

Ouachita National Forest Native Grass Restoration Project

Purpose of Proposal

The purpose and need for this project is to establish native seed and plant sources for natural recruitment and anthropogenic restoration efforts. Implementation of this project will help develop techniques and policies for use of native plant materials on the Ouachita National Forest and encourage state and private groups to use native plant materials. This project will also provide opportunities for cooperation and partnerships with state and non-governmental organizations in the restoration of native plant communities.

2013 Accomplished Actions

- Approximately 15,250 acres of prescribed fire was conducted in existing native warm season restoration plots, pine-bluestem management areas and old growth woodlands.
- 120 acres of brush hogging/mulching was completed within Old Growth native grass plots and Warren Fields.
- Harvested and processed approximately 25 lbs. of native warm season grass seed and 110 bales native grass hay at the Seed Orchard and Warren Fields. Due to severe drought the volume of seed and hay was lower than expected in FY 13.
- Native seed and hay harvested used by two Ouachita RD's for various soil restoration projects.
- Used native seed and hay to restore native vegetation along 1 mile of restoration of roadside along T&E habitat and 1 mile in the Wolf Pen Gap OHV area and 3 miles of unauthorized roads and trails.
- Completed approximately 25 acres of non-native invasive plant species (NNIS) herbicide treatments.

2014 Planned Actions

- Approximately 18,000 acres are scheduled for prescribed burning, Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 within Pine bluestem, Old Growth units and native grass plots.
- Plan to harvest approximately 50 acres of native grass seed and hay.
- Approximately 150 acres of brush hogging, mowing, planting, liming, fertilization and monitoring are planned in restoration areas and established plots.
- Approximately 50 acres of NNIS treatments.
- Includes continued restoration efforts on 100+ acres of native grassland habitats on the Caddo/Womble Ranger District - Warren and Krueger Fields native plant restoration area.



Year Awarded: 2013

Project completion: (in perpetuity)

Report number: 8(13) of Annual Reports

Expenditures:

- FY13 funding
- \$61,000 (NFWF)
- \$22,000 (WFHF, CFLRP)
- Expended – Approx. \$70,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop
Quail Unlimited, Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission, Arkansas Game
and Fish Commission

Contact:
Rhonda Huston
(479) 394-2382



Ouachita National Forest
1603 Hwy 71 North
Mena, AR 71953