

2017

**Neches River & Cypress Basin  
Watershed Restoration Program  
Prescribed Fire Grant**



**TEXAS A&M**  
**FOREST SERVICE**



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# 2017 Neches River & Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program Prescribed Fire Grant

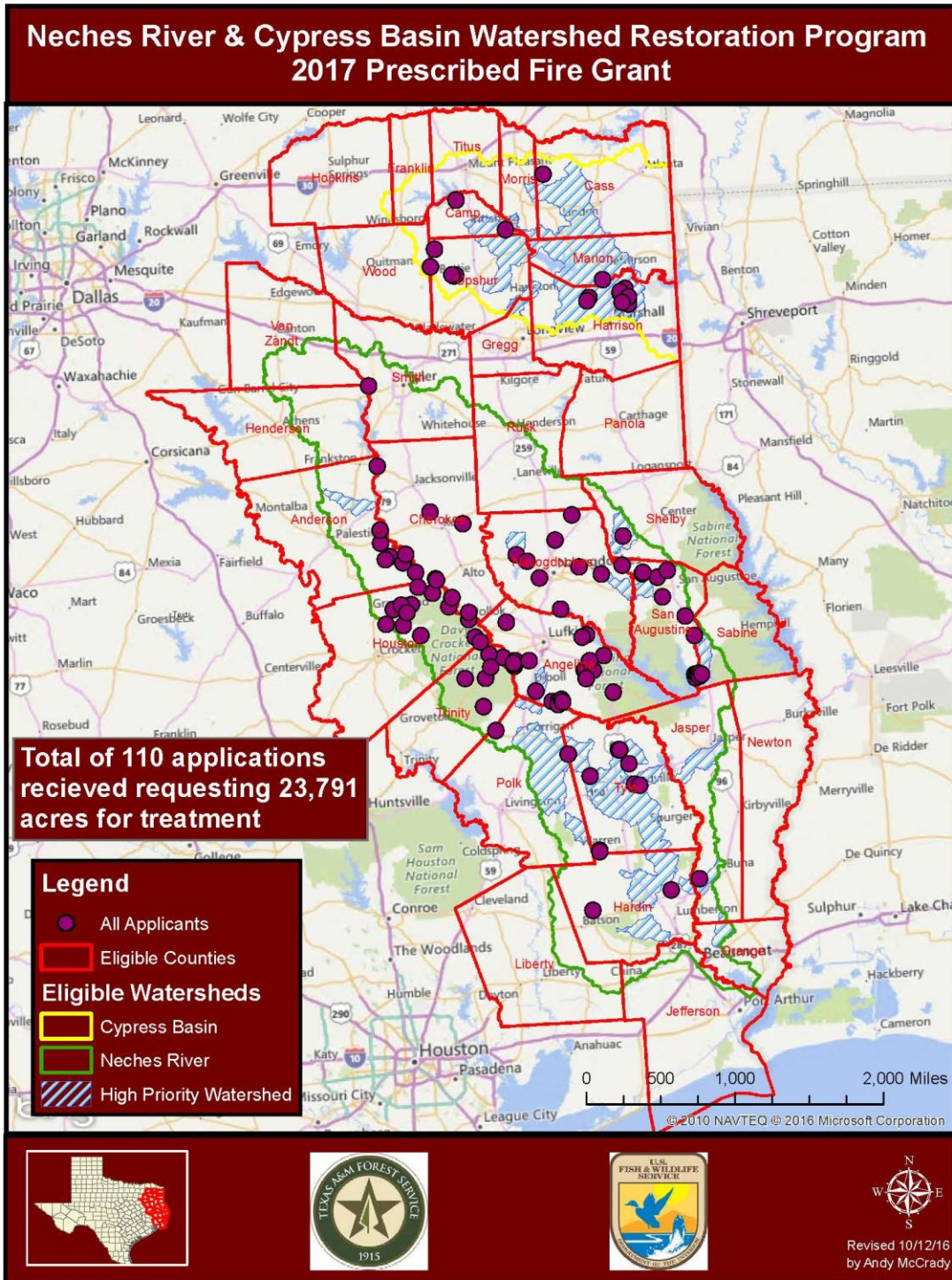
**Grant Funded Through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Award #F16AP00822, CFDA #15.631**

The Neches River & Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program Prescribed Fire Grant is intended to provide assistance to private landowners for ecological improvement of properties in the Neches River and Cypress Basin watersheds. This program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department to control invasive species, enhance habitat, and improve water quality and quantity. Prescribed fire is one of the most effective methods land managers have for restoring the natural function of our forested ecosystems. By utilizing fire to reduce competition from invasive or unwanted plant species, property owners are able to convert their land back to the native plant communities that support biodiversity and stream quality.

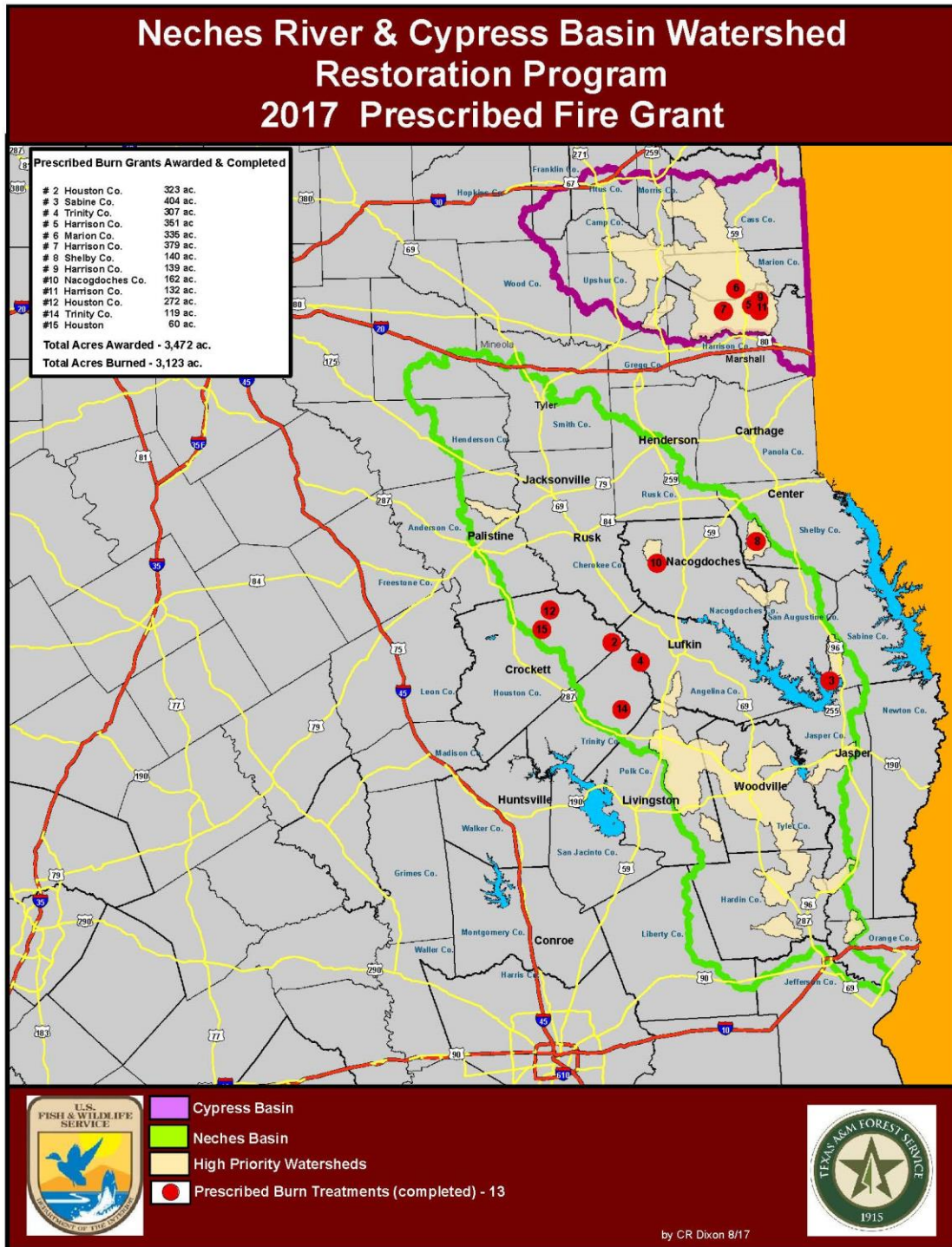
The Texas A&M Forest Service's (TFS) Neches River & Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program Prescribed Fire Grant was available to private landowners within the Neches River and Cypress Basin watershed boundaries. As part of the program, a ranking matrix was used to determine which prescribed burn treatments would be most effective at restoring the native function of these watersheds. Priority was given to prescribed burn treatments that promoted native ecosystem restoration, were in priority watershed protection zones, promoted longleaf or short leaf pine, and were located near managed public land. If selected, landowners received reimbursement for the cost of having a licensed Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager conduct a prescribed burn on their property.



The Neches River & Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program Prescribed Fire Grant opened for applications on August 29th, 2016 with a deadline to apply on or before September 30th, 2016. A total of **110 applications** were received. Of these, **15 applications were approved** based on the criteria in the ranking matrix. The approved landowners had until July 31st, 2017 to complete their prescribed burn treatment.



The National Fire Plan Prescribed Burn Grant accomplishments include **13 landowners** completing prescribed burn treatments for a total of **3,123 acres**. The grant program allowed these landowners to be reimbursed at a rate up to \$22.50 per acre, for a total of **\$66,487.50** paid through the grant funding process.



## **Detailed Breakdown of the Grant Program for 2017:**

- 110 applications were received by TFS
- 15 prescribed burn treatment agreements were approved by TFS
- 13 of these 15 sites completed prescribed burn treatments
- 3,123 acres were successfully treated
- \$66,487.50 was paid to landowners for reimbursement of costs

## **List of Prescribed Fire Treatments Completed by County:**

- Harrison – 4 burns, 1,001 acres
- Houston – 4 burns, 774 acres
- Marion – 1 burn, 335 acres
- Nacogdoches – 1 burn, 162 acres
- Sabine – 1 burn, 404 acres
- Shelby – 1 burn, 140 acres
- Trinity – 1 burn, 307 acres

## **Contributors:**

Andy McCrady  
Fuels Coordinator II  
Texas A&M Forest Service

Tammy Russell  
Business Associate III  
Texas A&M Forest Service

Bobby Dixon  
Resource Specialist  
Texas A&M Forest Service

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# Pre and Post Treatment Photos



**Mature loblolly pine stand, Trinity County, 119 acres.**



**Mixed pine stand burned to promote longleaf pine, Houston County, 323 acres.**



**Mid-rotation loblolly pine stand, Harrison County, 379 acres.**