

2006. Currie, K.\*, J. M. Varner, J. Kush, and M. Cipollini. A survey of the herbaceous vegetation found in the Berry Longleaf Pine Management Area. Proceedings of the 2nd Mountain Longleaf Conference, Mount Berry, GA. November 18-19, 2005. *Longleaf Alliance Report* 9:35-39.

Abstract: The Berry Longleaf Management Plan is an ongoing attempt to restore the Berry College longleaf population to its natural, fire-maintained habitat. The target community is a longleaf population in Fort McClellan, AL. To monitor management plan's progress, a survey of the herbaceous vegetation was conducted in the summer 2005. Presence and cover values were obtained for every species encountered in the summer of 2005. Presence and cover values were obtained for every species encountered, and importance values were calculated from this data. The presence of longleaf indicator species (Varner et al 2000, 2003) was also noted. Of the top eleven species ranked by importance value, seven species were longleaf indicator species, and 15 of 21 indicator species were present in the surveyed areas as a whole. In addition, the raw presence data were combined with presence data from the Fort McClellan sites, and the principal component analysis was carried out using the combined data. This analysis revealed a clear separation between the Berry stands and the Fort McClellan stands. Major sources of variation included fire-adapted species and in the Fort McClellan stands and shade-loving, non-fire adapted species in the Berry stands. Overall, the survey revealed an ecosystem still suffering from fire suppression and hardwood encroachment, but showing clear signs of recovery on smaller scales.

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