

Active Management

Piedmont Refuge uses prescribed burning and timber harvest to actively manage the land for wildlife. Management of fire dependent pine/ pine-hardwood forests to restore and improve habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker and associated native wildlife is a refuge priority. Other species that benefit from this management include quail, turkey, Bachman's sparrow, brown-headed nuthatch, prairie warbler and fox squirrels.

Prescribed burning on the refuge can be conducted from November through June. Refuge objectives for burning include reduction of hazardous fuels, reduce mid-story hardwood encroachment, increase grass component in the understory and maintain open areas. November through mid-March is considered dormant season, while mid March through June is the growing season. The refuge burns units on a 2-3 year cycle which averages 9,000- 11,000 acres per year. The refuge plans to burn 1/3 of the annual target during the growing season to reduce hardwoods such as sweetgum and maple and increase the grass and forb response in the understory. Due to weather constraints the refuge must rely on burning both during the dormant and growing season.

Starting in 2010 the refuge may conduct prescribed burns during the 2nd and 3rd quota turkey hunts. Information on potential dates and locations of burn units will be posted at the refuge office.

Focus Area

The refuge has identified a 5,000 acre focus area for more intensive management in compartments 2, 3, 4 and 6. The goal of the focus area is to increase efforts to improve habitat for open canopy grassland wildlife within red-cockaded woodpecker habitat. Priority species include bobwhite quail, Bachman's sparrow, brown-headed nuthatch, and prairie warbler. Many other game and non-game species will also benefit.

The increase in management will entail dividing burn units into smaller areas and burning them on a 2 year cycle. All the openings in this area have been planted in warm season native grass. Burning and winter disking maintain these openings for wildlife. New roadside management will be implemented to control invasive plants, promote native grass and forbs, and provide winter cover. Due to weather constraints some of these units may be burned during the 2011 turkey hunts. Check with the refuge for potential closure of sites during hunting seasons.

Piedmont NWR Prescribed Burns 2010

| <u>Compartment #</u> | <u>Acres</u> | <u>Date Burned</u> |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2B | 181 | Jan 28, 2010 |
| 2D- FS114 | 231 | Feb 18, 2010 |
| | (+102 of FS&pvt) | |
| 3B | 229 | Jan 12, 2010 |
| 3C | 203 | March 30, 2010 |
| 3F | 250 | Jan 11, 2010 |
| 4A | 420 | March 31, 2010 |
| 4C | 271 | April 5, 2010 |
| 5S/18A | 443 | April 18, 2010 |
| 7/8A/8B/9W | 1204 | Feb 27, 2010 |
| 11X | 64 (burned by FS) | April 12, 2010 |
| 12B | 530 | April 13, 2010 |
| 14B- west | 203 | Feb 11, 2010 |
| 14B- east | 162 | Feb 18, 2010 |
| 16B/16C/17A/17B/17C | 1291 | March 20, 2010 |
| 22B | 502 | April 18, 2010 |
| 24/34/FS-4/Crane-GOP | 1449 | Feb 28, 2010 |
| | (-93 of FS&pvt) | |
| 28 | 239 | March 5, 2010 |

Total acres of refuge burned = 7,872

Piedmont NWR FY 2010 Rx Burning

