

Ouachita National Forest Native Grass Restoration Project

2010 Accomplishments

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.

2010 Accomplished Actions

- Approximately 13,300 acres of prescribed fire was conducted in existing native warm season restoration plots, pine-bluestem management areas and old growth woodlands.
- 300 acres of mid-story reduction treatments were completed within native grass plots.
- 140 acres of overstory reduction treatments were completed within native grass and woodland restoration areas.
- 100 acres of brush hogging was completed within grass plots.
- 50+ acres of native seed was established on the Mena/Oden and Caddo/Womble Ranger Districts.
- Harvested and processed native warm season grass seed and native grass hay at the Seed Orchard.
- Completed approximately 300 acres of non-native invasive plant species (NNIS) herbicide treatments and over 5,000 acres of NNIS inventory in and adjacent to native plant restoration areas.
- Native seed and hay harvested in 2009 on the Mena/Oden RD was used by all five Ouachita RD's for various soil restoration projects.
- Used native seed and hay to restore native vegetation along trails and roads in the Wolf Pen Gap OHV area.
- Began construction of 2,400 sqft storage facility at the Ouachita Seed Orchard that will be used to store native seed, hay and equipment and provide space for seed processing.

2011 Planned Actions

- Acres are scheduled for prescribed burning in Fall 2010 and Spring 2011 within Old Growth units and native grass plots.
- Plan to harvest native grass seed and hay.
- Approximately 100 acres of mowing, planting, liming, fertilization and monitoring are planned in restoration areas and established plots.
- Approximately 350 acres of NNIS treatments.
- Approximately 40+ acres would be treated to restore native grassland habitats on the Caddo/Womble Warren Fields native



Year Awarded: 2010

Project completion: (in perpetuity)

Report number: 5(10) of Annual Reports

Expenditures:

- FY10 funding \$76,000 (NFN3)
- Expended – Approx. \$76,000

Other Funding Expenditures: NFWF \$72,500, NFWW \$40,000, CWKV \$55,000, WFW3 \$4,000

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

**Contact:
Shawn Cochran
(479) 394-2382**



Ouachita National Forest
1603 Hwy 71 North
Mena, AR 71953