

WILDFIRE EMERGENCY REHABILITATION PLAN

Fire Name: Oakwood 3

Fire Number: 43570 98 4865

Location: T10S, R3W, Sec. 10; Oakwood Unit of Overflow NWR, Oeshea Co., AR

Size: 100 acres

Topography: 0 -3% slope

Climate: Hot, high humidity summers and moderate winters: Most precipitation in the form of rain 40 -60 inches annually.

Vegetation prior to fire: 200 -600 per acre of bottomland hardwood seedlings, 2 -6 years of age from acorn planting and hand planted 1 year old bare root seedlings)mixed with natural seedlings of light seeded species associated with natural grasses and herbaceous plants.

Fire Intensity:

Fireline intensity would have been variable, ranging from 150 to 450.

Hydrology:

Prior farming drastically altered hydrology when extensive drainage canals and ditches were excavated, creating a more xeric condition. However, under refuge management, some ditches have been plugged or water control structures placed in them to help restore the original hydrology.

Soils: Soils consist of nutrient depleted Sharkey clay, Perry clay and some Forrestdale.

Ownership:

The property was transferred in fee title to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service by the Farmers Home Administration. The Oakwood Unit totals 2, 263 acres, predominately old fields with 229 acres of semi-mature bottomland hardwood tree species. Reforestation and hydrology restoration efforts have been underway since 1990. This Unit is important to wildlife because it is basically an "island" surrounded by vast expanses of land in agricultural production.

Resource Use:

The only public use on the area is occasional "birding" tours. The area is important habitat for resident species such as deer, rabbits, quail and songbirds; migratory birds such as hawks, eagles, waterfowl, trust species and neotropical migrants.

No physical structures were impacted.

Emergency rehabilitation is necessary for the following reasons:

- to stabilize the soil on the unit to minimize further loss or degradation of productivity;
- to stabilize biotic communities to minimize further unacceptable change to ecosystem structure and function;
- to stabilize the watershed to prevent additional downstream damage on and off site, primarily in Wells Bayou at the south end of the unit;
- to minimize unacceptable deterioration of water quality in Wells Bayou and;
- to reduce the magnified effect of habitat loss due to the absence of usable habitat in the surrounding area.

This station is requesting fire rehabilitation funding in the amount of \$13,425.00 to restore the vegetative cover on the burned area to pre-fire condition. The cost figure is derived from actual contract hand planting costs of \$57.00 per acre for 12' x 12' spacing (300 seedlings per acre), \$.25 per seedling, plus three days administrative costs.

Contract Planting: $\$57.00 \times 100 \text{ acres} = \$ 5,700.00$
Seedling cost: $\$.25 \times 300 \text{ seedlings/ac} \times 100 \text{ ac.} = \$ 7,500.00$
Administrative: $\$75.00 \times 3 \text{ days} = \$ 225.00$
TOTAL = \$13,425.00