



Total acreage of landscape: 344,393

Partners

- Arkansas Canoe Club
- Arkansas Forestry Commission
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
- Arkansas Tech University
- Arkansas Wildlife Federation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- National Forest Foundation
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- Ouachita Timber Purchasers Group
- Quail Unlimited
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Southwest Fire Use Training Academy
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDA Forest Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- University of Arkansas at Monticello



Mark Morales of the Ozark National Forest describes the benefits of controlled burns. © McRee Anderson

The dense forests and open woodlands of the Ozark Highlands are important for a variety of wildlife species, including elk, turkey, Bachman’s sparrow, Ozark chinquapin, and the federally endangered Indiana and Ozark big-eared bats. Through thinning and controlled burn treatments, the Ozark Highlands Ecosystem Collaborative CFLR is making the woodlands more resilient to wildfire, drought, insects, pollutants and climate change. These measures help maintain the area’s value for people, water and wildlife across the 217,892 acre High Priority Restoration (HPRP) project.

2015 Results

- 104 jobs created or maintained on a yearly average
- 24,784 acres of land restored
- 19,883 CCF of timber sold
- 257 acres of lake habitat improved

Contact information

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 Habitat Coordinator
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Martin Blaney’s first memories of northern Arkansas were as a child fishing with his grandpa and visiting with his family in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains in the Arkansas River Valley.

“It’s a place which in some respects has not changed that much with time,” he says.

Today Martin lives in between the Ozarks and the Ouachita mountains, and for the past 27 years has been working to keep his memories alive as a wildlife conservationist. His role today with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission accomplishes habitat restoration and management, providing wildlife benefits across the landscape for the people of Arkansas.



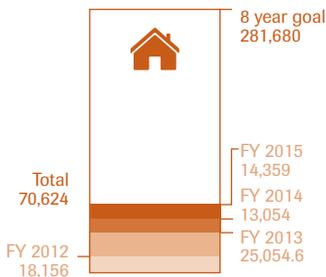
Martin Blaney

“I can’t imagine doing anything else,” says Martin. “The forests have provided a place for me, my family, and my career for years.”

Martin is a strong supporter of the Ozark National Forest and has been engaged as a conservation partner in the effort to restore the forest and its wildlife.

“The Ozark Highlands HPRP is a critical tool for us to maintain our way of life here in the Ozark Mountains. It is putting people to work providing recreational equipment, outdoor sporting opportunities, mom and pop stores, and forest resources.”

“It is my hope that one day my own grandchildren will be able to share this place with their own families,” adds Martin. “I am thankful the Ozark Highlands HPRP is helping make this hope come true.”



Fire Restoration Acres

Acres of hazardous fuels reduced