

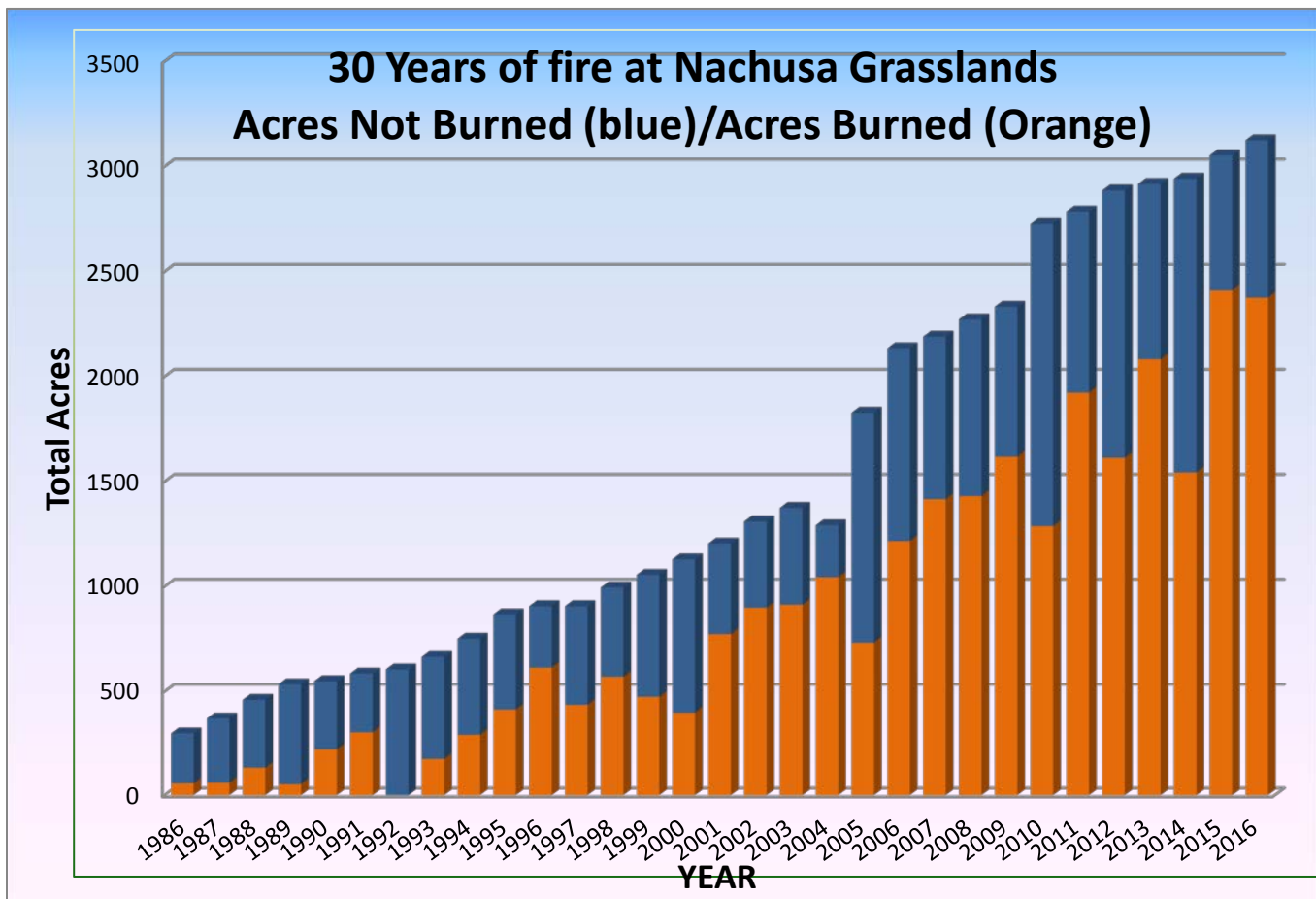
Nachusa Grasslands Prescribed Fire Crew

A Summary of 30 Years of Fire

and a Summary Report for Fall 2016 through Spring 2017



By Bill Kleiman, The Nature Conservancy May 2, 2017 [Share this with your colleagues.](#)



We have been using fire for 30 years to restore healthy prairie, wetlands, and oak woodlands. The graph curves up as we purchased tracts of land over three decades. The 2016 data is fall 2016 through spring 2017.

Of our best remnant prairies, we leave portions un-burned each year in case there are fire sensitive insects in the duff layer.

Over the last three decades we have done prescribed fires in our woodland units:

- Big Woods Unit. 21 of 27 years we burned so a Fire Return Interval of 27/21 or 1.3.
- Kittentail Unit 19 of 22 years burned FRI 1.2
- West Heinkel Woods 18 of 24 years burned FRI 1.3
- East Heinkel Woods 18 of 20 burned FRI 1.1
- Potawatami Ridge 10 of 22 years burned FRI 2.2

The average number of “fire” days where the weather and logistics were right for fire for us was only 13, with a range from as few as 6 to as many as 18 days. This is why when we have the fire weather we need to make sure fire work gets accomplished.

Over 30 years, we burned about the same number of times on weekends and weekdays, suggesting our use of all 7 days have been important.

We burned on average 20 units on that average of 13 fire days.

We burn small acreage units and large units. Our burn unit size has fluctuated over three decades. Our average this year was 132 acres.

Average Wind Direction:

Average number of north wind fire days: 4 with a range of 2 to 8.

Average number of east wind fire days: 1 with a range of 0 to 3.

Average number of south wind fire days: 6 with a range of 2 to 10.

Average number of west wind fire days: 2 with a range of 0 to 4.

Fall vs Spring fire days:

Average number of fall fire days: 5 with a range of 1 to 8.

Average number of spring fire days: 16 with a range of 6 to 28.

The earliest fall fire day we had was October 15 with our latest fall day being a December 2. The earliest spring fire day we had was this year at February 19 with our latest spring day being an April 23.

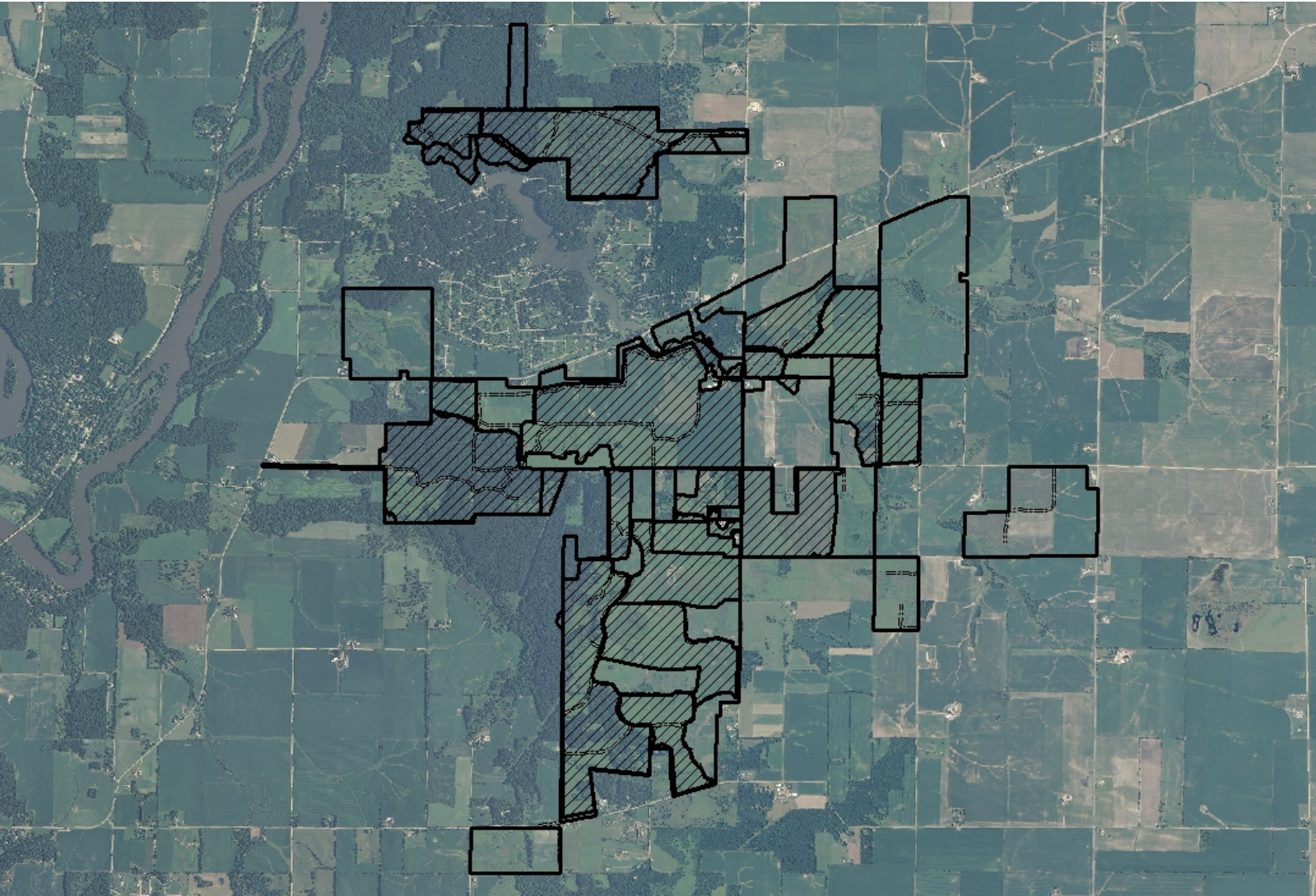


March 12, 2017: Ignition start Orland

Fires done by Nachusa Grasslands crew from Fall 2016 to Spring 2017

Back to this current year. We had a fine year with good numbers, but we were unable to get all the units done that we created fire breaks for. We did not burn any of Franklin Creek Natural Area, in spite of spending days making fire breaks there. We burned a few units in November and then mid-February was record warm and we burned some units, but then the weather was off and on until green up about second week of April.

The map below shows burned units as the single hatched areas.



Fire data for Fall 2016 through Spring 2017 below

Unit Name	Burn boss	Date	Acres TNC	Acres others	Temp high	Humidity low	Wind high	Crew size	Comment
CCK planting corn stubble	Bill	11/9/2016	50		45	55	5 S	6	
GRCA	Frank Osling	11/16/2016	0	690	55	60	Vrbl	12	assist by Damian, Greg H, Tim S, Bill K. Moist day with maybe half burned.
CCK slash area	Bill	11/21/2016	40		40	60	10W	6	
CCK Sand Farm	Bill	2/19/2017	150		63	35	7 S	10	Mike Carr & Dave Crites line boss
CCK S of creek to White house	Bill	2/19/2017	26		63	35	7 S	15	Mike Carr & Dave Crites line boss
CCK E of creek	Bill	2/19/2017	79		63	35	7 S	8	Susan Kleiman line boss
Main Unit S	Bill Bowes	2/21/2017	150		67	45	6 NW	16	
HP	Bill K	2/21/2017	390		67	45	6 NW	16	
Main North	Bill	2/27/2017	166		49	60	11 S	12	Damian line boss
Hotchkiss	Bill	3/9/2017	122		47	38	9 N	12	
Senger	Bill	3/9/2017	31		47	38	9 N	12	
Orland prairie and middle woods	Bill	3/12/2017	247		34	30	8 SSE	13	Susan K line boss
Stonebarn to Naylor Road	Bill	3/19/2017	301		52	52	13 SSE w g	13	
Holland Savanna	Bill	3/21/2017	18		50	37	10 N/NW w gusts	14	Jay Stacy led tour of fire
CCK Gobbler	Bill	3/21/2017	78		50	37	10 N/NW w gusts	14	
201 tract	Bill	3/21/2017	43		50	37	10 N/NW w gusts	14	
Orland West	Bill	3/22/2017	71		41	42	9 ESE	10	Ron Deters line boss
Schafer	Bill	3/22/2017	123		41	42	9 ESE	12	
Wahl Private	Greg W	4/1/2017	0	4			light varble	8	Four from Nachusa there with two UTVs
Telllabs	Bill	4/7/2017	291		58	23	10 NW	9	
Soderholm	Paul S	4/8/2017	0	38	71	36	13 S w gsts	9	5 from Nachusa assisted
Orland Family woods	Bill	4/8/2017	0	20	71	36	13 S w gsts	6	
Internal ignite Telllabs unit	Susan	4/8/2017	0		71	36	13 S w gsts	4	Perhaps another 20% burned
Internal ignite Telllabs unit	Bill	4/9/2017	0		72	39	20 S	2	Perhaps another 5% burned. Too green and ground moist

Sand Pr State Habitat Area	Frank Ostling	4/12/2107	0	240	55	59	7 S	6	
		Total acres	2,376	992			Average crew size:	10.36	Average crew size at Nachusa 10.7

# fire we assisted on partner lands	5
Total Nachusa land	2,376
Total burn units	23
Burn units at Nachusa	18
Average burn unit size at NG	132
Number of burn days	16

Nachusa Fire Crew:

The following are Crew who participated this year (let me know if I missed you)

<u>First name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u># of fires</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Mike	Adolph	2	84 and scouting fire
Kaleb	Baker	14	
Ryan	Blackburn	1	
Bill	Bowes	7	About to finish RXB2
Jacob	Brock	1	
Bernie	Buchholz	4	
Mike	Carr	9	
Jeff	Cologna	4	
Damian	Considine	4	Helps other sites too
Cody	Considine	13	
David	Crites	6	
Ron	Deters	9	Line boss
Gwen	Deters	7	
Chantalle	Edmunds	7	
Jessica	Fliginger	1	
Dick	Gambrel	9	
Gerry	Grimm	1	
Kirk	Hallowell	7	
Nathan	Huff	4	
Greg	Hunter	1	Dixon PD

Leah	K	10	
Dustin	Kanas	1	
Callie	Klatt	1	NIU turtle tracker
Bill	Kleiman	23	Burn Boss 364 times
Susan	Kleiman	17	Thanks
Travis	Kuntzelman	1	IBP crew
Dave	Lawson	3	
Elyse	Leannis	3	IBP crew
Dale	Maxon	2	Iowa TNC
Katie	McBride	7	
Al	Meier	2	
Phil	Nagorny	9	This season doing two week fire training in S Dakota
Don	Panozzo	2	
Joe	Richardson	10	
Tom	Richter	2	Fire educator hanging with the locals
Paul	Say	3	
Kevin	Scheiwiller	2	
Sebastian	Shafer	14	Intern from Germany. Thank you.
Tim	Smith	1	Dixon PD
Anthony	Sondoval	2	Day job with Pizzo fire crew
Paul	Swanson	2	
Michael	Swierz	2	Poet
Jay	Vecchiet	1	Turtle tracker for GRCA
Hayden	Wurtz	3	Working this summer in Grand Canyon NP on fire
TOTAL CREW		43	



I am working with the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council to create the [Illinois Prescribed Fires Accomplished Map](#). We hope to populate this map with as many agencies as possible to be able to see the good fire work being done in Illinois. If you open the map app you will see we populated Nachusa Grasslands Preserve with burns accomplished as an example.

Nachusa is just north of I-88 and west of I-39. Zoom in and you can see the example. Click the layer list and turn on the Protected Lands feature. It is simple and intuitive.

This data will help us build on the momentum of the 2016 [Illinois Fire Needs Assessment](#)

The map will help all of us understand and appreciate the good works that have been done, and the needs we have for fire across our protected lands.

The I-View is already a publically available map. This new map will allow agencies and public to get an intuitive view of the fire work we are accomplishing.

In order to participate you simply need to email ILRxFiresAccomplished@gmail.com

with one of these:

- A shapefile [What is a shapefile?](#)
- A kmz file, such as generated from Google Earth.

Please include the date on which the burn was conducted or, barring that, the season in which the parcel was burned. This information can either be integrated into the shapefile/KMZ file or provided as text; whichever is easiest for you. All of the polygons can be sent as a single shapefile/KMZ file. If that's not feasible, you can also send individual shapefiles/KMZ files for each burn. That's it. We'll take everything else from there!



New Kawasaki Mule Pro UTV pumper unit. Minnesota Wanner stainless tank with 5 hp motor and pump with high pressure (300-400 psi), and low volume (10 gallon per min), half inch fire resistant hose with electric reel and hose roller.

Leaf rake with quick release mount held at an angle out of the way. Added wire cage for hot exhaust after burning equipment leaned against motor.

50 gallons is plenty of weight for a UTV. This 70 gallons steel tank is pushing our weight.



A good woodland fire break.

Trees are gone, brush gone, and stumps are gone. We mow it in the fall and leave blow before the fire day.

You can drive a UTV, even a pickup along this break, making fire work easy.



Good fire break makes fire work better.

Thank you David Crites and Mike Carr, here mounting a pumper unit in a new UTV. We bolt down the tank.

Other fire equipment help from Phil Nagorny and Sebastian Schaefer.

It takes us several days to load fire gear, and then several days to unload fire gear. We are repairing and modifying throughout the fire season.



March 21, 2017 Fire at Clear Creek Knolls



Bison grazing creates areas where the fire can't carry because the grass is eaten, leaving a diverse set of blackened and green patches across the landscape.



Kaleb Baker and Kirk Hallowell



March 19, 2017: Susan Kleiman on top of Potowatami Ridge about to pass the fire and water hose to Katie McBride.



- March 22, 2017
- Orland West
- Dave Lawson
- Don Panozzo
- Bernie Buchholz
- Ron Deters
- Cody Considine
- Joe Richardson
- Sebastian Schaefer
- Susan Kleiman
- Kaleb Baker



For more Nachusa fire info visit <http://www.nachusagrasslands.org/controlled-burns.html>

Share this with your colleagues.



The end.