

effects of fire exclusion on longleaf pine



Dr. Gilliam and Ms. Bray using a using a soil corer to sample surface soil (0-5 cm depth) to analyze for pH, organic matter, and plant nutrients.

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This study was conducted in longleaf pine stands along trails of two sites on the UWF campus (Ball Nature Trails and Baars-Firestone Wildlife Sanctuary) which have experienced chronic fire exclusion. We sampled soil in 15 400-m² plots at each site. Because longleaf pine ecosystems are fire-dependent, it is important to quantify the effects of fire exclusion to ensure sustainability of these ecosystems. We have observed many soil samples with different colors suggesting contrasts in soil texture, organic matter content, and fertility. These will be confirmed following extensive analyses of soil samples.

