

# Advanced Ecology, Ltd.

# Advancements

July 2008

## *Planning Ahead to Get Ahead of the Game*

No matter what enterprise a person embarks upon, it is essential to plan. The old axiom 'if you fail to plan; then plan to fail' is just as true in managing forestlands as it is in household budgeting or writing a business plan. The long term effects of forest management activities must be analyzed in a formal planning process before starting down an unknown path with no guideposts or mechanisms for evaluating success or failure. A good forest management plan examines not only the land on which the forest is grown and the trees themselves, but also the landowner's goals for the property.

Far too many landowners launch into timber sales, tree planting or brush control



projects without having a good overall management plan for their forest. Often the property owner receives well-intentioned advice concerning specific activities that their forest 'needs' – which very well may be a good option, yet the end results of such actions are not considered. If a thorough forest management plan has not been prepared in advance of specific recommendations, the many factors that influence the establishment, growth and regeneration of forests are likely to be disregarded, possibly having negative consequences.

As an example, a pine plantation that has reached merchantability in terms of age and size may or may not be ready for a first thinning, depending on the soil char-

acteristics of that site. A good, fertile, deep soil can sustain a plantation much longer before first thinning than a shallow, less productive soil. Thinning such a site too soon could reduce the eventual payout in terms of subsequent thinnings.

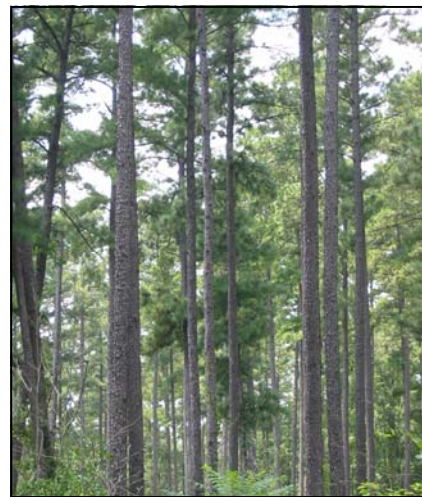
An understory herbicide treatment is often prescribed following a first thinning to reduce competition. However, if the site has only light to moderate competition, (such as planted pastures and/or sandy, moderately-productive sites), it may be a better economic option to wait until after a subsequent thinning, in order to carry the treatment costs for a shorter period of time.

Another part of good forest planning is the scheduling of harvests. Forestry investments offer the ability to 'take advantage of market opportunities' during price peaks – on the whole, most forest harvests can be postponed for a substantial period of time, as opposed to annual crops and other investments which may have a set point in time for capturing their value. This flexible harvesting characteristic gives the forest landowner better control over the investment, and one that should be factored into a long-term forest man-

agement plan.

The key to good forest planning is having experienced professional foresters evaluate the land and the landowner's goals to determine the best path forward for their particular situation. AEL foresters have had many years of experience assisting in the management of a diverse group of landowners and forest types across the southern U.S. For you, our client, we apply our knowledge and experience to modern forestry techniques to achieve your forest management goals.

Contributor: Mark Brian, AEL Senior Vice President



## *Bunker Sands Mitigation Bank —Open for Business*

AEL, on behalf of Wetlands Management, L.P., is proud to announce approval of the Bunker Sands Mitigation Bank (BSMB). The mitigation banking agreement was signed on May 2, 2008, activating the 1,204-acre East Side Phase of the BSMB. Three phases are currently planned for the BSMB.

The bank is located on prior converted agricultural lands within the flood plain of the East Fork of the Trinity in Kaufman County, just outside of Dallas, Texas. The full scope of the project (approximately 4,000 acres) includes the restoration of wetland hydrology and bottomland hardwood forests; reconnection of the restored

wetlands to the East Fork via levee breach; the restoration of approximately 21,000 linear feet of intermittent stream channel; 1,840 acres of emergent wetlands restored/constructed through a dual-purpose partnership with North Texas Municipal Water District; construction of a state-of-the-art education/visitors center; all within a mere stone's throw of one of the most rapidly developing cities in the Nation.

This unique project represents immense forward thinking in an environment where balance between aggressive urbanization and ecological stewardship is critical for the future of us, our children, and our grandchildren. Congratulations Wetlands Management!

Contributor: Keith Webb, AEL Environmental Operations Manager

## Dan Johnson and Chance Kimbrough—New Employee Profiles

### Dan Johnson



Dan was raised in Shallowater, Texas and began his college career at Stephen F. Austin State University where he was an active member in the Sylvan's Club, The Wildlife Society and Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity. He went on to graduate in 2005 with a degree in Forestry with an emphasis in Wildlife Management and a minor in Biology.

After graduation, he began his career in environmental consulting with Sphere 3 Environmental. He worked closely with team members and clients on wetland delineations, storm water prevention plans, initial site inspections, and GPS and GIS applications. He took his forestry and ecological experience in a different direction in 2007 and became certified as a life science instructor for grades 8-12. As a high school teacher, he taught environmental science, biology, and integrated physics and chemistry working to

instill a love and respect for science and the outdoors in his students. He still holds education in high regard and believes this transition back into the environmental field will benefit not only future clients, but allow for new opportunities to share his knowledge with others.

Dan is an avid duck hunter and fisherman and enjoys spending time on the rivers of east Texas with his new bride Brittany. He is excited about sinking roots in East Texas region and establishing his new family in the area.

### Chance Kimbrough



Chance Kimbrough began working for Advanced Ecology LTD. in May 2008. As a Wildlife Biologist/Forester, Chance operates with equal efficiency in both the Forestry and Environmental Divisions. Chance's primary areas of expertise include forest inven-

tory and management, wildlife and fisheries management, wetland delineations, and environmental baseline inventories.

Prior to joining the AEL team, Chance worked for S.F.A.S.U. as a wildlife research technician on an Eastern wild turkey nesting ecology study. During this study, he captured and radio-tracked Eastern wild turkeys throughout East Texas. Prior to that, he received his Bachelors of Forestry and Wildlife Management from Stephen F. Austin State University in December 2007.

Chance spent six years as an HVAC/R technician for Nacogdoches Sheet Metal and Plumbing LTD. As a HVAC/R technician he sold and serviced commercial and residential HVAC/R equipment in the East Texas area. From May 1998 until May 2001 Chance was in the United States Army where he was responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Patriot Missile Launching Station. He was also responsible for training soldiers in its use. (?) He was stationed in Ft. Sill, OK., Ft. Bliss, TX., and deployed to South West Asia twice.

Chance was raised in East Texas where he grew up in the outdoors. He married Stephanie Shinn Kimbrough in 1999 and together they had Colton Kimbrough in October 2002. Chance spends his free time hunting, fishing, and conducting outdoor scavenger hunts with his son Colton.

#### For More Information

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#### AEL Website Updates

We have recently added two new features to our website: Upcoming Events and Publications. Upcoming Events will tell you what conference or meeting AEL staff will be attending, while Publications are those that are authored by one or more of AEL's staff.



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Economic Development with Environmental Conscience