February 21, 2018

# MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS For French Quarter Plantation

Mr. Ashton Lamb Stewardship Associate Lowcountry Land Trust 43 Wentworth Street Charleston, SC 29401

### Dear Ashton,

I appreciate the opportunity to continue to help implement the forest management recommendations for the above-referenced property that was purchased by the Lowcountry Land Trust (LLT). It was very good that we were able to meet on site and discuss what has been done to date and what still needs to happen on the property. As I understand it, the objectives are to enhance the aesthetics of the property by giving it the look and feel of a plantation while adding timber type diversity.

As we discussed during the site visit, I am very familiar with the property, having done work for the previous landowners for the past several years. I learned that the property does have some drier areas with very good logging conditions, but overall the property is considered to be relatively flat and wet-natured. Having this knowledge of the property will help to ensure the objectives for the property are met with minimal adverse impact to the roads, timber and soils.

Following is a summary of the recommended activities and a proposed timeline for completion of each practice:

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## Selective Thinning of Pine Stands

Stands 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 9, and 10, totaling +/- 233 acres, should be selectively thinned. These areas are shown on the attached map. Selectively removing the suppressed/diseased pines, non-mast producing hardwoods, and spacing the remaining trees will greatly improve the look of the stand while improving diameter and crown growth. A residual basal area of +/- 40-50 made up of dominant and co-dominant trees evenly spaced are to be left. The timber harvest was started in May of 2017 and was stopped in June due to wet ground conditions. Stands 5, 6, and 10 have been thinned with a small section of 6 still needing some additional thinning. It is estimated that 71 of the 233 acres have been completed. Harvesting will resume as soon as ground conditions improve, May, June or July of 2018.

## Clearcut - Convert to Longleaf Stand

Stand 2 containing +/- 105 acres will be clearcut and converted to planted longleaf. A combination of soils maps and on-the-ground knowledge of the property were used in determining the most suitable area for longleaf conversion. The harvesting was started in May of 2017 and was stopped in June due to wet ground conditions. It is estimated that 82 of the 104 acres have been completed. Stand 2 is still to be harvested and stand 30 has been completed. Harvesting will resume as soon as ground conditions improve, May, June or July of 2018.

Once harvesting is complete an aerial chemical site preparation will be done between the months of August – October. A site inspection will be done prior to determine what chemicals will be needed to ensure good control of unwanted hardwoods and natural pines.

A site inspection will be done in mid-November to assess if any mechanical work will be needed to prepare the site for planting. Containerized longleaf will either be hand planted or machine planted between the months of December - March.

#### Understory Burning

The purpose of the burn will be to help control and maintain the understory vegetation, while at the same time giving the property the look and feel of a well-managed plantation-type property.

Several permanent breaks were installed and were established in a fashion that can be easily maintained in the future with a small farm tractor. These breaks should be disked at least once a year after needle fall.

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The initial goal was to prescribe burn most of the areas that are to be thinned, approximately 233 acres. The initial burn was conducted in April of 2017, 207 acres were successfully burned. A second burn of the same area should be conducted in the winter-spring of 2018-19.

# Possible Chemical Release

In the summer of 2019, we will evaluate each stand to determine if a chemical treatment would be beneficial in enhancing the health of the timber, as well as the potential "sales value" of the property.

A chemical release will only be needed on those areas in which the burn was not able to control the hardwood competition. The number of acres that will need chemical treatment is unknown at this point. The turnkey cost of a typical chemical application will be +/- \$65 per acre. For planning purposes, we may want to budget \$5,000 to \$6,000, which would cover nearly 100 acres of treatment.

### Timeline of Cash Flow and Expenses

Summer 2018	Timber Harvesting	\$75,000-\$100,000
Nov-Dec 2018	Firebreak Maintenance	(\$1,000-\$2,000)
Aug-Oct 2018	Aerial Site Prep Spray	(\$10,000-\$12,000)
Dec-Mar 2019	Longleaf Planting	(\$17,000-\$25,000)
Jan-April 2019	Prescribed Burning	(\$2,400-\$2,800)
Aug-Sept 2019	Chemical Release	(\$5,000-\$6,000)

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Our fee for handling the proposed timber sale will be 8% of the gross sale proceeds. This will cover all field work associated with preparing the sale areas, soliciting bids, negotiating and administering the timber sale contract and then overseeing the logging operation from start to finish. For other projects, such as coordinating and overseeing forestry contractors, we will bill at our standard hourly billing rates - \$75.00 per hour for a Registered Forester and \$60.00 per hour for a Forestry Technician. Estimates of cost and approval from LLT to proceed will be obtained before any work is done.

Sincerely,

Keith H. Brown

Enclosure - Map

