

Eleven Point Pollinator and Native Plant Garden on the Mark Twain National Forest

2009 Accomplishments

The Eleven Point Ranger District office was constructed in 2003 in a fescue field along State Highway 160, which is a key east-west highway across southern Missouri. This office is used by local communities for meetings and receives a heavy volume of visitors due to its location on Highway 160.

Construction of a 1.8-acre interpretive pollinator and native garden was initiated in 2009 with preparation of the seedbed. Fescue and Bermuda grass was treated with herbicides several times this year in preparation for seeding in 2010. Thatch burning will be conducted this December followed by broadcast seeding, fertilizing and seedbed compaction. An interpretative sign will also be installed in 2010. Once the native garden is well established, picnic tables and benches will also be installed.

Seeds for thirty-one native wildflower species and nine native grass have been purchased and will be planted in late winter 2010. Wildflower specimens, such as, shooting-stars, bluebells, cream wild indigo, phlox, beardtongues, asters, gentian will enhance resident pollinators (swallowtail butterflies, native bees, hawkmoth) and migratory pollinators (monarch and sulfur butterflies, and ruby-throated hummingbird



Figure 1. Herbicide treatment of fescue field



Figure 1. Post treatment of fescue field

In addition larval food plants for pollinators will be enhanced: milkweeds for monarch butterflies; violets for fritillaries; and native legumes for sulfurs and other butterflies. These enhancements will boost the populations of all these plant species above current levels, which remain much lower than those present in remnant native habitats.

Year Awarded: initial award in 2009

Project completion: 2011

Report Number: 1

Expenditures (through 10/2009):
FY09 funding \$14,000, expend. \$14,000

FY09 purchases:

Seed (\$4,500)

Herbicide (\$1,300)

Tables and Benches (\$2,500)

FY10 funding request \$1,000

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