

# Cooperative Native Grass and Forb Increase Project

## 2009 Accomplishments

This project involved the establishment of a five-acre native forb and grass production area on the Davenport Farm Tract in Union County, Georgia, on the Chattahoochee National Forest.

In 2008, existing fescue fields were sprayed with a glyphosate herbicide and planted to native grasses and forbs using seeds from a commercial source in Tennessee. At that time, this was the most local source of seed available. This planting resulted in a nearly complete failure, primarily due to heavy competition from the residual seed bank of Foxtail millet commonly found in this type of old agricultural field.

In 2009 the fields were retreated with a glyphosate herbicide in mid-summer and prescribed burned in late summer to remove the dead thatch. In October and November 2009, native grass seed plugs were established in the fields. Species planted included big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass, switchgrass, and downy danthonia. All plant material was from local genotypes (north Georgia sources). The plugs, being larger in size, will have a competitive advantage over any residual millet recruitment.

These fields will be maintained to provide a future source for native grass planting on the Forest.



*Established native grass plugs.*

Year Awarded: 2008

Project completion: 2009

Report number: Final

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding: \$24,350
- Expend: \$24,350
- Remaining: \$0

Partners/Contractors/Coop:

GA Department of Natural Resources

Contact Person & phone number

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*Hand seeding of native forbs*



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