



Ecosystem Restoration: Invasive Plant & Animal Removal

Project Status

Project Year: 2016 **Status:** Complete

Category: Invasive Species

Location: Properties managed by Woodlands Conservancy

Project Partners: Woodlands Conservancy, USFWS, NRCS, LDEQ (BEP)

Background and Problem Addressed:

The State of Louisiana is home to many species of invasive vegetation. According to a study done by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, 55% of Louisiana's forests contain at least one invasive species. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, many native trees were lost in the 800 acres of forested wetlands within the Barataria Basin on properties managed by Woodlands Conservancy. Without proper reseedling of native plants, invasives grew quicker and began threatening the health of the native forested wetlands that provided habitat for wildlife and migratory birds.

At Woodlands Conservancy, three major invasive species were recognized on the property, which included Chinese Privet, Chinese Tallow, and Chinaberry. The presence of the three invaders in the forest prevented sunlight from reaching native saplings.

Funds requested would be used for the purpose of implementing invasive plant control operations including management and suppression in 800 acres of forested wetlands within the Barataria Basin. Treatment of invasive vegetation with herbicides would be conducted. Restored areas would be reforested with native seedlings and understory vegetation to enhance the habitat for wildlife and birds.



The overall goal of the project was to significantly reduce the invasive species and to supplement the regeneration of the forest by planting native overstory, midstory and understory vegetation. The project aimed to restore the property to encourage the sustainability of wildlife that resides within the bottomland hardwood forest and ensure a forest of high nutritional value for migratory birds that are dependent on this stop over habitat.



Project Description:

Treatment for this project occurred on March 7, 2016-March 16, 2016 on a 205 acre tract of Woodlands Trail and Park Bird Sanctuary, known as Treatment Plot E. A treatment team of ten individuals walked throughout the acreage, applying herbicide to Chinese Tallow, Chinese Privet, and Chinaberry in the bottomland hardwood forest. Herbicides used included Aquaneat (glyphosate), Polaris (imazapyr), Garlon (triclopyr) and Champion as a surfactant. During treatment, three different application methods were utilized which included foliar spraying, basal bark application, and the “hack and squirt” method..

To eliminate smaller shrubs, saplings and seedlings, a 4-gallon backpack foliar sprayer was used. Treatment of larger trees and shrubs required use of the hack-and-squirt method. A machete was used to cut deep grooves circumferentially around the trunk. Using a hand spray bottle, each groove was then filled with herbicide. Basal bark application that involved spraying or painting herbicide on the bark around the entire circumference of the tree was also used.

Approximately 1800 native seedlings were planted at Woodlands Trail and Park Bird Sanctuary utilizing dibbles, tree mats, and tree protectors. Plantings are located along the trail in the southern portion of Treatment Plot B.

On March 16, 2016, treatment of the 250-acre tract was completed and marks the initial treatment for much of Treatment Plot E. Treatment had previously occurred between the existing trail and the Plantar’s Canal, within 10 feet along either side of the existing trail and along a swale that measured approximately 40 feet in width and .3 miles in length. The future health of the area is promising as maple, box elder and oak saplings are common and distributed throughout the property.

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CCMP Action Items Addressed:

Protection of Habitat for Migratory and Resident Birds (Ecological Management # 15)

Reduction of Impacts from Exotic Vegetation (Ecological Management # 16)