SHORTLEAF-BLUESTEM COMMUNITY

Ouachita National Forest
Arkansas-Oklahoma

Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Restoration
The Ouachita National Forest
-1.8 million acres
-west-central Arkansas
-southeast Oklahoma
OUACHITA NF CFLRP

$350,000 in 2012
$2.4 million/year 2013-2019

Project Area is 350,000 acres
Pine-Bluestem and RCW Areas
Old Growth Areas

American Burying Beetle Areas
OUACHITA NF CFLRP

Target: advanced or intermediate woodland condition on 320,000 of the 350,000 acres.

Advanced restoration: open canopy, forest floor dominated by grasses and forbs and lack of midstory.

Over past 20 years, 183,000 acres has been restored (FRCC 1 or 2)
The Restoration Prescription

For Existing Shortleaf Pine Stands

- thin to about 60 ft$^2$ basal area per acre

- reduce the woody midstory

- apply prescribed burns within 3 to 4 year intervals
Annual ONF Restoration Program Doubles with CFLRP

- 6,000 acres thinned
- 5,000 acres midstory reduction
- 100,000 acres burned

At end of CFLRP Funding: 1,000,000 acres will have received treatment (includes re-entry acres)
Thinnings: more timber sales: increasing employment with contracts, internal hires, more timber going to local mills.
WSI: more contracted midstory reduction. Woody stems for co-generation at coal-fired power plant.
Burning: contracts, partnerships and internal hires for prescribed burning, including additional helicopters, dozers, and burn bosses.

Dormant-Season Prescribed Burn in a Shortleaf Pine Stand
Projected Plan

- **Interdisciplinary crew** of 6 as 1039’s for marking/fire/wildlife

Our Restoration is driven by 27 partners from timber purchasers to colleges and universities making it a SUCCESS!
Restoration led to RCW Recovery Benefiting Tourism as only RCW in Arkansas, an IBA (Important Bird Area)

Red-cockaded Woodpeckers on the Ouachita NF

- Active Territories
- Estimated Fledglings
- Adult Birds

Year

Number


Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Restoration
Annually Eco-Tours in Project Area conducted with partners or with auto tours bring 400-600 visitors from colleges to senior citizen groups. More tours will result with more CFLRP partnerships.
Other Taxa Benefit from Restoration. Over 52 publications in project area from soils/nutrients to bats and butterflies.
Prescribed Burning, Thinning and decreased Wildfire and SPB infestation acres within project area, 1990 – 2010

Treatments/Infestations/Wildfires

- SPB-Infested Trees (SPBIS)
- Prescribed Burning
- Wildfire
- Commercial Thinning

Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Restoration
Due to extensive studies over the past 20 years, 0.5% of CFLRP budget needed to Monitor Effectiveness of Our Restoration Work

<table>
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<tr>
<th>EFFORT</th>
<th>JOBS</th>
<th>CFLRP $</th>
<th>PARTNERS</th>
<th>IN-KIND</th>
<th>FS Contribution</th>
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<td>Monitor Veg</td>
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Total: 39  $132,000  Partner and FS Contribution $112,000  $58,000  $54,000

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<th>Year</th>
<th>FS Contribution</th>
<th>Arkansas Game &amp; Fish Commission</th>
<th>Nation Wild Turkey Federation</th>
<th>Arkansas State University</th>
<th>Audubon Arkansas</th>
<th>CFLR Request</th>
<th>Total Project Cost</th>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>Partner and USFS Contribution Total $406,410</td>
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Shortleaf Pine-Bluestem Restoration
Grad Students Funded: Turkey Research To Examine Responses to Prescribed Burning: 
CFLR $110,000
Partnerships and USFS $406,000
Local non-profit SebaScott ($10,000/yr) will monitor local influx of $2.4 million on Jobs and Community Service Jobs (motels, restaurants, etc)
CFLRP will further benefit local economies by funding jobs for youth.

Addition to creating FS hires, partnerships and contracts,

- **Hire local high school students with our Youth Conservation Corp Program ($40,000/yr)**
- **Job Corp funding of $2,000/yr**
- **Monarch Watch at $10,000/yr** hire college and high school students.
Monarch Watch (Kansas University) will receive $10,000/yr to hire students to collect and propagate pollinator plants at ONF Seed Orchard and NRCS Small Farm Research Station

GOAL: students to plant 2,0000 acres of Pollinator Plants

3 EAST Lab Schools Involved Within Project Area

With local knowledge comes respect for our native systems!
Educational Efforts: Audubon Arkansas ($16,000/yr) to lead the 3 EAST Lab Schools to educate local communities on importance of native landscapes.

Hands on Classroom in Project Area:
Converting 65 acres of fescue to native grasses with local students mentoring elementary students
Other CFLRP benefits: Biofuel production, Working to Provide small diameter wood to AES

An 80-mile radius from the AES Power Plant encompasses most of the project area.
This work for the last 20 years and continuing into the future

- will apply principles of landscape and restoration ecology

- is supported by research results

- has community support

- is restoring ecological balance and expanding economic opportunities
Questions???