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Timber crews to thin pines in preserves to improve fire safety and wildlife habitat

Fort Myers, FL, Aug. 20, 2015 — Timber crews will work with Conservation 20/20 staff and the Florida Forest Service this month to cut some pines in Koreshan Preserve, 3891 Broadway W., Estero, and then in the Pine Lake Preserve, 12750 E. Terry Street, Bonita Springs.

The thinning is intended to reduce wildfire fuel levels, enhance habitat and better protect surrounding housing communities from wildfire. Pine density is unnaturally high due to years without fire. The thinning will allow a new generation of trees to take root and allow native grasses and flowers to grow, which provides habitat for native species such as the gopher tortoise.

Both preserves will likely look a bit sparse immediately following the thinning, but the land is expected to recover quickly as a healthier system.

Residents in communities neighboring the preserves have been informed by letter of the timber work.