

Bring Back the Natives

2009 Accomplishments

The Bring Back the Natives project goal was to restore areas of native vegetation on the Oconee Ranger District, Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest. Restoration was to be achieved through a combination of invasive species removal, natural regeneration from the seed bank, enhancements such as burning and mowing, and planting of native seeds. Eventually, these areas will serve as a seed sources for the collection of native seed.

Herbicide treatments were completed in the wetland areas (100 acres). The treatments were effective and native grasses and sedges, such as *Carex stigosis*, are returning to the sites.

Another 400 acres will be managed for native grasses. A batwing mower was purchased to reduce invasive weed populations, increasing the effectiveness of herbiciding and burning. Invasive species have been reduced in these areas. However, seeding has not yet occurred due to environmental conditions (drought and rain) at critical seeding times. When appropriate, these areas will be reseeded where native species are not establishing.

Monitoring will continue to monitor the recovery of native species in these areas.



Greenbriar Creek allotment, 208 acres treated for invasive species.



Dyar Pasture, wetlands treatment area.

Year Awarded: 2007

Project completion: 2009

Report number: Final

Expenditures:

- FY07 funding: \$70,000
- Expend: \$70,000
- Remaining: \$0

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

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**Chattahoochee-Oconee
National Forest**

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