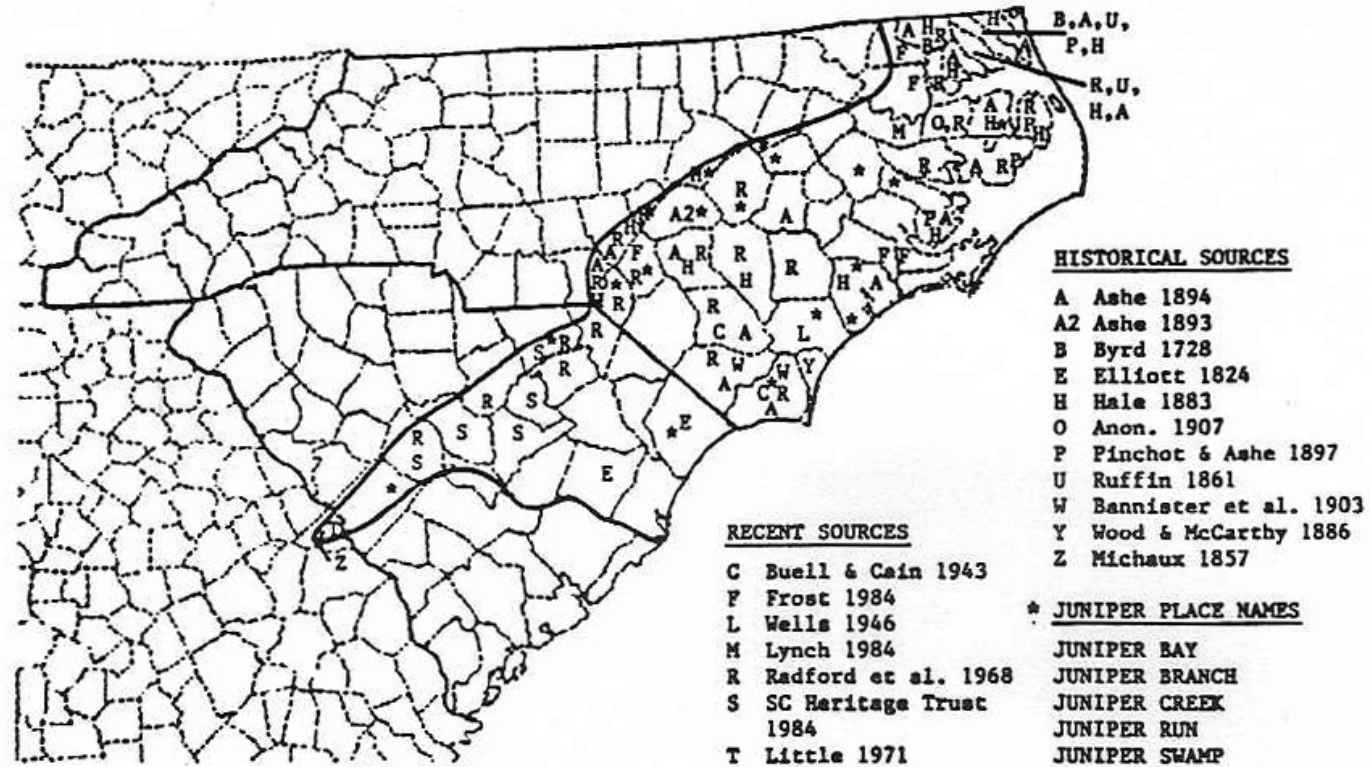




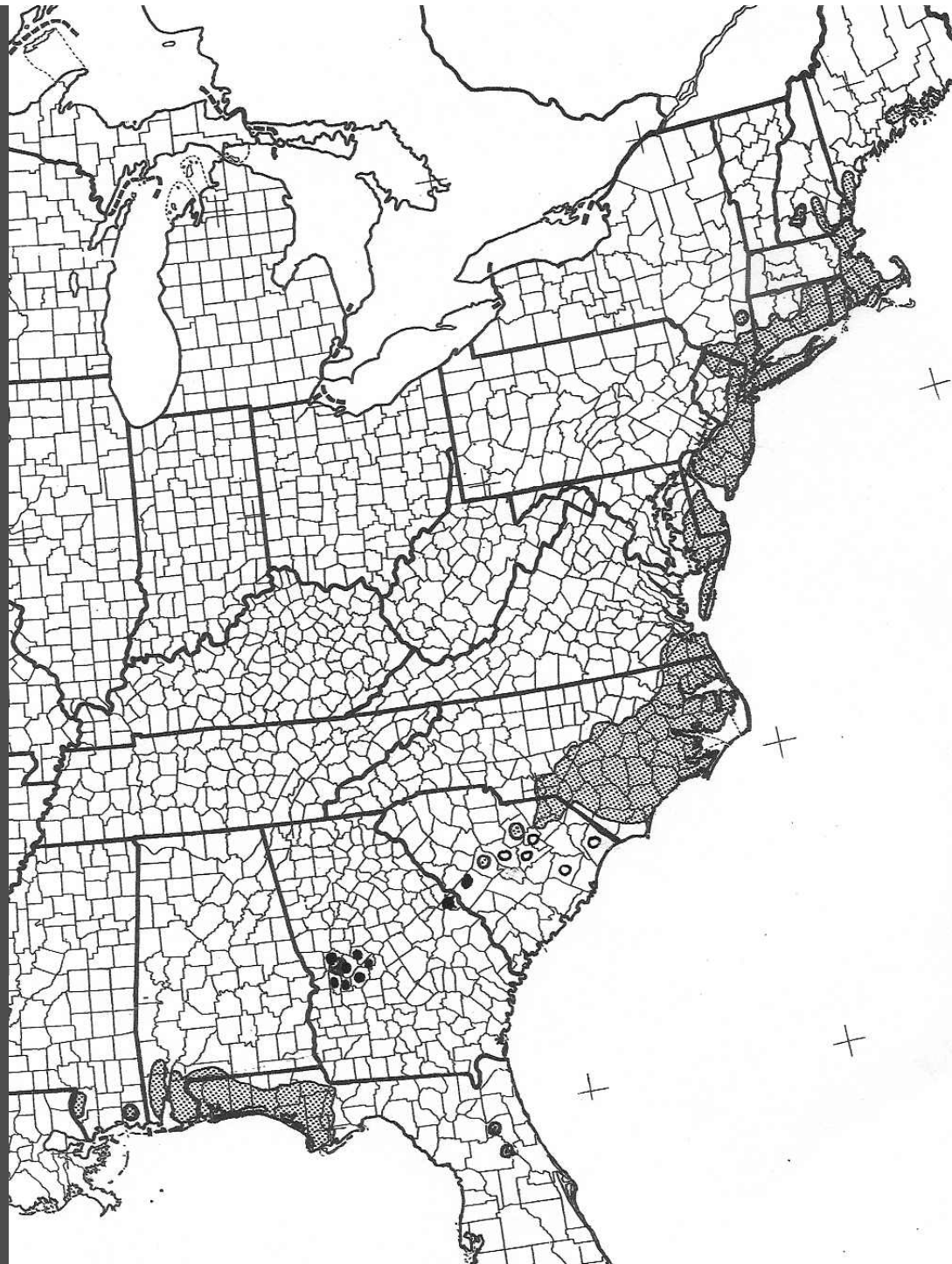
# Pre-European Extent and Fire Ecology of Atlantic White Cedar in the South

Cecil Frost  
Landscape Fire Ecologist

# Historical Range in the Carolinas



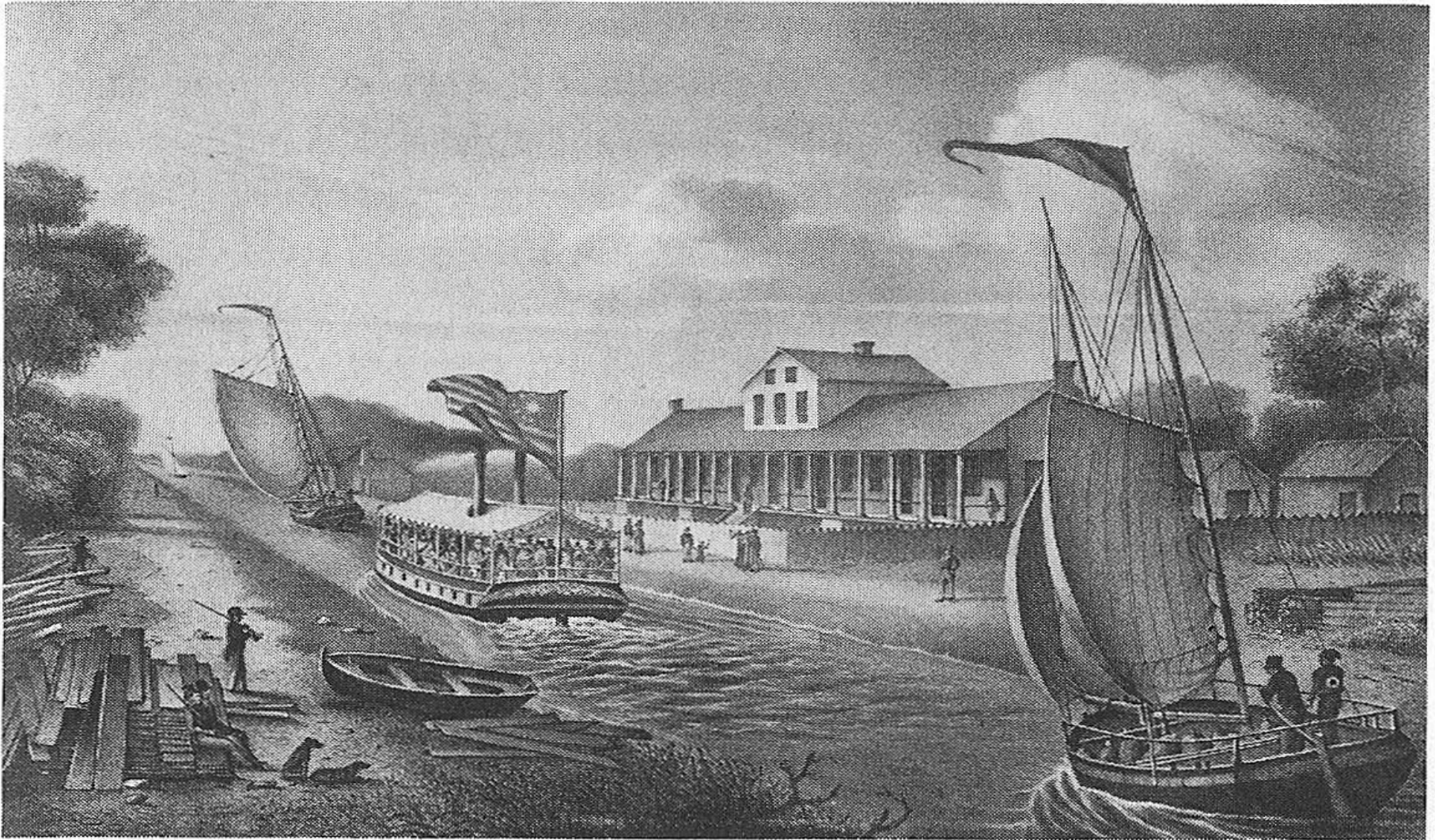
# Historical Range in the South



# PRIMARY INFLUENCES IN THE DECLINE OF ATLANTIC WHITE CEDAR

- Boat building, shingles and other local uses  
1650-1950
- Logging, facilitated by steam technology 1850-1930
- Wetland drainage beginning with passage of laws enabling drainage districts in early 1900s
- 20<sup>th</sup> century fire suppression 1920-present
- Shift from landscape-scale fires to small compartment management

# Steam power on the Dismal Swamp Canal 1831



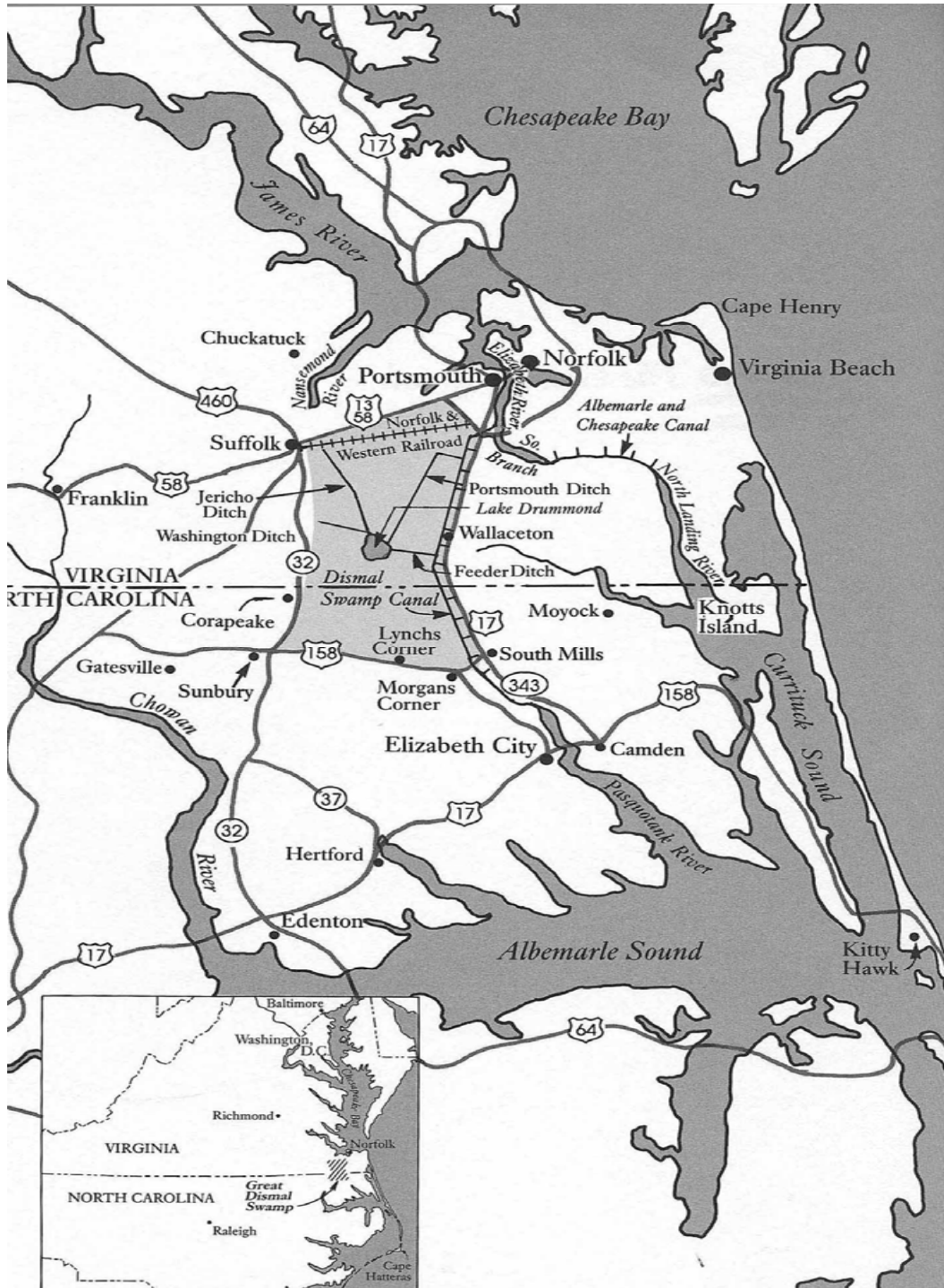
*Lake Drummond Hotel, with the Lady of the Lake, a sternwheel steamboat, north-bound on the Dismal Swamp Canal, 1831*



# Steam Dredge in Cypress Swamp

Pinchot & Ashe 1897





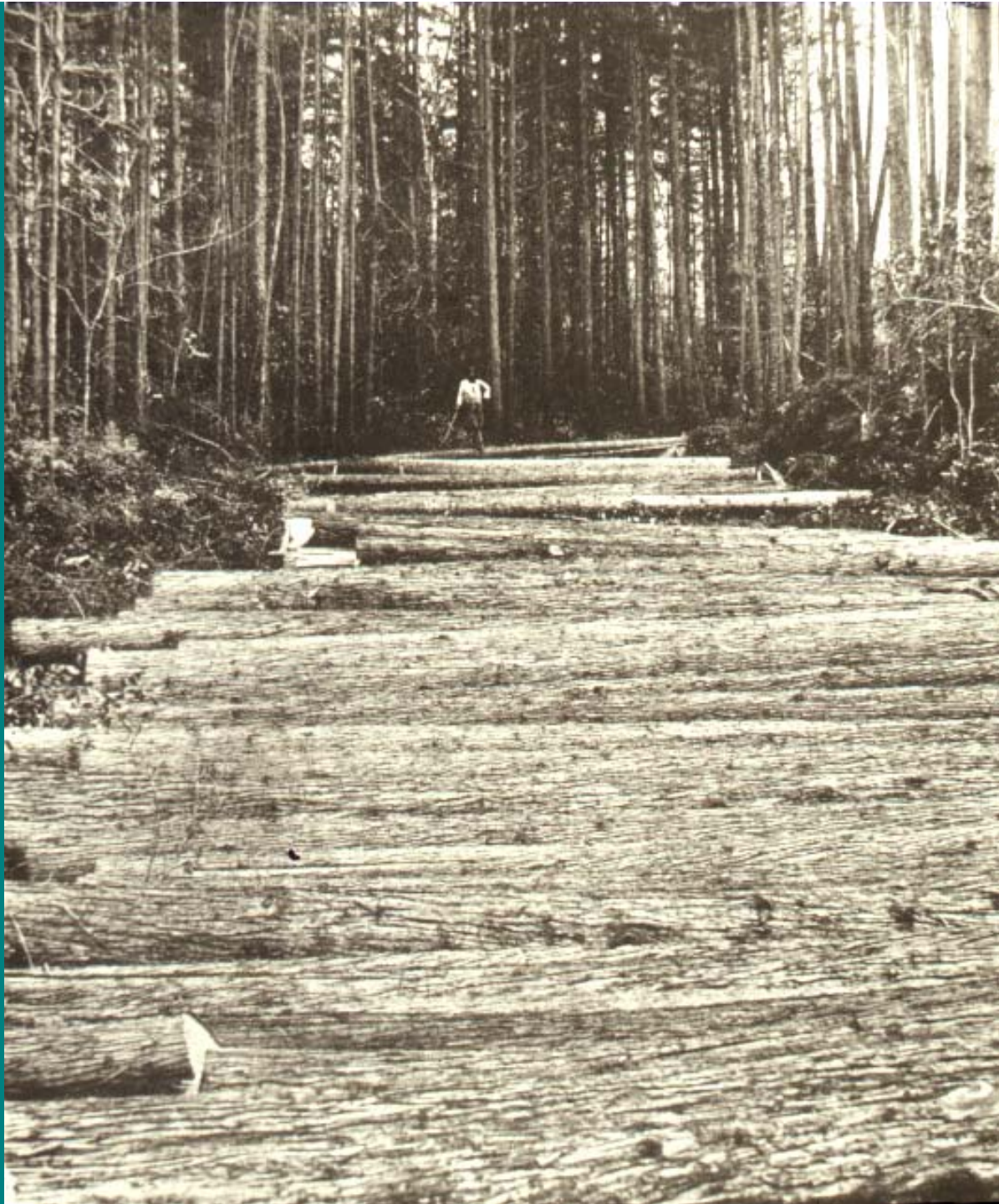
# The Dismal Swamp Region



## Currituck County, 1882

“The navy yard at Norfolk has long since absorbed all the valuable oak. The avaricious and insatiable saw mills , together with the desire of every man who could buy a pair of oxen and ‘Carry-Log’, have demolished and transported nearly all our pine.... **Juniper very scarce but cheap buckets in abundance** This certainly looks like a gloomy picture but more truth than poetry”

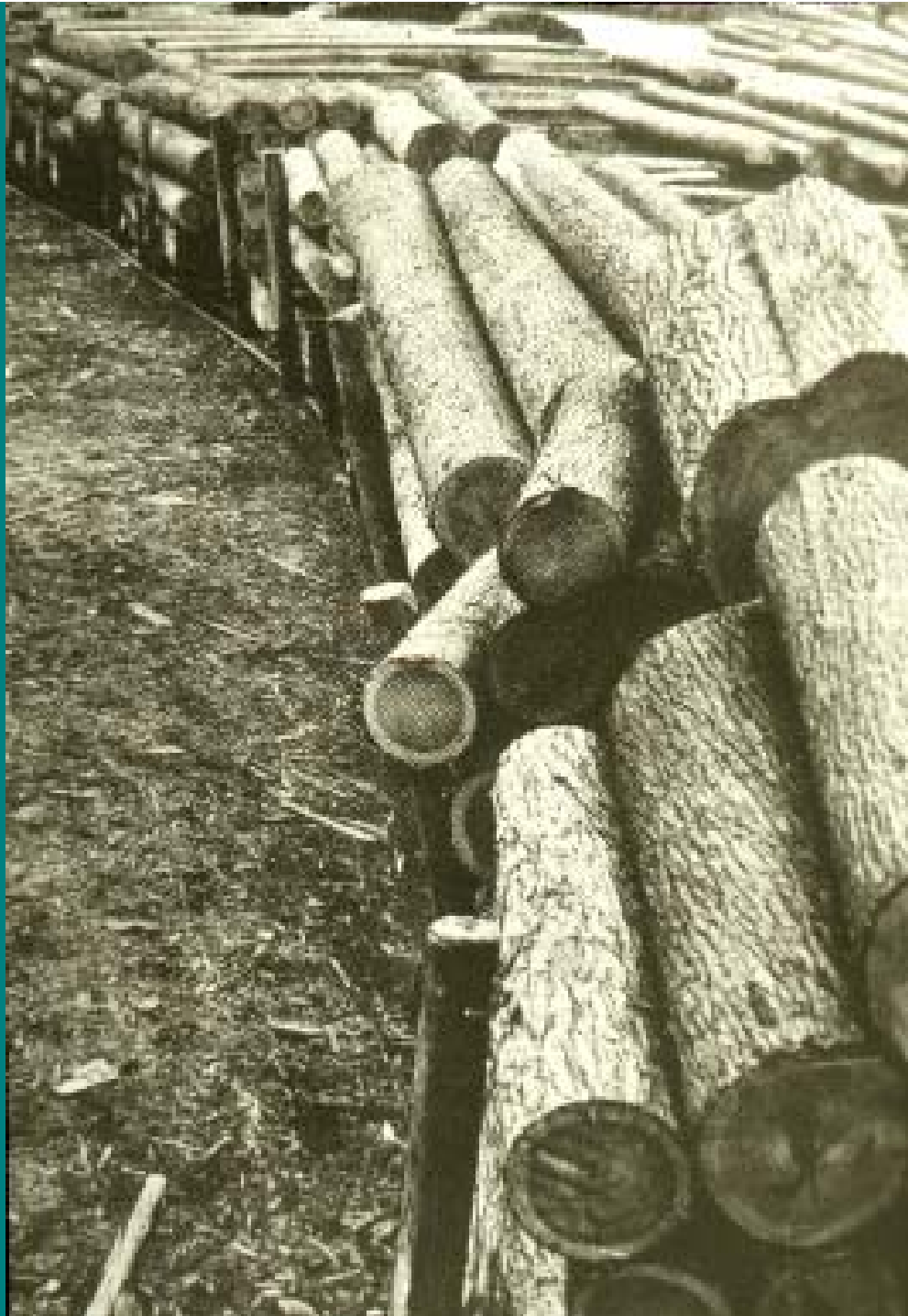
\_\_\_\_W.H.C. 1882, in P.M. Hale 1883



## Narrow-gauge logging cars



*Surry Parker, in light vest, and some of his family, touring the eastern Dismal, about 1920*



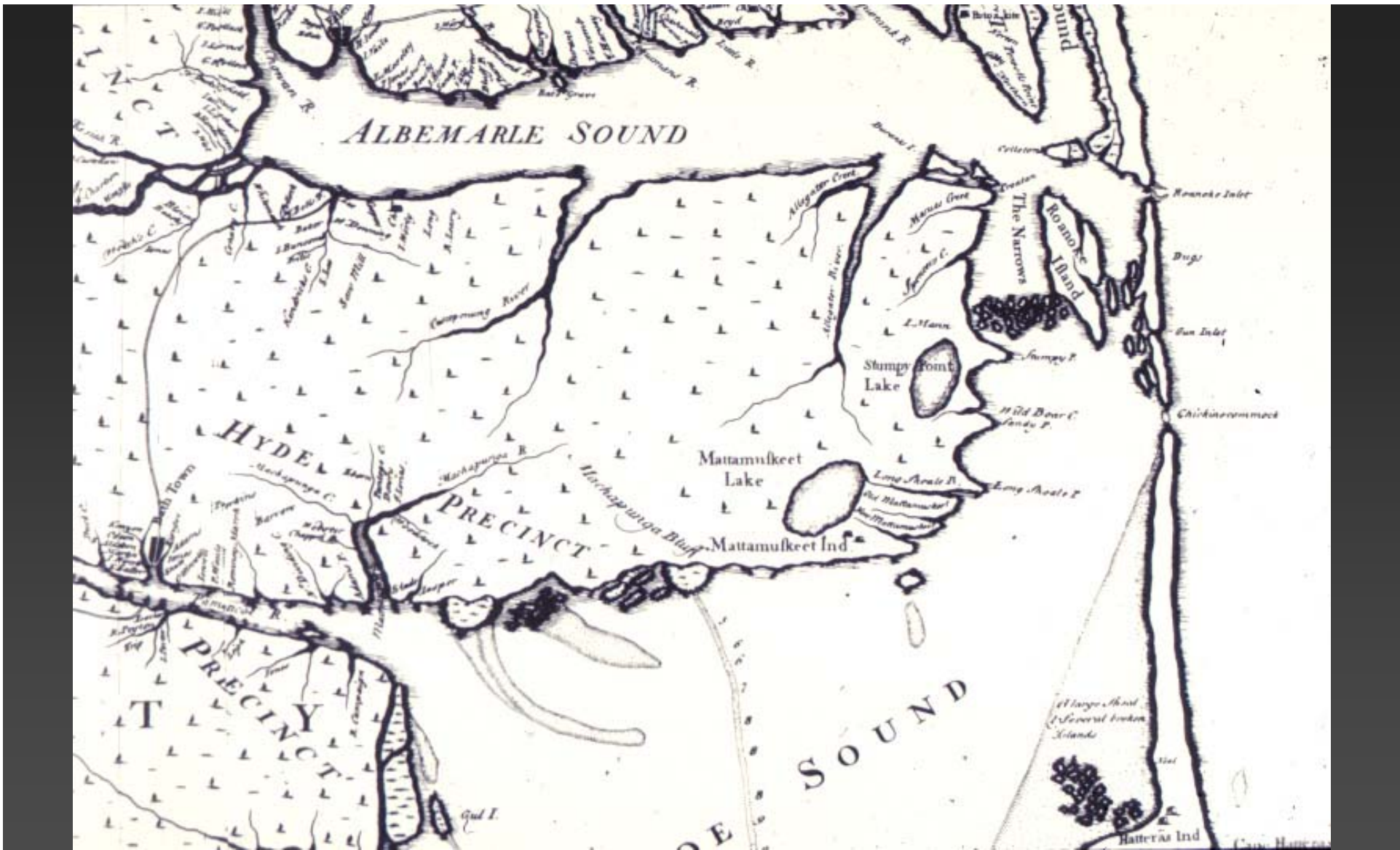
# Juniper Landing Great Dismal Swamp



# Elizabeth River - Norfolk



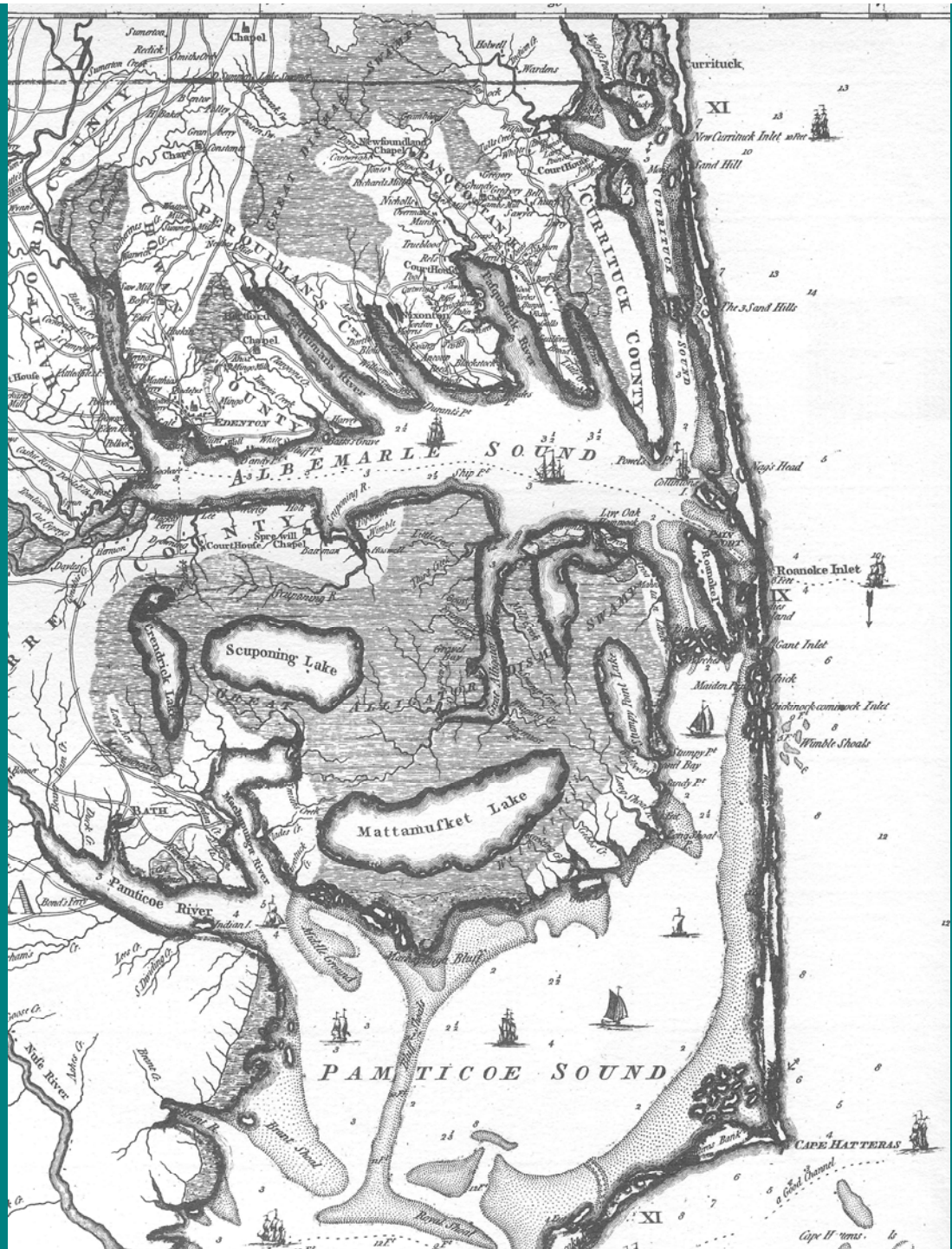




Moseley 1733



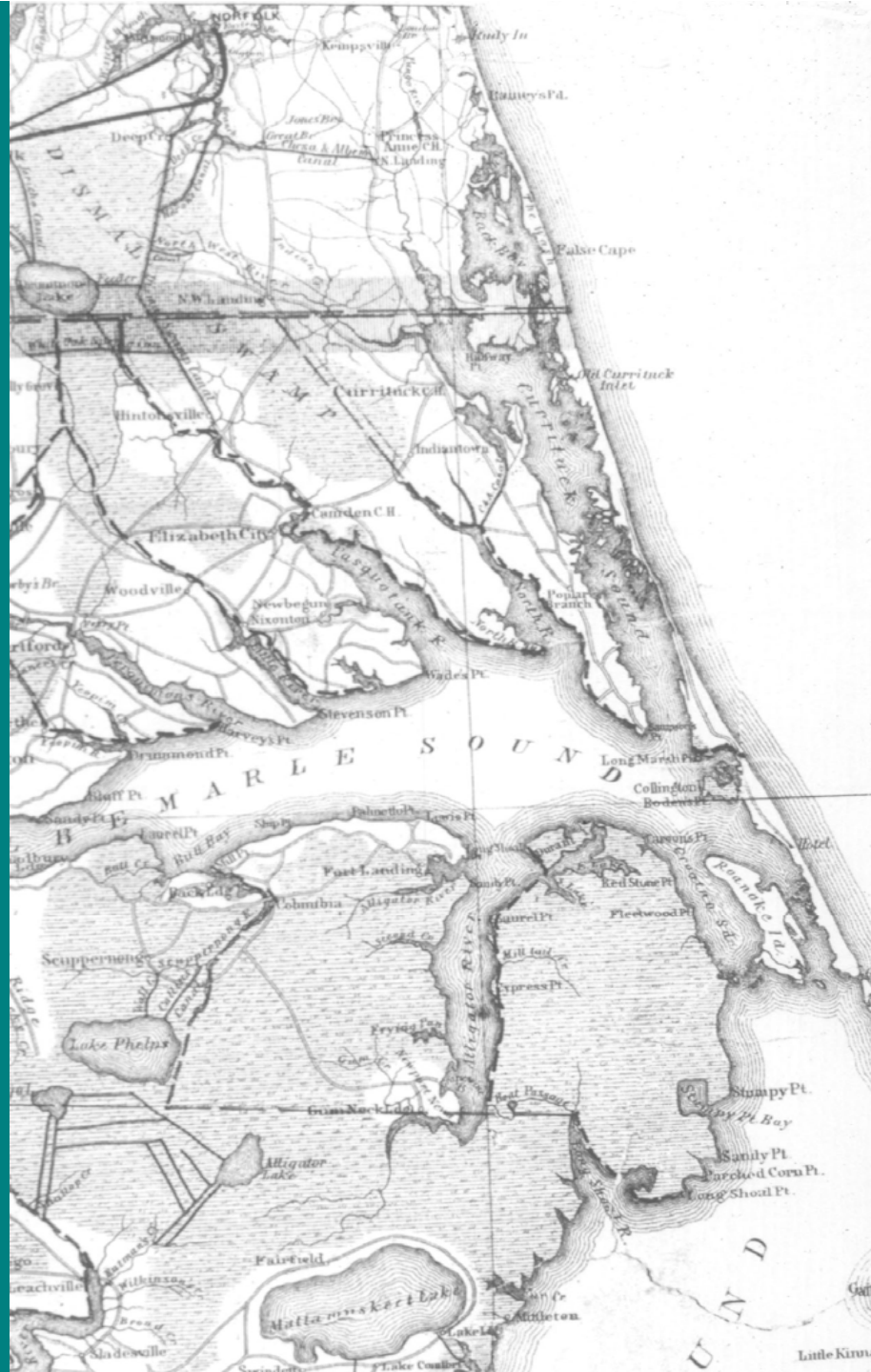
# Mouzon 1775

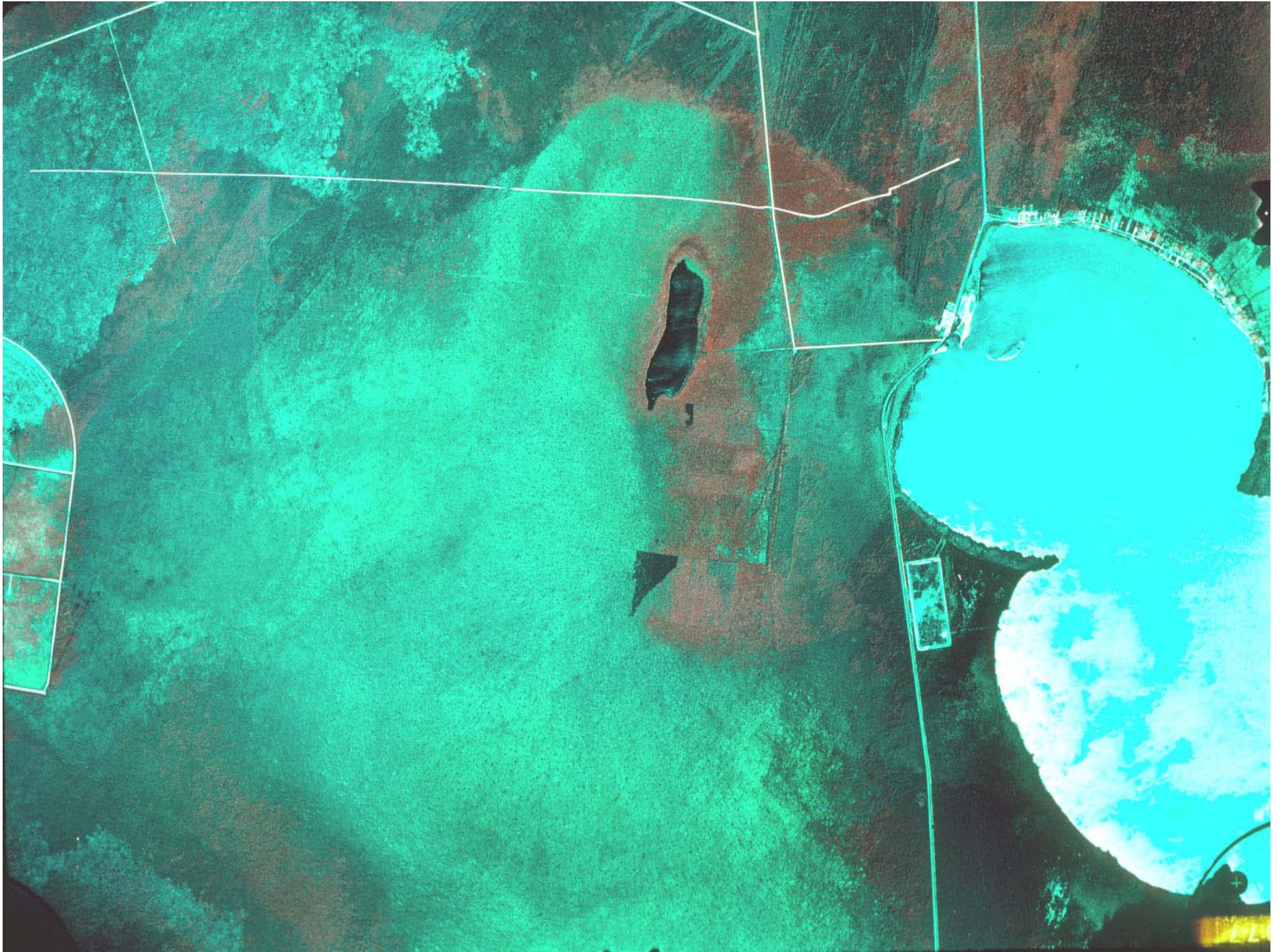




Price-Strother 1808

U.S.  
Coast  
Survey  
1865







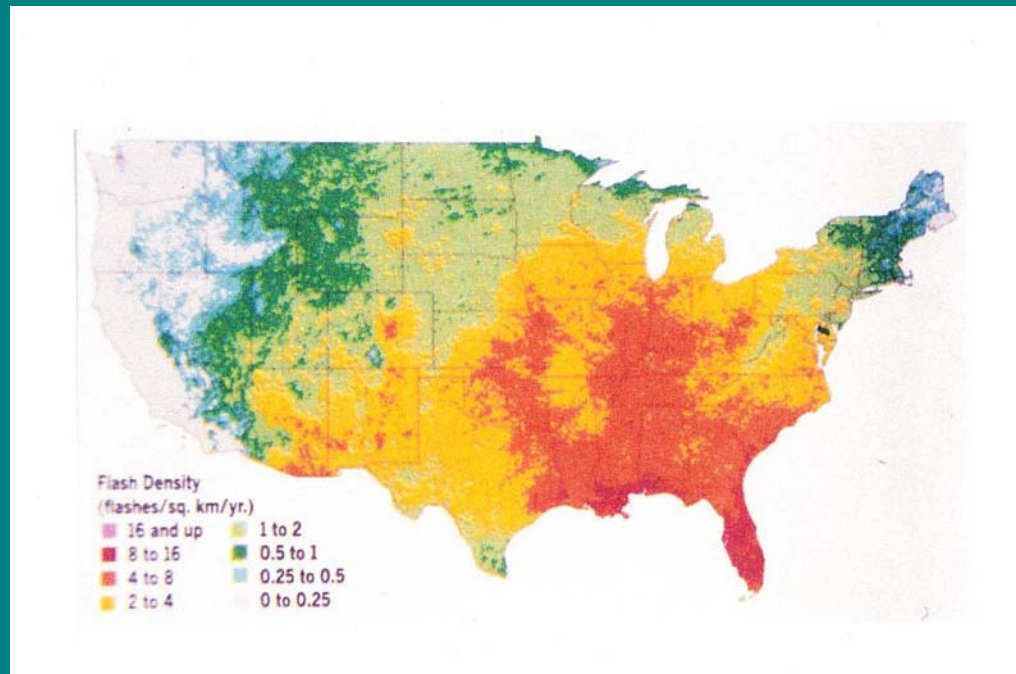
The Frying Pan 1982





The Frying Pan 1982

# Ignition Sources: Lightning ground flash data

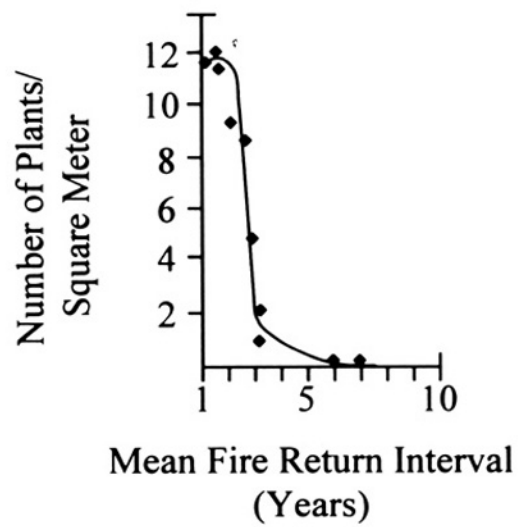




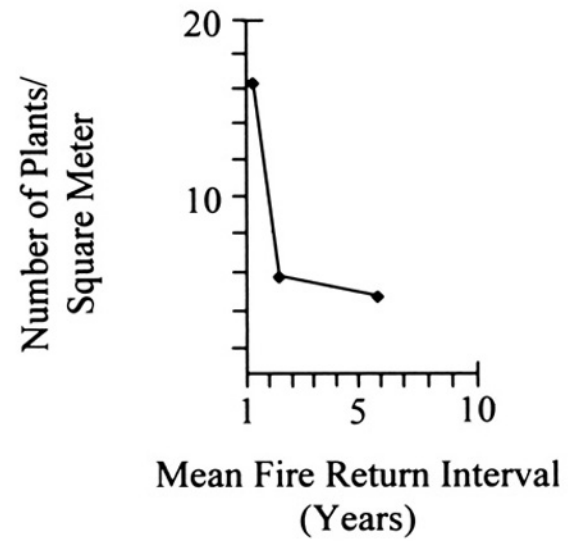
Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*), a fire frequency indicator species



### Venus Flytrap



### Lysimachia Asperulifolia



# Longleaf Pine Savanna “destroyed by fire” (newspaper account)



# Longleaf pine 6 weeks after fire



The Nature Conservancy

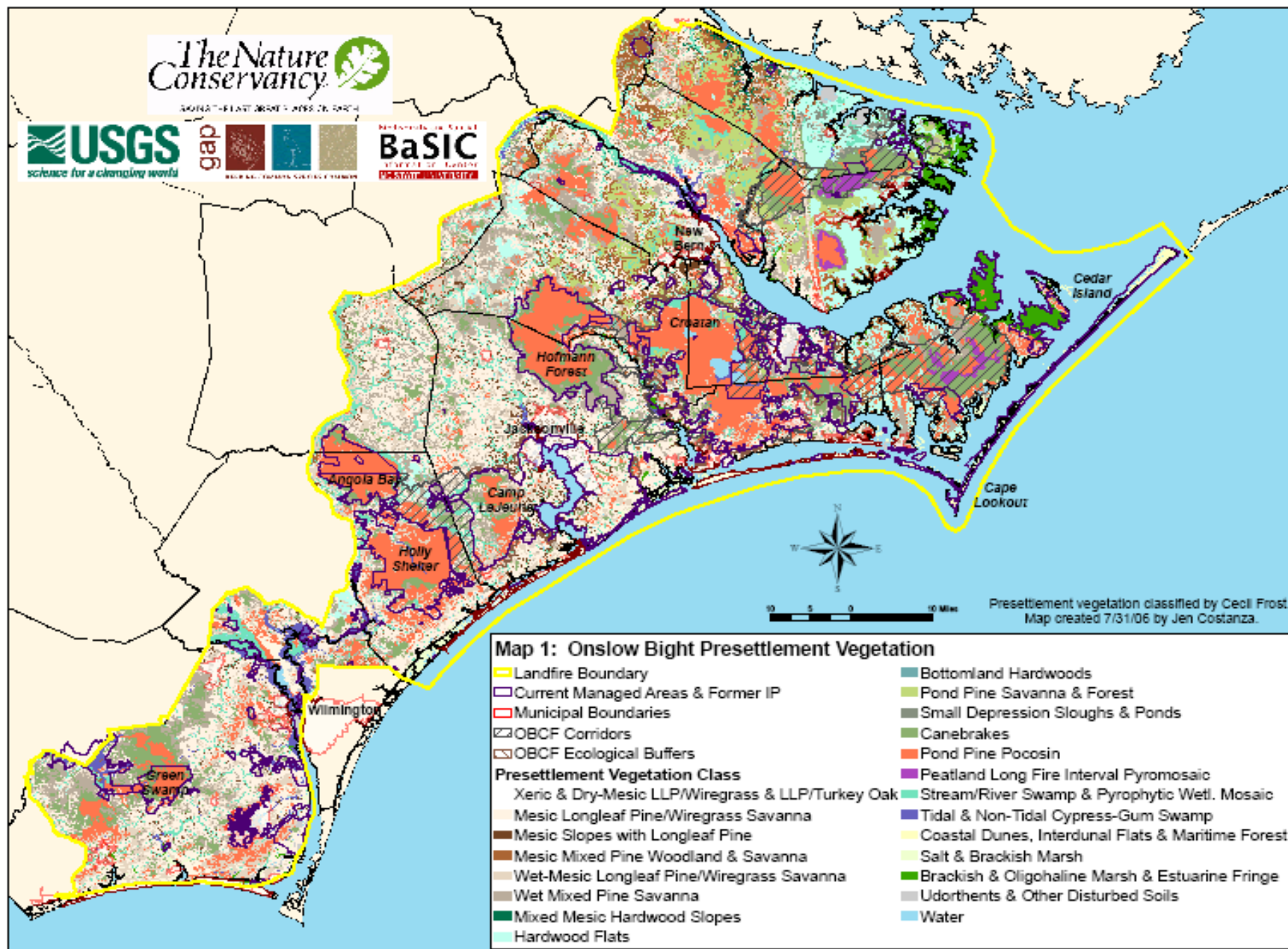
ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

USGS  
science for a changing world

gap

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SUPPORT

Partnership in Support of  
**BaSIC**  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Presettlement vegetation classified by Cecil Frost.  
Map created 7/31/06 by Jen Costanza.

**Map 1: Onslow Bight Presettlement Vegetation**

- Landfire Boundary
  - Current Managed Areas & Former IP
  - Municipal Boundaries
  - OBCF Corridors
  - OBCF Ecological Buffers
- Presettlement Vegetation Class**
- Xeric & Dry-Mesic LLP/Wiregrass & LLP/Turkey Oak
  - Mesic Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass Savanna
  - Mesic Slopes with Longleaf Pine
  - Mesic Mixed Pine Woodland & Savanna
  - Wet-Mesic Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass Savanna
  - Wet Mixed Pine Savanna
  - Mixed Mesic Hardwood Slopes
  - Hardwood Flats
  - Bottomland Hardwoods
  - Pond Pine Savanna & Forest
  - Small Depression Sloughs & Ponds
  - Canebrakes
  - Pond Pine Pocosin
  - Peatland Long Fire Interval Pyromosaic
  - Stream/River Swamp & Pyrophytic Wetl. Mosaic
  - Tidal & Non-Tidal Cypress-Gum Swamp
  - Coastal Dunes, Interdunal Flats & Maritime Forest
  - Salt & Brackish Marsh
  - Brackish & Oligohaline Marsh & Estuarine Fringe
  - Udorthents & Other Disturbed Soils
  - Water



## BOTTOMLAND VEGETATION TYPES WITH FREQUENT FIRE ON UPLANDS

VALLEY TOPOGRAPHY	RESULTING COMMUNITY
level bottom with low sides (FIRE EXPOSED)	canebrake
wide bottom with gentle sides	pond pine canebrake
wide bottom with moderately sloping sides	hardwood canebrake
narrow bottom with steeper sides	<b>white cedar</b>
narrow bottom with very steep sides (FIRE SHELTERED)	bottomland hardwoods or cypress-gum swamp

# Hardwood Canebrake



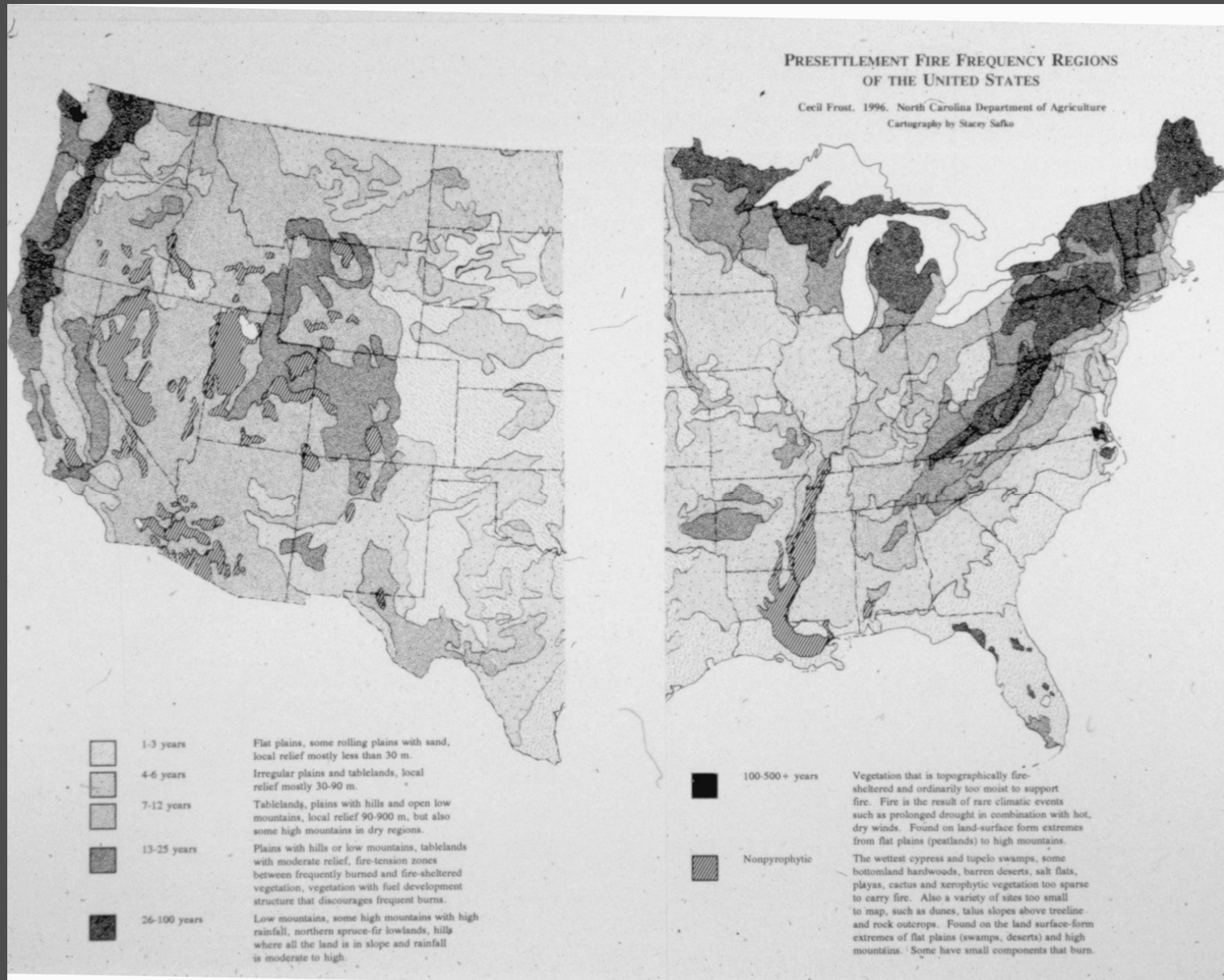




# Atlantic White Cedar

Bones Creek,  
Mac Ridge  
Impact area

# Presettlement fire regimes of the U.S.



**CELLS 1-32: MODERATELY FERTILE SITES**

**FIRE FREQUENCY**

		1-3 YEARS	4-6 YRS	7-12 YRS	13-25 YRS	26-50 YRS	51-100 YRS	100-300 YRS	NEVER BURNED
<b>O R G A N I C  M A T T E R  D E P T H</b>	Seasonally wet mineral soils ROW 1	Species-rich wet prairie with graminoids and grass-leaved forbs CELL 1	Species-rich wet prairie, with dwarf shrubs CELL 2	ANGL, ARG1, CLJA, ILGL, CYRA, CLMO, tree saplings CELL 3	Small ACRU, NYBI, LIST, PISE, PITA, PIEL, TAAS CELL 4	Dense ACRU, NYBI, TAAS, LIST, PISE, PITA, PIEL/ ARG1, Shrubs CELL 5	PITA, PIEL, TAAS, QUMI, PISE, ACRU, LIST/ sparse ARG1, ferns CELL 6	TADI, FRPE, LIST, ACRU, NYBI, QUMI other bottomland oaks/mesophytic herbs CELL 7	TADI, NYBI, FRPE, LIST, ACRU, bottomland oaks CELL 8
	Soils with thin organic layers, 10-30 cm thick ROW 2	Wet prairie and bog graminoids and forbs, patches of ARG1, ANGL CELL 9	Dense canebrake CELL 10	Alternating canebrake and pocosin CELL 11	PISE, ACRU, PITA, PIEL, TAAS, LIST/ ARG1 CELL 12	PISE, PITA, PIEL, TAAS, LIST, NYBI/ PEPA, MAVI CELL 13	PISE forest, PITA, PIEL, TAAS, bottomland hardwoods, bay forest CELL 14	TADI, NYBI, FRPE, LIST, PITA/ ACRU, FRCA/ Carex, swamp herbs CELL 15	TADI, NYAQ, NYBI/ ACRU, FRCA, ULAM/ swamp shrubs, herbs CELL 16
	Shallow histosols, 30-100 cm thick ROW 3	Open bog with dwarf shrubs, graminoids, pitcher plants, short cane, mosses CELL 17	Dense canebrake CELL 18	Alternating canebrake and pocosin CELL 19	PISE/ canebrake, alternating with PISE-ACRU tall pocosin CELL 20	Patch mosaic: PISE forest, ACRU forest, CHTH forest, bay forest with PEPA, MAVI CELL 21	Patch mosaic: CHTH forest, TADI/ACRU forest, PISE forest, NYBI forest, bay for. CELL 22	Extensive CHTH forest and patch mosaic as in Cell 22 CELL 23	TADI in wet swamps, cycling ACRU forest in peatlands (hypothetical) CELL 24
	Deep histosols, peat deeper than 1 m ROW 4	Open bog with low shrubs, pitcher plants, grasses and sedges CELL 25	Canebrake or Low pocosin with ANGL, and bog herbs CELL 26	Alternating canebrake and pocosin, or medium to tall pocosin CELL 27	Tall pocosin with PISE, GOLA, ACRU; PISE forest, bay forest, CHTH patch mosaic CELL 28	Patch mosaic of types seen in Cell 22 CELL 29	Extensive CHTH forests and patch mosaic of types seen in cell 22 CELL 30	Extensive old growth CHTH forests and patch mosaic of types in cell 22 CELL 31	TADI in wet swamps, cycling ACRU forest in peatlands (hypothetical) CELL 32

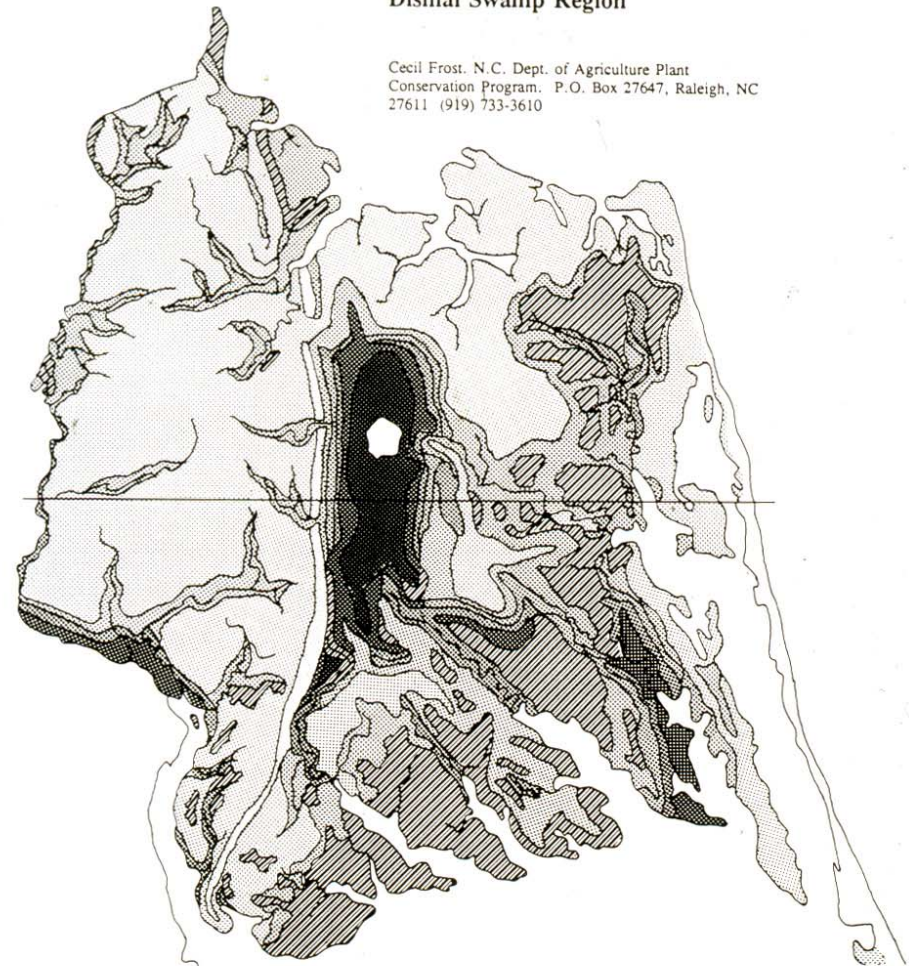
# Presettlement Fire Regimes






## Great Dismal Swamp NWR

(coarse scale)

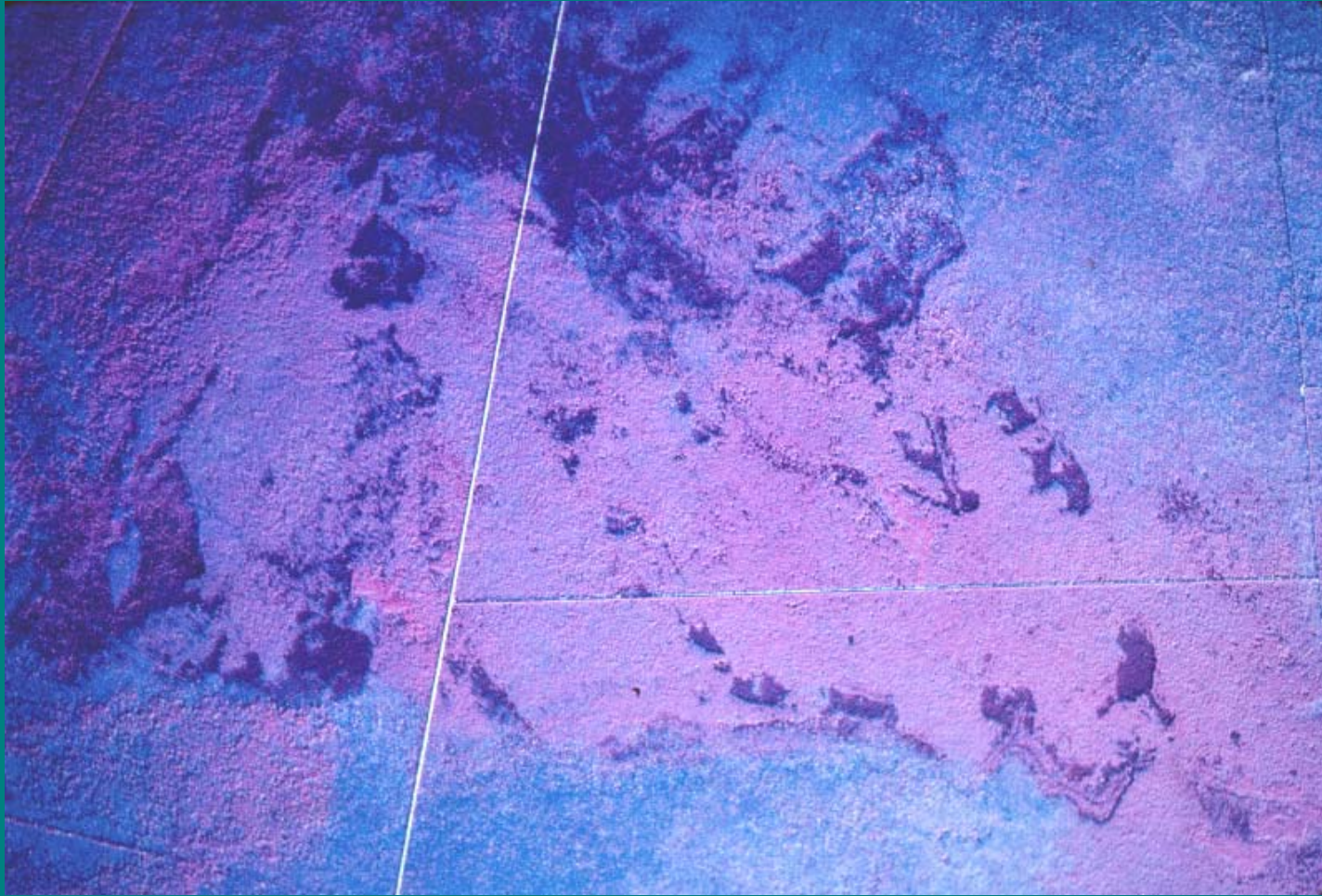
### Presettlement Fire Regimes in Vegetation of the Dismal Swamp Region

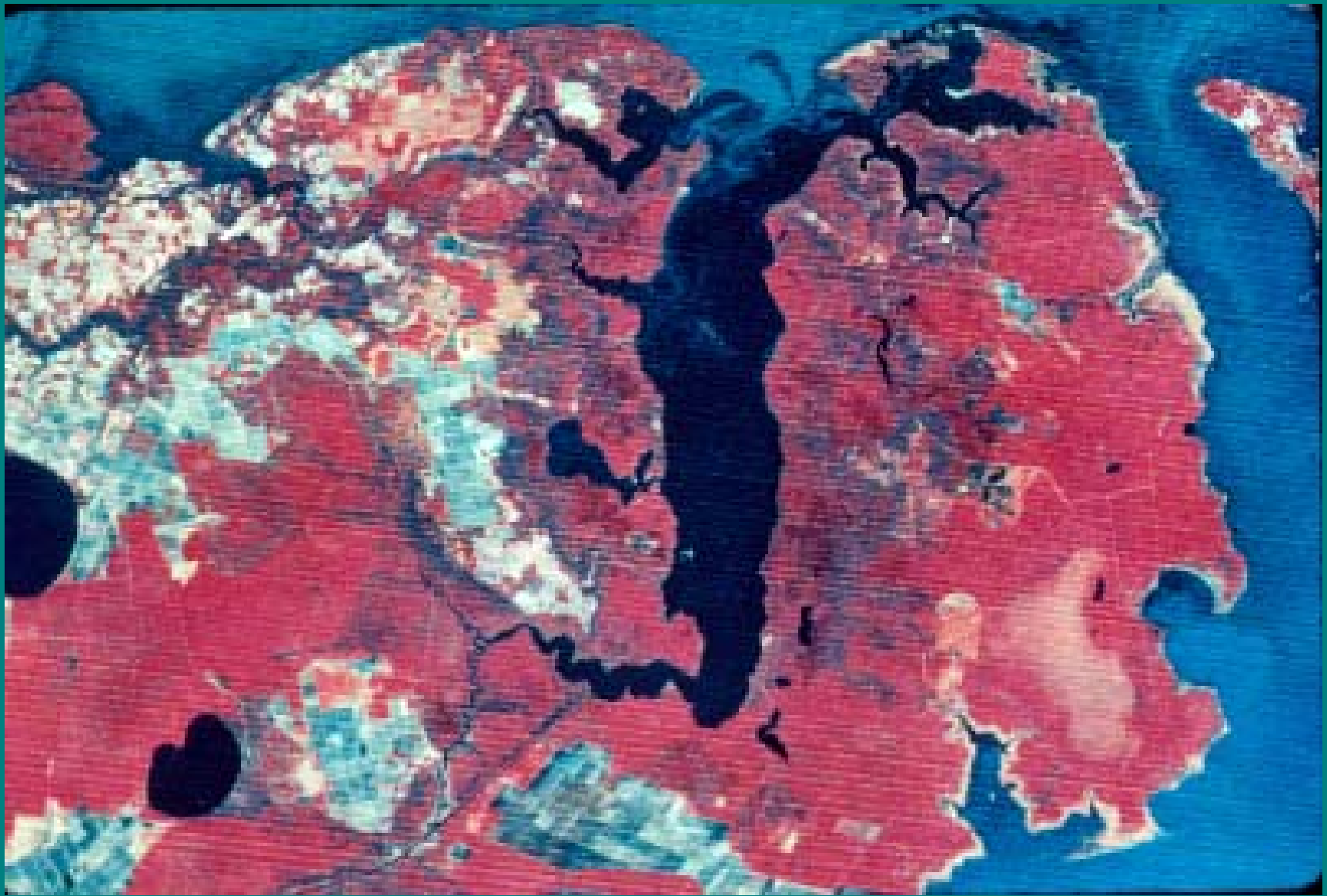
Cecil Frost, N.C. Dept. of Agriculture Plant Conservation Program, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611 (919) 733-3610



- |   |           |   |   |                |   |
|---|-----------|---|---|----------------|---|
|  | 1-3 yrs   | Longleaf pine savannas along the Suffolk escarp, the drier and most fire-exposed part of the landscape.   |  | 26-50 yrs      | White cedar forests, and patch mosaics of white cedar, pond pine, red maple, and bay forests in fire-tension zones between more frequently burned catoxas or pocosas, and water or infrequently-burned white cedar or nonpyrophytic freshwater swamps.                |
|  | 4-6 yrs   | Longleaf pine forest and pyrophytic woodlands on sandy plains of the Pamlico Terrace and late of Wight Plain, catoxas on shallow flatwoods, marshes.  |  | 50-100 yrs     | White cedar forests in fire-tension zones between more frequently burned types above, and water, nonpyrophytic freshwater swamps, or very infrequently-burned white cedar.  |
|  | 7-12 yrs  | Pyrophytic woodland and forest on slightly fire-protected landscape positions. Narrow zones of pocosan and bay forest along margins of peatlands and fluvial wetlands.  |  | 100-300 yrs    | Pure stands of old-growth white cedar in the fire-infrequent interior of the Great Dismal Swamp. Fire was the result of rare climatic events such as prolonged drought in combination with hot, dry winds that carried crown fire into the interior.                  |
|  | 13-25 yrs | Pocosas, bay forest and small white cedar patches in fire-tension zones (broad transition areas between frequently burned uplands, catoxas or marshes), and infrequently-burned white cedar or nonpyrophytic freshwater swamps. |  | Non-pyrophytic | Oak flats and mixed mesic hardwoods in fire-sheltered landscape positions, or on clay soils which resist spread of flammable rhizomatous shrubs. Other than light litter fires which may have prevented establishment of beech on oak flats, fire played little role. |



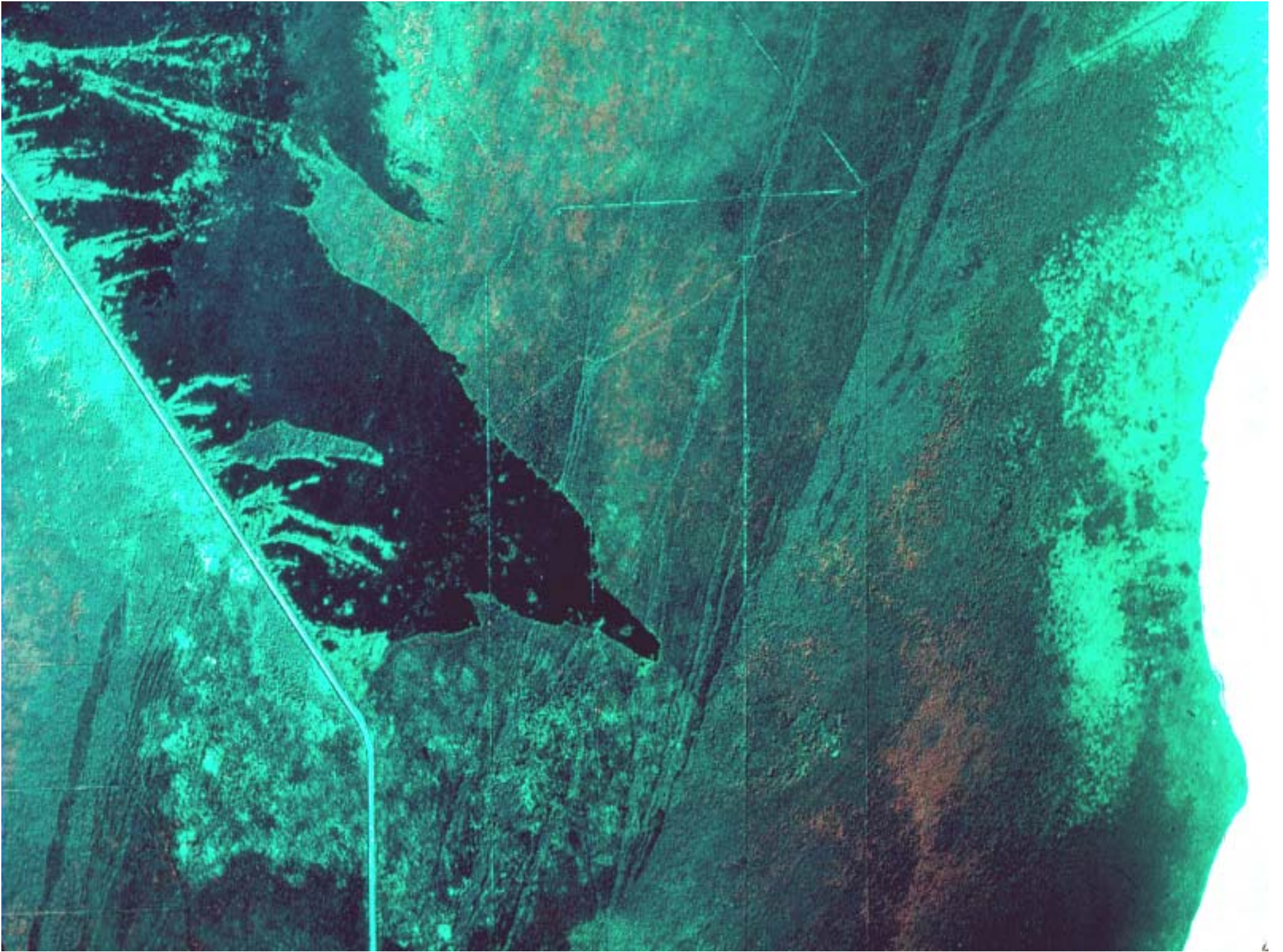






White cedar – future ARNWR 1977



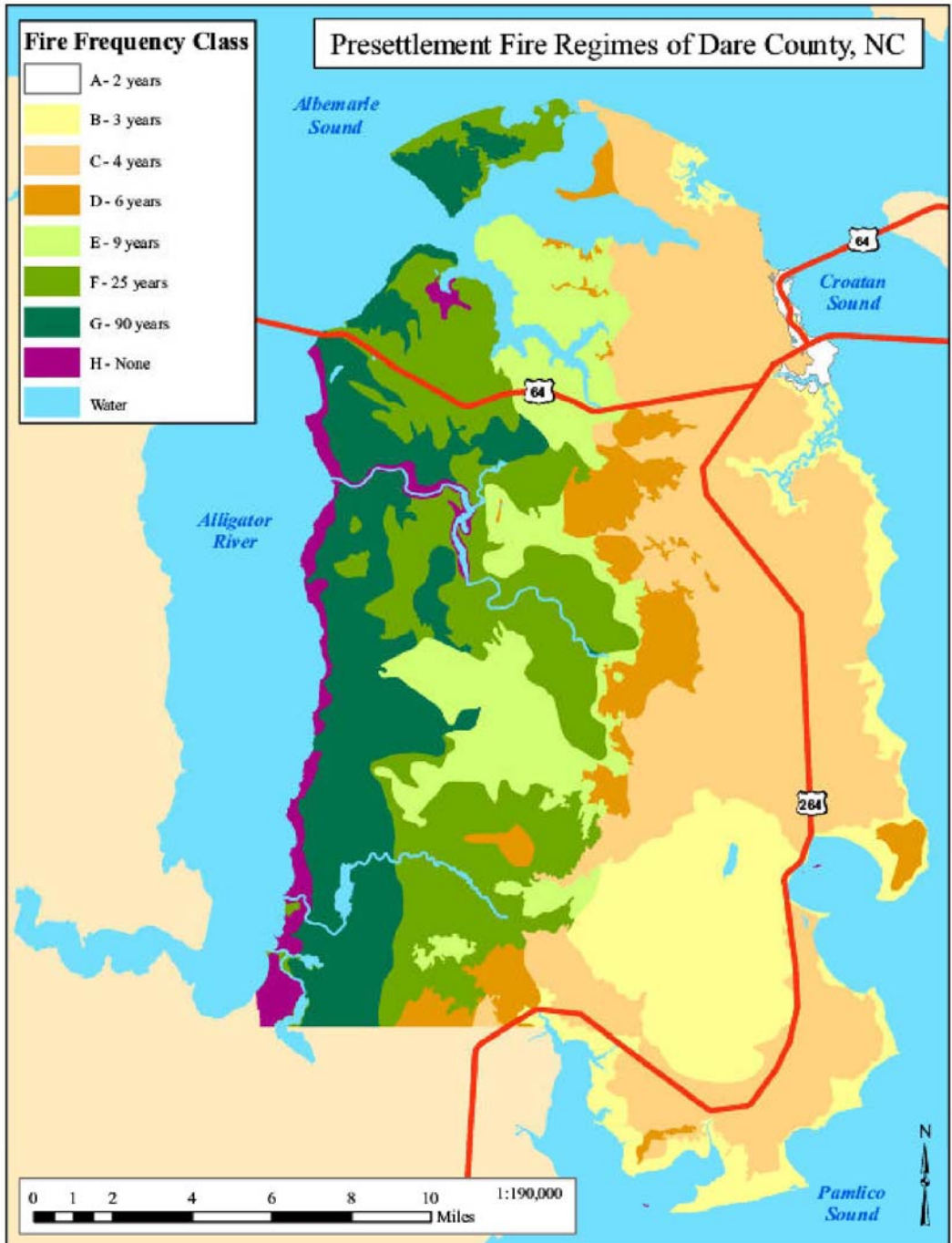


# Presettlement Vegetation of Dare County, NC

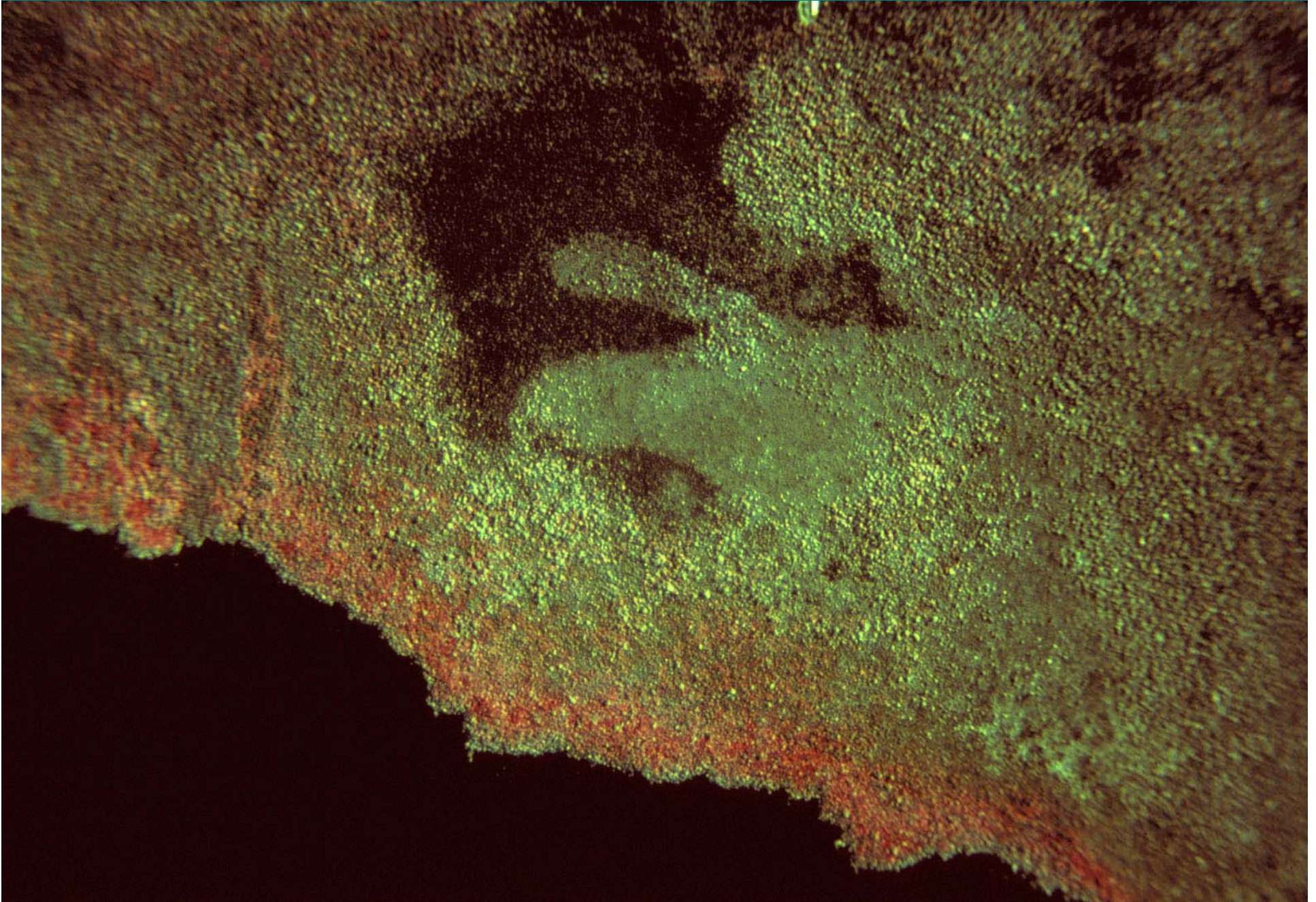
## Vegetation Class

- 1 - Estuarine Fringe  
Beaches, Sand Berms  
and Low Dunes,  
Sparsely Vegetated
- 2 - Xeric and Dry-Mesic  
Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass  
Savanna
- 5 - Wet-mesic Longleaf  
Pine/Wiregrass Savanna
- 7 - Mesic Mixed Pine  
Savanna and Pycnophytic  
Hardwood Woodland
- 8 - Pine-Gum Flats,  
Fire Exposed
- 9 - Oak-Loblolly Pine  
Flats, Fire Sheltered
- 10 - Maritime Pine-Live  
Oak Forest
- 12 - Pond Pine Savanna  
and Forest
- 13 - Canebrake
- 14 - Pond Pine Poconin
- 16 - Palustrine Low  
Poconin
- 17 - Peatland Long Pine  
Interval Pycnomosaic  
(Multiple Species  
Patch Dominants)
- 18 - Peatland Very Long  
Pine Interval Pycnomosaic  
(Atlantic White Cedar  
dominant)
- 20 - Tidal Cypress-  
Gum Swamp
- 22 - Pine Marsh and  
Estuarine Scrub
- 23 - Oligohaline Marsh
- 24 - Oligohaline to  
Brackish Marsh
- 26 - Brackish and  
Salt Marsh
- Water



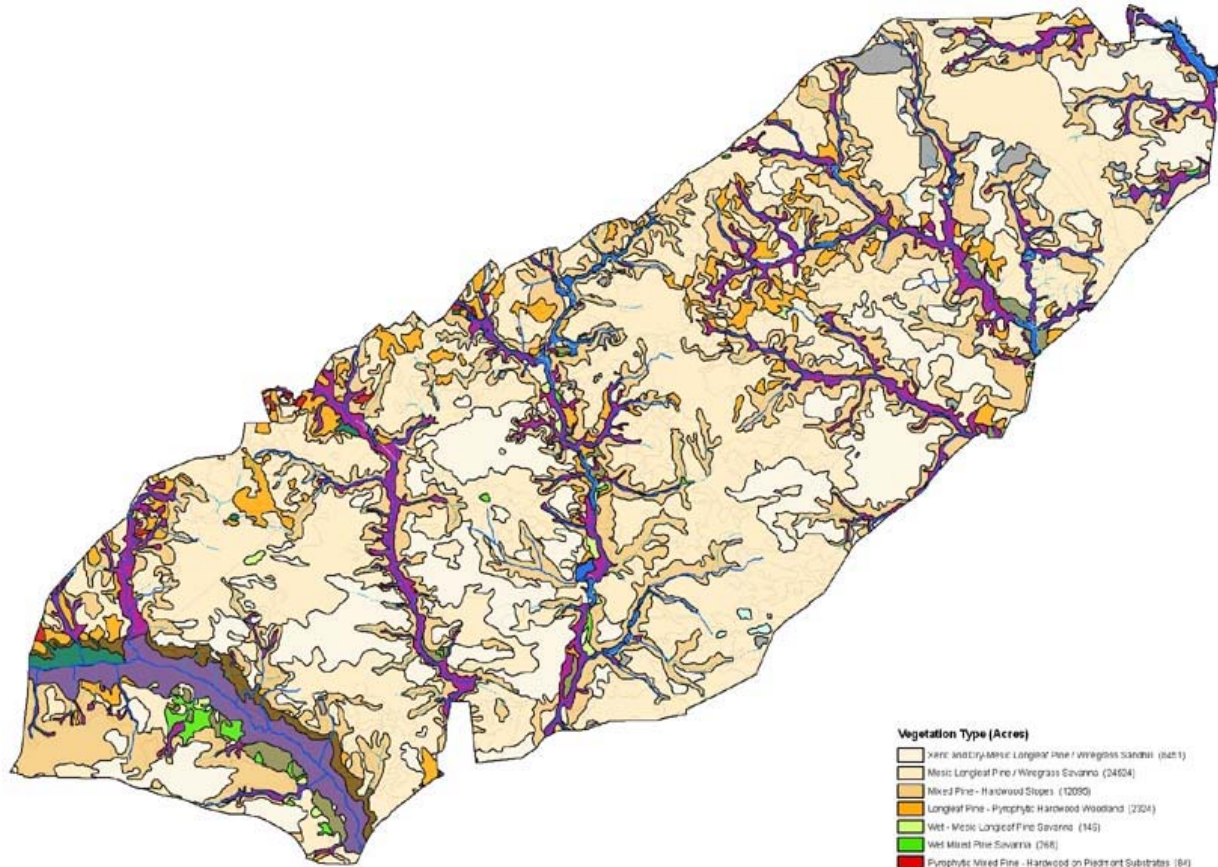


# Peatland Fire Patch Mosaic



# Pre-European Vegetation of Fort Gordon

Cecil Frost and Susan Langley



### Vegetation Type (Acres)

- xeric sand/cypress/musc Longleaf Pine / wiregrass savanna (6211)
- Mesic Longleaf Pine / Wiregrass Savanna (24624)
- Mixed Pine - Hardwood Slopes (10090)
- Longleaf Pine - Pyrophytic Hardwood Woodland (2204)
- Wet - Mesic Longleaf Pine Savanna (145)
- Wet Mixed Pine Savanna (268)
- Pyrophytic Mixed Pine - Hardwood on Piedmont Substrates (84)
- Mixed Mesic Hardwood Forest (450)
- Pine - Hardwood Hills (537)
- Small Stream Wetland Mosaic Structured by Fire and Beaver (382)
- Bottomland Hardwood Forest (239)
- Bottomland Hardwoods - Swamp Forest (1546)
- Small Depressions, Seasonally Flooded, with Swamp Black Gum, Cagcho Plum, Maiden Creeper (36)
- Disturbed Soils and vegetation (674)
- Water (515)

### Hydrology and Soils

- Connector
- Perennial
- Intermittent
- Artificial Path
- Soils

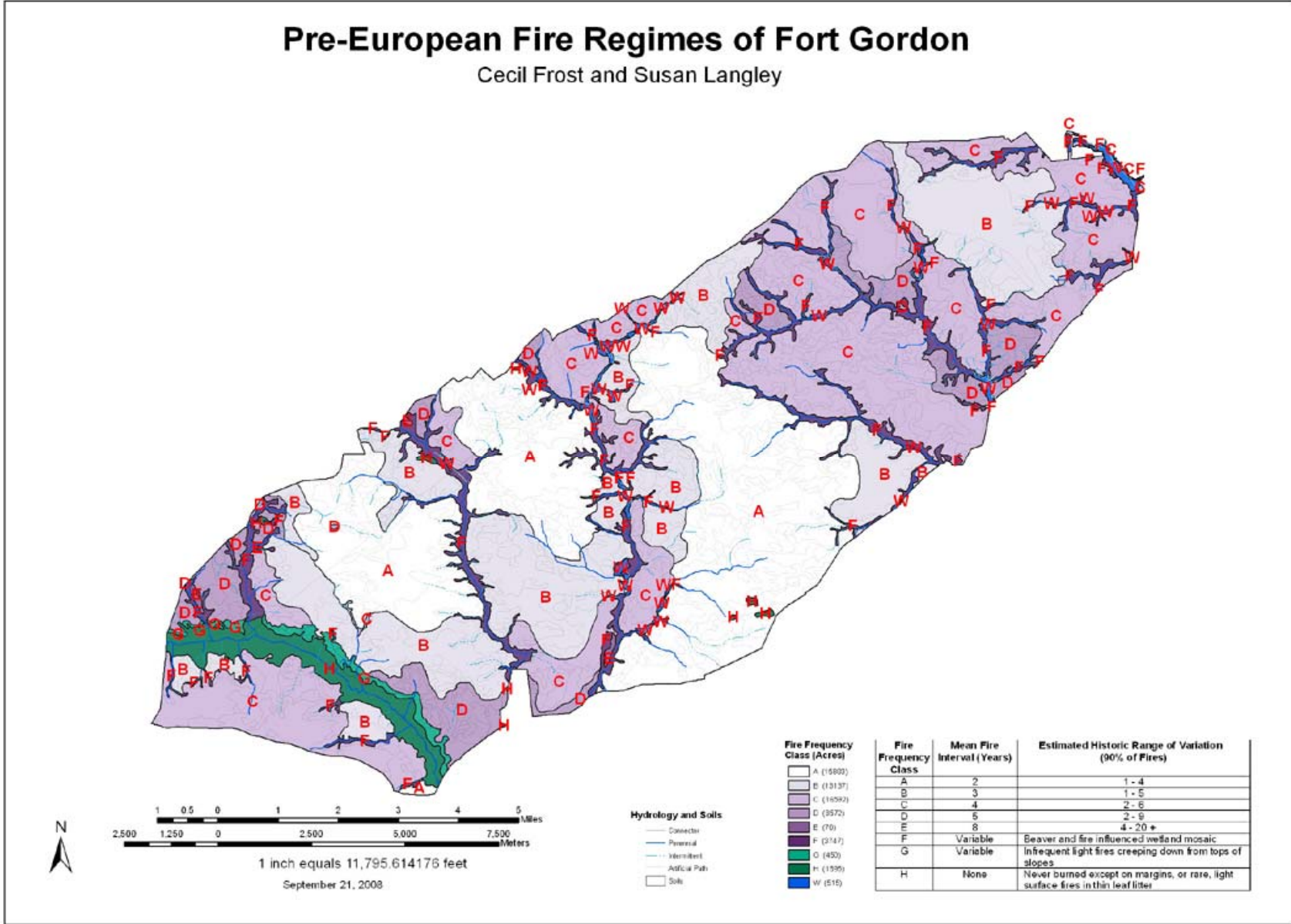


1 inch equals 11,795.614176 feet

September 21, 2008

# Pre-European Fire Regimes of Fort Gordon

Cecil Frost and Susan Langley



<b>Presettlement Vegetation Types – Fort Gordon</b>	<b>ACRES</b>	<b>Percent of Uplands</b>
<b>Xeric and Dry-Mesic Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass Sandhill (g)</b>	8451	17.2
<b>Mesic Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass Savanna (g)</b>	24524	50.0
<b>Mixed Pine-Hardwood Slopes (g)</b>	12095	24.6
<b>Longleaf Pine–Pyrophytic Hardwood Woodland (g)</b>	2324	4.7
<b>Wet-mesic Longleaf Pine Savanna (g)</b>	146	0.3
<b>Wet Mixed Pine Savanna (g)</b>	268	0.6
<b>Pyrophytic Mixed Pine-Hardwood on Piedmont Substrates (g)</b>	84	0.2
<b>Mixed Mesic Hardwood Forest</b>	450	0.9
<b>Pine-Hardwood Flats (g)</b>	537	1.1
<b>Small Stream Wetland Mosaic Structured by Fire and Beaver (w)</b>	3822	
<b>Bottomland Hardwood Forest</b>	209	0.4
<b>Bottomland Hardwood-Swamp Forest (w)</b>	1344	
<b>Small Depressions, Seasonally Ponded, with Swamp Black Gum, Ogeche Plum/Maiden Cane (w)</b>	36	
<b>(Udorthents - Disturbed soils and vegetation)</b>	(674)	
<b>Water</b>	515	
<b>Total Water &amp; Wetlands</b>	5717	
<b>Total Upland acres (less Udorthents)</b>	49088	100
<b>Total Grassy Uplands</b>	<b>48,429</b>	<b>98.7</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	55479	

Gravatt Center –

Piedmont-  
Sandhills  
transition

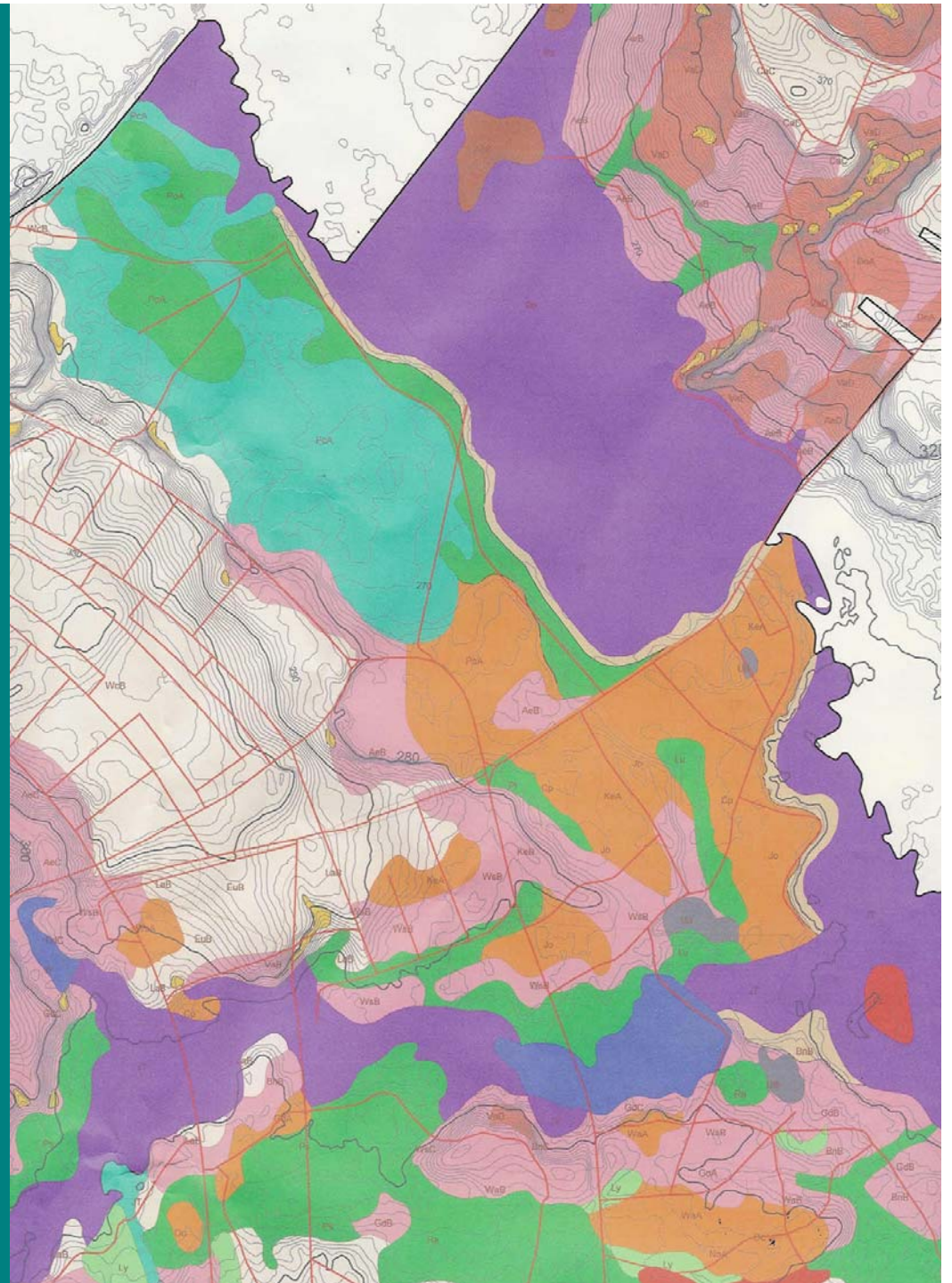
Aiken County SC





# Camp Mackall

## Presettlement Vegetation





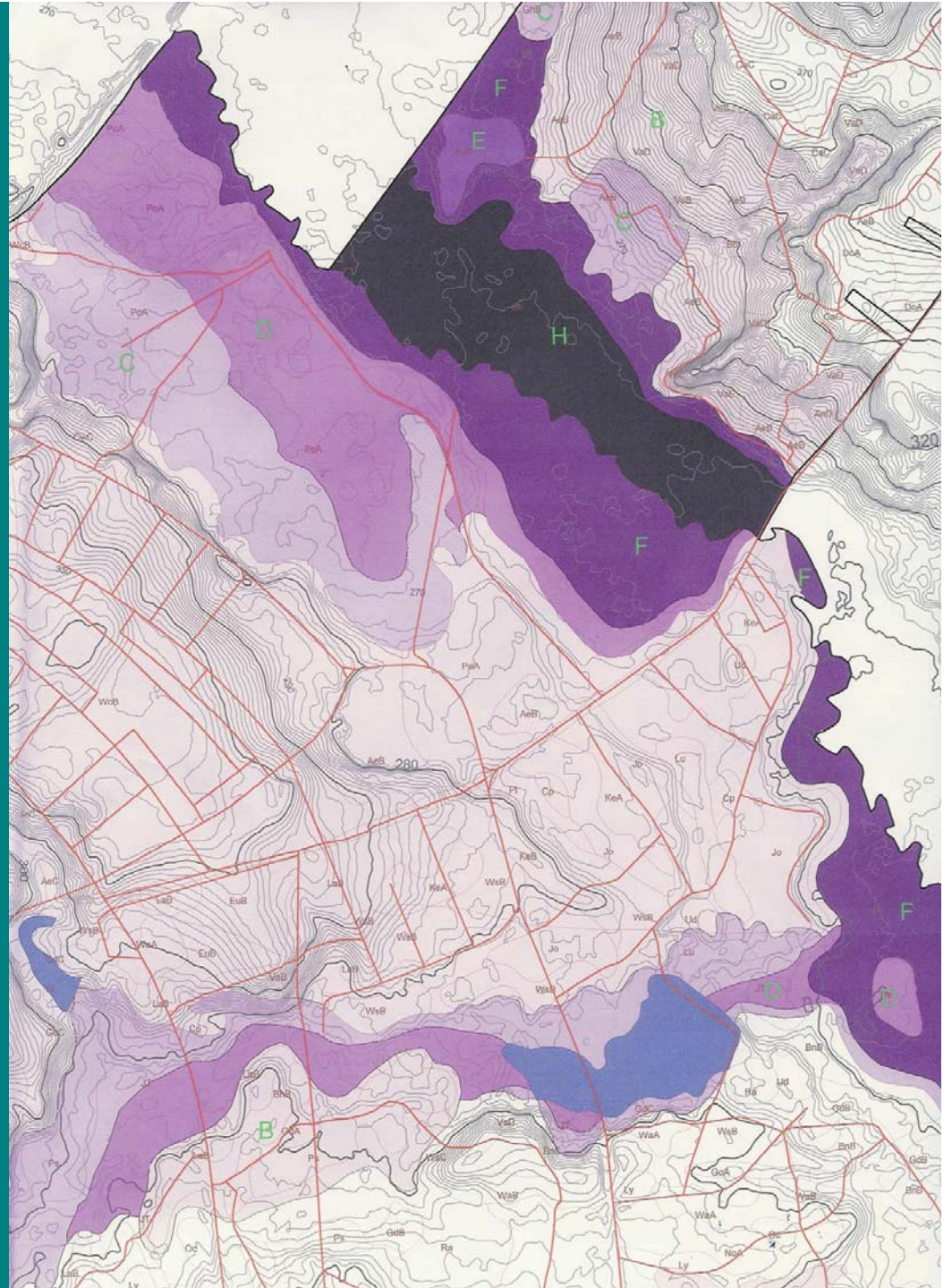
Drowning Creek Swamp – Wet Phase



Drowning Creek Swamp – Dry Phase

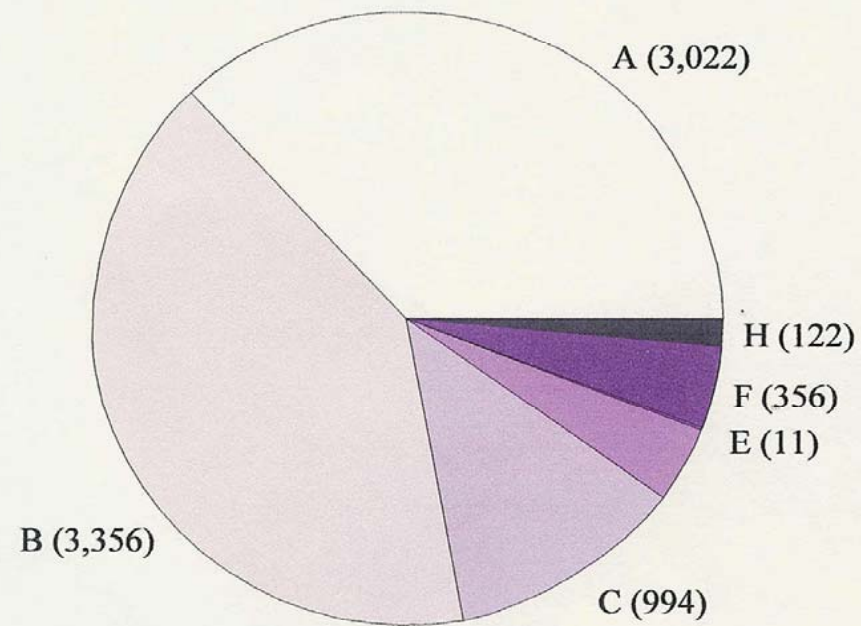
# Camp Mackall

## Presettlement Fire Frequency



# Camp Mackall

Acres in Each Fire Frequency Class

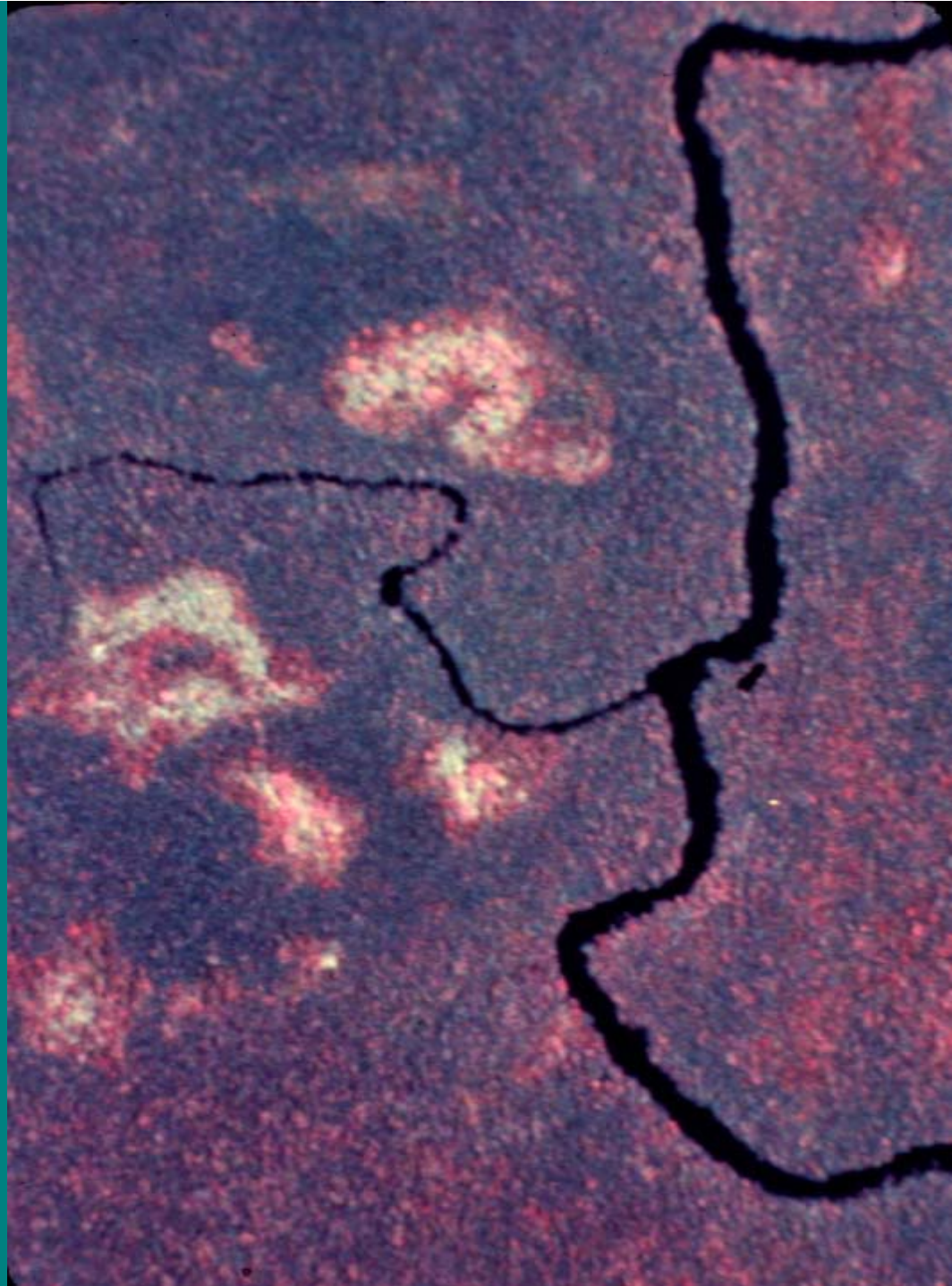


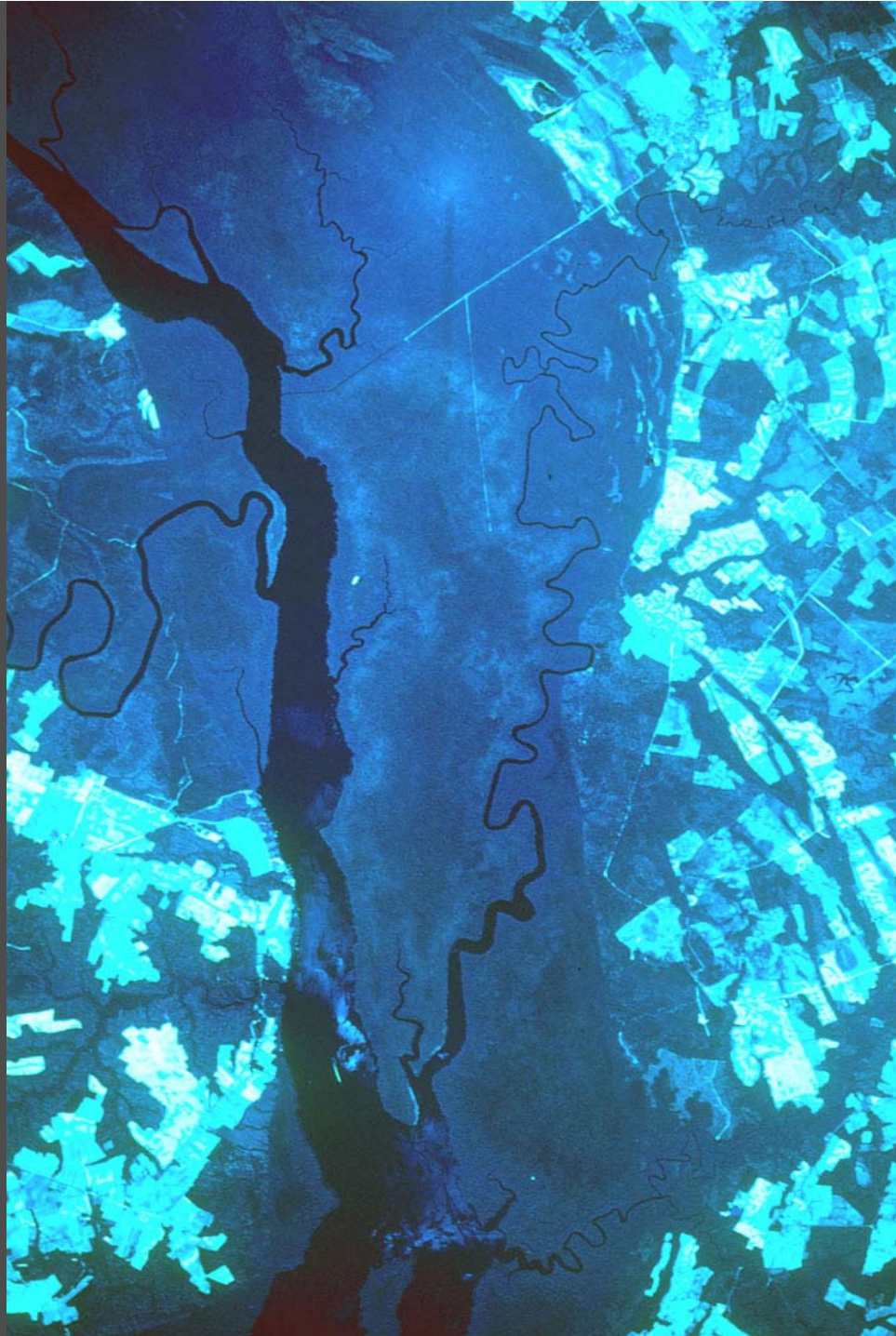


Blackwater  
River  
Southampton  
County, VA

# Chowan Swamp

20,000 acres of  
white cedar



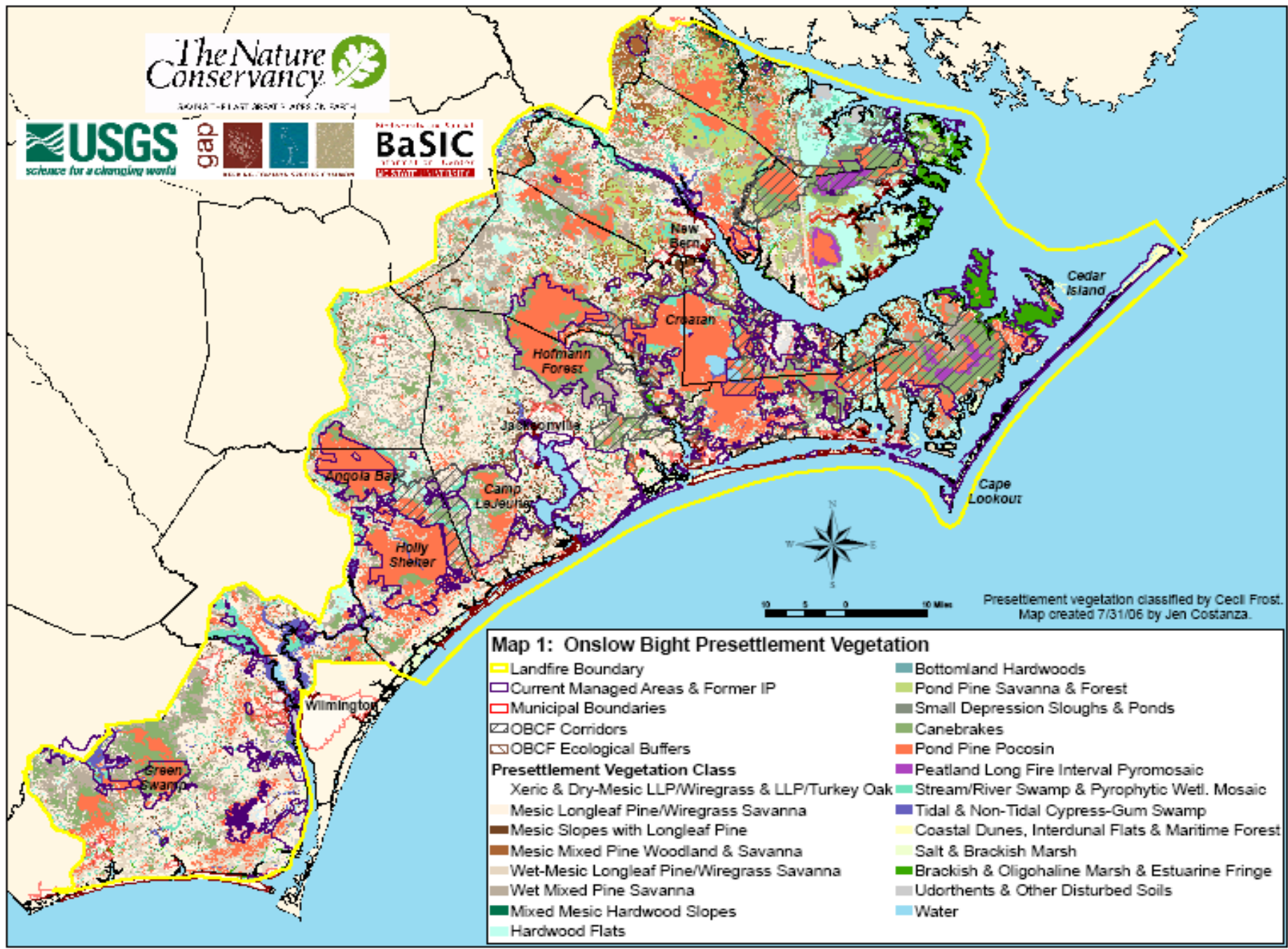


# Chowan Swamp





ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

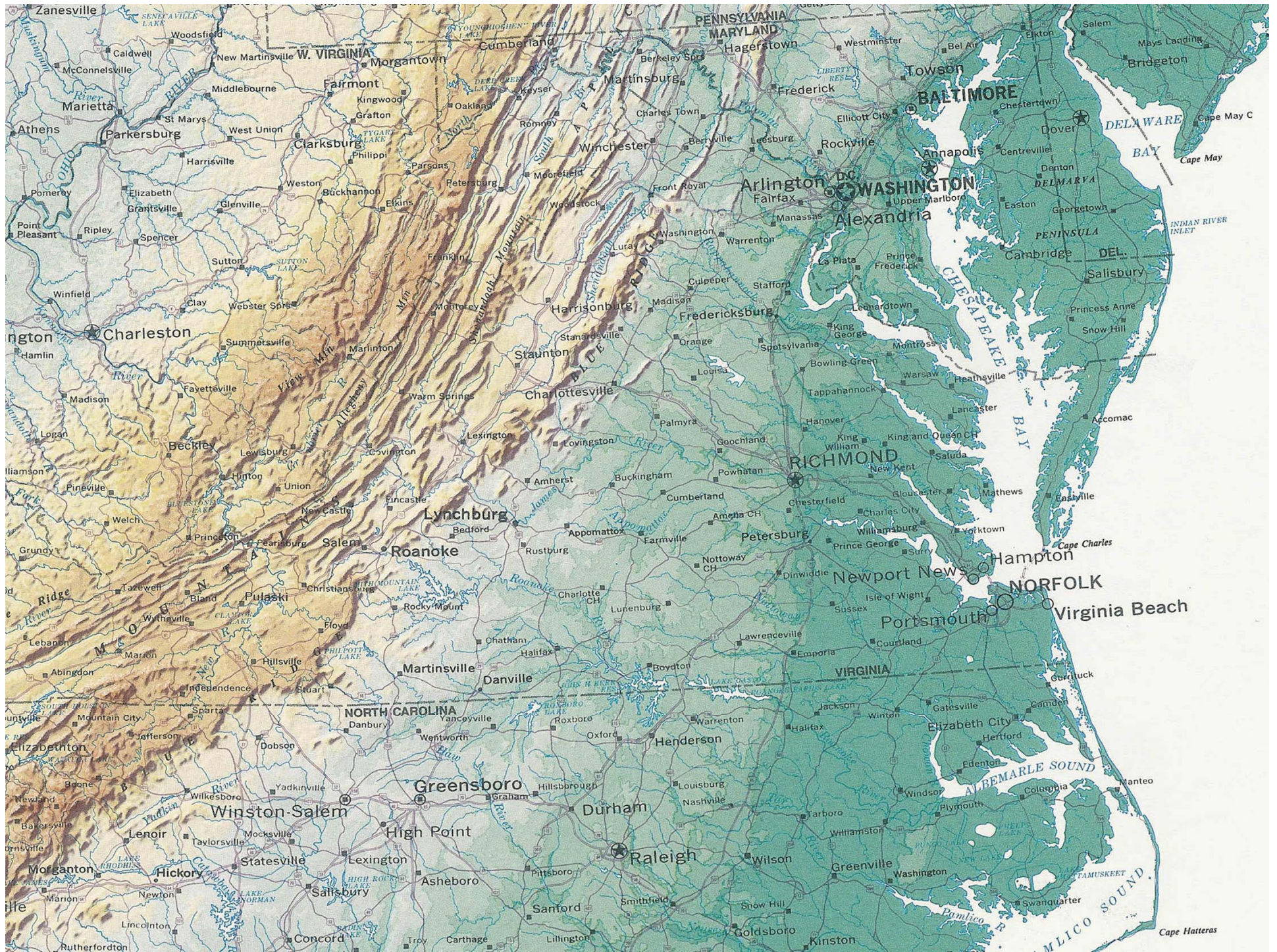


Presettlement vegetation classified by Cecil Frost.  
Map created 7/31/06 by Jen Costanza.

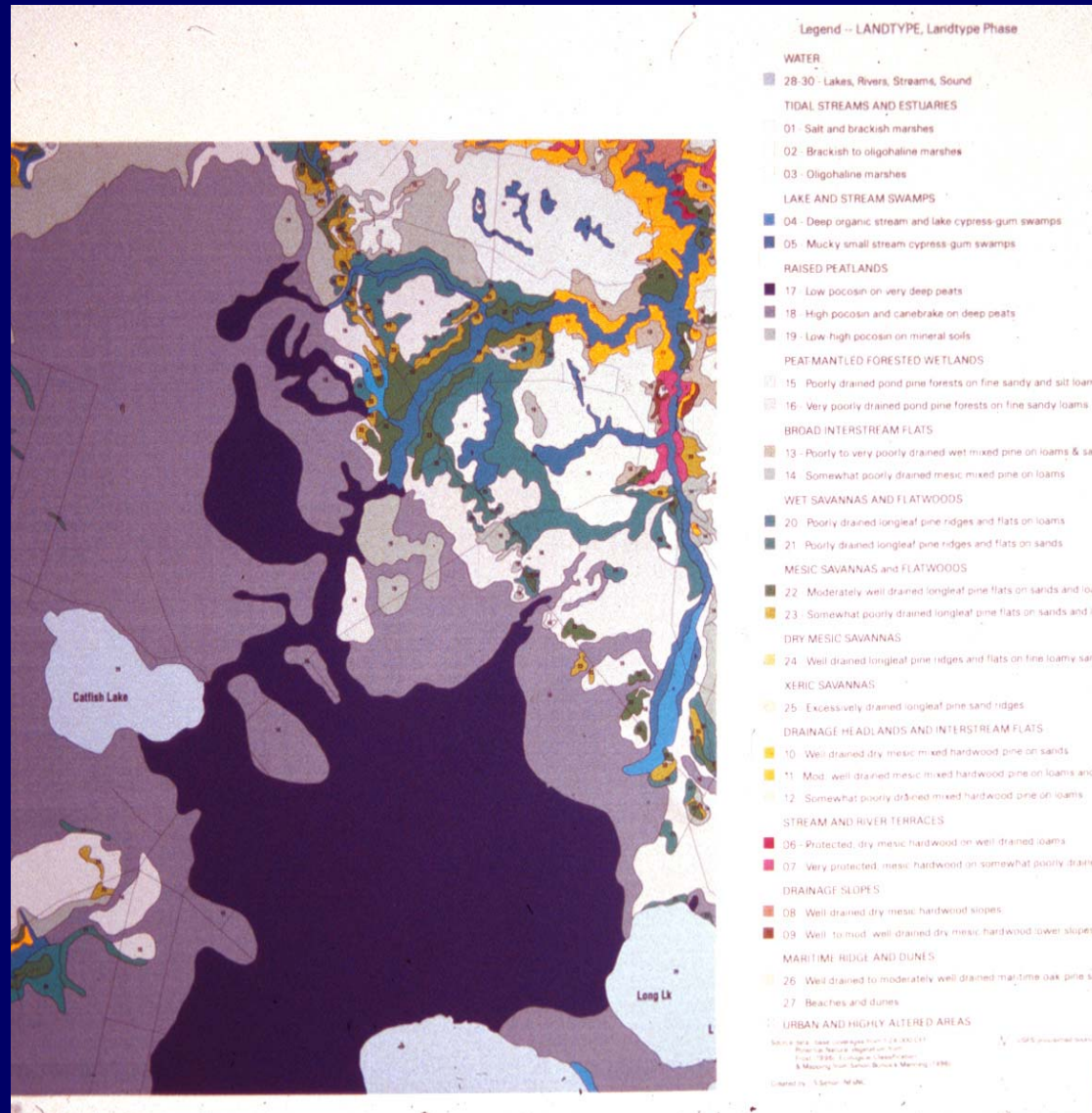
**Map 1: Onslow Bight Presettlement Vegetation**

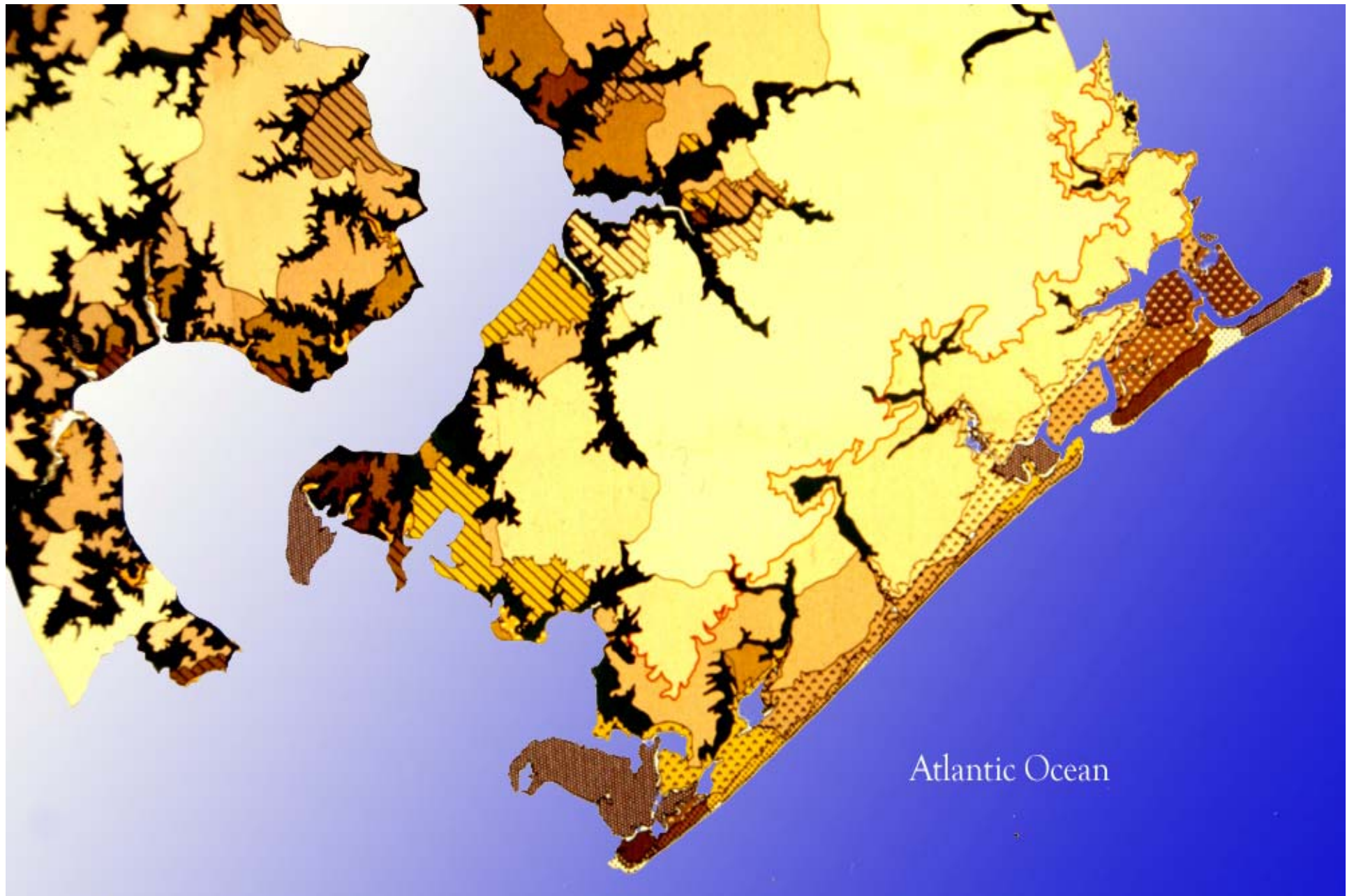
- Landfire Boundary
  - Current Managed Areas & Former IP
  - Municipal Boundaries
  - OBCF Corridors
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- Xeric & Dry-Mesic LLP/Wiregrass & LLP/Turkey Oak
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  - Wet-Mesic Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass Savanna
  - Wet Mixed Pine Savanna
  - Mixed Mesic Hardwood Slopes
  - Hardwood Flats
  - Bottomland Hardwoods
  - Pond Pine Savanna & Forest
  - Small Depression Sloughs & Ponds
  - Canebrakes
  - Pond Pine Pocosin
  - Peatland Long Fire Interval Pyromosaic
  - Stream/River Swamp & Pyrophytic Wetl. Mosaic
  - Tidal & Non-Tidal Cypress-Gum Swamp
  - Coastal Dunes, Interdunal Flats & Maritime Forest
  - Salt & Brackish Marsh
  - Brackish & Oligohaline Marsh & Estuarine Fringe
  - Udorthents & Other Disturbed Soils
  - Water





# Maps of Original (Presettlement) Vegetation-Croatan Peatlands



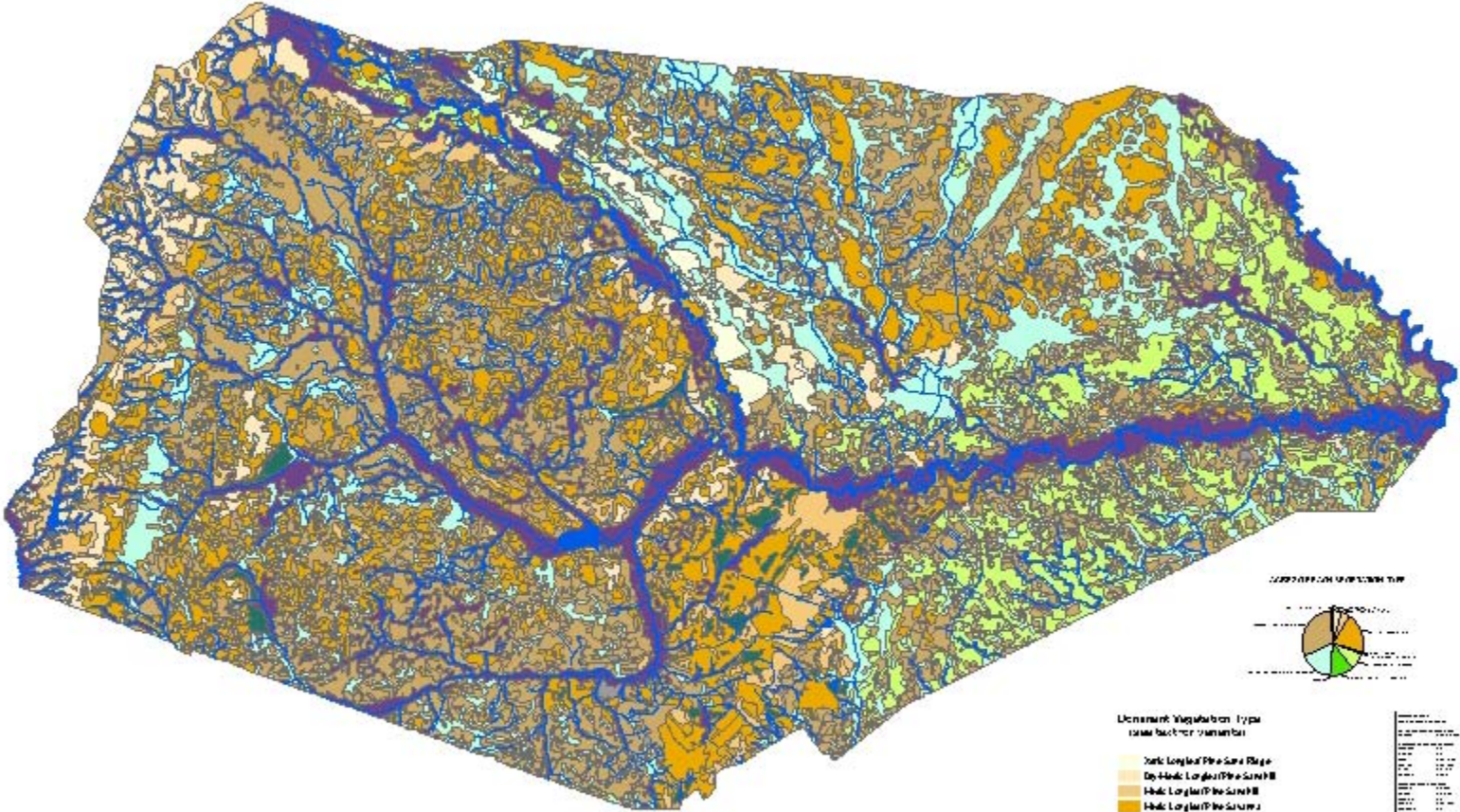


Atlantic Ocean

Camp Lejeune, USMC

# Presettlement Vegetation of Fort Stewart, Georgia

Cecil Frost and Susan Laigky

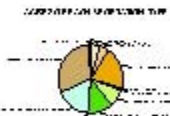


Florida  
 Sea



U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 DIGITAL DATA CENTER

Scale: 1:45,000

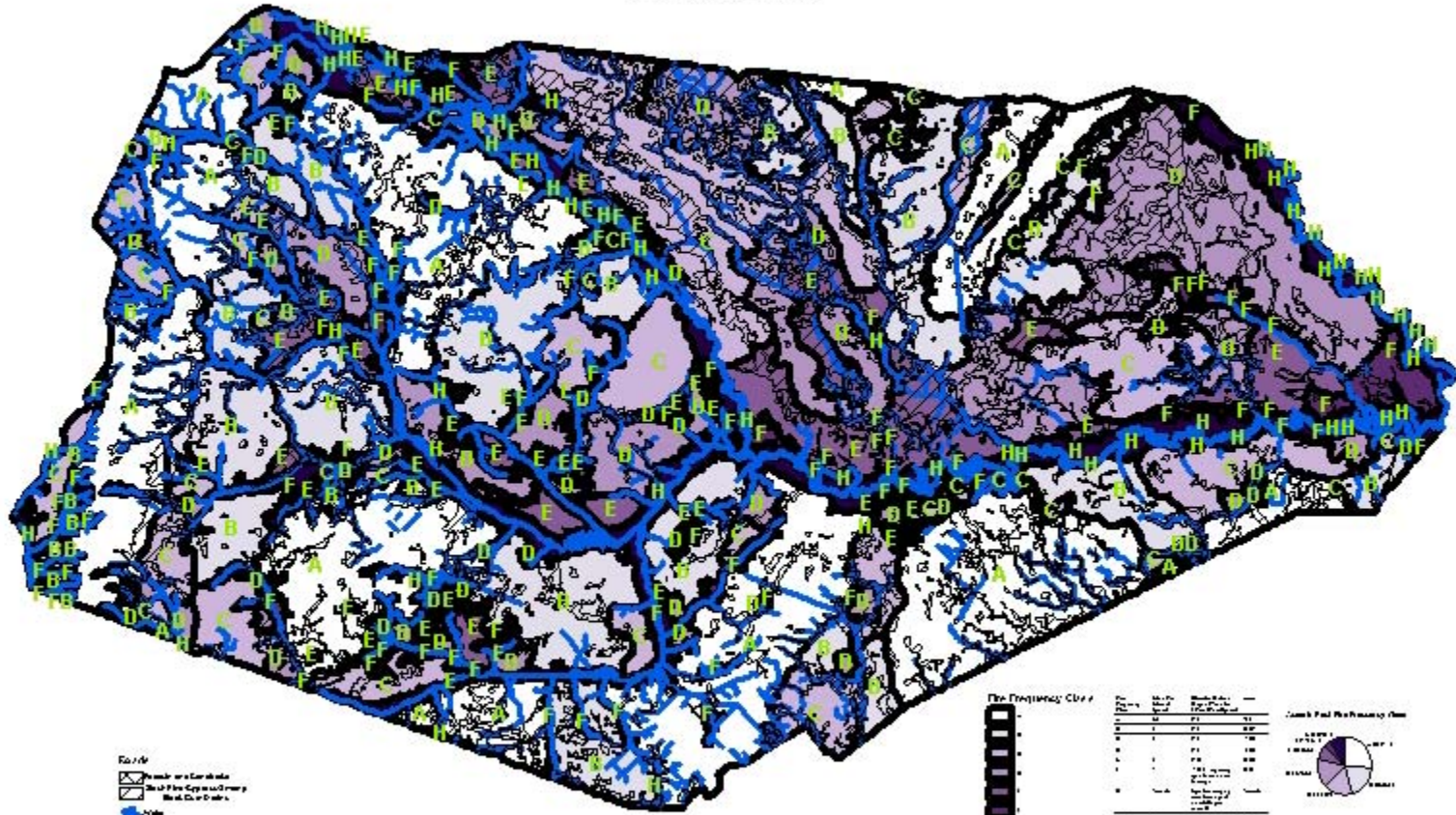


- Vegetation Type  
 Code Number
- Dark Longleaf Pine Sand Ridge
  - Bay-Hick: Longleaf Pine Sandhill
  - Hick: Longleaf Pine Sandhill
  - Hick: Longleaf Pine Scrub
  - Wet-Hick: Longleaf Pine Scrub
  - Slack Pine Scrub and Flatwoods
  - Wet-Slack Pine-Cypress-Swamp-Mud-Gum-Flax
  - Catt-Flax-Wet-Cane
  - Pocosin, Canebrake, and Bay Forest
  - Swamp Forest: Beech-Redstart-White-Cedar-Comple
  - Disturbed Soils and Vegetation
  - Water

Vegetation Type	Area (Acres)	Percentage
Dark Longleaf Pine Sand Ridge	1,234	1.2%
Bay-Hick: Longleaf Pine Sandhill	2,345	2.3%
Hick: Longleaf Pine Sandhill	3,456	3.4%
Hick: Longleaf Pine Scrub	4,567	4.5%
Wet-Hick: Longleaf Pine Scrub	5,678	5.6%
Slack Pine Scrub and Flatwoods	6,789	6.7%
Wet-Slack Pine-Cypress-Swamp-Mud-Gum-Flax	7,890	7.8%
Catt-Flax-Wet-Cane	8,901	8.9%
Pocosin, Canebrake, and Bay Forest	9,012	9.0%
Swamp Forest: Beech-Redstart-White-Cedar-Comple	10,123	10.1%
Disturbed Soils and Vegetation	11,234	11.2%
Water	12,345	12.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Presettlement Fire Regimes - Fort Stewart, Georgia

Deell Frost and Susan Laigby



The Fire Frequency Class

Class	Frequency	Mean	Standard Deviation	Minimum	Maximum
1	1	1.0	0.0	1	1
2	2	2.0	0.0	2	2
3	3	3.0	0.0	3	3
4	4	4.0	0.0	4	4
5	5	5.0	0.0	5	5
6	6	6.0	0.0	6	6
7	7	7.0	0.0	7	7
8	8	8.0	0.0	8	8
9	9	9.0	0.0	9	9
10	10	10.0	0.0	10	10

Land Use/Management Class

Class	Percentage
1	10.0%
2	10.0%
3	10.0%
4	10.0%
5	10.0%
6	10.0%
7	10.0%
8	10.0%
9	10.0%
10	10.0%

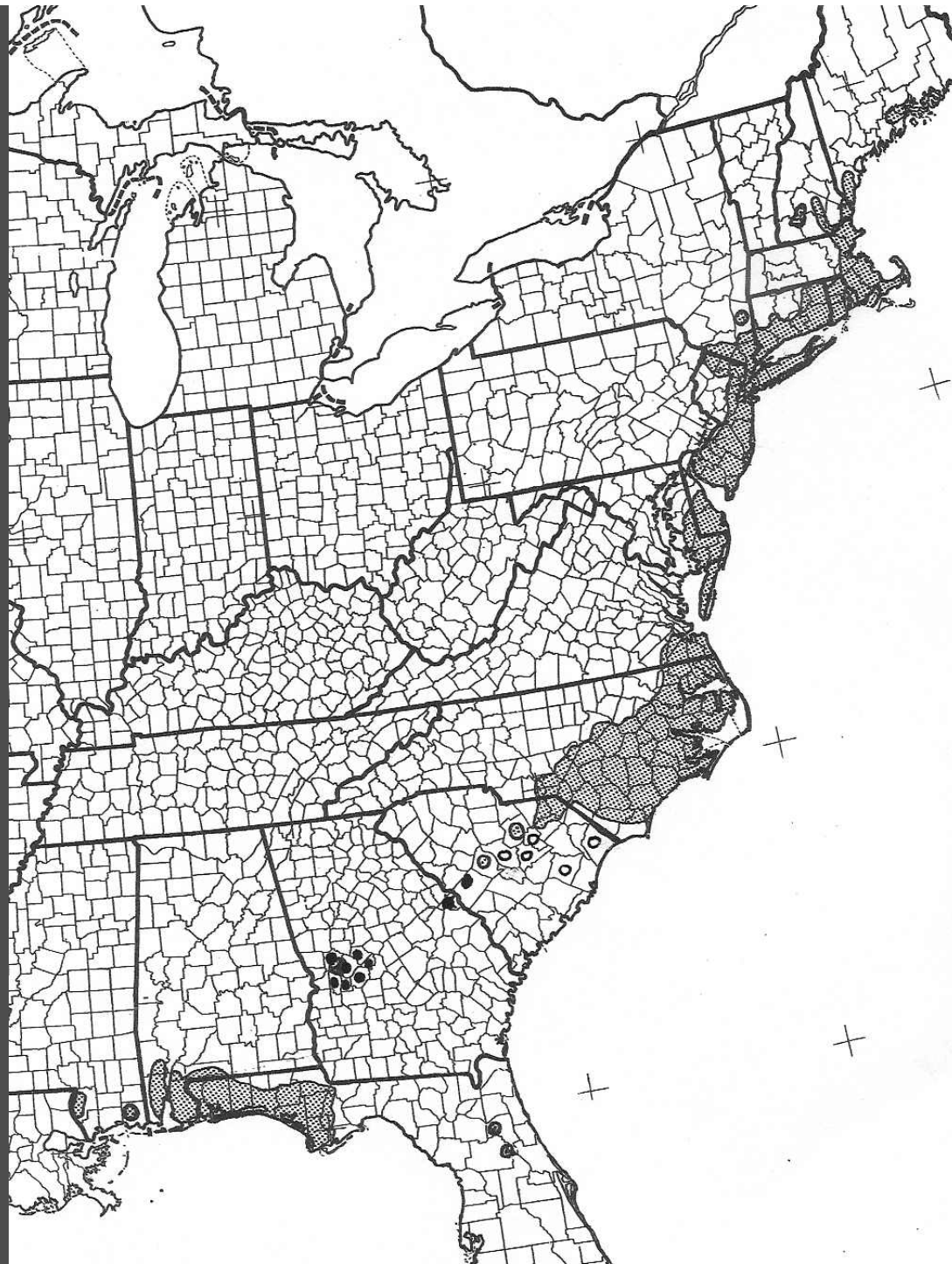
The Mean Fire Frequency Class is the average fire frequency over the entire area. The Standard Deviation of the Mean Fire Frequency Class is the standard deviation of the fire frequency over the entire area. The Minimum Fire Frequency Class is the minimum fire frequency over the entire area. The Maximum Fire Frequency Class is the maximum fire frequency over the entire area.

## Maintenance burn frequencies for Fort Stewart, Georgia

Fire Frequency Class	Mean Fire Interval	Acres	Average Acres to Burn Per Year (based on whole site but subtract all developed areas)
A	1.5	72,944	48,629
B	2	53,287	26,643
C	3	47,229	15,743
D	4	45,166	11,292
E	5	22,268	4,454
F	7	11,054	1,579
G	variable	1,065	-0-
H	none	25,987	-0-
		<b>279,000</b>	108,340 (less 9000 acres developed lands and other areas unsuitable for burning)

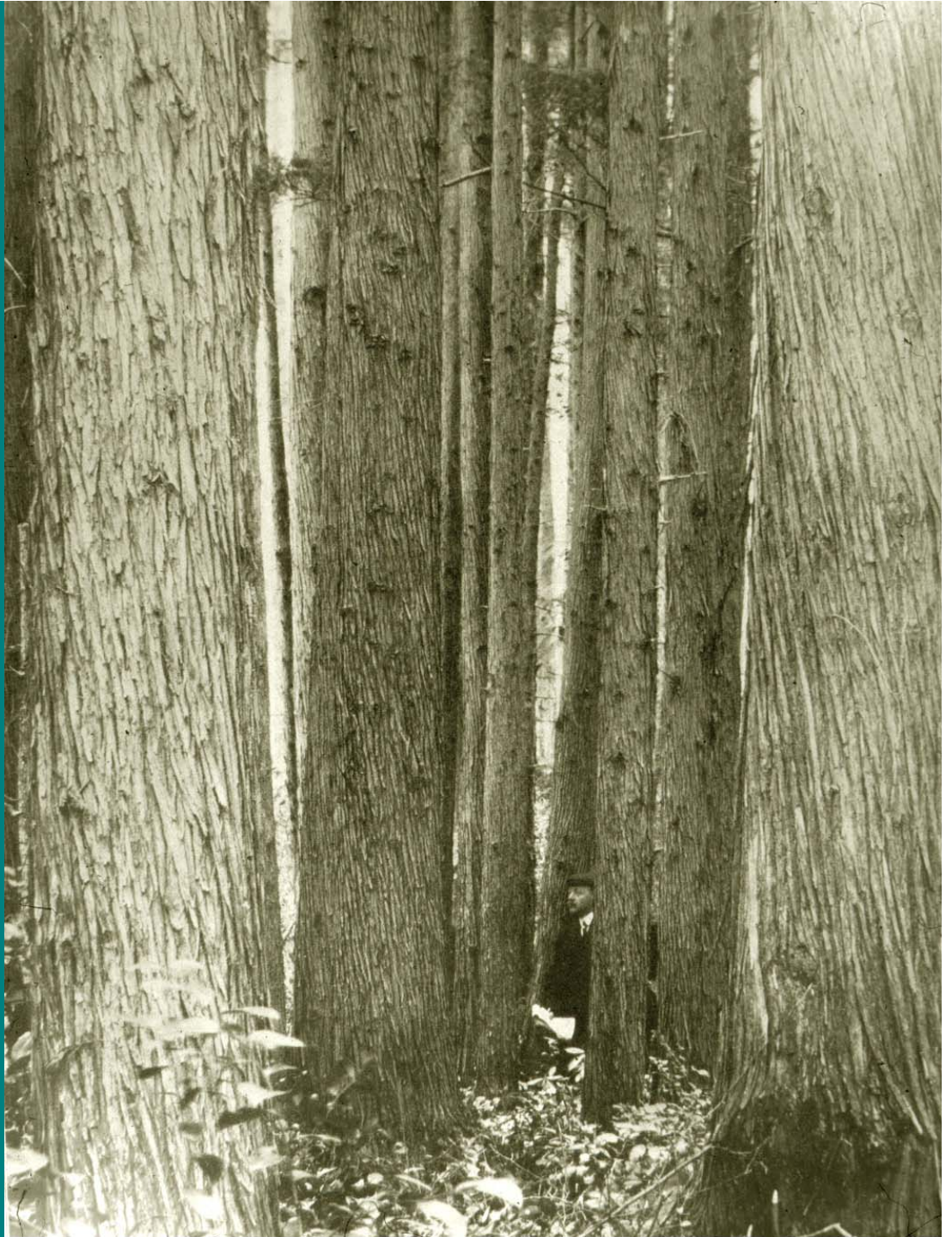


# Historical Range in the South



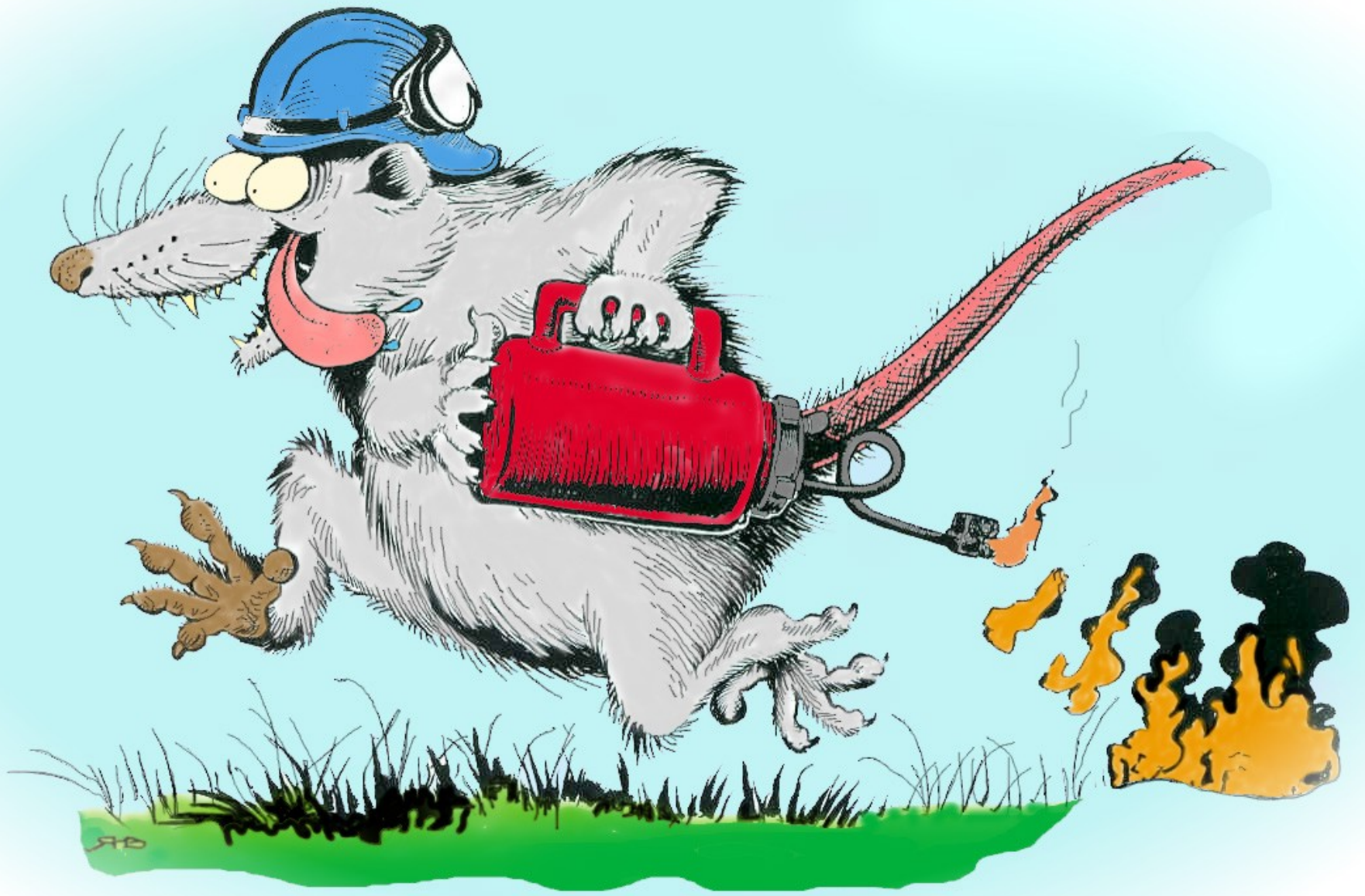
Virgin  
white  
cedar in  
the  
Dismal  
Swamp

1907





# *Pyro Possum!*









Most Causes Want Your Checkbook.  
He Wants Your Matchbook.



Celebrating 50 Years.





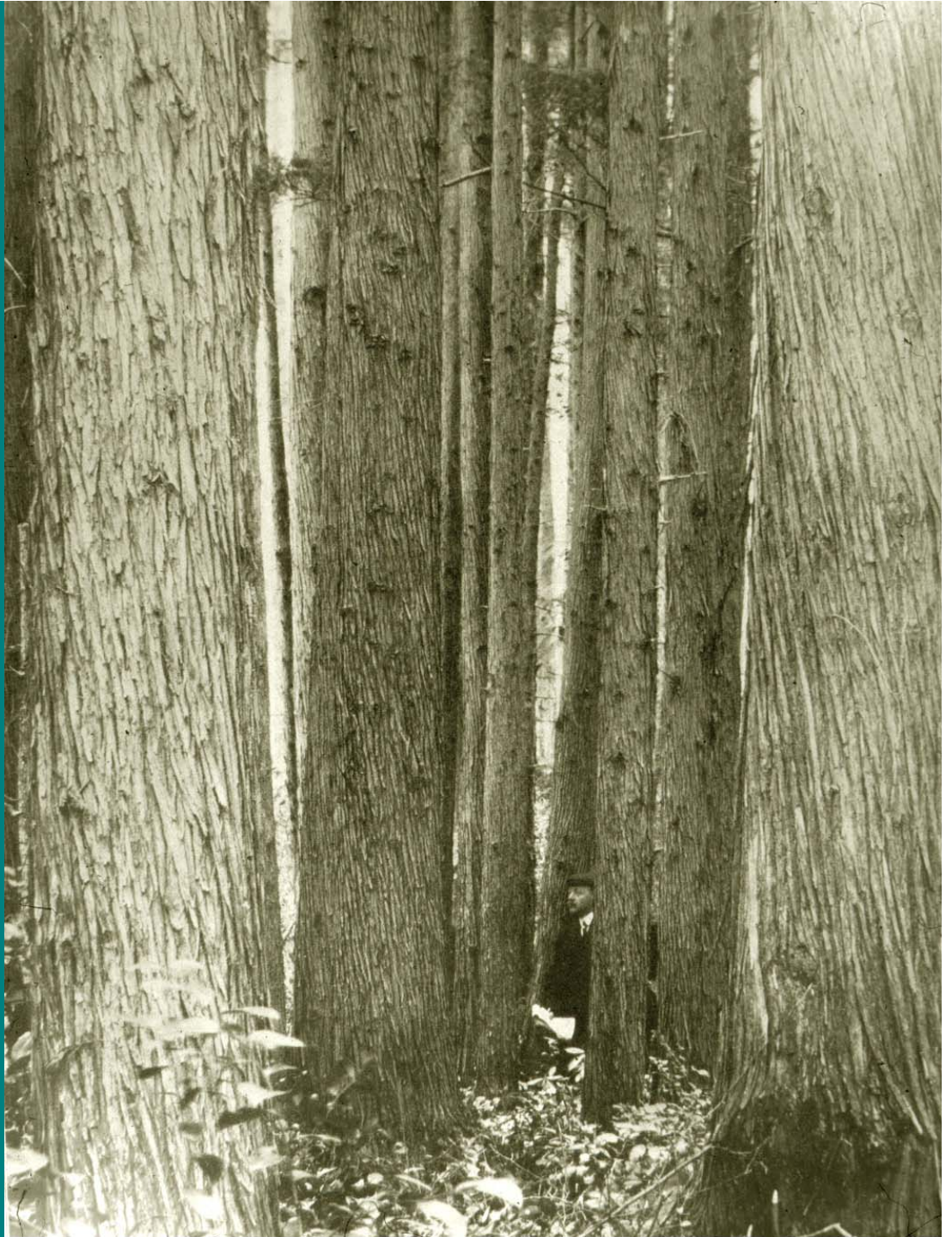
# Fire Frequency Class



Fire Frequency Class	Mean Fire Interval (years)	Estimated Historic Range of Variation (90% of Fires) (years)	Acres
A	1.5	1 - 3	72944
B	2	1 - 5	53287
C	3	1 - 6	47229
D	4	1 - 9	45166
E	5	2 - 20	22268
F	7	4 - 100 + depending upon location in the landscape	11054
G	Variable	Light fires creeping down from tops of river bluffs ( <i>not mapped</i> )	Variable
H	None	Never burned except on margins or rare, very light surface fires in leaf litter	25987

Virgin  
white  
cedar in  
the  
Dismal  
Swamp

1907



# “Juniper” or Atlantic White Cedar



