

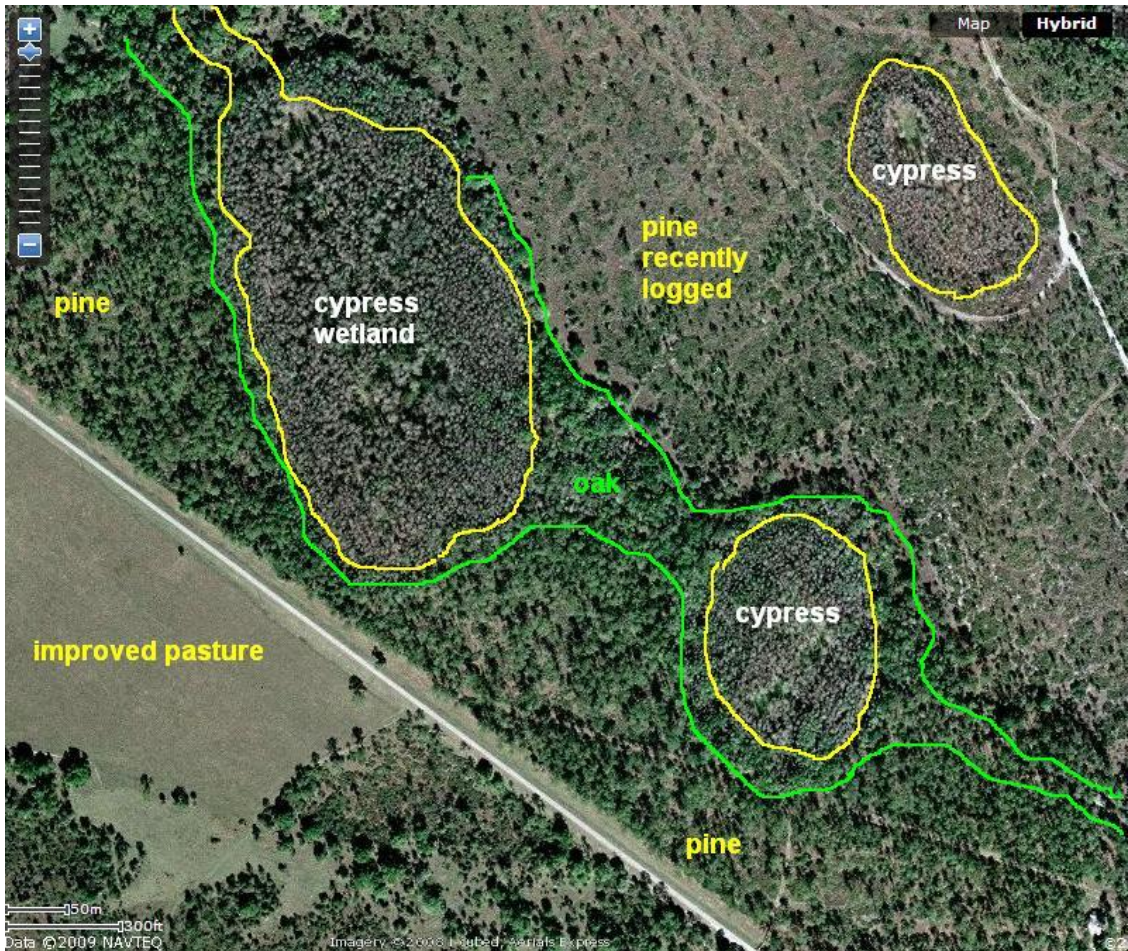


Pine Flatwoods

Field Trip
Babcock

Pine palmetto flatwoods are a **mosaic** of different habitats: pine, oak hammocks, wetland depressions. **Read Chapter 4, Flatwoods and Prairies.**

Site 1



Define:

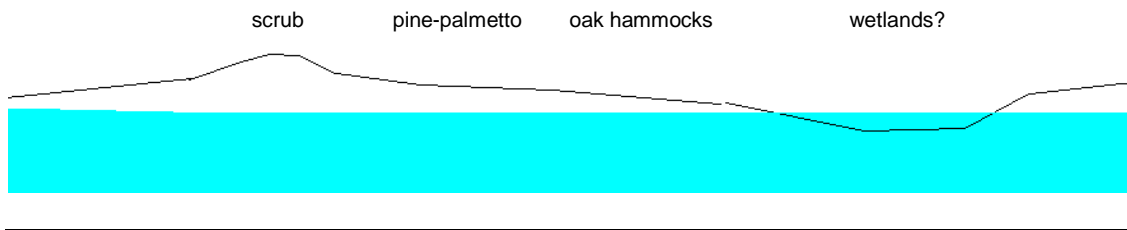
Slough

Isolated wetland

Why are flatwoods so flat?

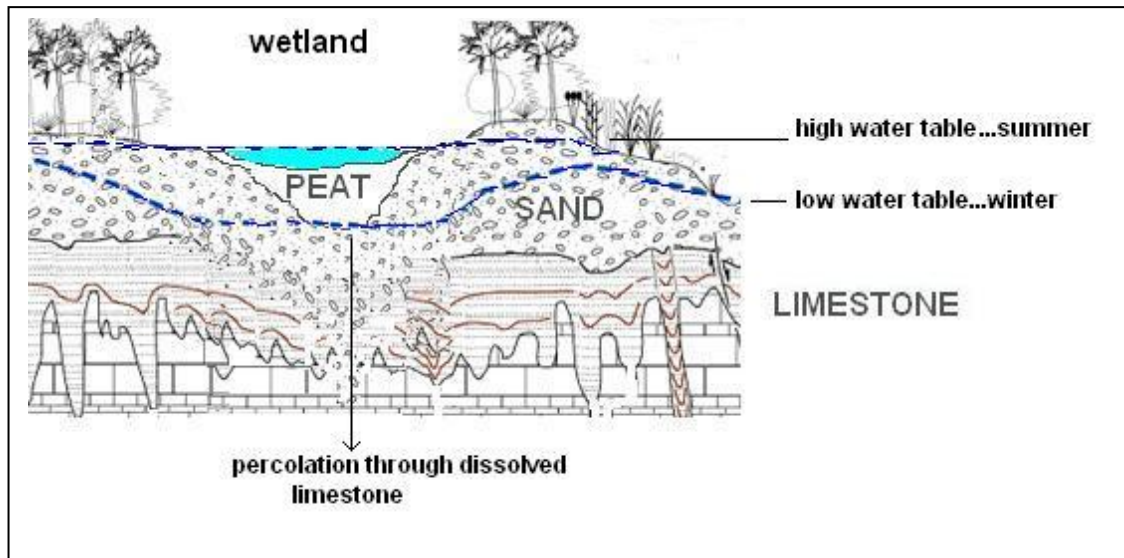


What abiotic factor controls the location of:



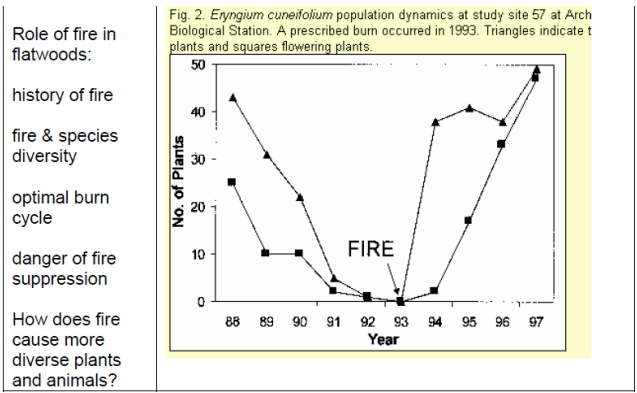
Where did the wetland depressions come from in the first place?

Karst sink holes, limestone, percolation, climate cycles, sea level and rain fall



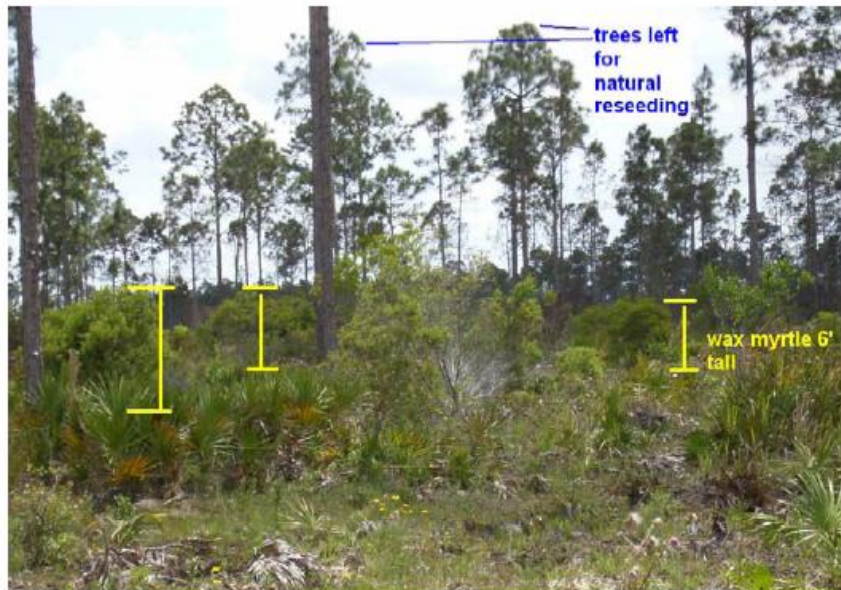


Role of fire in south Florida flatwoods:
 Natural fire reoccurrence interval? _____
 Fire and species diversity? _____



- Wildlife considerations:
- role of logging: pros cons
 - role of cattle pros cons
 - role of farming pros cons
 - role of hunting pros cons

A logged pine flatwoods site



Were there many young pine trees seen?

Had controlled burns killed young pines?

If a good fire kills wax myrtle and other shrubs, then how long ago did this site burn? (myrtles grow 1.5 feet a year)

Is the mechanical damage done to the palmetto by the logging equipment, a good thing or bad thing?

What are the wildlife benefits of allowing cows to graze native flatwoods?

What are the wildlife negatives of grazing?

Does most of the flatwood's energy move through the grazing or detritus food web?

What effect does frequent (2-4 years) fire have on species diversity and abundance?

Why do grasses, sedges and forbs all increase after a fire?

Species response to fire:

Pine
Palmetto
Grasses
Forbes
Oaks
Wax myrtle

What is the Babcock Experiment?