

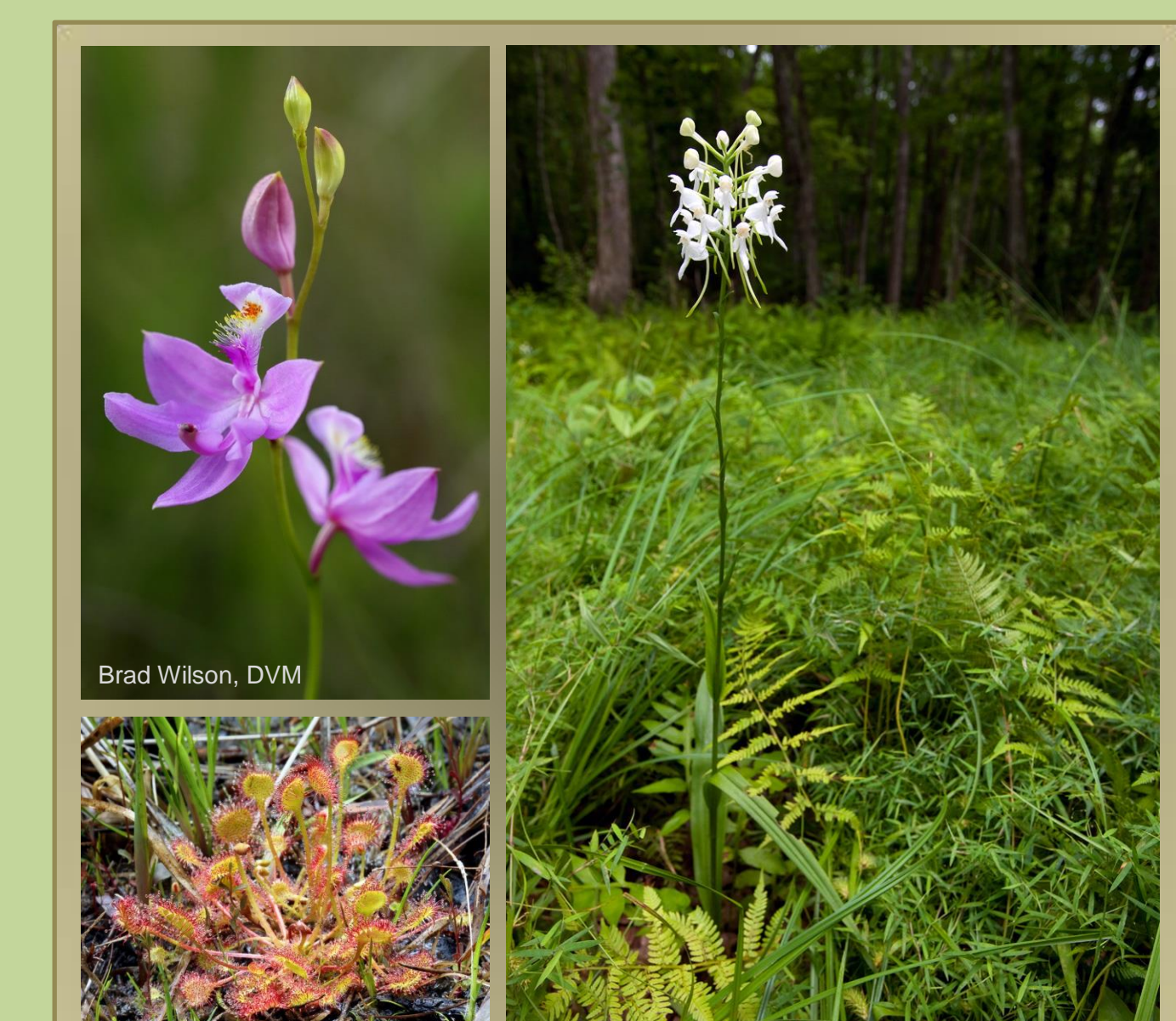
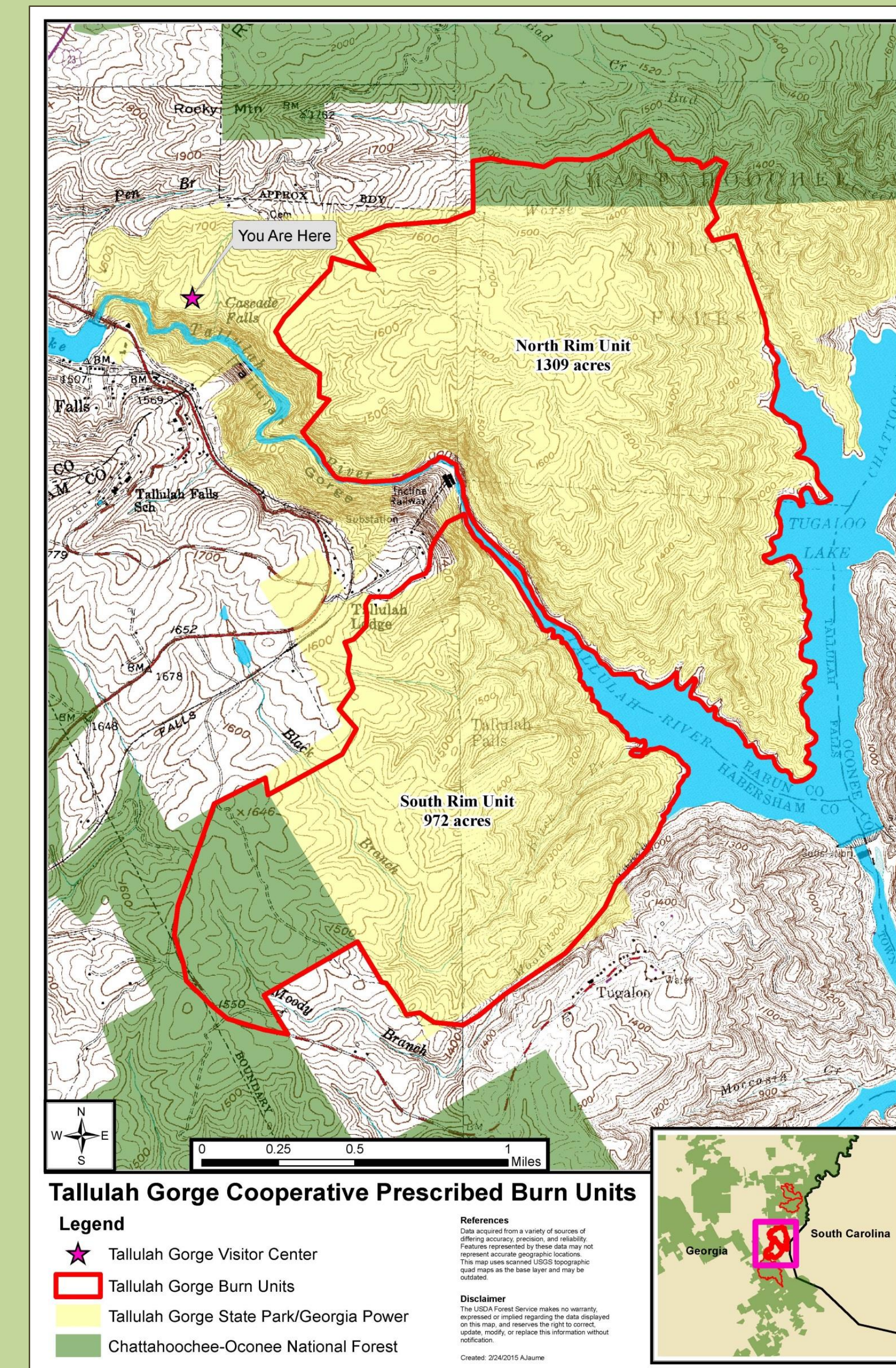
# Prescribed Burning Restoring a Fire Adapted Landscape



Table mountain pine (above) requires fire.

Desired woodland conditions (above) are required habitat for many rare or endangered plant and animal species, such as the Appalachian lily and Bachman's sparrow (right).

Tallulah Gorge State Park is surrounded by a unique, fire-adapted forest community that would gradually disappear without fire management. Historically, fires burned every 3-5 years in this area, maintaining widely spaced pine and oak trees, a diverse grass and shrub understory, and abundant wildlife. Controlled burning is essential to our collaborative restoration efforts, which include national forest, state park, and private lands, with 6,000 to 7,000 acres burned every 3 to 5 years. The understory vegetation regenerated by periodic fires provide forage and habitat for wildlife, including white-tailed deer, black bear, eastern wild turkey, ruffed grouse, northern bobwhite quail, and the rare Bachman's sparrow (top right).



Round-leaved sundew, grass pink orchid, and white fringeless orchid (clockwise at right) benefit from the increased amount of available light in sunny, wet areas that become overgrown and shaded without fire.