

Ouachita National Forest Native Grass Restoration Project

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.

2012 Accomplished Actions

- Approximately 11,510 acres of prescribed fire was conducted in existing native warm season restoration plots, pine-bluestem management areas and old growth woodlands.
- 128 acres of brush hogging/mulching was completed within Grapevine Old Growth native grass plots.
- Harvested and processed approximately 50 lbs. of native warm season grass seed and 300 bales native grass hay at the Seed Orchard. Due to a drought the volume of seed and hay was lower than expected in FY 12.
- Native seed and hay harvested in 2012 was used by three Ouachita RD's for various soil restoration projects.
- Used native seed and hay to restore native vegetation along 1.5 miles of closed ATV trails and roads in the Wolf Pen Gap OHV area and 5 miles of unauthorized roads and trails.
- Completed approximately 35 acres of non-native invasive plant species (NNIS) herbicide treatments.
- Completed 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.

2013 Planned Actions

- Approximately 18,000 acres are scheduled for prescribed burning in Fall 2012 and Spring 2013 within Pine bluestem, Old Growth units and native grass plots.
- Plan to harvest approximately 50 acres of native grass seed and hay.
- Approximately 250 acres of brush hogging, mowing, planting, liming, fertilization and monitoring are planned in restoration areas and established plots.
- Approximately 100 acres of NNIS treatments.
- Includes continued restoration efforts on 100+ acres of native grassland habitats on the Caddo/Womble Ranger District - Warren and Krueger Fields native plant restoration area.



Year Awarded: 2012

Project completion: (in perpetuity)

Report number: 7(12) of Annual Reports

Expenditures:

- FY12 funding \$17,000 (NFN3,)
- Expended – Approx. \$17,000

Other Funding Expenditures: NFWF \$18,500, NFWW \$10,000,

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

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