

# Turnbull Creek ESF Newsletter

## Summer 2025

### News from the forest

Turnbull Creek ESF has two new staff members in 2025. Our new education ranger is Kaylee. She joined us in January and has enjoyed every moment. Our new forest supervisor is Meredith. She joined us in April and has enjoyed hitting the ground running.

Both Kaylee and Meredith have already participated in multiple training opportunities. They attended *Investigating Your Environment* (IYE) and have gone through one ranger training school. Kaylee represented the N.C. Forest Service at two career fairs for local schools and led a class on the longleaf pine.

Kaylee and Meredith have had some great opportunities to learn new and fun things. They've learned how to operate a tractor, conduct water quality inspections, operate a zero-turn mower and how to create maps with GIS. They've also enjoyed getting to know the four-legged friends of Turnbull Creek ESF.



Kaylee learning to drive a tractor.



One of Turnbull Creek's resident black bears

### Visitor Hours

March 1- Oct. 31

Monday: Closed

Tues. - Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat. - Sun: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Nov 1 - Feb. 28

Monday: Closed

Tues. - Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sat. - Sun: Closed

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Visit all of NC's state forests  
from the coast to the  
mountains. See NCFS website  
for more information,  
[www.ncforestservice.gov](http://www.ncforestservice.gov)



### Upcoming Events

Smokey Bear Poster Contest: for school children to design a poster for wildfire prevention, visit [Turnbull Creek ESF webpage](#) for all the details.

N.C. State Fair: Oct. 16-22 in Raleigh, NC. On Oct. 21 and 22, Turnbull Creek ESF staff will be at the fair offering a program on the longleaf pine.

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### Investigating Your Environment

In July 2025, all Turnbull Creek ESF staff participated in the NCFS educator workshop *Investigating Your Environment* (IYE). This year, both Kaylee and Meredith were students but hope to be interns next year.

### Forest updates and improvement

#### Huey Helicopter Rehab

Turnbull Creek ESF staff have completed maintenance on the Huey helicopter in our Wildfire Control exhibit. This involved some paint and a whole lot of cleaning.

#### Tree ID Placard Replacement

Along the Turnbull Creek Trail, you will find tree ID placards identifying our different tree species. In early summer, the new placards were water sealed and placed on their respective trees.

#### Site Preparation

In 2022, more than 40 acres of timber were harvested. Since then, we have done extensive site prep before replanting. Earlier in 2025, we sprayed the tract and plowed fire lines in anticipation of a prescribed burn. The hope is to get seedlings in the ground by January.



*A before and after look at the new tree ID placards.*



*IYE 2025 at Grandfather Mountain.*



*Helicopter herbicide spraying of the recent harvest.*