

Jackson Island Native Plant Restoration and Expansion Project

2008 Accomplishments

The project involved the conversion of an existing 15 acre field to native grasses and promoting expansion of the existing river cane present on Jackson Island. The project outline consisted of three basic steps for native grasses: 1) treat existing exotic grasses, 2) seed with native grasses and forbs, and 3) maintain by burning and mowing. In 2008, we maintained established native grasses through prescribed burn and mowing. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) assisted with mowing costs. Monitoring was conducted via field inspection and photo points. Observable increases in native grasses are present, but small spots of Johnson grass and Black Locust remain. Continued treatment will be required to maintain native grasses on site.



Jackson Island Field 2008

River cane restoration was also a three step process: 1) treat competing exotic species, 2) daylight edges of canebrakes, and 3) burn to promote expansion. During 2008, a prescribed burn was completed to control competing vegetation. Daylighting was accomplished by chemically treating overstory trees (primarily Box elder). Due to the timing of treatment, impacts on river cane won't be realized until 2009. With the removal of sod-producing grasses in the field, river cane continues to expand into the field edges. Results of the project indicate that a combination of burning and removal of competing vegetation (sod-producing grasses and woody species) will allow river cane to expand into suitable habitat. These methods can be utilized to expand river cane at other sites on the forest.



Trees marked for daylighting

Year Awarded: 2006

Project completion: 2008

Report number: 3 of 3 (Final report)

Expenditures:

- FY06 funding \$17,500
- FY06 costs \$4,000
- FY07 costs \$6,500
- FY08 costs \$7,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop: TWRA

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