

### **Reserve Design Working Group**

There have been a number of projects within the last 3 months. We're close to completing all of the upland longleaf pine surveys for the Sandhills. There are only about 30 left. This work should be complete later this spring.

Work has begun on a model to identify and assess the condition of longleaf stands across the state of North Carolina. The work is progressing faster than expect and the first set of results should be ready for review within a month or two. Completing the full project is expected to take approximately 1 year.

Several analyses examining the quantity and quality of water in the Sandhills have been conducted as required by the NCSCP monitoring plan. The results were presented at the March 8 NCSCP steering committee meeting and summarized in the meeting minutes.

Jeff Marcus has updated the smoke awareness layer for the Conservation Reserve Design Working Group Plan. The update is being considered by members of the working group and will be incorporated into the plan by the end of March.

Finally, a final report detailing the findings from the isolated wetland surveys last winter is nearing completion, hopefully by summer 2017. Several members of the committee are working on the report and there is interest in trying to publish it in a peer-reviewed journal, such as Journal of Herpetology.