



**Commissioner Adam H. Putnam**

*Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 6, 2017

Contact: Melissa Yunas  
(772) 260-0053  
Twitter: [@FFS\\_Okeechobee](https://twitter.com/FFS_Okeechobee)

## Partners in Wildfire Hazard Reduction

**Port Saint Lucie** – Working in conjunction with the City of Port Saint Lucie and Savannas Preserve State Park, the Florida Forest Service will mow, chop, and burn 40 acres of overgrown vegetation that borders two neighborhoods near Lyngate Park off Veterans Memorial Parkway. The mechanical phase of reducing the fuel height and density will begin with a specialized team arriving from Punta Gorda, July 10th.

“The vegetation is so thick that access for first responders would be limited when the next wildfire occurs,” explains Forest Area Supervisor Trevor Taylor. “We approached Port Saint Lucie City Council with a custom wildfire reduction plan and the City Council unanimously approved the plan via a Resolution in March 2017.”

Once the mechanical phase of the wildfire reduction plan is complete, the Florida Forest Service plans to conduct a series of prescribed fires to remove the dead accumulation of leaf litter. Within a few weeks of rain, new growth will sprout from the ash enriched forest floor providing a sumptuous buffet of vegetation for forest animals. Prescribed fire benefits the native flora and fauna, while preventing the buildup of hazardous wildfire fuels.

The Florida Forest Service, a division of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, manages more than 1 million acres of state forests, provides management assistance on more than 17 million acres of private and community forests, while protecting homes, forestland, and natural resources from the devastating effects of wildfire on more than 26 million acres. Learn more at [FloridaForestService.com](http://FloridaForestService.com).

For questions about burn authorizations and wildfire prevention, please contact your local Florida Forest Service: Martin County (772) 221-4045; Saint Lucie County (772) 468-3915; Indian River County (772) 778-5085; Glades County (863) 674-4000; Highlands County (863) 655-6407; Okeechobee County (863) 467-3221

###



[www.FreshFromFlorida.com](http://www.FreshFromFlorida.com)



**BEFORE**



**DURING**



**AFTER**