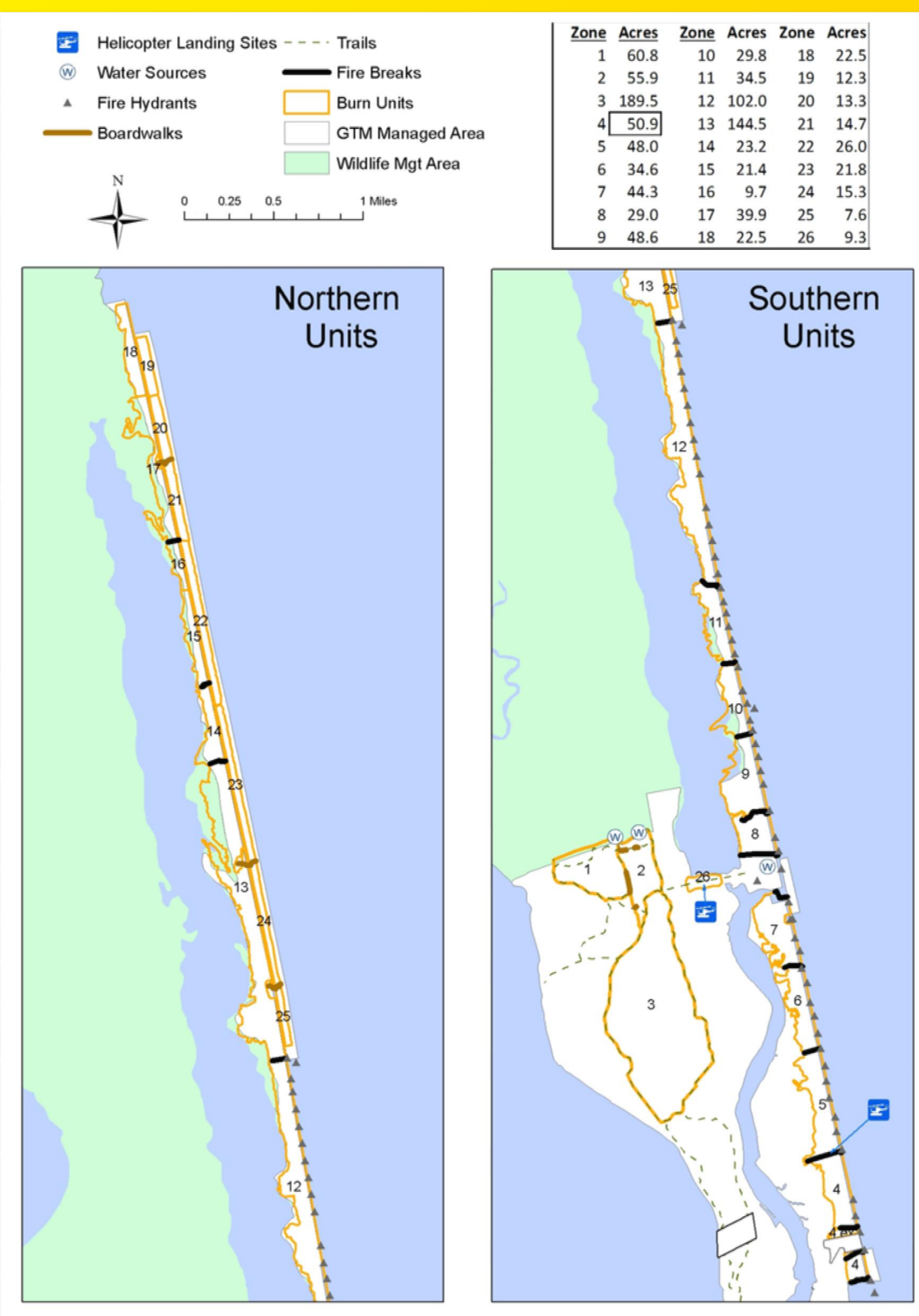


GTM's Prescribed Fire Program

Prescribed Fire...

is a fire set under strict conditions to reach preset goals. GTM is divided into burn units, each having a specific written "prescription." Burns occur only when conditions meet the prescription, and a burn permit is issued by the Division of Forestry. Wind direction, wind speed, temperature, humidity and fuel moisture are a few of the many conditions included in prescriptions.



dry freshwater marsh just after prescribed burn

Wildfires naturally occur in Florida, especially during the summer due to lightning strikes. Fire is an essential element for the health of fire-adapted plant communities. Development and population growth have necessitated the suppression of wildfires, allowing for an unnatural change in our plant communities.

GTM Burn team members:

- ✓ have at least basic fire training
- ✓ must wear protective fire gear
- ✓ are assigned positions based on level of training



pre-burn meeting

GTM's Resource Management team uses prescribed fire to:

- ✓ maintain or restore native plant communities
- ✓ promote ecosystem biodiversity
- ✓ reduce the risk of wildfire
- ✓ increase forage for wildlife



GTM's 270 gallon pumper unit



October 2006
pre-burn



December 2006
13 days post burn



April 2007
479 days post burn



September 2007
637 days post burn

burn unit 2 freshwater marsh looking north from kiosk – burn date December 12, 2006