

depressional wetlands forested with pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*), black gum (*Nyssa biflora*), slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), and myrtle-leaved holly (*Ilex myrtifolia*) (Figure 3). Earlier in 2018, these wetland systems had been delineated and mapped by TTL staff.

Each wetland ($n = 41$) was evaluated as to its potential suitability for frosted flatwoods salamander reproduction modeled after a ranking system developed by Palis (2002). Specifically, for each wetland I evaluated:

- 1) Pond Hydrology: Based on canopy-subcanopy species and other vegetation present in the wetland basin. For a site to be considered for surveys it had to be an ephemeral wetland that would possess an appropriate hydroperiod, during an average year, to allow frosted flatwoods salamander larval development.
- 2) Presence/Absence of Graminaceous Vegetation in Pond: Each pond was qualitatively scored 1, 2, or 3, as follows: 1 = Sites with abundant graminaceous vegetation (especially *Carex*, *Rhynchospora*, *Eriocaulon*, *Xyris*, and *Panicum* spp.) throughout the wetland basin; 2 = Sites with some, albeit patchy, graminaceous vegetation in basin; 3 = sites lacking, or nearly so, graminaceous vegetation.
- 3) Fire History of Pond: As above, each pond was qualitatively scored 1, 2, or 3, as follows: 1 = Sites with a regular history of fire management and/or fire events that have promoted the open-canopied and grassy conditions in the pond basin needed for salamander reproduction; 2 = Sites that are noticeably fire-suppressed, but have had some recent fire history; 3 = Sites that are severely fire-suppressed, shaded and impenetrably shrubby, and/or lacking ground cover.
- 4) Condition of Upland Habitats Surrounding Pond: As above each pond was scored a 1, 2, or 3, as follows: 1 = wetland sites surrounded by mesic, intact and fire-managed longleaf/slash pine–wiregrass flatwoods; 2 = wetland sites surrounded by planted pine habitats lacking intact ground cover layers (i.e., no wiregrass, indicating profound soil disturbance); 3 = surrounding uplands as # 2 above, significantly degraded and showing evidence of having recently been clearcut, site-prepped and bedded, and/or treated with herbicides as part of commercial forestry operations.