

Big Creek Ecosystem Assessment

Fire Management

2004 Revised Plan Goals & Objectives	Existing Condition	Opportunities	Possible Management Practices	NEPA Path
<p><u>OBJECTIVE 21.01</u> Prescribe burn an average of at least 1,100 acres per year of shortleaf/pitch/table-mountain pine forest, in an effort to maintain a 4-12 yr. fire return.</p>	<p>Identified and established 18.50 acres within designated prescribed burn units.</p>	<p>Proposed planned burn in 2010 of N43 Bench Road.</p>	<p>Other areas in watershed could be identified that contain communities which meet objectives and new burn units could be established to incorporate a treatment regime.</p>	<p>N43 Bench Road – Future DM</p>
<p><u>OBJECTIVE 21.02</u> Prescribe burn an average of at least 5,200 acres per year of oak and oak-pine forests in an effort to maintain a 4-12 year fire return cycle.</p>	<p>Identified and established 3,980 acres within designated prescribe burn units.</p>	<p>Prescribe burned in 1998 Round Mountain – 145.7 acres, 2004 Walnut Mountain– 360.50 acres,</p> <p>Proposed in 2009 – Unit N48* 870 acres and Unit N49* 663 acres, approximately 1533 acres to treat. With a 4-12 year return cycle.</p>	<p>Reduce hazardous fuels to restore fire regime within or near an historical range.</p> <p>Continue to burn acres within Oak and Oak-pine stands, Encourage oak sprouting and soft mast production.</p> <p>Develop and collect Data from Monitoring Plots. Verify if objectives are being met.</p>	<p>N49* Brown Gap Creek – Existing DM N48* Chestnut Ridge – Existing DM N44 Round Mountain - Existing DM N45 Walnut Mountain – Existing DM N43 Bench Road – Future DM</p>

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<p><u>OBJECTIVE 21.03</u> Prescribe burn an average of 2,600 acres per year of open woodlands, savannas, and grasslands, in an effort to maintain a fire return cycle of 4-12 years in dry and xeric oak forest, woodland, grasslands, and savannas.</p>	<p>Identified and established 9.2 acres available for prescribe burning.</p>	<p>Prescribe burned in 2004 – 9.18 acres,</p>	<p>Continue burning areas in wildlife openings with return intervals of 4 - 12 years to minimize encroachment of saplings and shrubs.</p> <p>Identify other areas that contain communities which meet objectives and develop new burn units to establish a treatment regime.</p>	<p>N45 Walnut Mountain – Existing DM</p>
<p><u>OBJECTIVE 21.04</u> Prescribe burn an average of at least 1,200 acres per year of pine-oak forests, in an effort to maintain a fire return cycle of 4-12 years.</p>	<p>Identified and established 44.6 acres available for prescribe burning.</p>	<p>Prescribed burned in 1998 – 18.50 acres</p>	<p>Maintain a 4 – 12 year burn treatment cycle.</p> <p>Other areas in watershed could be identified that contain communities which meet objectives and new burn units could be established to incorporate a treatment regime.</p>	<p>N44 Round Mountain – Existing DM</p>
<p><u>OBJECTIVE 9.F-1.04</u> Restore at least 500 acres of table-mountain pine forest on lands not currently dominated by table-mountain pine over the next ten-year period.</p>	<p>No table-mountain pine stands known in burn units within watershed. N43 Bench Road has history of table-mountain pine existing.</p>	<p>Prescribed burn treatment of existing units could cause seed bank to germinate table-mountain pine on ridges.</p>	<p>Identify other areas that could have contained table-mountain pine communities which meet objectives and develop new burn units to establish a treatment regime.</p>	

* N48 Chestnut Ridge, N49 Brown Gap Creek are planned to burn in 2009, however, only part of each unit will be burned. The remaining parts of the units will be planned to burn in the future.