

2016
Community Protection Program
Prescribed Fire Grant
Summary



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2016 Community Protection Program

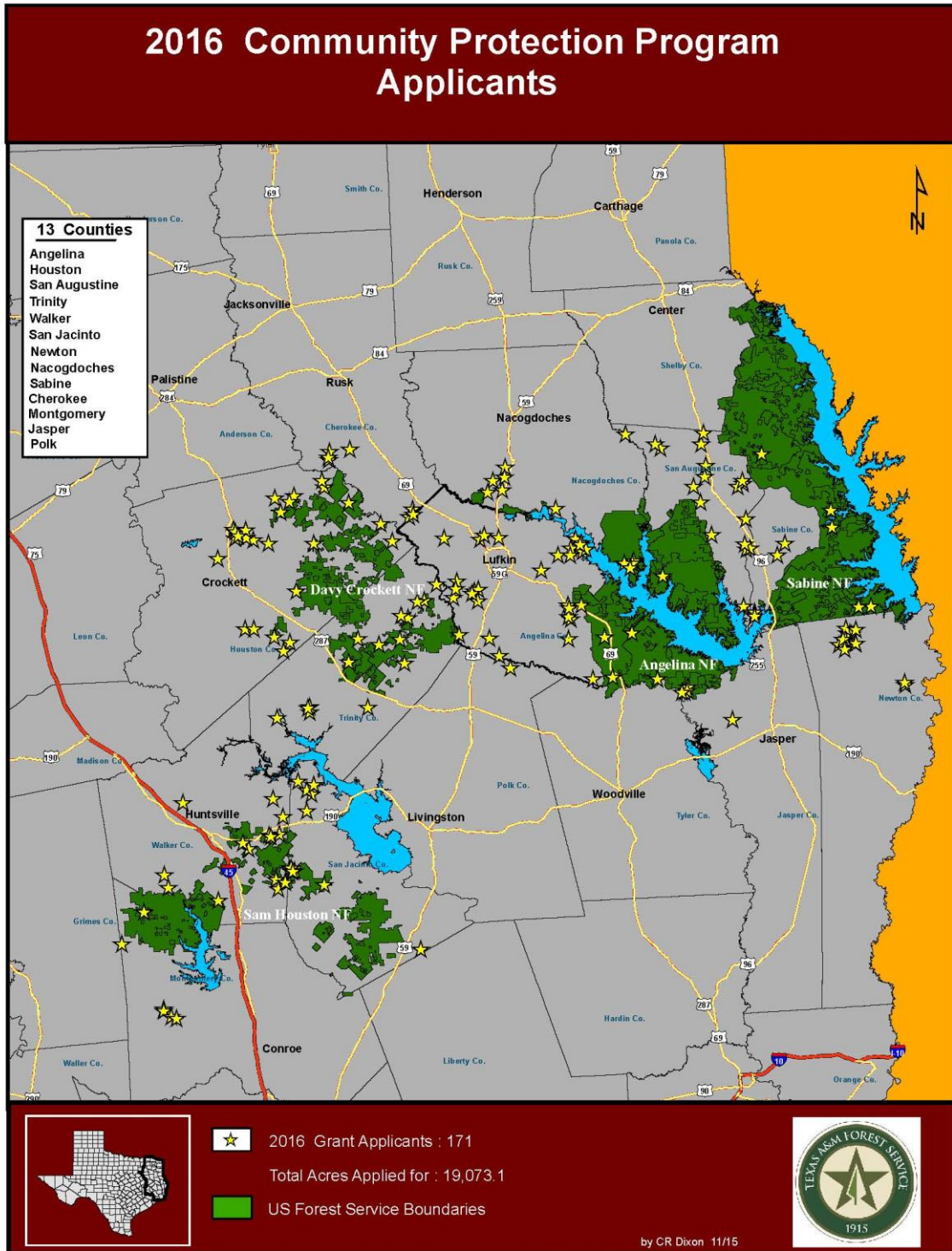
**Grant Funded Through USDA – Forest Service
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CFDA #10.664**

The Community Protection Program is intended to protect natural resources, local communities, and national forest land within the Wildland Urban Interface. One method used to mitigate this hazard is prescribed burning. Prescribed burning is one of the most effective tools land managers have to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires. By removing vegetation that builds up in the forest understory over time, these prescribed burns help protect the National Forest and surrounding communities from the dangers of large wildfires. The four national forests in Texas are the Angelina National Forest, Davy Crockett National Forest, Sabine National Forest, and Sam Houston National Forest.

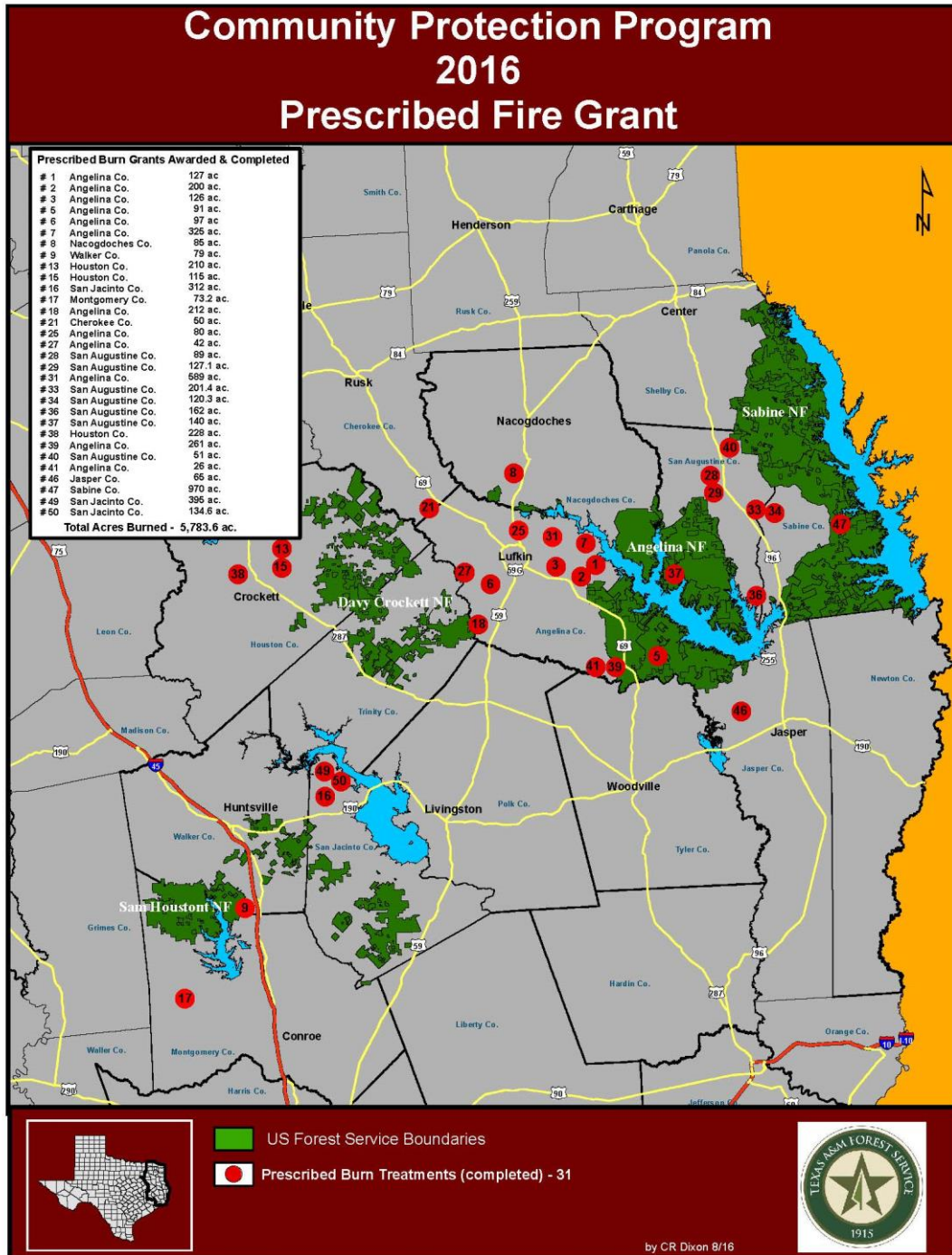
As part of the Texas A&M Forest Service’s (TFS) Community Protection Program, a ranking matrix was used to determine which prescribed burn treatments on private land would be most effective in accomplishing this goal. Major factors in this ranking included the property being within a 10 mile radius of a national forest, the use of the Texas Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (TxWRAP) to determine the location of wildland urban interface nearby, completion of a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in the county or local community, along with the submission of a comprehensive burn plan. Also, during the previous grant cycle, several grantees did not complete their prescribed burn treatments due to weather conditions. Any of these same landowners that re-applied for 2016 funding received additional points in the matrix scoring system. TFS gave no extensions to agreements.



TFS's Community Protection Program- Prescribed Fire Grant opened for applications on August 20th, 2015 with a deadline to apply on or before September 30th, 2015. A total of **171 applications** were received from **13 East Texas Counties**. Of these, **50 applications were approved** based on the criteria in the ranking matrix. The approved landowners had until July 31st, 2016 to complete their prescribed burn treatment.



The 2016 Community Protection Program– Prescribed Fire Grant accomplishments include **31 landowners** completing prescribed burn treatments for a total of **5,783.6 acres** in East Texas. The grant program allowed these landowners to be reimbursed at a rate up to \$30.00 maximum per acre, for a total of **\$173,355.00** paid thru the grant funding process. TFS did not complete the prescribed burns. Landowners worked with consulting foresters and private prescribed burn vendors to complete the burn treatments.



Detailed Breakdown of the Grant Program for 2016:

- 171 applications were received by TFS
- 50 prescribed burn treatment agreements were approved by TFS
- 31 of these 50 sites completed prescribed burn treatments
- 19 of these 50 landowners were not able to complete the burn treatments mostly due to weather conditions

List of Prescribed Fire Treatments Completed by County:

- Angelina – 12 burns, 2,176 acres
- Cherokee – 1 burn, 50 acres
- Houston – 3 burns, 553 acres
- Jasper – 1 burn, 65 acres
- Montgomery – 1 burn, 73.2 acres
- Nacogdoches – 1 burn, 85 acres
- Sabine – 1 burn, 970 acres
- San Augustine – 7 burns, 890.8 acres
- San Jacinto – 3 burns, 841.6 acres
- Walker – 1 burn, 79 acres



Landowners who were not able to complete the prescribed burns during the stated contract period were encouraged to apply for the 2017 Community Protection Program. These applications will receive additional points in the matrix scoring system used to select the appropriate sites to fund. For the second year in a row, weather conditions were the number one reason landowners claimed for failing to complete the planned prescribed fire treatment (Page 7).

Contributors:

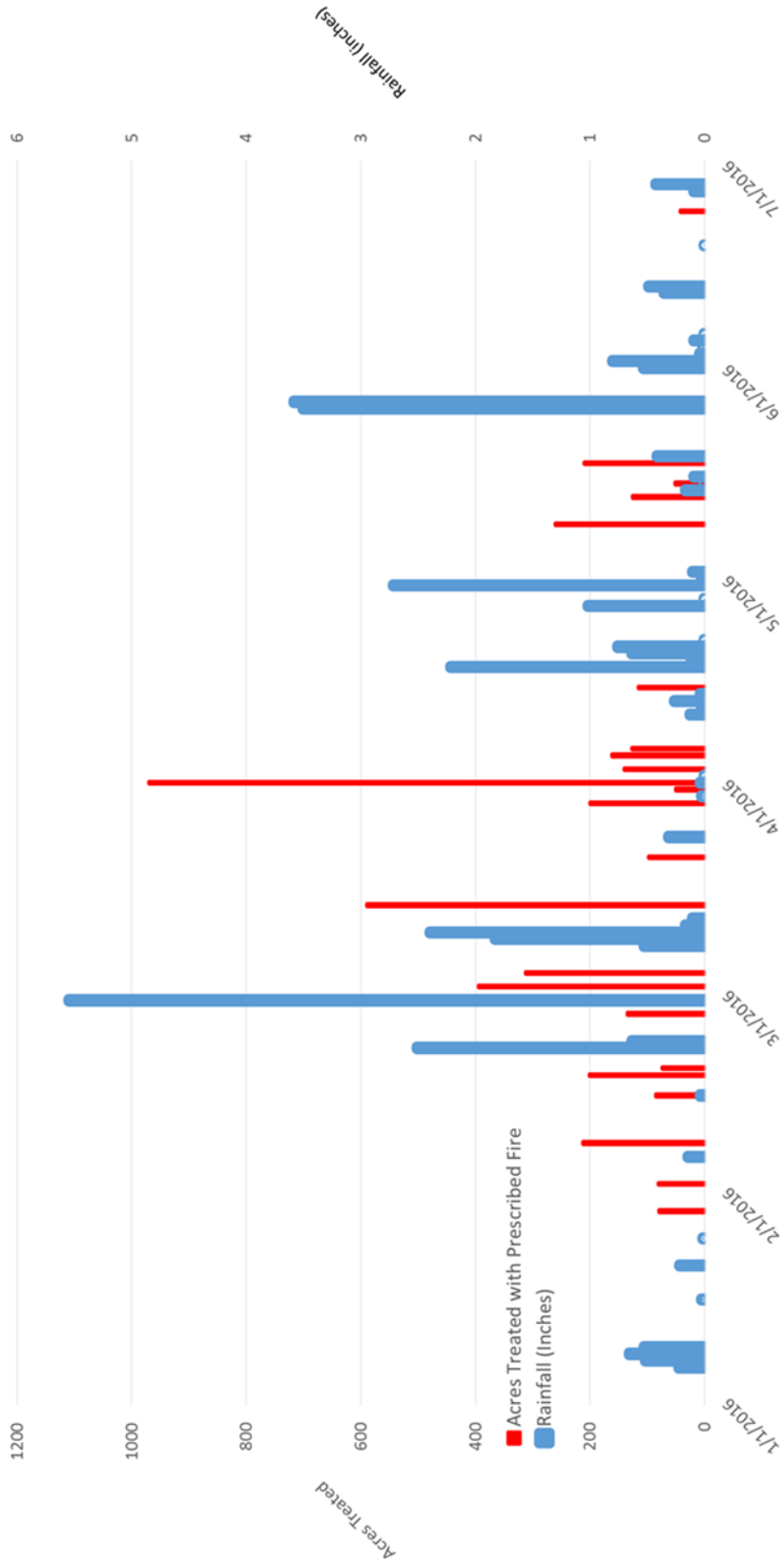
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Daily Rainfall and Acres Treated with Prescribed Fire in the 2016 Community Protection Grant



Post Treatment Photos



Mid-rotation loblolly pine plantation, Nacogdoches County, 85 acres



Mixed Pine-Hardwood Stand, Walker County, 79 acres



Longleaf pine plantation, Angelina County, 26 acres