



Nachusa Grasslands Prescribed Fire Crew Summary Report

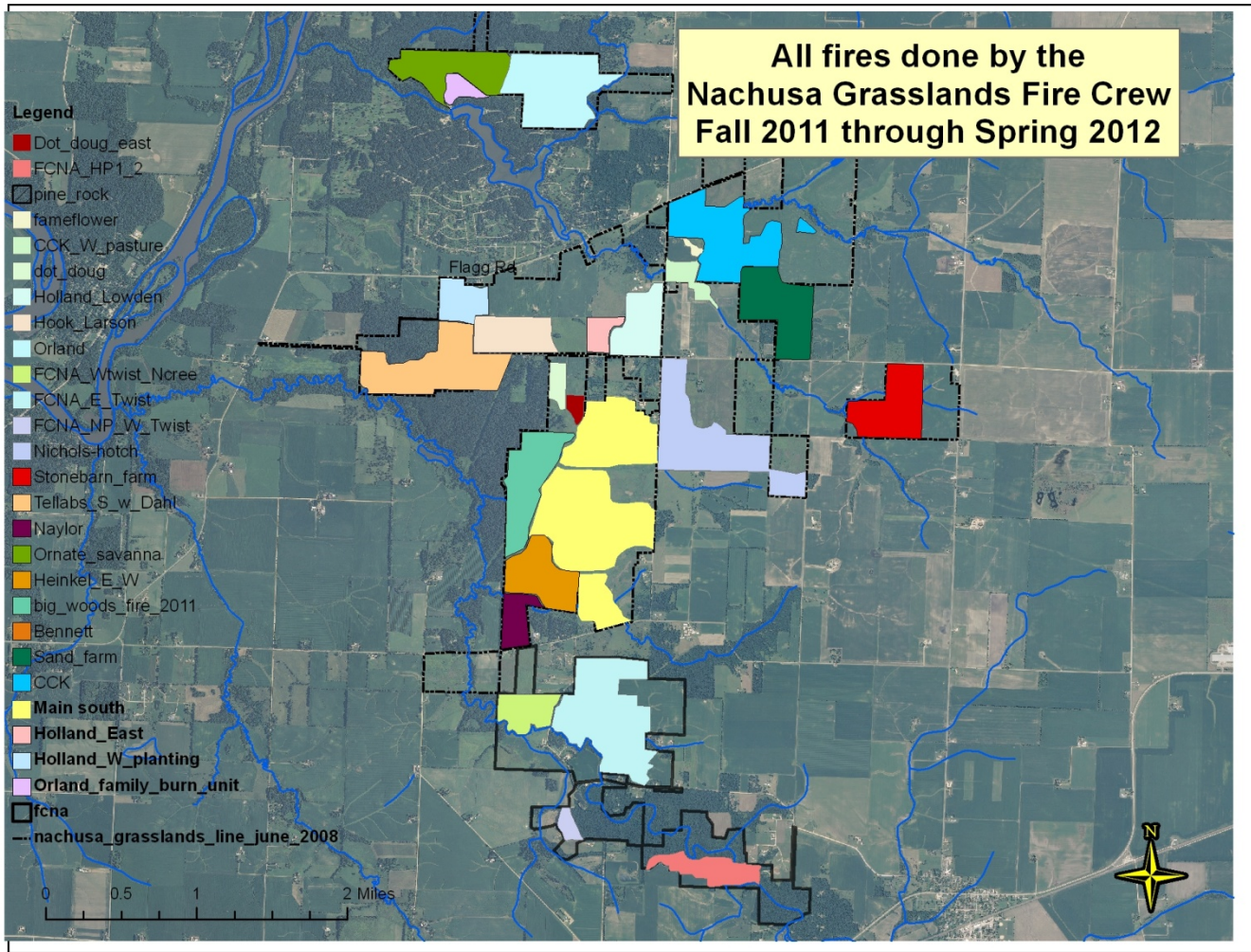
For fires completed from Fall 2011 through Spring 2012

By Bill Kleiman

March 31, 2012

Prescribed fire is the most important stewardship we natural area managers can do. We put fire above all else in the spring. The Nachusa Grasslands Fire Crew burned several units in November and then we were ready again by March first, but the weather had us waiting until March 9. By the end of March the extra warm weather had the landscape greened up, turtles and snakes wandering about, flowers blooming and fire season was over.





The fires we did:

Unit Name	Acres	Date	Temp high	Humidity low	Wind high	Crew size	Comment
Corn stubble fire Holland	50	10/25/2011	50	40	S10	6	
Corn stubble fire CCK	4	10/25/2011	50	40	S10	6	
Naylor planting and woods	41	11/12/2011	56	49	S12	9	Woods hardly burned, finished in spring.
Ornate Savanna	113	11/15/2011	55	40	SW16	16	
E & W Heinkel Savanna	98	11/17/2011	37	30	W16 w gusts	11	
Dot Doug between knobs	11	11/17/2011	37	30	W16 w gusts	11	
Big Woods	121	11/30/2011	40	42	SW8	16	
CCK	173	3/9/2012	38	31	N15	16	

Holland W planting	85	3/9/2012	38	28	N6	16	
Ornate Prairie	172	3/11/2012	64	27	SSW16	17	
Main N	143	3/13/2012	67	40	W variable 5	17	Did North, Middle, and S all on same day, essentially one unit of 449 acres.
Main M	254	3/13/2012	67	40	W variable 5	16	
Main S	52	3/13/2012	67	40	W variable 5	16	
Hook Larson W	80	3/13/2012	67	40	W variable 5	16	
Tellabs, Bennett, Dahlberg	180	3/14/2012	76	55	N17 w gusts	14	
HLP slash & pasture	26	3/14/2012	76	55	N17 w gusts	9	
Sand Farm	130	3/15/2012	76	60	SW8	11	
Stonebarn Farm	110	3/15/2012	76	60	SW8	11	
FCNA E of Twist, N of Creek	230	3/16/2012	79	50	S9	15	Very patchy
Hotchkiss, Nichols, Carpenter S	200	3/17/2012	79	45	S13 w gusts	15	
FCNA W of Twist, N of Creek	53	3/21/2012	82	35	S16 w gusts	6	
FCNA NP S of Twist	14	3/21/2012	82	35	S16 w gusts	6	
Orland Family tract	23	3/21/2012	78	40	S10	3	
Dot Doug W Planting	20	3/21/2012	82	35	S16 w gusts	5	
Pine Rock NP	62	3/28/2012	55	38	NW18	9	Blackened.
FCNA _HP1&2	63	3/28/2012	55	38	NW18	9	Patchy.
Total acres	2,508						
Total Nachusa	1,923						
Total burn units	26						
Average burn unit size	96						



Crew lunch break between fires.



Important fire equipment for fires: The 400 gallon water tender refills our fire pumps in the field, the hay rake moves mowed vegetation off the fire break, the batwing mower makes short work of mowing fire breaks.



Ornate Prairie.

Crew who participated**(Let me know if I missed you.)****I write "fire hero" next to those with more than six fires.**

<u>First name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u># of fires</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Mike	Adolph	2	volunteer of over 22 years
John	Ayres	2	
Heather	Baker	4	crew
Kurt	Braun	1	
Russ	Brunner	1	
Bernie	Buchholz	17	fire hero. Thank you!
Mike	Carr	11	equipment manager and fire hero
Sean	Considine	1	
Damian	Considine	10	fire hero
Cody	Considine	23	crew boss
Dave	Crites	22	crew boss and equipment manager
Michelle	Crites	1	
Shannon	Godby	1	
Matt	Gonnerman	5	crew
Jan	Grainger	1	
Kirk	Hallowell	8	Rookie of the year
Becky	Hartman	11	crew boss
Hank	Hartman	12	fire hero
Dwight	Heckert	2	
John	Heneghan	13	crew boss and equipment manager
Brian	Heynen	7	fire hero
Elizabeth	Jordan	1	crew
Mark	Jordan	6	Rookie of the year too
Tyler	Kerr	17	crew
Jack	Kiburz	1	Orland tract owner
Susan	Kleiman	7	fire hero
Bill	Kleiman	27	burn boss
Mark	Kruis	13	crew
Emmylou	Larry	1	
Dave	Lawson	1	
Al	Meier	2	
Pete	Oliver	1	
Allison	Parker	2	
Chess	Pat	17	crew
Josh	Price	3	
Kyle	Rauch	4	
Mike	Saxton	11	crew boss and crew
Steve	Sentoff	4	
Paul	Soderholm	2	
Daniel	Thompson	1	
Jim	Vieregg	1	
Mary	Vieregg	3	
Bryon	Walters	18	crew boss and crew
TOTAL CREW		39	



Big Woods fire, November 30

What we learned or relearned:

- Team work. We had John Heneghan, David Crites, and Mike Carr give us a lot of time to load up all the pumper units, change their oil, clean filters, tighten loose bolts. They went over all the utility vehicles, finding an air filter in one that looked like it was ready to grow potatoes. They also made a huge difference working each time they came to a fire to keep the gear going.



John Heneghan, Dave Crites, Mike Carr

- Hay, fire breaks. We had a farmer hay our fire breaks and they ended up to be the most solid and wide breaks we have had. First we mowed them to a foot high with our tractor mower, then had the

farmer cut them low and round-baled them up. He reported the bales were appreciated by the cows.

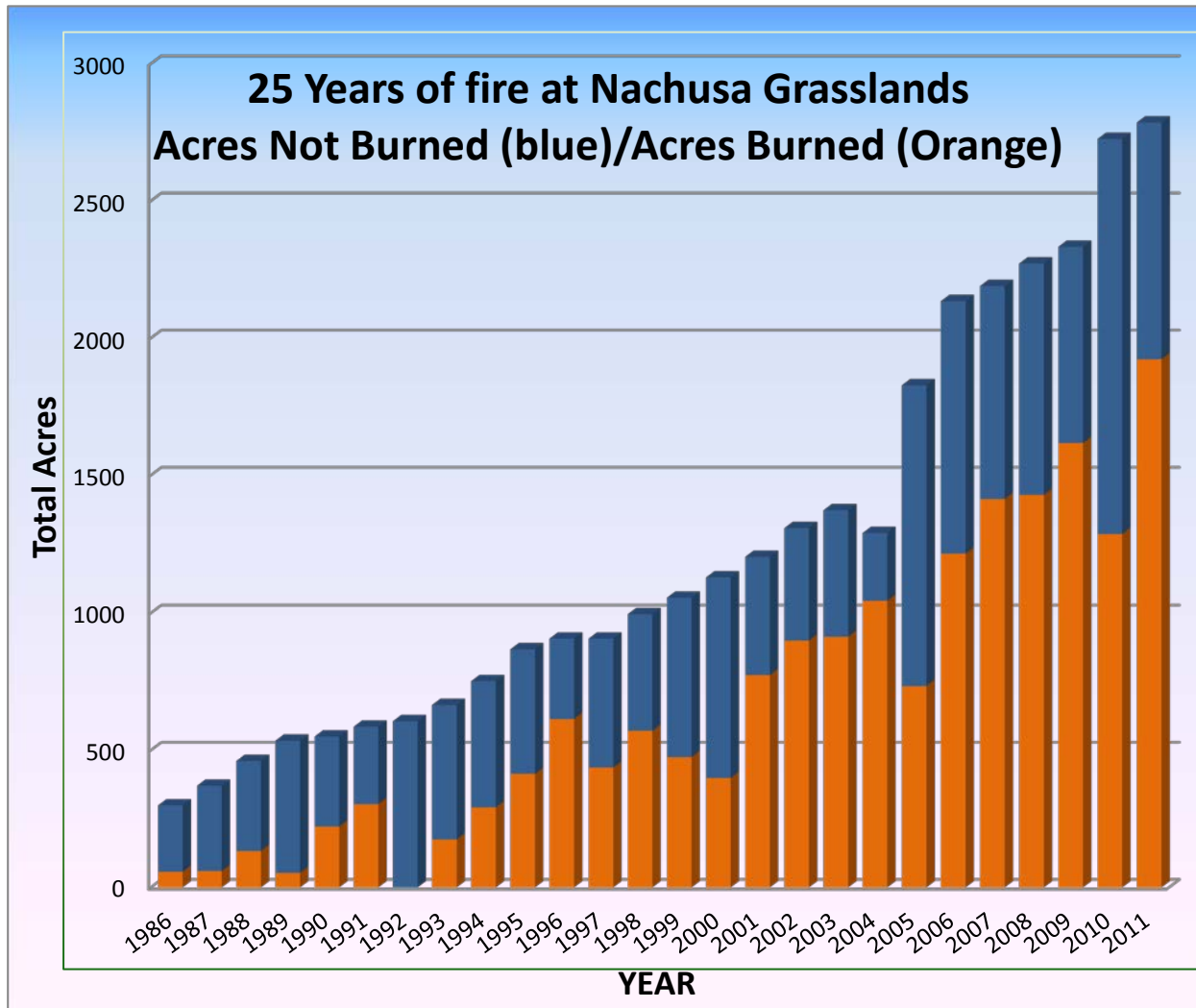


- We found a foam inductor nozzle (sucks soap concentrate from a jug, mixes it with water, and blows it by a screen to make bubbles) that puts out about 16 gallons per minute of foam. We ran this foam maker off of a 400 gallon water tank pulled at walking speed by a tractor. The pump put out about 60psi which was just enough to create a foam line about three feet wide and two miles long. The class A foam is expensive but we went faster and had less work to do, less smoke to eat putting out creeping fires. We loved it. We also tried an eight gallon per minute foam nozzle and it did pretty well too. These low cost nozzles are made by Scotty.



- Office work makes fires go. Each fire has a plan that is reviewed by another burn boss. The plans are good for five years. Computer generated maps are created for each fire using turgid GIS software.

Weather is checked over and over. Conditions and liabilities are weighed. Calls are made. We print about a ream of plans and maps over the fire season. The printer is a fire tool. Do your map and plan work early and keep it organized for quick reuse the next year.



If you would like to see the 25 years of maps that helped make up this bar chart see:

<http://www.nachusagrasslands.org/Burns/BurnsTOC.html>

Franklin Creek Nature Area. There are many nice woodlands, prairies, and wetlands at FCNA that would benefit from fire. Several years back we received grant funding from the State Wildlife Incentive Grants program. Part of this work went to FCNA. There we sent a crew to cut fire breaks, and thin various areas of brush. We also contracted a large brush mower. We put fire on the ground at a large scale. In total we burned 290 acres in spring 2009, 270 acres in spring 2010, and 360 acres this spring. Hopefully, we have started a trend of fire that will help this brush encroached site have some more light and air, flowers, oaks, sedges, turkeys, wood peckers and etc..



This photo shows the fire effect on a briar and multiflora rose thicket in an oak woodland at FCNA. The fire top kills the briars and gives light to other plants. Over time, fire can reduce briars in woodlands, a welcome

Pine Rock Nature Preserve. We again burned Pine Rock this spring. Ten years ago this Nature Preserve had not seen fire for a long time and was in places severely encroached with brush. A group of partners worked together to bring this preserve, just east of the town of Oregon, back in a healthy direction: the partners have been TNC-Nachusa Grasslands, Byron Forest Preserve, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and the Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County. Starting about a decade ago, fire breaks were created, a huge section of brush and trees were cleared from a former wetland, and fire was put back on the ground a number of times, annual weed work is also done at this site.

Illinois Prescribed Fire Council. I am a director on the Council which started in 2008, working to promote safe and effective prescribed fire. Current projects are to create an Illinois fire needs assessment. To this end we have engaged with Charles Ruffner of Southern Illinois University. Our last fire symposium was in February with our chairman, Adam Rex, being a former Nachusa crew member.

Fire video. There is a newer shorter version to the Nachusa fire video released last spring.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfbGocgxPyl&context=C48b0cb3ADvjVQa1PpcFPq7Je2iINTJUbU-ngbIP8yFmmb3rjgvPo=>



The end. All photos by The Nature Conservancy