Fire Management Program Overview

Sam Lindblom
VA TNC
Fire Manager

Fire in the Conservancy

- Burning since 1961
- Fire Program Staff added in 1986
- Fire-Qualified Field Staff
  - 40 Fire Managers
  - 100 Burn Bosses
- ~100,000 acres Rx/year

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FY 2013 TNC Fire Numbers

608 controlled burns

94,484 burn acres

150,857 acres burn assists

34 US states + Africa

Smoldering elephant dung,
Kafue NP Zambia, Africa

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Conservancy Prescribed Fire Activity
Acres of Prescribed Burns, FY2013

11,852

10,424

10,218
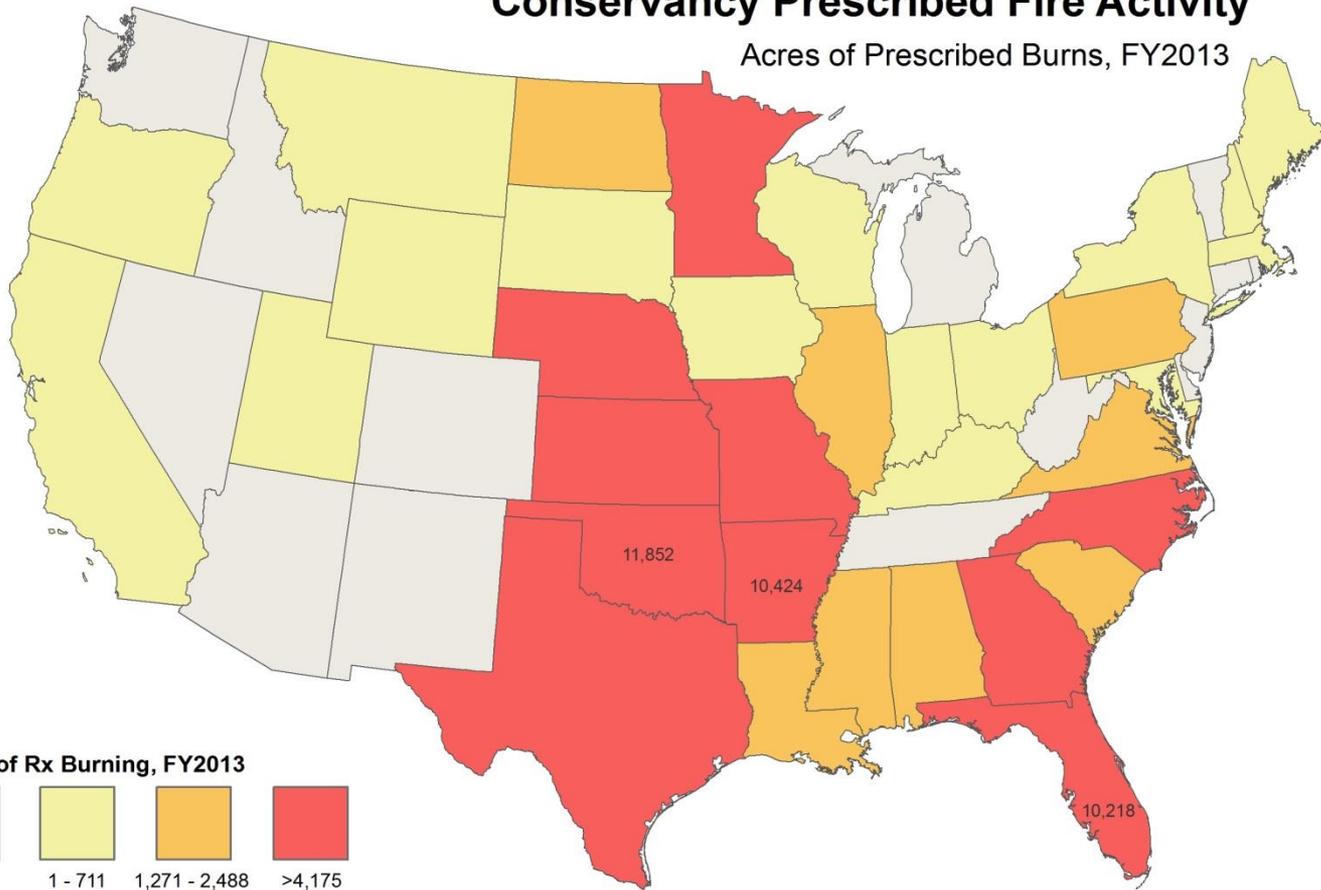
Acres of Rx Burning, FY2013

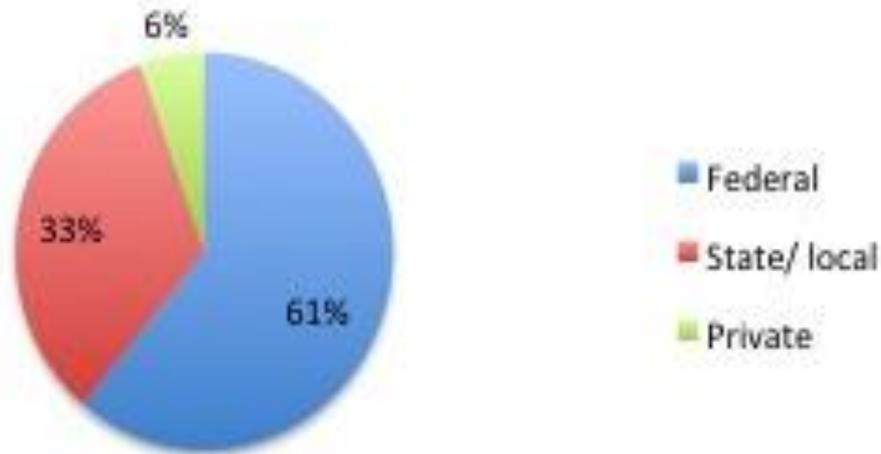| none | 1 - 711 | 1,271 - 2,488 | >4,175 |
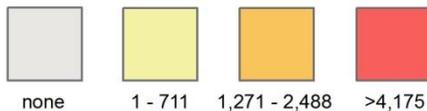
States with over 10,000 acres per year are labeled
with the total. Alaska and Hawaii reported no acres.
All values include pile burning, calculated at 1 acre
per event, but do not include assist acres.

TNC program data from Blane Heumann and Heather Montanye
map: Liz Rank lrank@tnc.org

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FY 2013 TNC burn assists

TNC burn assists

150,857 burn acres

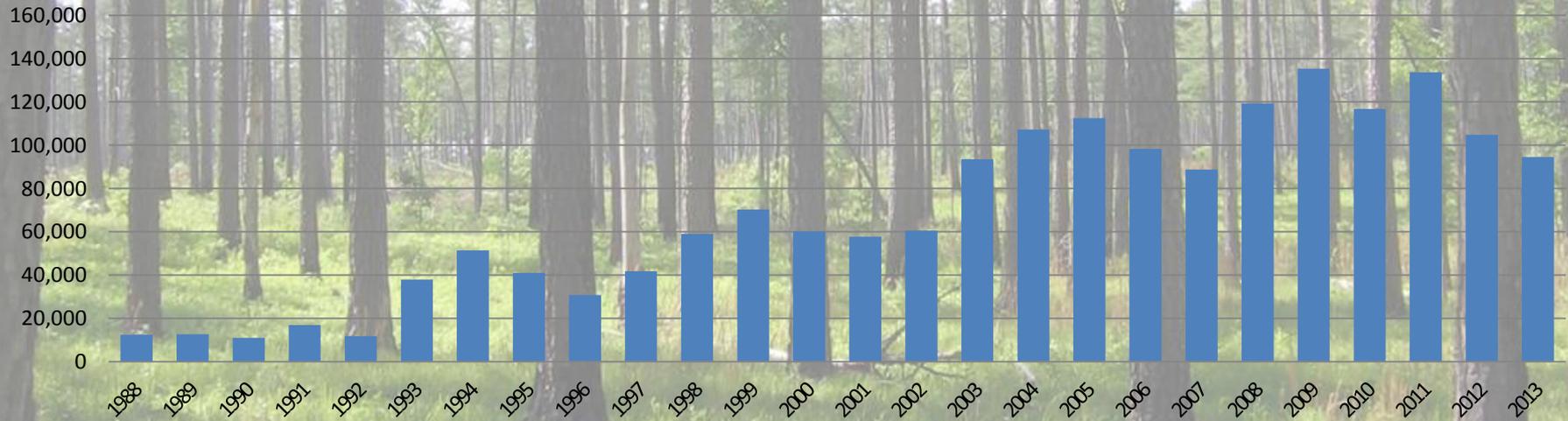92,165 acres federal
50,274 acres state
8,418 acres private

TNC Fire Numbers

94,484 burn acres
-10% from FY2012

Prescribed Fire Acres Burned by TNC 1988-2013

Conserving biodiversity will largely be the result of decisions and actions taken by our partners.
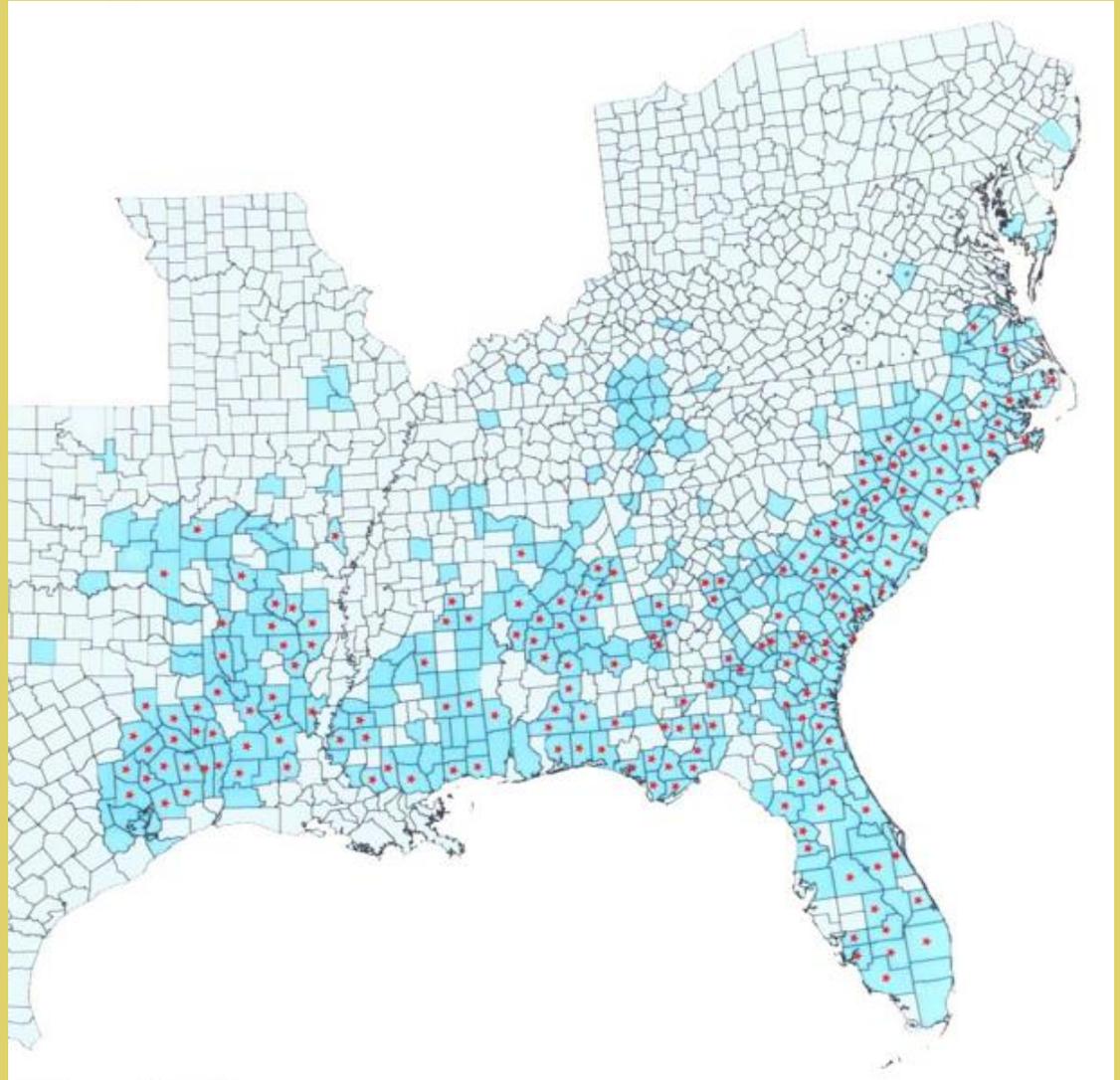
Piney Grove/ Big Woods Ecological Management

Piney Grove - TNC

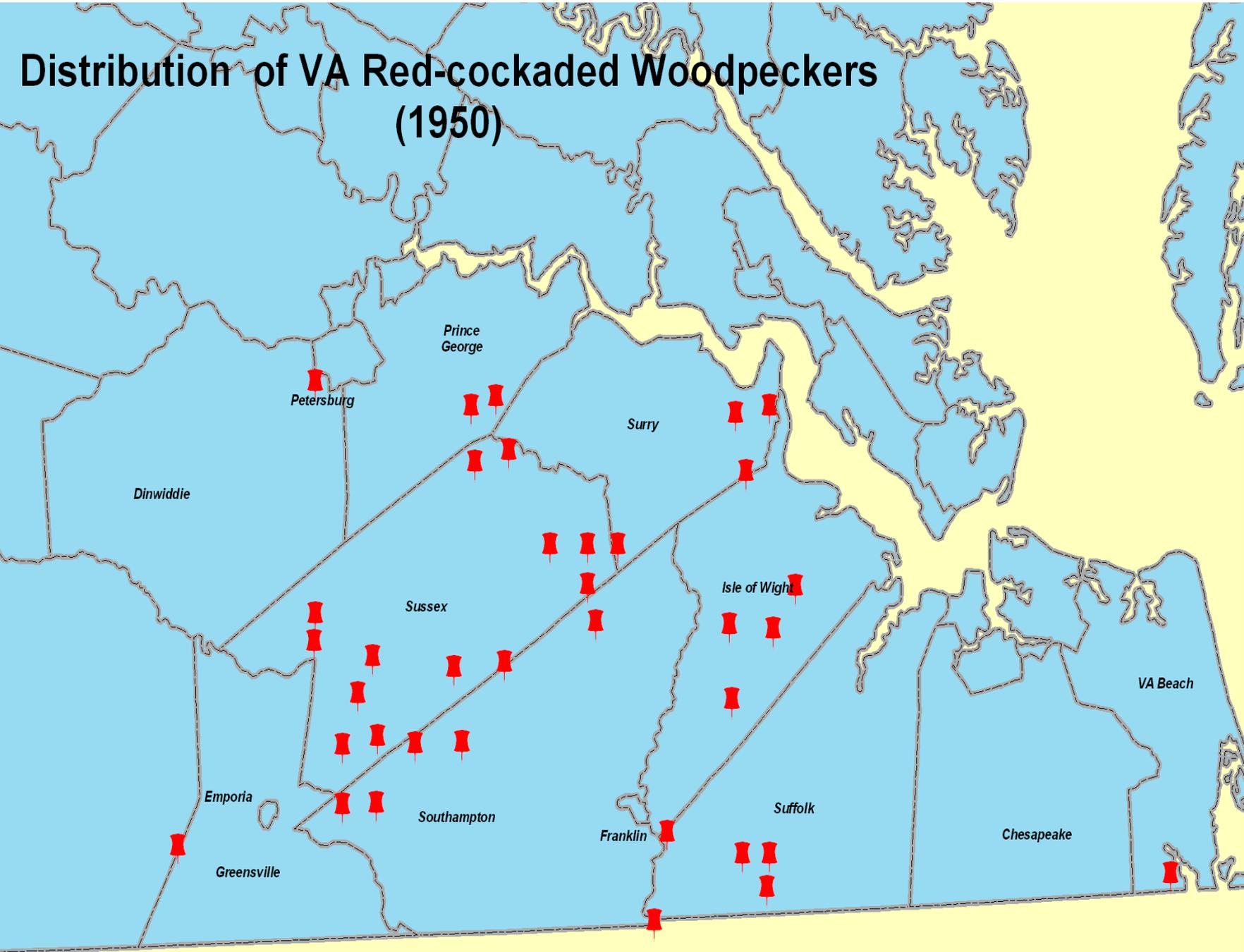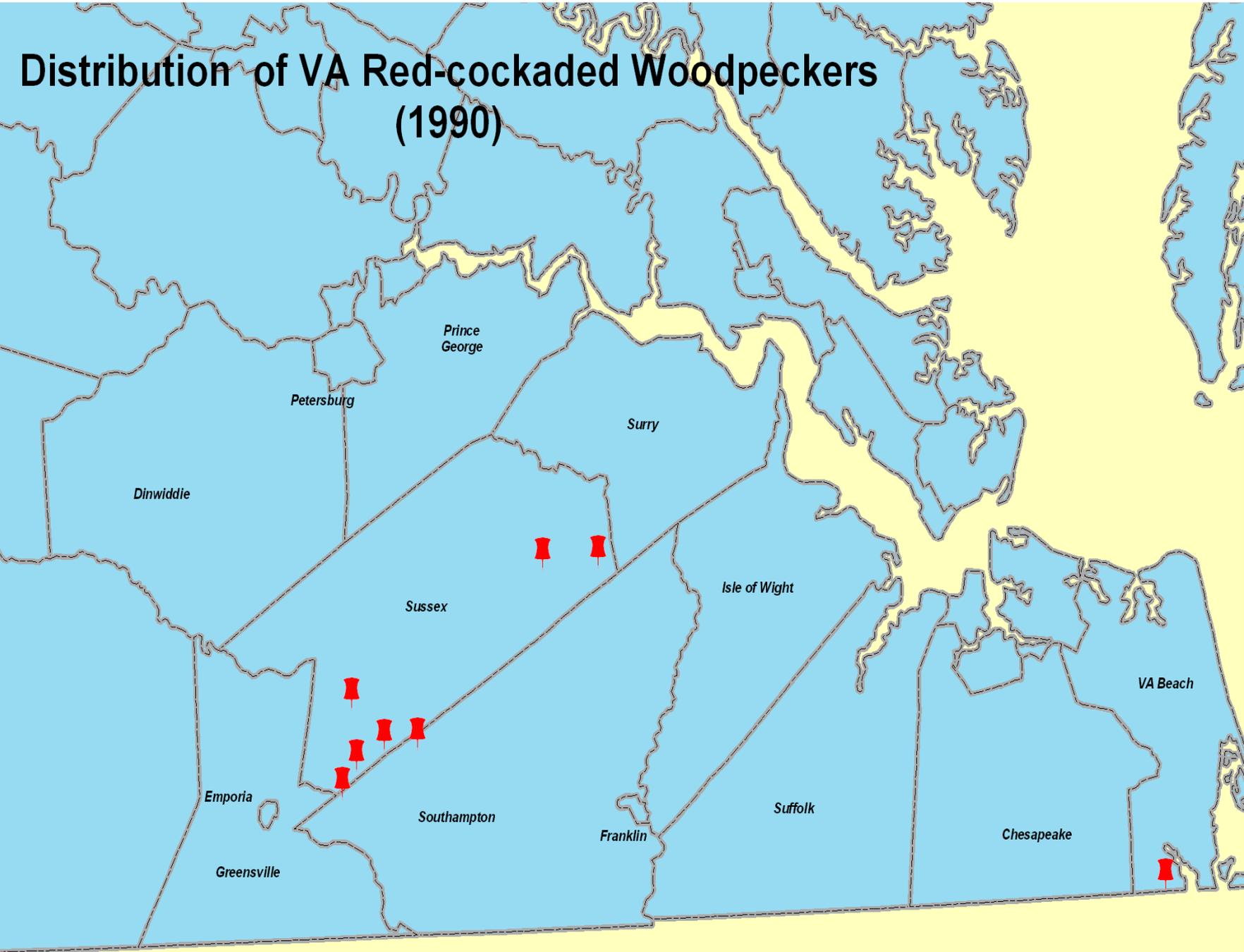Big Woods - DGIF

Big Woods - DOF
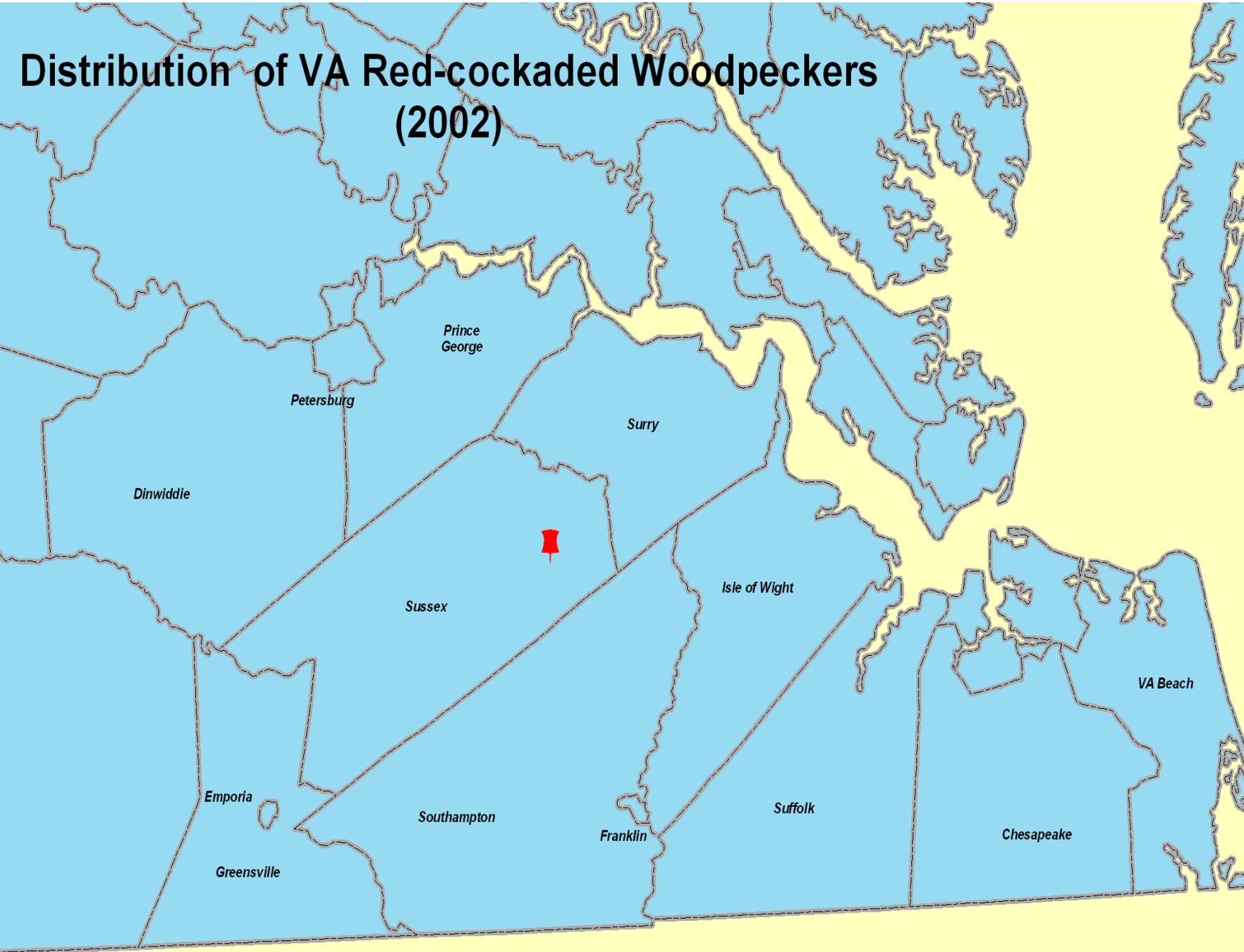
Cary Bass

RCW DISTRIBUTION
(current and historical)

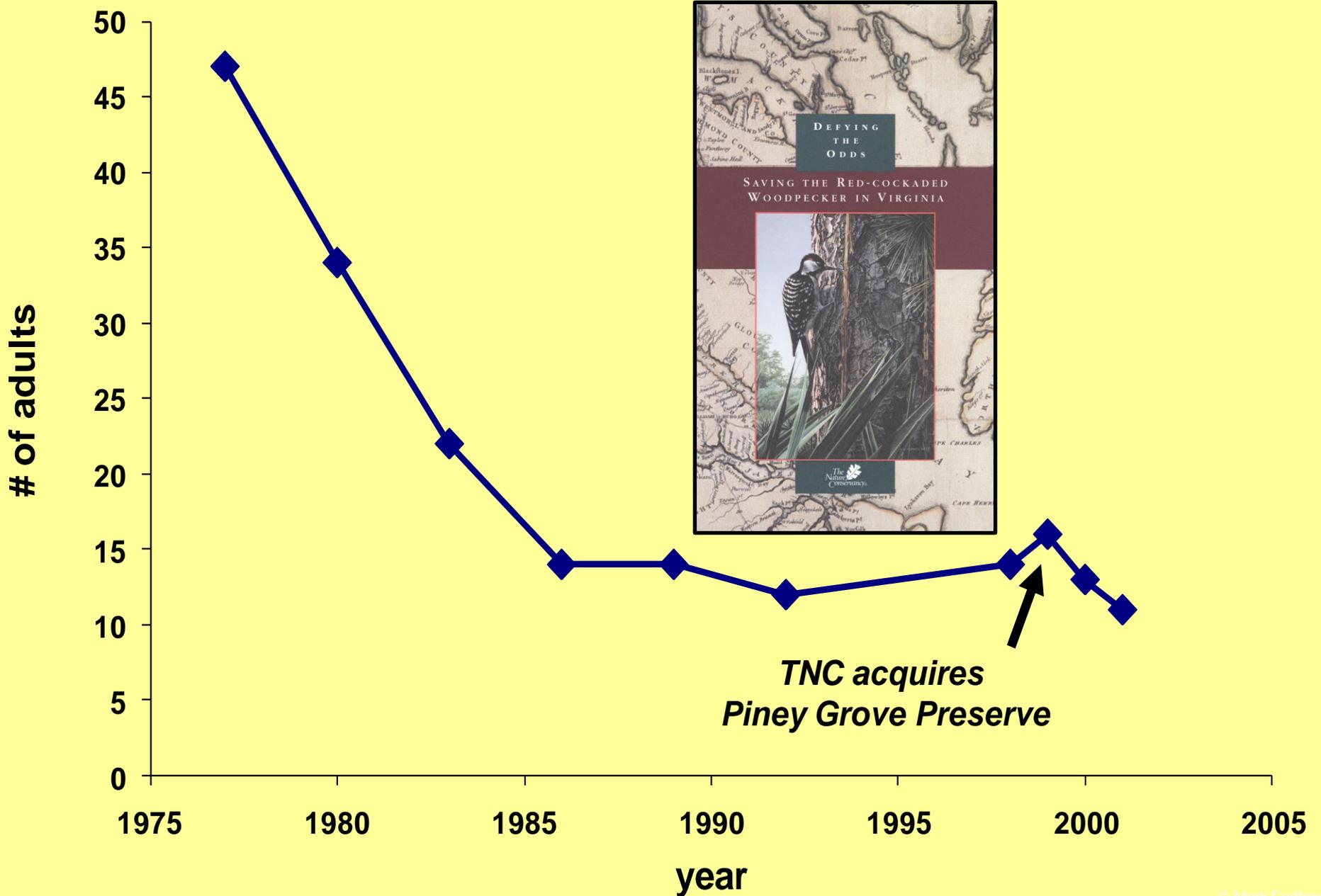Distribution of VA Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (1950)

Distribution of VA Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (1990)

Prince George

Petersburg

Surry

Dinwiddie

Sussex

Isle of Wight

VA Beach

Emporia

Southampton

Suffolk

Chesapeake

Franklin

Greensville

Distribution of VA Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (2002)

Prince George

Petersburg

Surry

Dinwiddie

Isle of Wight

Sussex

VA Beach

Emporia

Southampton

Franklin

Suffolk

Chesapeake

Greensville

Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Recovery in Virginia

**TNC acquires
Piney Grove Preserve**

year

# of adults

© Mark Godfrey

Piney Grove/ Big Woods Ecological Management

Timber Management

Red-cockaded Woodpecker
(*Picoides borealis*) Recovery Plan
Second Revision

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service / Southeast Region
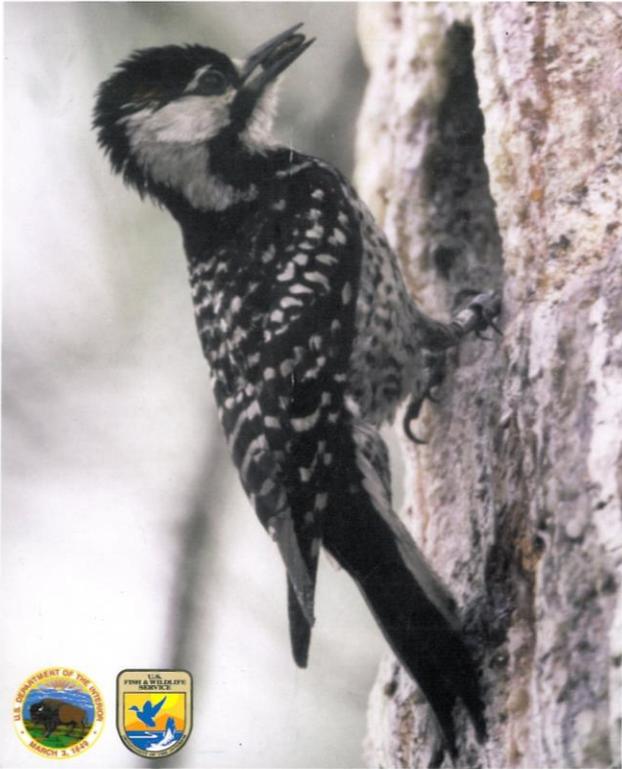
Target habitat: Pine savanna
- open canopy;
- grass/herb-dominated groundcover
- fire maintained

RCW Foraging habitat
- > 25 yr. old trees
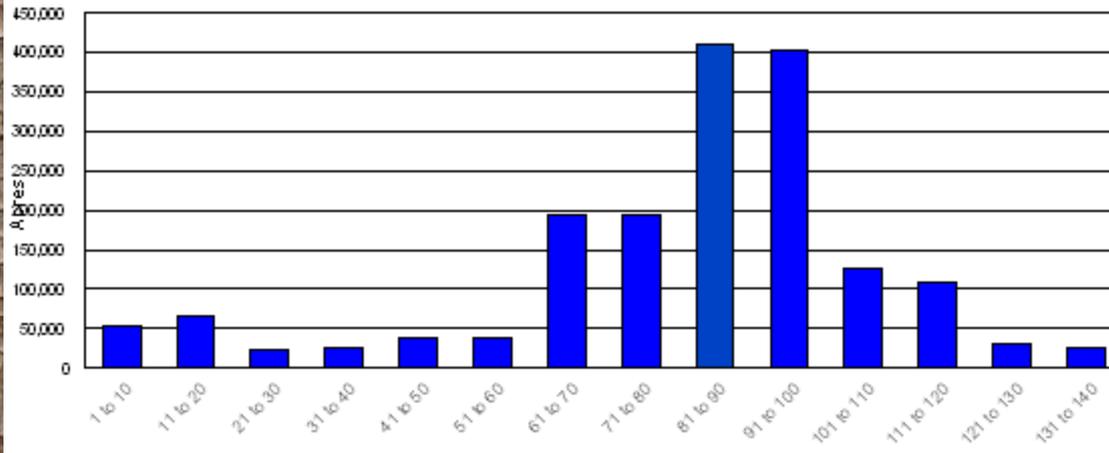- 30-80 sq. ft basal area/acre
- 100-200 acres/cluster

RCW Nesting habitat
- > 60 yr. old trees
- 40-60 sq. ft. basal area/acre
- 10 acres
- 0.25 mi. from adjacent cluster sites
- connectivity to quality foraging habitat

Long-term goals
- increase within-stand age class diversity
- longleaf pine establishment

Forest Age Class Distribution

Longleaf pine

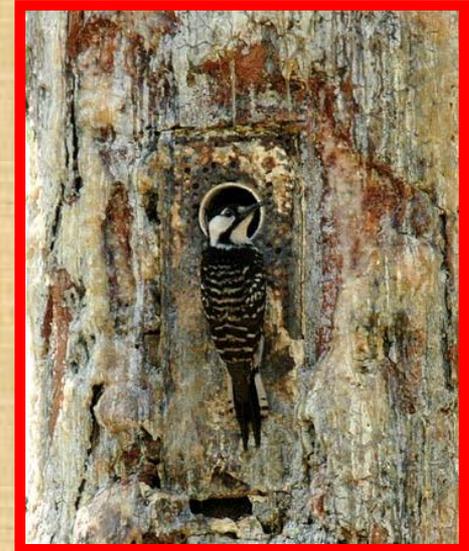Monitoring - CCB

cavity management

translocations

- 74 artificial cavities installed
- total of 160 cavities since 1999 (sometimes multiples in one tree)
- currently 55 viable cavities, plus approx 5-8 starts.
- 26 juvenile birds translocated (2001-2005); several established as breeders

Fire Management

PGP Unit 45 - 2002
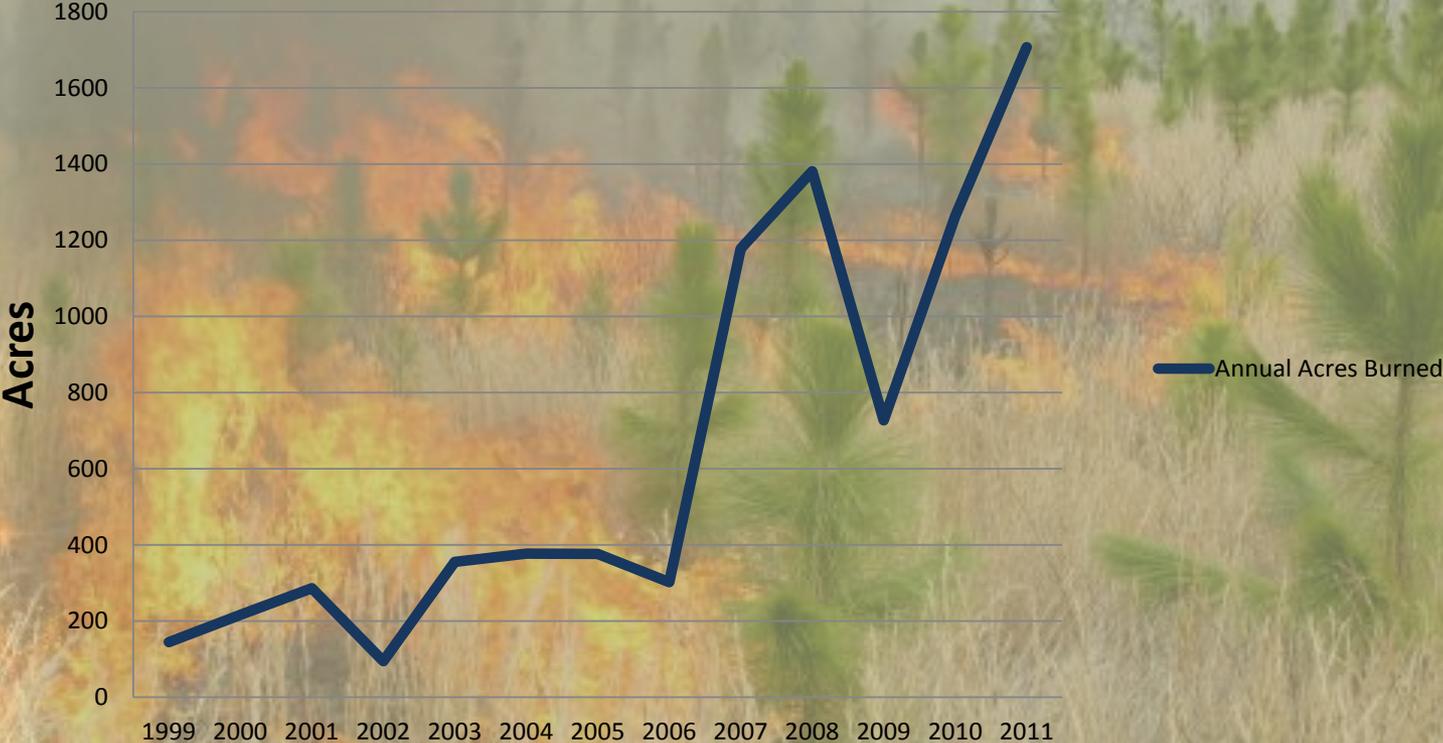

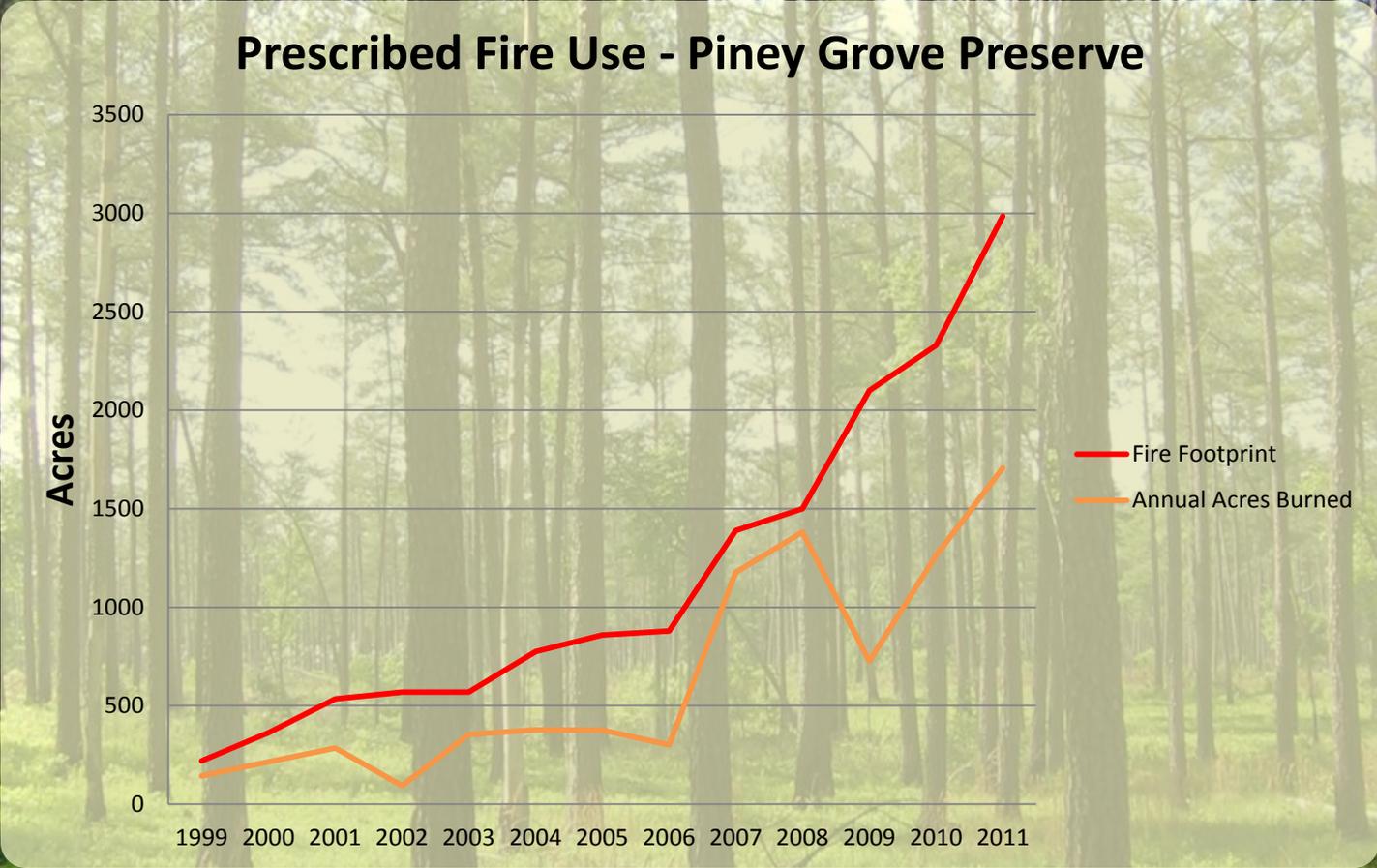PGP Unit 45 - 2007

Bobby Clontz

Mark Godfrey

post-thinning

fire-excluded mixed pine/hardwood
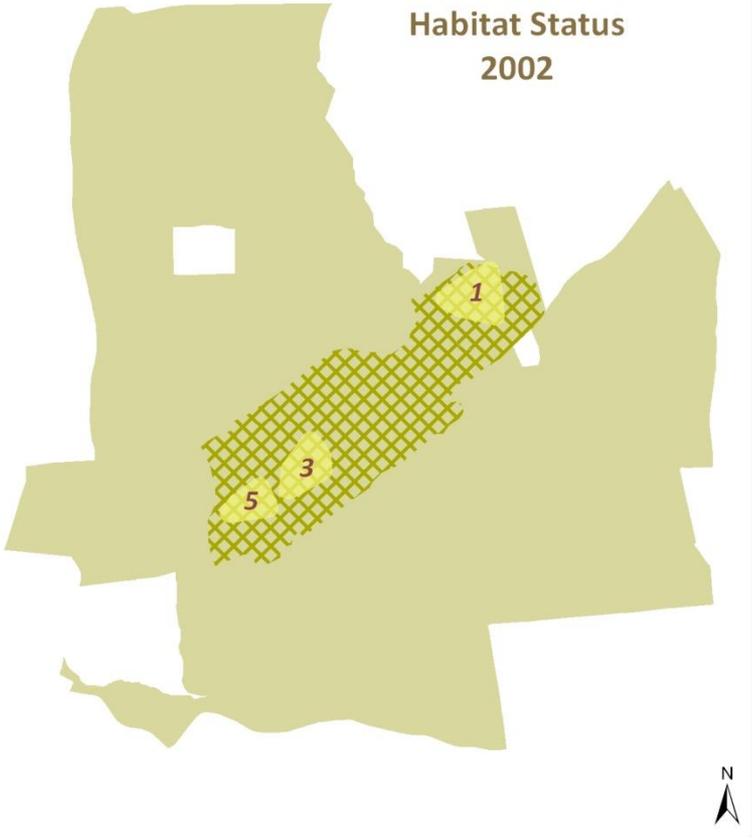
TNC Prescribed Fire Update

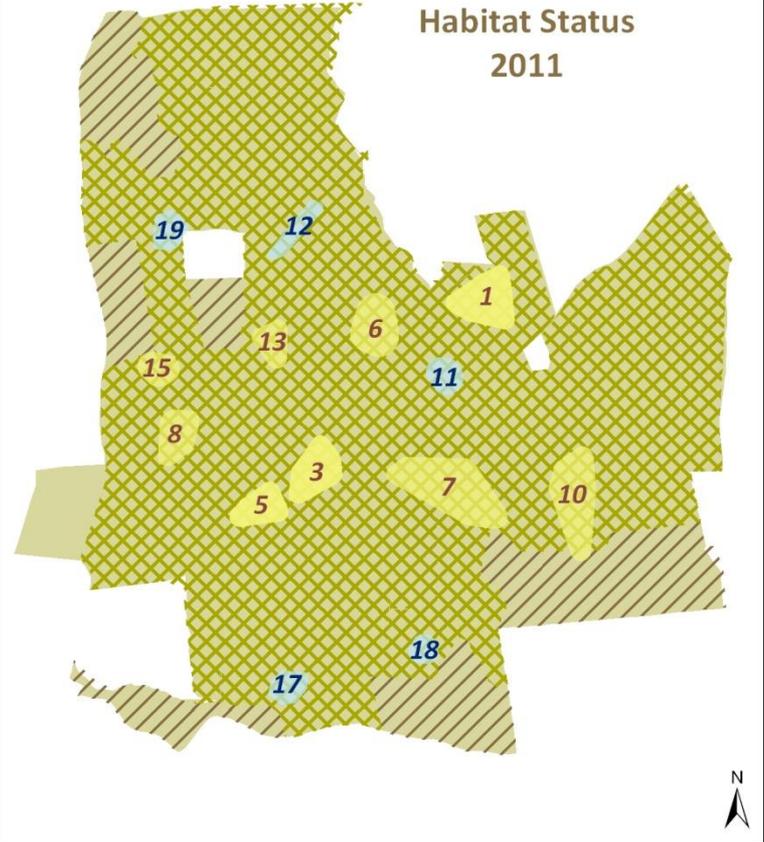Prescribed Fire Use - Piney Grove Preserve

TNC Prescribed Fire Update

Prescribed Fire Use - Piney Grove Preserve

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RCW Cluster and Habitat Status 2002

Piney Grove Preserve

0   0.5   1
Miles

N

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RCW Cluster and Habitat Status 2011

Piney Grove Preserve

0   0.5   1
Miles

N

Historical (Statewide)

TNC Ownership

Quail

Cary Bass

Prairie warbler
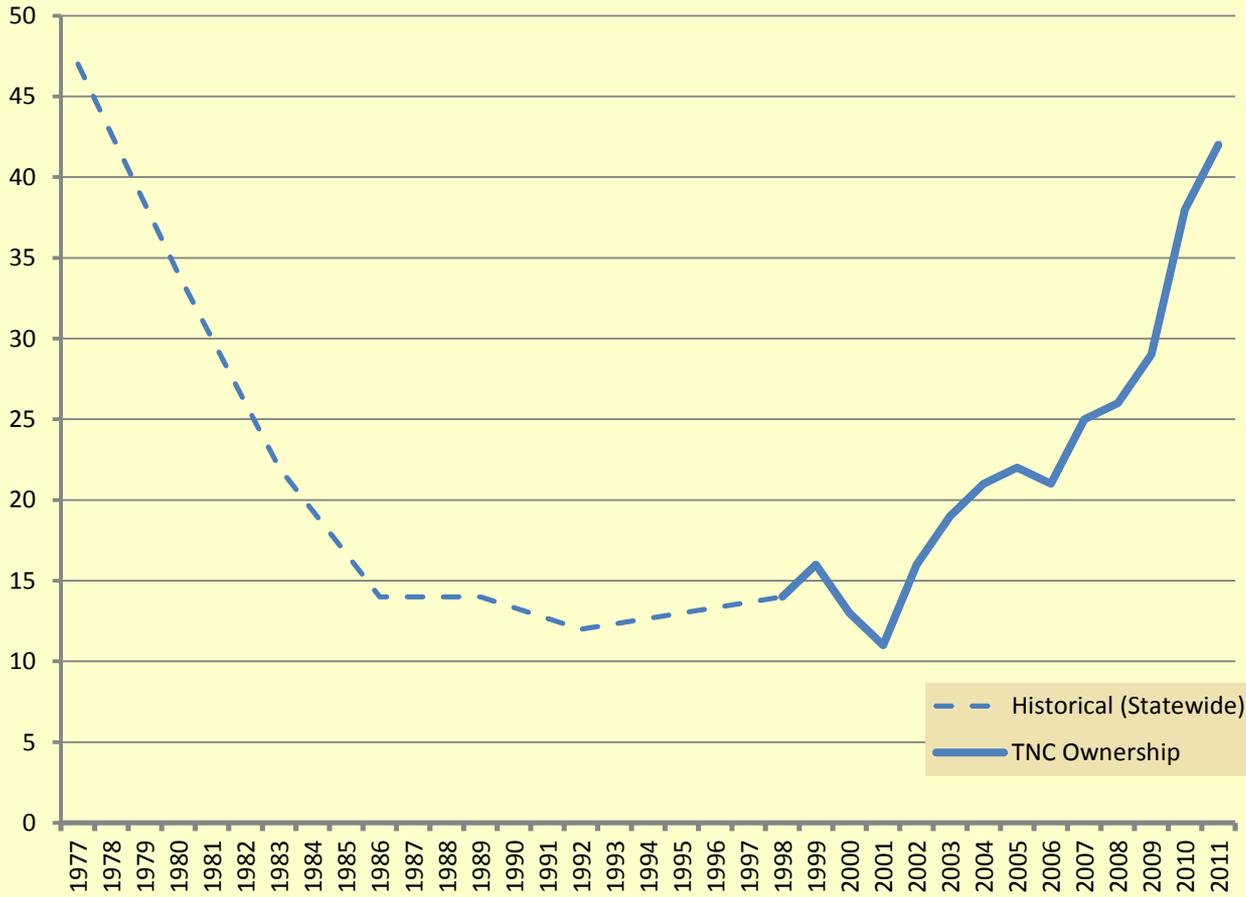
© 2007 David Speiser

Brown-headed nuthatch

Brown-headed Nuthatch
October 28, 2007
Debbie McKenzie

RCW Population Data
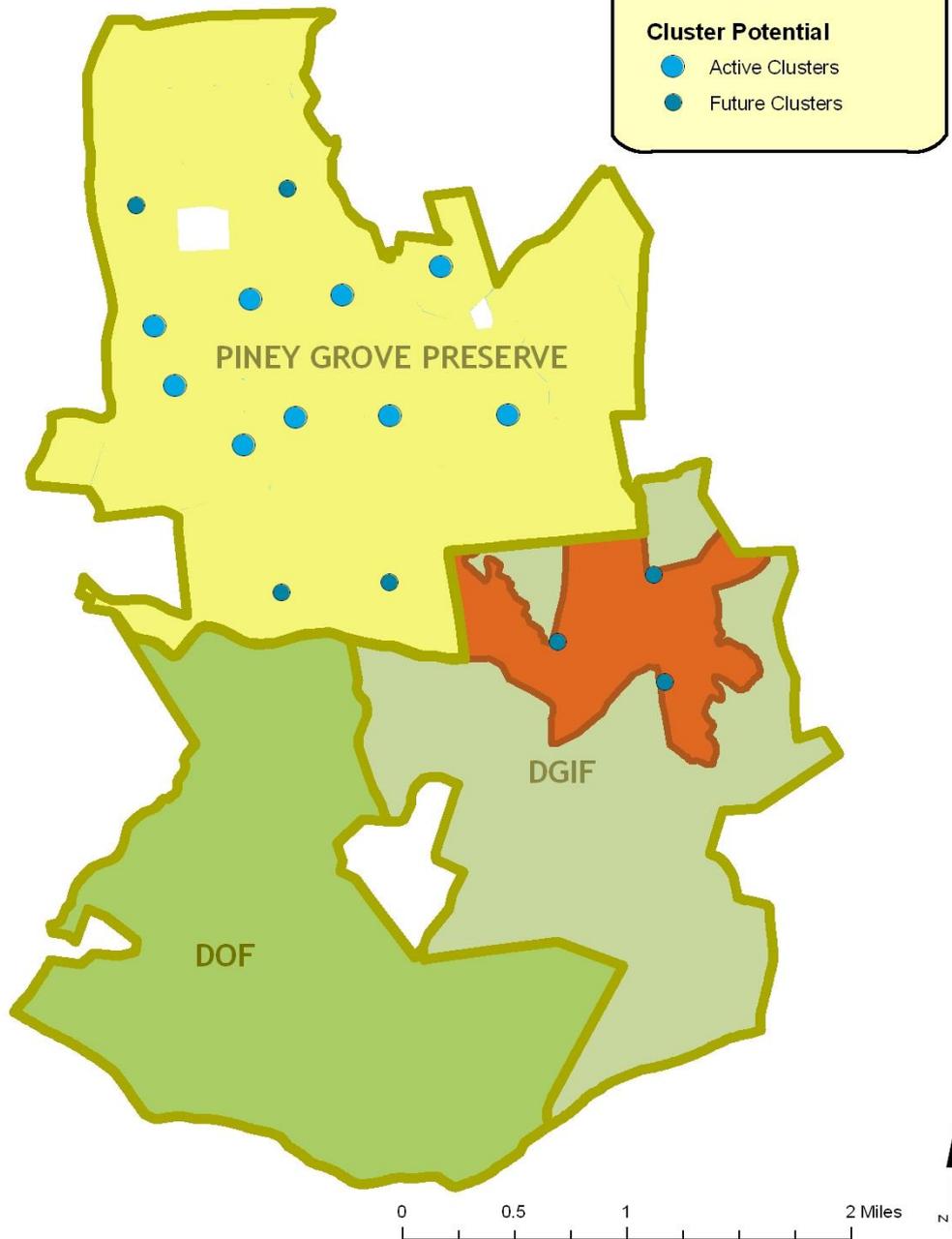

Legend:
- Historical (Statewide) — dashed line
- TNC Ownership — solid line

Y-axis: 0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50

X-axis: 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Big Woods – TNC/DGIF Partnership Opportunities

- **RCW management**
  - **Cavity installation**
  - **RCW translocation**

- **Fire management**

- **Quail management**

- **Longleaf restoration**

- **Wetland/stream restoration**