

Spruce Mapping and Planning



Mapping committee has determined the following priorities:

- ❖ Historic Condition
- ❖ Current Condition
- ❖ Restoration Priorities

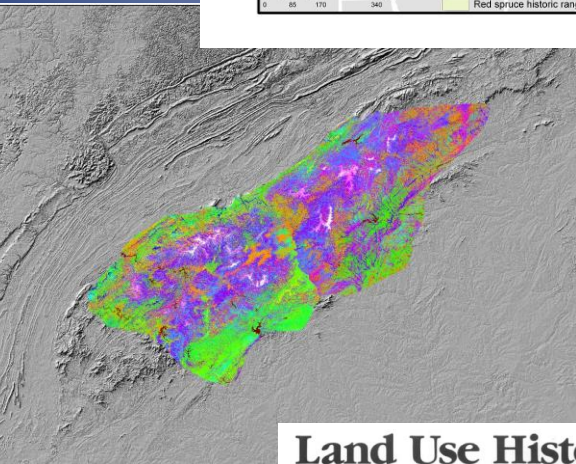
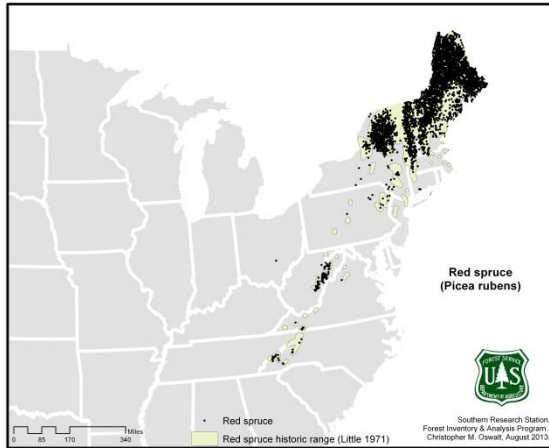
For each of these priorities, we must first assess:

- ❖ Where are we now?
- ❖ Where would we like to be?
- ❖ How do we get there?

Where are we now?

- **Historic condition?**

- Mapping often coarse scale or incomplete
- Historical records provide unique information
- Large areas of Spruce Forest were lost to logging and burning in the historic period
- Current modeling does not seem to be accurate enough for our needs



Land Use History of Three Spruce-Fir Forest Sites in Southern Appalachia

by Charlotte Pyle and Michael P. Schafale



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Where are we now?

- **Current conditions?**
 - Knowledge is limited and widely distributed
 - Better known on public lands, but, still not complete
- **Restoration opportunities?**
 - Limited to known locations with high visibility

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Where would we like to be?

- **Historic conditions**
 - Central location for best available information on all lands within the SBR ecoregion
- **Current conditions**
 - Consistent and reasonably accurate knowledge of distribution on all lands
- **Restoration opportunities**
 - Agreement upon prioritization for site selection
 - Understanding of potential acreages within a 5-10 year timeframe.

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How do we get there?

1. Mapping current conditions through GIS based on aerial imagery and ground truthing
2. Development of restoration criteria and priorities
 - a. Based on best available historic information
 - b. And current management needs
3. Estimation of capacity needs for nursery space, volunteers, funding, etc.

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How do we get there?

We need:

- agreement to proceed with a planning effort
- Commitment from mapping committee and others to serve as reviewer of preliminary mapping products
- Additional funding for the planning effort (grant proposals underway)