Finding

Effectiveness of a regional corridor in connecting two Florida black bear populations

Corridors may mitigate the adverse effects of habitat fragmentation by restoring or maintaining connectivity between disjunct populations. The efficacy of corridors for large carnivores, however, has rarely been evaluated objectively. We used noninvasive sampling, microsatellite analysis, and population assignment tests to evaluate the effectiveness of a regional corridor in connecting two Florida black bear (Ursus americanus floridanus) populations (Osceola and Ocala). Bear movement was predominantly unidirectional, with a limited mixing of individuals from the two populations in one area of the corridor. We also documented bears in Osceola that were genetically assigned to Ocala and bears in Osceola that may be offspring from an Osceola-Ocala mating. Our results indicate that the Osceola-Ocala corridor is functional and provides a conduit for gene flow between these populations. Human development, however, may binder the use of the Osceola-Ocala corridor by bears. The noninvasive sampling and genetic methods we used provide a means of evaluating corridor effectiveness that can help identify linkages necessary for maintaining metapopulation structure and population viability.