



Hardwoods that have taken over the open matrix.

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This study took place in longleaf pine stands on the UWF campus (Edward Ball Nature Trails and Baars-Firestone Wildlife Sanctuary) which have experienced chronic fire exclusion. We sampled trees and 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 discovered that unburned sites are aggressively taken over by mostly hardwood species that fill in the originally open matrix which once comprised of a longleaf pine savanna.

