



# FACTS

ABOUT THE SAVANNAH RIVER SITE

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## USDA Forest Service-Savannah River (USFS-SR)

USFS-SR manages the natural resources of the Savannah River Site (SRS) under the terms of the Interagency Agreement DE-AI09-00SR22188. Complementing the environmental Stewardship of SRS, USFS-SR restoration of native habitats to SRS will improve ecosystems, health and biological diversity. The restoration will also improve habitat for Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) species.

The 198,344 acre SRS has multiple purposes; USFS-SR actively manages 168,415 acres that are primarily forested. An additional 15,924 acres are designated for industrial uses, and 14,005 acres of SRS will be maintained as undisturbed areas for research purposes. As industrial portions of SRS are decommissioned, USFS-SR will re-vegetate with native species, where possible.

As USFS-SR manages the forested areas to accomplish the desired future conditions, the Site visitor will observe several silvicultural methods in use, such as thinning and clear-cutting. Selection of the method is based on existing biological and physical conditions. Larger clear-cuts will be made, primarily near industrial areas, to remove all slash pine trees, which will facilitate planting of native longleaf and loblolly pines. In recently harvested areas, sites will be prepared for planting with appropriate species. This preparation will include using herbicides, mechanical methods and/or prescribed fire.

USFS-SR will continue to reduce hazardous natural fuel accumulations, resulting in improved biological diversity of fire-dependent species. To accomplish these conditions, USFS-SR uses prescribed fire on an average of 13,000 acres annually (primarily during the dormant winter months), with future goals of 25,000 to 35,000 acres annually. Long-term meteorological conditions, such as droughts, and daily conditions dictate when prescribed fire can be conducted safely. Impact to SRS employees and the public outside of STS will continue to be smoke from prescribed fire. Motorist along primary roads may be temporarily inconvenienced by smoke during some operation.

Because SRS vegetation is subject to wildland fire, USFS-SR maintains year round initial suppression capabilities. These suppression capabilities protect natural resources and SRS improvements from wildland fire and smoke. This program complements the SRS fire protection.

To learn more about SRS natural resource activities, visit [www.srs.gov/](http://www.srs.gov/) or contact:

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WASHINGTON SAVANNAH RIVER COMPANY

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