Collaborative Landscape-scale fire management, building partnerships, restoring ecosystems

COLLABORATIVE LANDSCAPE-SCALE FIRE MANAGEMENT IN ARKANSAS, BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS

Collaborative fire management planning depends on land managers across the region finding common ground in their understanding of ecosystem structure and function and in estimates of desired future ecological conditions. Adaptive Management is about people who understand how their management actions and the tools they use move the ecosystem towards a desired ecological outcome over time. Ecosystem restoration done on a broad scale involves long-term committed staff who have a passion for a ‘place’. Over a decade now, a broad group of organizations have come to restore woodland ecosystems on a large scale throughout the Interior Highlands of Arkansas. Restoring this ecosystem takes partnerships grounded in science with a common long-term vision and commitment. There restoration efforts have been cultivated by Arkansas Prescribed Fire Council, Ozark and Ouachita Interior Highlands Collaborative and the South-Central Fire Learning Network. These collaborative groups have continued to institutionalize prescribed fire and wildfire training, **adaptive management and monitoring**, regional fire science, and public education and outreach across the region. These collaborative efforts continue to attract funding streams from a variety of sources that supports the long-term restoration efforts in the region.