Groundcover Restoration at the Three Lakes WMA

Steve Glass
District Wildlife Biologist

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

- 1.5 million acres under lead management
- ~ 300,000 acres in agricultural use
- Restoration costs ~ $1200-$1600/acre
- GCR Team established in 2004
GCR Plots at Three Lakes WMA

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Site Prep

Used 2-3% glyphosate solution and broadcast sprayer
Seed Collection

1. Lopsided Indiangrass – October 9 - 19
2. Wiregrass – November 17 – December 5
3. Hand Collection – Throughout Spring, Summer, & Fall

When to Harvest LIG?
Testing your Wiregrass Seed

- Use a dissecting scope or hand lens to make sure seeds are actually present! Don’t assume they are there just because you have a nice wiregrass flush.
- Take a sample of wiregrass seed and determine how many seeds appear to be healthy. Best if at least 30-50% of your seeds show signs of being viable.
Seed Collection Observations for Lopsided Indiangrass

- LIG must be collected during a very short window of time. Need to watch carefully or you will miss your opportunity. For Osceola county, this window has been from October 9-19.
- LIG is typically collected from areas that were burned 1.5-3.0 years prior; doesn’t seem to matter if it was a dormant or growing season burn.
- Depending on the quality of your site, you can expect to collect approximately 8-10 lbs per hour.
- On average, you can expect to collect 10-12 lbs per acre on a good LIG site. This will vary depending on the LIG density, the tractor operator, and the timing of the collection.
- In summary, on good sites it will take approximately 7-15 acres and 9-16 hours to collect 100 lbs of LIG.

Seed Collection Observations for Wiregrass

- Need to have multiple burn units to choose from with a variety of burn dates that at least include the months May thru July. June and July seem to be the best months at Three Lakes.
- A dry Spring may have a negative effect on early seed production.
- Need to test your seed before you start collecting.
- On good sites, you can expect to collect approximately 13 lbs per hour and approximately 10 lbs per acre.
- In summary, on good sites it will take approximately 7-18 acres and 6–10 man-hours to collect 100 pounds of wiregrass seed.
Planting Seed

- Conducted with either a 5 or 8 foot Grasslander.
- Should target 8-10 lbs of wiregrass per acre and 1-2 lbs of lopsided indiangrass per acre.
- Will most likely need to modify your Grasslander before using.
It Works!

Some Results

- On the 2005 site, lopsided indiangrass had the highest mean cover of any species while wiregrass had the fifth highest mean cover.
- During monitoring in Fall of 2008, 67 species were found on the restoration site compared to 81 found on the donor site.
- There were 10 species of exotics found on the 2005 restoration site compared to 0 found on the donor site.
- Future actions on this site will be to introduce native shrubs and plant longleaf pine seedlings.
Some Final Thoughts and Observations

- Some type of monitoring is important to determine your level of success and what future actions are needed.
- Must spot treat the exotics that are found. Plateau seems to be effective at killing bahia while leaving the wiregrass alone.
- Must be dedicated and persistent. Not something you can do haphazardly.
- If you do this enough you most likely will have some failed attempts.