

# Wet Prairie Restoration Project

## FY 08 Accomplishments

The Wakulla Wet Prairie Restoration Project is a two acre restoration site located within Compartment 209 of the Apalachicola National Forest, Wakulla Ranger District. The prairie is a small nine acre depression void of trees and rich in native herbaceous groundcover. Regular prescribed fire events are gradually restoring the health of the prairie. Fire is stimulating the flowering of grasses such as wiregrass and toothache grass and other plants including the native insectivorous plants. It has also reduced the overall cover of gallberry and other woody components returning it to a more healthy percentage of the native groundcover. Unfortunately, the return of fire has opened up the prairie so it is visible from a woods road, thus leaving it vulnerable to off-road vehicle use.

Approximately two acres of the site have been damaged by off-road vehicles disturbing the soil and damaging the herbaceous groundcover. The damaged areas have been colonized by *Hypericum spp.* and *Rhynchospora spp.* but the wiregrass and other warm season grasses have not reestablished themselves because of their sensitivity to soil and root disturbance.

During the fall on 2007 Wiregrass and Toothache Grass seed were collected from a savanna that was involved in a wildfire during the past summer. The seed was grown in containerized plugs by our partner the Nature Conservancy. The *Hypericum* was hand pulled and native species planted in September 2008 by contract.



Wet Prairie Damaged By Mud Bogging

Year Awarded: FY 2007

Project completion: FY 2009

Report number: 2 of 2

Expenditures:

- FY08 funding: \$7000
- Funds Expended: \$7000
- Remaining: \$ 0

Partners/Contractors/Coop:  
The Nature Conservancy

Contact Person:  
Gary Hegg 850-926-3561 x 6508



Seed Collection Site is from the Broken Toe Wildfire



**Apalachicola National Forest**  
57 Taff Drive  
Crawfordville, FL 32327  
City, State, Zip