



Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field

Woodland and Glade Restoration and Management: New Trends and Accomplishments

South Central FLN Partner Workshop September 2012

As a busy season of restoration work started to wrap up, 38 people from the South Central FLN met at the Sylamore Ranger District (Ozark National Forest) to discuss woodland and glade restoration history, projects and methods. After ten years of work together, this FLN has become a good example of a community of practice: After an introduction from FLN lead McRee Anderson and a welcome from District Ranger Jim McCoy, the morning was spent sharing and discussing partners' experience in managing and restoring this increasingly rare habitat type. Presentations included:

- an overview of the history and "why" of woodland and glade management (Steve Duzan, USFS),
- accomplishments and lessons learned about methods for glade restoration across state natural areas (Bryan Rugar, ANHC),
- a summary of recent work completed using SPER funds to

reduce eastern redcedar encroachment on glades (Brad Carner, AGFC),

- an update on the mapping of all glade and potential glade locations within the Indiana Bat Project boundary on the Sylamore District (Doug Zollner, TNC), and
- a quick course on the natural history of the collared lizard, a glade-obligate species that has been in decline in the region (Jessica Wakefield, USFS).

After lunch, the group toured two restoration sites to observe the results of thinning and mastication treatments, and discuss next treatment steps as well as challenges to scaling up, including terrain and accessibility issues and the need for regular fire to maintain the glades once restored.

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What's Working

Two methods for managing eastern redcedar were of particular interest to participants. At Terre Noir, managers have cut and lay alleys through stands of cedar. Once inroads have been made, fine fuels regenerate readily, so that repeated fire can be used to gradually widen an opening in the stand. On the Harold Alexander WMA, herbicides have been successfully used to reduce the density of redcedar. A lesson learned here is that more consistent results can be obtained by premixing the herbicides used by contractors, to ensure optimal concentrations.

Also noted was that complete eradication of the trees is not necessary to get glade restoration underway. Merely burning or otherwise removing the lower branches can let enough light reach the ground to let an understory get re-established (although the redcedar seedbank remains).



Top: Participants toured sites on the Sylamore District where bluestem has become re-established after eastern redcedar was removed (left), and where shredded wood still remained (right).

Bottom, left: Among those attending was Dwayne Rambo (USFS), recent recipient of a National Wildlife Federation CONNIE Award for Special Achievement.

Bottom, right: Collared lizards, which inhabit only open glades in the area, were seen in several locations during the afternoon. © Steve Duzan/USFS

Participating Organizations

Arkansas Game and Fish
Commission

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

National Park Service

Ozarka College

The Nature Conservancy—Arkansas

USDA Forest Service—Ozark NF,
St. Francis NF

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