

Bring Back the Natives

Oconee National Forest

This proposal included restoration work on range allotments and two wetland areas that have invasive weeds. Plans included prescribed burns and herbicide treatments on the invasive weeds to bring back the native species within these areas.



The project area included approximately 500 acres. Of those acres, 400 are vacant allotments that will be managed in native grasses. We purchased a batwing mower to help reduce invasive weeds in these areas. Utilization of the mower helped to make herbicide treatments and burning more effective. We were able to reduce and eliminate some of the invasive plants such as, Kudzu, privet, autumn olive, chinaberry, alligator weed, water primrose, pigweed, trifolia orange, and parrotfeather.

Wetlands that were treated as a part of this project were Dyar Pasture (50 acres) and Falling Creek Waterfowl (50 acres) areas. These areas are normally burned on a 3-5 year rotation. However, this year treatments of herbicide were applied in June and July. The treatments were effective and native grasses and sedges, such as *Carex stigosis*, returned to the sites. This project is allowing us to set up study areas to see which method will be more efficient in control of invasive weeds. Additionally, the batwing mower will help us be able to mow the allotments in preparation for burning and spraying in 2008.

We had severe draught conditions and were unable to plant native grasses as planned in 2007. They will be planted at a later date.



The results of these treatments will allow native vegetation to be re-established for utilization by waterfowl, wading birds, and other wildlife species. If funding had not been available the project areas would be lost to invasive species and wildlife habitat reduced. Plans for Phase 2 of the project will be implemented this Fall and Winter to complete the proposal.

Year Awarded: 2007

Project completion: (2009)

Report number: (1)

Expenditures:

- FY07 funding: \$70,000
- Expend:\$21,000
- Remaining: 49,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Department of Natural Resources; National Wild Turkey Federation, Georgia Forestry Commission

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