

National Fire Plan

Restoring Forest Ecosystem Health in the Wildland Urban Interface

Arkansas 2002



The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the USDA Forest Service, Bayou Ranger District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest have strides in implementing concepts outlined in the September 2001 publication, *Restoring Forest Ecosystem Health in the Wildland/Urban Interface on the Bayou Ranger District - Implementing the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan with the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review*.

Funded by the National Fire Plan, The proposal includes 54,100 acres on six separate areas across the District over the next ten years. To date, four landscape scale fuel reduction prescribed fires, 500 acres of mechanical fuel, and 200 acres of mechanical fuel reduction from wildlife stand improvement have occurred. The photos below show successful ecosystem restoration projects in oak and shortleaf pine plantations.



Oak Woodland: Mechanical Treatment Prescribe fire



Shortleaf Pine Woodland: Mechanical

The district is in the process of completing planning efforts that would treat 12,000 acres on another of the six restoration areas. Periodic dormant and growing season prescribed fires, and mechanical fuel reduction treatments would occur on 5,000 acres in lower quality stands.