



## U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE OHIO FIELD OFFICE

# MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RUNNING BUFFALO CLOVER

### Background

Running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stoloniferum*) was listed as a federally endangered species in 1987. This stoloniferous perennial occurs in Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia in one of two fairly distinct habitats (lawn or wooded). Consistent management of these different habitat types is critical for maintaining running buffalo clover populations. The following recommendations were compiled in Ohio to guide property owners and land managers in the management and recovery of this endangered species.

### Lawn Sites

(cemeteries, parks, old home sites, etc.)

♣ Mowing – We recommend a mowing regime that reduces competition to the running buffalo clover (RBC) and allows for flowering and seed set. Mowers should be set at no lower than 3 inches.

#### Schedule:

Once in Mid-April

Once during the first week of May

Once during the last week of June

Anytime after July 1 is acceptable

♣ Avoid the use of herbicides around RBC.

♣ Control invasive plants manually in the vicinity of RBC. Typical invasive groundcovers growing among RBC include periwinkle, Japanese honeysuckle, and wintercreeper.

♣ We do not recommend burning as an effective management strategy for existing populations. RBC is not a prairie species and occurs in habitats that are not necessarily adapted to fire (e.g. mesic woodlands). Unlike fire-adapted species, much of the RBC plant structure is above ground. Fire will most likely kill the plants that are growing at the site.

♣ Soil disturbances/scraping may be beneficial to existing populations. Experiments involving various types and levels of soil disturbance should be conducted by experienced researchers.

### Wooded Sites

(mesic woods, sites near streams, etc.)

♣ We recommend removal of individual, select trees to maintain a “dappled shade” environment. Cut stumps should be treated with a systemic herbicide to prevent resprouting.

♣ Control invasive plants through manual pulling (e.g. garlic mustard) or selective herbicide application on cut stems (e.g. Amur honeysuckle).

♣ No foliar herbicide application within 25 feet of RBC sites.

♣ No burning (see above).

♣ Minimal soil disturbance (see above).

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