

Native Prairie Seed Increase Project at Clymer Meadow

2008 Accomplishments

Status of Project Accomplishment: The Blackland Prairie of Texas once spanned more than 12 million acres between the Red River and San Antonio. Today, it is estimated that less than 1% remains. Restoration of native prairie plant communities is an essential strategy for increasing the acres under native vegetation, enhancing degraded remnants and buffering extant remnants. Lack of seed stock of local genetic origin is an impediment to accomplishing true restoration. The Nature Conservancy's Clymer Meadow Preserve has long been used as a seed source for prairie restoration. Recently, old agricultural lands within the preserve have been converted to seed increase plots for selected local native grasses.

The Conservancy has entered into an agreement with USFS to harvest wild seed from extant prairie and increase seed within plots to provide stock for restoration at the Caddo National Grasslands. Since the agreement's execution in July, Conservancy staff has done site preparation for a four acre expansion of eastern gamagrass seed increase plots; has harvested approximately 60 bulk pounds of upland switchgrass from existing plots; has burned approximately 190 acres to enhance prairie quality and promote seed production at future harvest sites, and is currently designing an improved irrigation system for the increase plots. Prior to installation of seed cleaning equipment, concrete flooring and improved electrical utilities must be installed within an existing barn. To-date, staff has obtained 2 bids on the flooring and 2 on the electrical work. In both cases staff is awaiting the third bid before assigning the contracts.



Site preparation (Above) for 4 acre expansion of eastern gamagrass plot.

Native Plant Program

- **Total Native Seed Project Cost including equipment: \$40,000**
- **Employed: 2**
- **Type of Project: Increase and harvest native prairie seed for use at the Caddo National Grasslands**
- **For More Information, Contact: Tom Philipps 1-936-639-8514**



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