



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

March 2012

Woodland Restoration Tour: South Central FLN

On March 29-30, partners in the South Central FLN led an in-depth tour of woodland restoration efforts for key communications contacts. Paul Voosen of E&E Publishing (parent of Greenwire and ClimateWire) and Jon Schwedler of the Conservancy's Restoring America's Forests program spent two days in the field, hearing the story of FLN collaboration and seeing its results on the ground.

The goals set forth for this tour were to tell the story of pine/oak woodland restoration and management in the Ozark and Ouachita Mountains, to highlight the importance of partnerships and collaboration, and to experience a prescribed burn.

In all of these, the trip was reportedly a success. In the last case, the experience was facilitated by frequent contact with partners who were conducting prescribed burning, so that when the tour saw a smoke



Left: Martin Blaney (center) leads a discussion of woodland restoration partners

Right: Steve Osborne makes a point at one of the displays across the landscape that interpret different stages of restoration in the Ozark National Forest. Interpretation to build support for restoration actions has long been a strategy in this landscape.



column, they were able to find out about the goals and progress of that particular burn in real time. In some cases they were also able to drive to a good vantage point and discuss the details of the operations with the practitioners present on the tour.

Jon Schwedler noted that the partners doing the tour had "really made the project come alive and shared excellent stories" so that "it's not hard to see why this project has been such a success so far."

Key Participants

McRee Anderson, Doug Zollner—The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas

John Andre—USDA Forest Service (retired)

Martin Blaney—Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

Jimmy Dixon, Mark Morales—USDA Forest Service, Ozark NF, and key staff at Ouachita NF

Steve Osborne—U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (retired)

Jon Schwedler—The Nature Conservancy, North America

Paul Voosen—E&E News

Theo Witsell—Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

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Left: Restored pine/oak woodlands in the Ozarks National Forest



Right: Restored pine woodlands in the Ouachita National Forest, where tour participants met with staff from the Poteau Ranger District's Red Cockaded Woodpecker Restoration Project

The Fire Learning Network is a cooperative program of the Forest Service, Department of the Interior agencies—Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service—and The Nature Conservancy. It has a ten-year track record of helping to restore our nation's forests and grasslands and making communities safer from fire. For more information, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524. *An equal opportunity provider.*

