



## **Nachusa Grasslands Prescribed Fire Crew Summary Report**

For fires completed from Fall 2012 through Spring 2013

By Bill Kleiman

May 14, 2013

Please share this with your colleagues.

We burned 1,800-acres with a spring that was more like winter. We burned two days in November, one day in December, four days in March, and five days in April. That is only twelve burn days. The fire season may last for weeks but the available days are few. There were several units we did not get to.



First fire in the Orland Prairie north "Panhandle".

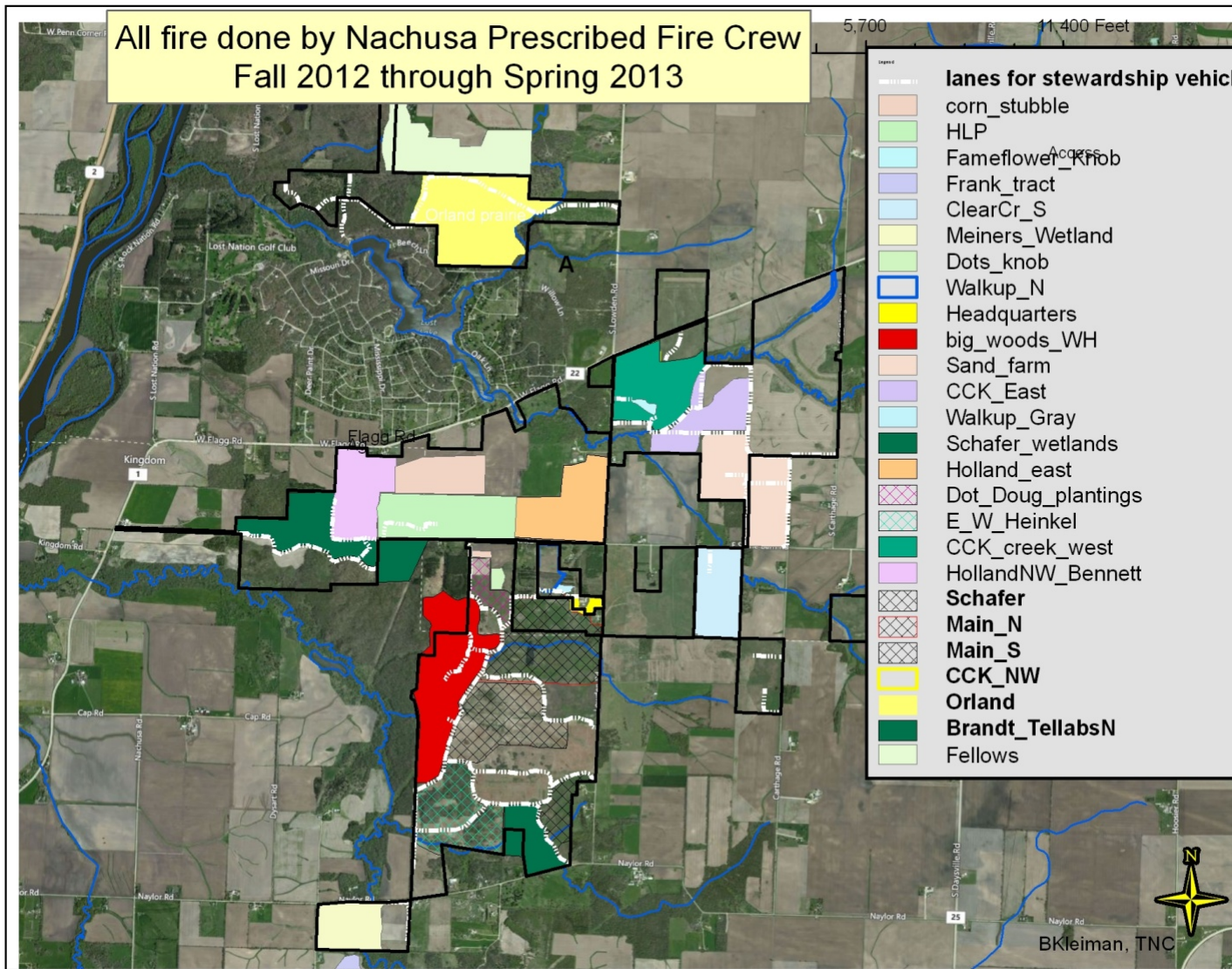


John Heneghan did fourteen fires with us this year, many of them as Crew Boss.





Bill Bowes works summers as a wildfire fighter in the Western U.S.. He helped us on seven fires this spring.



**The fires we did:**

Unit Name	Acres	Date	Temp high	Humidity low	Wind high	Crew size	Comment
Holland and Dot Doug corn stubble for planting prep	64	11/14/2012	45	42	10S	7	And 3 additional trainees
HLP	113	11/14/2012	45	42	10S	7	
Fameflower Knob	4	11/25/2012	41	42	12 NE	6	
W half Dots	5	12/14/2012	44	63	6 SSE	6	
HQ planting	7	12/14/2012	44	63	6 SSE	6	

Orland prairie	172	3/3/2013	57	40	15 S	15	Rob Littiken BB.And 2 additional trainees
Meiners Wetlands	57	3/26/2013	40	52	6 W	11	And 2 additional trainees
Clear Creek S	74	3/26/2013	40	46	3 WNW	11	And 2 additional trainees
Main Units N and Central	277	3/28/2013	46	48	8 NW	13	And 1 additional trainee
Schafer uplands	32	3/28/2013	46	48	8 NW	13	And 1 additional trainee
Sand Farm	131	3/29/2013	52	47	4 N	15	And 1 additional trainee
CCK east	72	3/29/2013	52	47	4 N	15	And 1 additional trainee
Walkup east of lines, S of pines	2	3/29/2013	52	47	4 N	15	And 1 additional trainee
Ayres Lanz tract	10	3/29/2013	50	40	5 V	6	
CCK W	111	4/2/2013	39	35	9NW	12	And 1 additional trainee
Holland NW & Bennett woods	87	4/2/2013	39	35	9NW	12	And 1 additional trainee
E and W Heinkel	108	4/3/2013	45	28	8 E	15	
Holland East	105	4/3/2013	45	28	8 E	8	
Dot Doug east plantings	28	4/3/2013	45	28	8 E	8	
Schafer Wetlands	50	4/4/2013	51	36	14 W	15	And 6 additional trainees. Tom Wise bb
Big Woods & Dahlberg big hill		4/4/2013	55	32	14W		
Walkup north	19	4/5/2013	55	40	10 NE	10	
Frank tract	24	4/5/2013	55	40	10 NE	10	
Tellabs N & Brandt & Dahlberg west	119	4/22/2013	65	38	20	12	
Fellows tract	126	4/22/2013	65	38	20	12	
<b>Total acres</b>	<b>1,797</b>						
<b>Total Nachusa</b>	<b>1,613</b>						



Total burn units	25
Average burn unit size	71

Mike Carr updating an old pumper unit.



#### What we learned and relearned:

- **Carpe diem ignis.** "Seize the fire day" . You want to have your crews out burning on every day that the weather is safe and the vegetation is ready to burn. This means getting your equipment loaded and functioning before fire season begins. For us this is late October and then in late February. Communicate up your chain of command the importance of having few meetings, events, and other work due during fire season.
- **Empower volunteers.** Our fire crews are primarily volunteers. They are treated as colleagues with the training and tools to get the job done. A special call out to Dave Crites, John Heneghan, and Mike Carr who again prepared and maintained our fire equipment. Also to the folks who came out for lots of fires. They make a big difference.
- **Mentor others.** Established fire crews need to reach out to other agencies, non-profits, and private landowners and actively mentor folks towards getting fire on their ground. We have had a number of successes in this regard.

- **Rock River Prescribed Fire Crew.** This fire crew did well this spring with Damian Considine as its coordinator, and Greg Hunter caring for the fire equipment. They burned several units. The Rock River Fire Crew is comprised of volunteers from the region working to help landowners and agencies get fires done. They have their own safety gear and fire equipment.
- **Build in redundancy.** Have more than the minimum of crew. Have a water tender to fill up pumps quickly. We have a plethora of water sprayers, pumpers, that we have gathered over the years. If you have a truck or utility vehicle sitting empty you might put a water sprayer in the bed. We use piston or diaphragm pumps that produce high pressure (300 to 400 psi) and use only 10 gallons per minute. This produces an efficient sprayer for Midwest fuels.



Damian Considine is the coordinator for the newly formed Rock River Prescribed Fire Crew. This day he was a Crew Boss with our Nachusa crew.



Prairie, wetlands, and woodlands evolved with and depend upon fire. Photo by Robert Shaw





Kirk Hallowell was on six fires with the last one burning vigorously in the woods and taking us near sunset. That yellow suit and his face were charcoal by the end of the day



**Nachusa Grasslands****People who participated in Fall 2012 to Spring 2013 prescribed fires.****(Let me know if I missed you. )****Thank you to all and especially those with multiple fires!**

<b><u>First name</u></b>	<b><u>Last Name</u></b>	<b><u># of fires</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
John	Ayres	4	
Heather	Baker	3	
Paul	Bane	2	
Emily	Bern	2	
Bill	Bowes	7	
Bernie	Buchholz	12	crew boss
Mike	Carr	2	equipment manager and fire hero
Doug	Chien	1	
Sean	Considine	1	
Damian	Considine	8	crew boss
Cody	Considine	17	crew boss
Dave	Crady	2	crew
Dave	Crites	14	crew boss and equipment manager
Gwen	Deters	2	
Trevor	Edmonson	2	
Chantalle	Edmunds	3	
Dick	Gambrel	1	
Kirk	Hallowell	6	
Becky	Hartman	11	
Hank	Hartman	15	
Caleb	Hardy	1	
Wes	Herwig	2	
John	Heneghan	14	crew boss and equipment manager
Brian	Heynen	4	
Greg	Hunter	3	
Mark	Jordan	1	
Kevin	Kaltenbach	2	
Susan	Kleiman	9	burn boss once
Bill	Kleiman	21	burn boss
Lisa	Lanz	2	
Dave	Lawson	2	
Mark	Liechty	1	
Rob	Littiken	1	
Jeff	Masters	4	Rookie of the year
Al	Meier	4	
Pete	Oliver	1	
Josh	Price	3	
Robert	Ramirez	2	
Kevin	Rohling	5	
Mike	Saxton	3	crew boss and crew
Steve	Sentoff	4	

Emmylou	Studier	7	
Jim	Vieregg	6	
Mary	Vieregg	9	crew boss
Tom	Wise	3	
TOTAL CREW		39	



Hank Hartman



Brian Heynen

Want to see a handful more pictures with captions of the fire season?:

[https://picasaweb.google.com/101552696223379880181/NachusaFireCrewPhotosFall2012ToSpring2013?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCMin-s\\_c77bRVw&feat=directlink](https://picasaweb.google.com/101552696223379880181/NachusaFireCrewPhotosFall2012ToSpring2013?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCMin-s_c77bRVw&feat=directlink)



25 years of fire at Nachusa is at this link and a short video from last year is found here too:

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



Tellabs Savanna unit burning. Photo by C Larry.

The End. Thank you for reading our report. Feel free to share with others.