Fleming Glade

*Rarity Rank:* S1/G1  
*Synonyms:*  
*Ecological Systems:*  
CES203.364 West Gulf Coastal Plain  
Catahoula Barrens  
CES203.379 West Gulf Coastal Plain  
Southern Calcareous Prairie

**General Description:**
- A glade is an open area in an otherwise wooded landscape due to the presence of rock at or near the surface.  
- Vegetation is best described as a woodland with sparse tree cover; woody vegetation has a stunted appearance.  
- Endemic to the Dough Hills member of the Fleming formation in northeast Rapides Parish  
- Soils are Kisatchie-Anococo, which are inclusions in the Vaiden-Watsonia association.  
- Anococo soils are underlain by siltstone, and acidic and calcareous soils are interspersed  
- Flora is a mix of drought-tolerant glade species, wet savannah species, species characteristic of upland longleaf pine forests, and a few calciphiles (lime-loving plants)

**Plant Community Associates**

*Common overstory species include:*  
*Pinus palustris* (longleaf pine),  
*P. taeda* (loblolly pine – in fire-suppressed glades)  

*Common herbaceous species include:*  
*Bigelowia nuttallii* (rayless goldenrod),  
*S. scoparium* (little bluestem),  
*I. linariifolius* (narrowleaf aster),  
*Andropogon ternarius* (split-beard bluestem),  

**Federally-listed plant & animal species:**  
*Picoides borealis* (red-cockaded woodpecker)  
Q. *marilandica* (blackjack oak; sub-canopy)  
*Schyzachyrium tenerum* (slender bluestem),  
*Euphorbia corollata* (flowering spurge),  
*Liatris acidota* (sharp blazing star),  
*Muhlenbergia expansa* (pine barren muhly)

**Range:**  
Currently known only from Rapides Parish.

**Threats & Management Considerations:**
The Fleming glade community is estimated to have occupied less than 2,000 acres historically and now 5-10% of that acreage is thought to remain today. Threats include fire suppression and attempts to site prep and plant trees.
Use of appropriate management activities and developing a compatible management plan prevents destruction or degradation of this habitat type and promotes long-term maintenance of healthy Fleming glades. Such management strategies should include:

- Prescribed burning every 3-4 years during the growing season (April-June)
- Harvesting off-site species such as loblolly pine during dry weather to prevent rutting and minimize soil damage
- Prohibiting off-road vehicle access
- Do not attempt to site prep and plant trees – the overall stunted appearance of the native woody vegetation will tell you that this community is suboptimal for timber production

Fleming glade, Kisatchie National Forest

Fleming glade with off-site loblolly pine, Kisatchie National Forest