

Boston Mountain Ranger District

Native Warm Season Grasses Field Restoration

2013 Accomplishments

Native Warm Season Grass Restoration:

Warm season native grass species, such as big bluestem, little bluestem, Indiangrass and sideoats grama were planted along with a herbaceous forb mix composed of species such as purple prairie clover, partridge pea, blackeyed Susan and other species for monarch/pollinators included butterfly milkweed and pale purple coneflower. The purpose of this project was to restore the abandoned former fescue fields into native warm season tall grass prairies/fields that will be beneficial to a large variety of wildlife species. However, approximately 4 months following the native grass plantings, a non-native invasive thistle appeared in thick patches throughout the field systems. Herbicide treatments were also utilized to kill the non-native thistle, although the herbicide treatment was not anticipated or planned. The treatment was necessary in order to prevent the spread of the thistle to other areas of the Forest as well to private lands.

Approximately \$45,877 was spent through NFN3 funding. In addition, approximately \$12,250 has been spent through force account labor in NFWF funding and an additional \$40,500 of High Priority Restoration funding will be utilized for the disking and drilling of the fields. This project will be completed by July of 2013.



Examples of the before and after, left and right respectively, of thistle herbicide treatments.



Planting native grasses with a drill.

Year Awarded: 2011

Project completion: 2013

Report number: 2

Expenditures:

- FY13 funding: \$88,500
 - CFLN: \$71,250
 - NFWW: \$8,250
 - NFWF: \$9,000

Partners/Contractors/Coop:

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