Study of Ephemeral Ponds of Apalachicola National Forest

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In this research study we will conduct various aquatic studies of ephemeral ponds in the Apalachicola National Forest. Recently there has been a very high increase of ATV riders (four wheelers) in the ephemeral ponds of Apalachicola National Forest. We will discover if the ephemeral ponds are being affected by ATV riders (four wheelers). We are also trying to discover if the ephemeral ponds of aquatic insect populations are being affected by ATV vehicles (four wheelers). We will go into the field to collect samples from the ponds, and bring back to the laboratory to discover the aquatic insect diversity among the temporary ponds. The ephemeral pond samples will be taken each season of the year. The Aquatic insect studies will be sorted then identified for new species, and to determine data criteria. The data will be recorded to show the diversity of insect orders and species. With this particular data we will determine the survival rate in those temporary ponds. These aquatic insect samples will help us determine if there is an increasing or decreasing diversity of aquatic insect’s populations of temporary ponds on a yearly basis. This study will help preserve and protect the ephemeral ponds of Apalachicola National Forest. Our overall goal is to help the Forest Service manage and protect these ephemeral ponds that are full of insect fauna.

Keywords; ephemeral ponds, aquatic, insect diversity