

Upper Cumberland Plateau Upland Restoration Initiative

2006 Accomplishments

During Fiscal Year 2006, Bankhead National Forest staff completed the Woodland Restoration Project of the Upper Cumberland Plateau Uplands Restoration Initiative. The purpose of this project was to demonstrate methods and results of initiating native pine woodland restoration. The following describes the methods used to begin pine woodland restoration on five demonstration sites on Bankhead. Through a mechanical fuels reduction project, midstory vegetation was removed in five mature pine stands, totaling 175 acres. In three stands, a woodland mulcher was used to remove midstory. In two stands, midstory was cut down with chainsaws. Prescribed burning was conducted during the growing season in three stands and the dormant season in two stands. Strip disking preceded hand-planting of native warm season grasses and forbs. A mixture of big and little bluestem grasses, partridge peas, Indiangrass, bundleflower, coreopsis, and rudbeckia seeds were broadcasted over approximately five acres in each stand. The Bankhead Liaison Panel and The Nature Conservancy of Alabama assisted Forest Service staff with monitoring of project progress and results. Both partners also participated in public field trips to the sites and provided information on the project at public meetings. Monitoring includes permanent photo-monitoring plots. Project progression was documented at photo points prior to treatment, post-midstory removal, pre-burning, post-burning, and post-disking and planting grass.



Results after mulching, burning, strip disking, and planting native warm season grasses.



Growing season burn conducted after midstory mulching.

Year Awarded: 2006

Project completion: 2006

Report number: 1 of 1

Expenditures:

- FY06 funding \$2847,
- FY 06 expenditures \$2847

Partners/Contractors/Coop
Bankhead Liaison Panel
The Nature Conservancy -
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