

Wildlife Preservation Fund, Project #RC07-L06W

The purpose of this project was the restoration of a rare habitat type called a hill prairie. Hill prairies are found on tops of southwest/west facing bluffs mainly above the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. A main issue in hill prairie management is brush/exotic species control. This habitat type is of an early successional stage. Constant maintenance, being it cutting, burning, etc., is required.

From June 16, 2007 through June 22, 2007, and June 25, 2007 a work crew of 6 people employed by Vern LaGessee and Associates, Inc. spent 6 days totaling 288 man - hours cutting brush, stacking brush and applying herbicide on Housen Hill Prairie in Pike County, Illinois.

All herbicide, carrier, and dye was provided by the contractor. All multiflora rose, autumn olive, and bush honeysuckle in the project area was cut at ground level and treated with 20% Garlon 4 in a vegetable based carrier with dye.

All trees and brush (black locust, honey locust, smooth sumac, gray dogwood, etc.) of less than 6" dbh within the work limits was cut at ground level and the stumps treated with a 20% Garlon 4 in a vegetable based carrier with dye. Trees greater than 6" dbh were girdled to a minimum depth of 1/4" around the base of the tree and treated with 20% Garlon 4 in a vegetable based carrier with dye.

All stems of such species not large enough in diameter to justify being cut were treated with 20% Garlon 4 in a vegetable based carrier with dye by basal-bark application. All cut stems and brush on prairie area were stacked along the timber's inside edge. All cut stems were left safely on the ground with no "leaning stems" left on the site.

Cutting was done with a combination of hand and power tools. The kill rate of 80% of treated stems was achieved.

No trees with a dbh greater than 4 inches was cut.

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