

2012 Terrell Habitat Grant Report

Habitat Restoration for Georgia's Birds: Henslow's Sparrow habitat work

Nathan Klaus and Todd Schneider
GA DNR
Nongame Conservation Section
116 Rum Creek Drive
Forsyth GA 31029
(478) 994-1438
Nathan.Klaus@dnr.state.ga.us
Todd.Schneider@dnr.state.ga.us

Introduction: Originally this grant request was for a variety of adaptive management activities including golden-winged warbler surveys, Henslow's sparrow management and surveys, a loggerhead shrike habitat study and southeastern kestrel box monitoring, totaling \$69,720. Ultimately the award was for \$9,000 specifically designated by GOS to help fund habitat work for Henslow's Sparrow on Paulk's Pasture. Over the next two years the intended work could not be performed for various reasons, so a revised proposal was sent to the GOS committee in March 2014 with alternative expenses to consider funding; possibly funding a controlled burn on Townsend WMA or helping with the purchase of a new UTV to carry water and crew during controlled burns. The committee decided to support the purchase of the UTV. The new UTV was purchased in the summer of 2014 and outfitted with water tank, pump, hoses, reel, equipment rack, winch and a variety of underbelly armor. The total purchase price was \$16,292 with GOS funding \$9,000 of the purchase price. Since then the UTV has performed well during the 2015 fire season. It was used on 33 burns totaling 13,388 acres (see Table 1 below). The DNR and especially the west central Georgia fire crew are very grateful to GOS for help in purchasing this vital equipment!

Table 1. Burns to date where the new UTV was used.

Date	Location	Acres	Unit
01/19/15	Ohoopie dunes	300	14
01/30/15	Chattahoochee NF	1319	Farmers Bottoms/Browns Bottoms
02/11/15	Sprewell bluff	25	20
02/13/15	Jeremy Coleman Property	200	main burn unit, eastern part of property
02/16/15	Joe Kurz	45	2
02/27/15	Pashley Shoals.	290	3
02/28/15	Sprewell bluff	670	1

03/04/15	Fort Perry	187		C14
03/04/15	Fall line sandhills east	80		7
03/06/15	Fall line sandhills west/Black Creek	200		2 (N of black creek only)
03/16/15	Sprewell bluff	240		13
03/17/15	Big Lazer WMA	1200		Stands 1-5
03/18/15	West Point WMA	1900		?
03/17/15	Chattahoochee NF, Stephens County	700		Black Mountain (acreage includes wildfire the next day)
03/18/15	Sprewell bluff	70		21
03/17/15	Chattahoochee NF DNR/Plum Creek (montane longleaf)	837		Hale Ridge
03/26/15	Kendall Creek	325		
03/27/15	Kendall Creek	805		
3/28/2015	Sprewell bluff	200		19
3/31/2015	Fall line sandhills east	70		9
4/9/2015	Dawson Forest	90		
4/9/2015	Brawley Mountain (USFS)	260		Block C and E
4/22/2015	Rovig Unit (TNC)	968		
4/23/2015	Panola Mountain SP	80.5		Unit 1 subunit 1A
5/1/2015	Black Jack Crossing (TNC)	361	1 and 2	
5/3/2015	Chestnut Mountain (USFS)	800		
5/4/2015	LPKC (TNC)	375		
5/13/201				
5	Black Jack Crossing (TNC)	430	3 and 4	
5/21/201				
5	Brynwood	50		
6/19/201				
5	Fall line sandhills east	117		
6/24/201				
5	Sprewell bluff	61	Double Bridges Rd.	
6/25/201				
5	Fall line sandhills east	26		
6/29/201				
5	Jeremy Coleman Property	107		
TOTAL		13388		

Figure 1. One of the burns supported by the new UTV last year included a native grass restoration area intended to benefit grassland birds such as Henslow's Sparrow. Coming full circle to the original intent of this grant a Henslow's Sparrow was recently caught (10-2015) and banded on this site by Charlie Muise.



Figure 2. The west central Georgia Fire crew taking a moment to pose for a picture while burning on Joe Kurz WMA. The UTV on the right is the one recently purchased using the 2012 GOS funding. This small crew of seven (4 seasonal and three year round employees) burned over 13,000 acres in 2015. Having good equipment like the two Kubota UTVs made it possible for a small crew to achieve this.

