

Partnerships

The OGRDA is a collaborative effort involving multiple partners including:

- US Forest Service**
- The Nature Conservancy**
- National Wild Turkey Federation**
- Quail Unlimited**
- US Fish and Wildlife**
- Fire Learning Network**
- Central Hardwoods Joint Venture**

For more information call 1-800-LBL-7077 or 270-924-2000. Visit www.lbl.org, or write:

USDA Forest Service
Land Between The Lakes
100 Van Morgan Drive
Golden Pond, KY 42211-9001



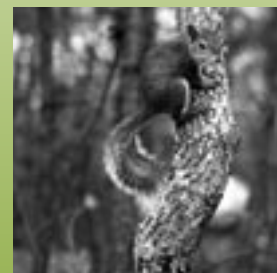
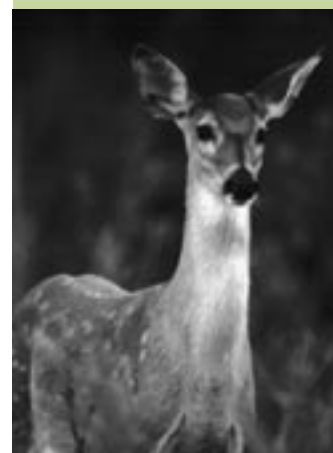
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**USDA Forest Service
Land Between The Lakes
National Recreation Area**

Oak-Grassland Restoration Demonstration Areas



Oak-Grassland Habitat



An oak-grassland is a semi-open woodlands ecosystem. A rich and diverse understory of native grasses and wildflowers with nut producing oaks and hickories scattered across the landscape.



Desired condition for the Oak-Grassland areas.

The oak-grassland ecosystem will provide habitat for native species including threatened and declining species, and opportunities for recreation and environmental education. Land Between The Lakes (LBL) is re-establishing a large contiguous oak-grassland ecosystem known as the Oak-Grassland Restoration Demonstration Area (OGRDA).

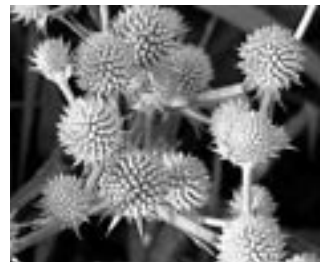
Why develop an Oak-Grassland Restoration Demonstration Area?

Based on historical accounts and ecological research, it is believed upland oak forests in this region were more open and interspersed with grasslands than they were today. Open conditions were created and maintained in large part through the use of fire by American Indians, whose burning practices were later adopted by early European settlers.



Wildlife, such as the white-tailed deer, will be more visible as the forest becomes more open.

Restoring oak-grasslands to LBL will create habitat for wildlife, improve forest health, and provide recreational and environmental education opportunities.



Rattlesnake Master is a native wildflower in OGRDA.

Many LBL species depend on open, grassy forests. These open conditions will benefit rare or declining species such as Barbed Rattlesnake Root, Barn Owl, Prairie Warbler, Northern Pine Snake and Northern Bobwhite Quail. Other species that will benefit include White-tail Deer, Fox Squirrel and Wild Turkey.

Education and recreation will be an integral component in the OGRDA. The restoration areas will provide viewing opportunities for native wildflowers, plants, and wildlife. OGRDA will provide opportunities to develop a variety of trails, including interpretive trails.



How will our goals be accomplished?

It will take approximately four years of tree thinning and controlled fire to establish the desired OGRDA.

Controlled Fire - (also known as prescribed fire) Fire is an essential natural disturbance in an oak-grassland ecosystem. The demonstration restoration areas will be burned on a rotational basis with varying intensities to establish the desired oak-grassland community. Once the OGRDA is growing as desired, it will be maintained by controlled burning every 2 -12 years.

Fire alone is not a strong enough agent of change to create an open woodland habitat in a reasonable time frame.

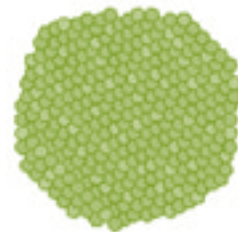
Forest Service employees during a controlled fire.



Saw timber from a 70-acre timber harvest in 2006.

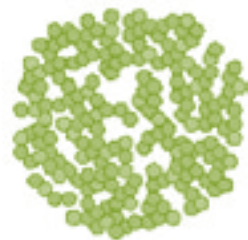
Tree Thinning - Thinning in the restoration demonstration area along with the use of controlled fire will achieve the desired future condition of an oak-grassland ecosystem. Tree thinning will open the forest canopy, stimulating growth of native grasses. Age diversity in trees will occur from the thinning. Varying ages helps to establish a healthy forest and one less susceptible to disease.

Approximately two-thirds of the trees in the Tennessee OGRDA will be removed and tree thinning will be accomplished through contracted timber harvesting.



An example of the existing closed canopy structure in a typical block of forest in the OGRDA. Each small circle represents the crown of an individual tree.

An example of an open canopy structure that would be created by the proposed thinning and group selection treatments in the OGRDA.



Collaborative effort between partners help to monitor the Tennessee OGRDA.

Monitoring - Numerous plots have been established to closely monitor effects of fire on plants, trees and forest animals. The monitoring process will be ongoing throughout the development of restoration demonstration areas.



Where are the Oak-Grassland Restoration Demonstration Areas?

LBL is establishing two Oak-Grassland Restoration Demonstration Areas comprised of approximately 8,000 acres. The Tennessee OGRDA is being developed first and is approximately 5,000 acres, located near The Homeplace living history farm. The Kentucky OGRDA, approximately 3,000 acres, is located near the Elk & Bison Prairie and will be developed later.

Map of Oak-Grassland Areas

