



CLIENT: U.S. FOREST SERVICE - APALACHICOLA NATIONAL FOREST

YEARS ACTIVE: 1 • FIRST YEAR: 2021 • ACREAGE: 567,700+/-
FOCUS: DATA COLLECTION AND NNIS ERADICATION



The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Apalachicola National Forest in 2021 needed assistance in completing a large-scale inventory project using the Common Stand Exam (CSE) format to assess the forest composition as well as the damage incurred from Hurricane Michael in 2018. Partnering with Paleo West, F4 was able to provide a solution for their need. According to the USFS project managers, this undertaking was the “largest CSE data collection cruise that had been completed to date in the nation.” The cruise spanned 46,000+/- acres and was comprised of nearly 8,000 plots. Thanks to the robust error checking utilities in SilvAssist, F4 was able to provide the USFS staff with the “cleanest dataset that they had ever received.

Simultaneously and by partnering with PaleoWest and Earth Balance, F4 conducted an exotic species control project that targeted non-native invasive species (NNIS) within the same project footprint as the CSE inventory collection. This project involved targeting all Cat I and II species along all roads and trails, and previously treated areas that were more contiguous.

F4 also created ArcGIS Online Interactive Dashboards that tracked the progress of both the CSE inventory and the NNIS treatment. This allowed the USFS to view up-to-date progress on the inventory collection and NNIS treatments (known problem areas and those located by field staff using GPS).



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

CSE Inventory

1. Collected almost 9,000 data plots across approximately 46,000 acres
2. Assisted with collecting CSE Inventory data on “largest USFS CSE conducted to date”
3. Ran the collected data through the SilvAssist Inventory Manager
 - a. Queried 34 error checks on all incoming data based on cruise specifications
 - b. Provided USFS the “cleanest” CSE data ever received
4. Created interactive dashboard to track daily progress of inventory

Non-Native Invasive Plant Species Control Project

1. Treated Cat I and Cat II Invasive species on approximately 46,000 acres
2. Created Interactive Dashboard to track daily progress of exotic treatment
 - a. Provided USFS with user-friendly interface to easily track progress
 - b. F4 Tech updated the dashboard with known points of found exotic plants
 - c. Dashboard helped ensure that new target plant species locations were treated



F4

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