

B Everett Jordan Dam Spillway Native Grassland Conversion

The US Army Corps of Engineers and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) are working together to remove nonnative vegetation and establish native grassland species in the B Everett Jordan Dam spillway. Currently nonnative plants such as tall fescue and sericea lespedeza dominate the area. The conversion of this area to native grasses, legumes, and wild flowers will create nearly 50 acres of grassland habitat for game and nongame wildlife.



Plains coreopsis (*Coreopsis tinctoria*)

The spillway was created during construction of the dams in the 1960's, by blasting of rock and earth moving. The use of nonnative plant species to stabilize disturbed areas was and continues to be a common practice due quick growth rates and low cost. Unfortunately, this practice results in the spread of invasive and exotic plant species into native plant communities and creation of poor habitat for native wildlife. In the piedmont, loss of piedmont prairies to agriculture and development has also been a significant factor in the decline of many grassland species.

A combination of herbicide treatments, prescribed fire, tilling, and mowing has been used to remove the undesirable vegetation and establish the native species. Tall native grasses such as eastern gamagrass and indiagrass will also deprive species such as sericea lespedeza of light helping to sustain itself against future infestations.



The native grass community will provide nesting and forage habitat for mice, rabbits, and birds such as the eastern meadowlark, bobwhite quail, and turkey. This area also provides an excellent opportunity to increase public understanding of the Corps' missions and the benefits of active wildlife management.

This Challenge Partnership project received funding from the Corps Handshake Program in 2006 and 2008.

For more information on the project contact Natural Resource Specialist - John Rochevot at 919-542-4501 ext 22.