

Wet Prairie Restoration Project

Accomplishments 2007

The Wakulla Wet Prairie Restoration Project is a two acre restoration site located within Compartment 209 of the Apalachicola National Forest, Wakulla Ranger District. The prairie is a nine acre depression void of trees and rich in native herbaceous groundcover. Regular prescribed fire is gradually restoring the prairie. Fire is stimulating the flowering of grasses, such as wiregrass and toothache grass, and other plants, including the native insectivorous plants. It has also reduced the cover of gallberry and other woody components, returning the prairie to a more desirable percentage of native groundcover.



Wet Prairie Damaged By Mud Bogging

Fire treatments have also made prairie more visible from a woods road, increasing off-road vehicle use in the site. Approximately two acres have been damaged by off-road vehicles. The damaged areas have been colonized by *Hypericum spp.* and *Rhynchospora spp.*, but wiregrass and other warm season grasses have not become reestablished due to their sensitivity to soil and root disturbance.

During the fall of 2007, seed from three species, wiregrass, toothache grass, and blazing star, will be collected from a savanna that was burned by a wildfire during the past summer. The seed will be grown by our partner the Nature Conservancy and planted in August of FY 2008.



Seed Collection Site is from the Broken Toe Wildfire

Year Awarded: FY 2007

Project completion: FY 2009

Report number: 1 of 2

Expenditures:

- FY07 funding: \$7000
- Funds Expended: None
- Remaining: \$7000

Partners/Contractors/Coop:
The Nature Conservancy

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