

NNIPS Eradication and Native Ecotype Grass Plug Development/Installation

FY 2011 Accomplishments

In 2010 the NFAL proposed a project to treat bicolor lespedeza infestations on the Talladega National Forest. These infestations currently threaten native plant community diversity and habitats of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Treatments occurred in 2010 on a total of about 110 acres. Due probably to droughty conditions at time of treatment and the age of the infestation, the treated areas remained heavily infested this summer. A new contract was awarded this FY to treat approximately 225 acres on the Talladega District plus approximately 25 additional force account acres.

This year's treatments was funded primarily with NFWW dollars but approximately 80 acres of this work was funded through 2011 NPM Funds (FY2011 NFWW Carryover and CWC2 Understory). Another 90 acres of NNIS treatment on the various other districts were also funded this FY from NPM funds. The eradication of these NNIS is important to restore and protect priority native communities from infestation. Native plant funds from 2010 were used last year to collect native bluestem seed that will be purchased in 2011/2012 from Rock Spring Farms nursery. If needed these plugs can be used to re-vegetate the areas that are deemed eradicated.

Local ecotype native warm season grass seed was collected in October and was shipped to the NRCS NPM center in Coffeeville, MS to be put into production (see National Forests in Mississippi's Native Plant Materials report) and also to Rock Spring Farm Nursery. The ecotypes are in currently in "increase" production at the MS NRCS facility, and the Rock Spring Farm plugs will be purchased this fall.



Native warm season grass seed collection, Conecuh RD



Bicolor re-infestation (in RCW habitat on the Talladega District) prior to 2011 treatment.

Year Awarded: 2010

Project completion: year 2011

Report number: 2 of 2

Expenditures:

FY2011 CWK2 \$30,000

NFWW \$27,495

Partners/Contractors/Coop: Walter Bland, Rock Spring Farm NWSG Plugs, The Longleaf Alliance, NRCS; Coffeeville, MS

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