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Trends Field Trip

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Ecoregion 68 Southwestern Appalachians

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Day 1, August 27

Blocks 68-349, 348, 344, 335, 274, 232, 206

The first three blocks are close to each other. The trees are mixed, deciduous and pines. The pines are tall with an understory of the deciduous. In the first block were nice, big houses by a small lake. There are a few houses located around the lake. The houses don't look brand new, maybe a few years old because they have big and established lawns. The lake looked low. Some homes are for sale. Saw kudzu along the road. Some of the housing is mixed, example-a nice newer brick house with the yard taken care of next to a dumpy trailer house down the road. Saw a small junkyard by the road.

In the next block were trailers located along the road. The roadsides have been littered with bits of trash. Have been seeing logging trucks driving along the roads. Saw a small cleared area by railroad tracks with scrubby growth. In this area, pines are on one side and deciduous on the other. In this block along saw four Baptist churches. From the road we could see part of a mine with water in front and the overburden-tailings built up. Along the road the soil was red and clay looking. The roads are windy. Out of the blocks, we saw a mine sign-Blue Creek No. 3 Mine, near Adgar, AL, which was next to a landfill.

In the next block, 68-344 the trees were mostly pines. Seeing trucks coming from a mine nearby. Saw a small pine plantation with regrowth of smaller pine trees. Down the road we saw pasture land and across the road a sign that read "Groundhog International." It was a big field that looked like it could have been an airfield, but saw semi's parked on it. Saw another mine sign "Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, Abandoned Mine Reclamation Area", but didn't see the mine. Saw more pines planted, next to Shoal's Creek Mine. Majority of the churches seen have been different types of Baptist churches. Took a picture of a sign-Edge Lumber Company-Serving the Mining Industry since 1916. Saw a big power line cut through the trees. Signs posted stating \$500 Fine for Dumping of Rubbish, but not very clean roads for having the signs posted. Arrived at Bankhead Lake, which the houses located around it are not the lake houses one would expect. William B. Bankhead was a lawyer in Huntsville and Jasper, a Democrat in the Senate, majority leader, Speaker of the house, and other political titles. There is also a forest a forest named after him.

In the next block 335, saw more cleared areas and scrubby stuff growing in them. There are mostly pines growing along the roads. Saw more Baptist churches. We saw a small saw mill next to a field of scrubby stuff. In this block saw a lot of signs-Chevron USA Inc. Well # 24, and stopped at one well. There were pumps and wells all over in

this block. Saw no ag fields, except for a few hay fields, which were empty and fenced. Out of the block, saw a dry cornfield. Also saw some more hay fields and beans. The housing was mixed, trailers and nicer brick homes, some with tin roofs.

In block 68-274, first saw kudzu all over next to the road. The trees are mostly pine trees. Started seeing the first poultry barns. This was a broiler farm. Next saw another sign "AL Dept. of Indus. Relations-Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project." Mostly moderate housing in the block. There were some trailers and some big, nice brick houses. Saw more churches, Baptist and a Church of Christ. Came up on the Lynn Industrial Park, which had about 5 businesses in it. The Southern Homes Plant made trailers and modular homes. Across the road was a small landfill, which was being reclaimed and filled over. Saw another big power cut. Saw old and abandoned poultry barns. One was being overgrown with kudzu. A few houses located along the road. Not a lot of ag activity happening in the block. Out of the block saw a mattress company manufacturing plant. Saw more kudzu growing all over the plants and trees. Saw more churches not located in a town, out in the middle of nowhere. Saw a few manufacturing plants of furniture, trusses, trailers and modular homes all on the same road. They were just changing shifts, busy road and lots of people leaving.

In block 68-232, saw unused poultry barns. The trees are mixed, pines and deciduous. Saw more broiler barns. These ones are GoldKist owned. Hay fields and a few horses and cows are near the barns. There are old and new barns. Saw more cows in a field down the road. More broilers in barns were seen. More ag activity, dry corn and hay. Saw a broiler barn from Tyson chicken in a fenced off area. More cows-smaller herds and saw more dry corn. The housing was mixed again, houses that looked like shacks next to a nice new brick house. Out of the block saw more churches, mostly Baptist. Saw a road with an area running next to it that was cleared, could be made into 4-lane highway. Saw our first golf course and clubhouse. More Tyson poultry barns and cows in pasture. Saw a lumber mill.

In the next block 206, saw more poultry barns. Saw cows in pasture and more poultry barns across the road. Saw a field of beans. The housing was mixed, trailers next to big nice brick houses. Saw a small mine mining rocks for gravel. Saw a house that was just burnt, still smoking. Saw a small housing development 'Lemon Tree Place' located out in the middle of nowhere, about a half an hour from town. Saw a new church that was just built. The old one was made into an apartment building.

Review: In these first few blocks, there wasn't a lot of agriculture activity. We did see some corn and bean fields, small herds of cows, and broiler barns, with and without the chickens. The housing was mixed, modest trailers to medium size housing to big, newer brick homes with manicured lawns. Not a lot of growth activity toward housing, only saw one new housing area. We saw a few cleared areas with short scrubby shrubs and trees growing on them. In a couple of the blocks, saw mining activity. Saw a lot of churches out in the middle of nowhere away from towns. Saw small oil wells, couple of small lumber mills and manufacturing plants of trailer and modular homes. Not a bunch of industrial activity going on in the first few blocks.

Day 2, August 28

Blocks 68-191, 164, 154, 155, 126, 98, 78, 73

Had to make up 68-191 from the day before, not enough time. In the first block saw broiler barns across from bean fields. Also saw small herds of cattle in pasture. Saw a few horses in pasture. Did see two egg laying barns. We also saw open fields with no fences and no activity, no crops or animals using it. For crops saw a dry corn field and bean field. Saw more churches located away from towns. The housing looked mixed again. The trees are mixed, deciduous and pines. Out of the block we saw a sign for 'Southeastern Metals, Scottboro Aluminum. We saw a mine, sign read-'Acordis Plant.' Saw a big corn field and quite a few bean fields. Saw more small cattle herds. Also saw a lot of churches-Baptist, Free Holiness, Church of God, and Jehovah Witness. Took a picture of a logging truck with logs from behind on the way up a hill.

The next three blocks are all adjacent to each other. In block 68-164, we saw quite a bit of ag activity. First saw a bean field. Saw hay bails next to open pasture and beans. Also saw corn fields, some dry and the others not as dry. Did see pasture area, fenced off, but no animals. Not a lot of housing activity, a few houses. Went through a small town with a new post office and newer school. Saw a big power cut through the trees. Most of the block is in forested land. Saw one church in the town we drove thru. The trees once again are mixed. Out of the block saw smaller homes and trailers. But not a lot of homes located along the roads like we have been seeing.

In the next block 68-154, most of the activity-people and ag, was in the valleys. Most of the trees were pines with some deciduous mixed in. Saw open pastures with no fences. Also was some dry corn and beans fields. Saw small herd of cattle and a few horses. A few homes located here and there, but not a lot of people and homes. Saw a nice big house with fencing all around. It turned out to be an exotic farm for llamas. Also saw 2 logging trucks empty and another one with logs on a small and windy road. Saw an old trailer tucked in the trees possible for hunting use-too small to see on the imagery. Saw one church in the block, Methodist.

In the next block 68-155, not a lot of activity happening. Small ag fields of dry corn. Saw more pasture land, some with weeds. Saw a farmer haying a small field. No new houses or developments going up. All homes are older and look settled. Saw a few modular homes in the block. Out of the block saw Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant in Tennessee.

Review: The last three blocks were about all the same. Not a lot of activity. What happenings were going on were in the valleys. It was mostly agriculture, dry or semi-dry corn and some bean fields, small herds of cattle, few horses in pastures, and fields used for haying. Did not see any broilers. Saw a few churches. Housing was modest. Majority of homes were small houses, some modular or trailer. Also saw a few logging trucks with and without logs.

In the next block 68-126, saw a lot of activity. Saw a powerline cut. Saw a barn with pasture and hay. Saw bean field. Saw an irrigation system sitting on an unused field.

Saw more pasture land. Saw another powerline cut through the trees, but bigger. The houses are nicer than what we've seen in the last few blocks. A few houses on top of a hill are new, big and nice. A small development of houses is going up below the big ones in the valley. Lots are for sale and the still being developed. Quite a few for sale signs for the lots were seen. This development is called 'Ridge Crest-Riverview Estates.' Some of these houses are modular. The trees again are mixed. Saw some sort of mining quarry called Dunlap Stone. Saw a lot of churches for just one block, majority Baptist. Out of the block noticed that the towns are being developed near the edges. Saw a golf course with real nice houses located around it. Saw open pastures, a big herd of cows, about 50 head or so, compared to what we have been seeing, hay and bean fields. Saw a few churches. Saw a small 2 man logging operation. Saw a Mead (paper) Woodland processing plant. A few other processing plants in the same area. Also saw a Hubbard chicken processing plant. A new intersection area is being widened.

In block 68-98, saw a small herd of cattle. Saw more pasture land. Saw a modular home with pastureland next a big house. Part of block is in Bledsoe State Forest. Saw small logged trees setting by the side of the road. Down the road was a clear cut area. Saw a bigger clear cut area with a few small trees and scrubby stuff left. Saw a pine plantation with small and big pines. Also saw some logging trucks; saw quite a few logging roads. Most fields are pastures for hay or cows. Saw a field of scrubby stuff. Saw more cows in pasture. Saw a corn field and another small herd of cows. Finally saw more broilers, two barns.

In the next block 68-78, saw a few areas of dead pine trees with just the main trunk and some branches. Saw cleared area of pine trees. The trees were killed from pine beetles. Saw a hay field with a truck in it possibly spraying weeds. Not a lot of houses located in the trees. Saw a variety of churches.

Majority of block 68-73 is located in a developed and developing area around golf courses. There are some churches along the main road into the area. Also some businesses located along the main road opposite from the golf courses. An area was being cleared and burned in the development. Majority of the houses are nice. There are some older homes that have been there, but they still look nice. The new houses going up are bigger and nicer. The houses and condo's are located around the lakes. There is a country club with a tennis court. Some homes are for sale. The houses are very nicely landscaped. This block was right outside of Crossville, TN.

Review: For the majority of the blocks, there was not a lot of activity and growth going on with the exception of the last block 68-73. A few houses were located sparsely in the blocks. In one block, a new housing development was being made up in the forest. The ag activity for all the blocks was the same-a few small herds of cattle, some corn fields, hay fields, and pasture land. One of the blocks had some logging activity going on. The majority of housing is about the same, newer and big. The trees were mixed. In one block, most of the pines were dead from the beetles. Saw a variety of churches.

Day 3, August 29**Blocks 68-31, 34, 12, 70-837**

In the first block 68-31, saw a small field of tobacco. The trees are mostly deciduous. Saw a small rock quarry along the road, Frogge and William Inc., could not tell if it was temporary or permanent. The windy road we drove down was being rechipped and using rock from the mine. At a different spot saw the tailings from a mine behind some trees. Saw a lot of Sgt. York in places and names. Saw lots of open fields with tall weeds. This block is near Pall Mall, TN. Saw an open field near a construction area. A bridge is being rebuilt, but is just sitting, not being worked on. Saw two houses among the trees. No visible ag, just pasture land. Saw another small tobacco field. A bunch of greenhouses, about 20-25 houses, were a ways from a town and people. The plants look like landscape plants. Lots of plants sitting outside the houses. It is called Wolf River Valley Growers PWP Greenhouses. Majority of churches were Baptist.

In the next block of the day 68-34, saw two housing developments. Saw small farms. Saw older houses and trailers. Saw some new houses with fences with lots of land. Saw a new house going up, just the frame was built. Saw another house being built, which was across from a field of hay. Saw another housing development, mostly new and real big and nicely landscaped with big lawns. This was near the edge of the small town. The houses in the town were nice, middle range, some older, but no dumpy ones. Saw a denim processing plant in Oneida, TN.

Block 68-12 was partly in the Daniel Boone National Forest. Saw nice modest houses along the road. Saw a little development by the road. Further back along the road were smaller and some dumpy houses. Saw a road closed due to tree removal from the pine beetles. There is a big difference in housing, some dumpy trailers down the road from nice big houses. Saw a cemetery up in the forest. The housing was located in one area along the road. Saw some nice overlooks to the forest. Saw train along tracks thru the forest. A small junkyard was seen by the tracks, close to Highway 27.

Review: The last three blocks did not have a lot of ag fields of crops besides the two small fields of tobacco and pasture land that looked unused. Some parts of the blocks were in forested land. The majority of the trees were pines with some deciduous. The first block had the greenhouses. The housing was mixed between big and new to old and dumpy trailers. Not a lot of housing any one place. Saw a couple new housing developments, but not a lot of growth. Mostly saw trees, trees, trees and a few houses and churches.

In the last block of the day 70-837, saw big powercut thru the trees. The trees are mostly mixed, mostly deciduous. Saw some lots and land for sale. Houses located along the road, modest older homes. Saw a big junkyard next to the road. Saw a corn field next to an open weedy field. Saw a few churches. Mostly smaller and older homes. Saw another junkyard, but smaller. Further back from the road were some modular and some trailers, which were all nice. Saw a small area of land being cleared. Saw a new housing development with open areas of land between the houses. The homes are big and nice. Saw some land and homes for sale. Saw a small housing

development with new homes being built. Saw big houses with fences for their big yards. The houses are mostly brick. Not far from I-75 and a small town.

Day 4, August 30

Blocks 68-200, 286, 285, 307, 305

During the first block 68-200 it was rainy and hazy in the morning. Saw a church pew manufacturing company. Saw an big ag supply store. Saw quite a few bean fields. Saw more dry corn. Saw more fields for haying and pasture land. Saw more open weedy fields. Saw 3 small herds of cattle in one area. The houses are modest with big yards. Saw more bean fields. Saw dead and partially dead pine trees. Saw some sort of orchard. Saw a Tyson poultry sign. Saw more dry corn fields. The trees are mixed. It is rocky right below the soil. Saw some old trailer homes, 3-5 in the area. Saw more dried corn and beans. Saw more open and scrubby weedy fields. Mostly trailers and smaller homes. There were a few nice modest homes. Saw more open fields. Saw cows in pasture and hay in the barn. Saw a salvage yard, about medium size. Saw a number of for sale signs, one that said 'no trailers.' Saw a burned area of field. One field of small weeds was posted as a licensed hunting preserve. Saw more ag-hay field, beans and beans, cows, pasture, unused broiler barn, dry corn, more cows, and horses in pasture. Saw more trailers and modest housing. Saw a broiler barn next to a weedy pasture. Saw a mix of housing-trailers and houses next to each other, some nice, others old. Saw more cows in pasture. Saw a small house next to a field of dry corn. Saw more beans and corn, cows in pasture, unused broiler barns, and more dry corn. Saw a few churches, mostly Baptist. Saw some grain bins. Saw more broilers, cows, beans, and corn. Out of block, saw more beans and dry corn. Saw more cows in pasture. Saw a manufacturing plant, Liberty Steel, makes steel beams. Saw a Tyson chicken processing plant. Saw Boaz Industrial Center, home to a Lee denim plant, home manufacturing plant, a Tyson plant, and a few others. Saw an aluminum plant in Steele, AL. Saw a variety of churches. Housing was modest, older and some trailers.

In the next block 68-286, saw 3 broiler barns thru Tyson. The roads were windy. The trees are mixed. Up in the hills, saw a produce plant, Smith Manufacturing Plant. Looked like they had day workers or migrant workers. All around the block saw crop fields with plastic lining where the crop was planted. Couldn't tell what was planted. Saw some kudzu along the road. Saw a sign for horse pens, Horse Pens 40. Saw a new Baptist church right next to the old one. Saw more fields of crops. Later on saw the fields closer and could see tomatoes. Saw a sign for tomatoes. Saw a nice big open field, no big ugly weeds, grassy. Saw another grassy field. Saw a few moderate older homes. Saw more tomato fields. Saw more weedy fields. Saw more tomato fields using water from a pond to irrigate. Saw some new modular homes. Saw more kudzu along the road. Saw more fields with tomato plants, some fields were old and still flowering even though they looked uncared for. Saw some short pines next to a scrubby field. Saw some cows in pasture. Saw about 10 houses in one area along the road from modular to medium sized. Saw a cleared area on a hill with logging trucks and other big equipment. Saw a grass airstrip down the road from cleared area. Saw a few more churches, two Baptist and one Methodist. Saw Gallant the town.

In block 68-285, adjacent to the previous block, saw a cleared area by a new house for possibly a pond. Saw a grassy pasture. The trees are mixed, but majority pines. Saw cows in field. Saw some weedy fields. Saw more cows and some horses in pasture by a barn and silo. Saw some modest homes, older. Saw some hay fields. Saw more cows in pasture. Saw a Baptist church.

The next two blocks are close to each other. In block 68-307, saw a new subdivision going in. This block is about one hour from Birmingham, AL. Saw some nice, big, new, and mostly brick housing. Most have big lawns and are by a lake. Saw a Stephen Pipe and Steele manufacturing plant with about 20 cars in the parking lot. The saw a sign 'Louis Allis', which was a 'large motor corporation.' It was a big building that said 'rotating specialist.' The trees are mixed. Saw some mixed housing, older trailers down the road from nice houses with big yards. Saw a sawmill for wood beams. Saw some churches, mostly Baptist. Saw a park and ride area next to the interstate. Saw a cleared area at the edge of town for possibly some sort of store. Saw a sign that said 'Drummond Co. Mine.' Out of the block, saw mixed housing, some big and nice, others trailers. Saw a couple of churches. Saw the new Bama Dragway.

In the last block 68-305 the trees are mixed. Saw an old bridge, which wasn't being used, next to a new bridge. The majority of the housing was older and modest, some trailers. Saw lots of kudzu along the roads. Saw a blasting area sign, McKane Inc., Rice's Chapel Mine. Saw another mine with no activity, the big machines just sitting. Not a very big mine, the rocks are pushed back and piled. Saw a Baptist church. Saw another mining area. Saw a small hay field. Saw another hay field just cut. Saw another mining area with trucks being loaded with rocks and dumping it. Saw the Dilworth Preparation Plant by McKane Coal Company Inc. Had to go over a bridge to get into. Happened to get to this one by going the wrong way. Saw a public boat ramp in the Mulberry Fork Warrior River.

Review: In the last five blocks saw more activity than previous. Saw a lot of ag activity, like corn, beans, tomatoes, and hay fields and broiler barns and herds of cows and some horses. Also saw some silos. Saw quite a few manufacturing plants. Also saw mining activity. The trees were mixed, as was the housing. Didn't see a lot of new houses or subdivisions.