Chinese Tallow Tree Control Efforts in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta
What’s Wrong with the Tallow Tree?

- Rumored to have been introduced by Benjamin Franklin, should have focused more on electricity, bifocals and the odometer.
- Reduces biodiversity in native natural communities.
- Aggressively out-competes native plants.
- Significantly impacts commercial forestlands.
- Degrades habitats of various wildlife species.
- Prolific seed producer, and easily disperses in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta by its floating seeds.
- They are an exotic species and should not be here.
Treatment Date – October 15, 2010
Mobile-Tensaw Delta, West Bank Middle River
300 Acres

Herbicide Specifications:
Clearcast Herbicide (BASF)
Rate 64 oz. / acre
20 GPA
1 quart MSO / acre
Applied via aerial application (helo)
Why Clearcast?

• Research conducted by Dr. Dearl Sanders with Louisiana State University and Jack Whetsone of Clemson University has illustrated that Clearcast herbicide has proved effective in the selective control of Chinese Tallow Tree.

• Many desirable species exhibit a strong tolerance to Clearcast.
Test Plots Established

- 15 meter circle
- Total count of tallow trees
Some plots described seedlings as “abundant”
Interior forest opening
Abundant Black Willow mortality on riverbank
Post-Treatment 2012
Black Willow
Dominant Species Impacted
• Chinese Tallow Tree except in one plot on edge of riverbank
• Black Willow
• Green Ash
• Sycamore
• Sweetgum
• River Birch
• *Celtis sp.*

Recovered Species
• Sycamore
• Marginal Green Ash
• Sweetgum
• River Birch
• *Celtis Sp.*
Flood Pulses in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta generally occur November - April
Continued Residual Effects of Tallow Tree

Post-Treatment 2013
Continued Residual Effects of Tallow Tree
Extensive Vine Growth
Trumpet Creeper
Crossvine
Cottonwoods re-colonizing historic black willow riverbank
Former Tallow Tree Grove
Post-Treatment 2011 – Riverbank

Post-Treatment 2013 – Interior Forest
Other Project Activities-
-Continued efforts to utilize volunteer team efforts and by State personnel to perform hack and squirt operations in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta.
Project Afterthoughts

• Clearcast proved effective in controlling Chinese Tallow Tree in a large-landscape treatment.
• Few negative impacts to desirable species was negligible, unless you’re a willow tree.
• A secondary aerial application or ground team applicators the following growing season appears to be required for effective control. Seed source, abundance of seeds and their viability is the problem without an answer.