

2015
Community Protection Program
Prescribed Fire Grant
Summary



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2015 Community Protection Program

**Grant Funded Through USDA – Forest Service
Award #13-DG-11083148-005 & 14-DG-11083148-005
CFDA #10.664**

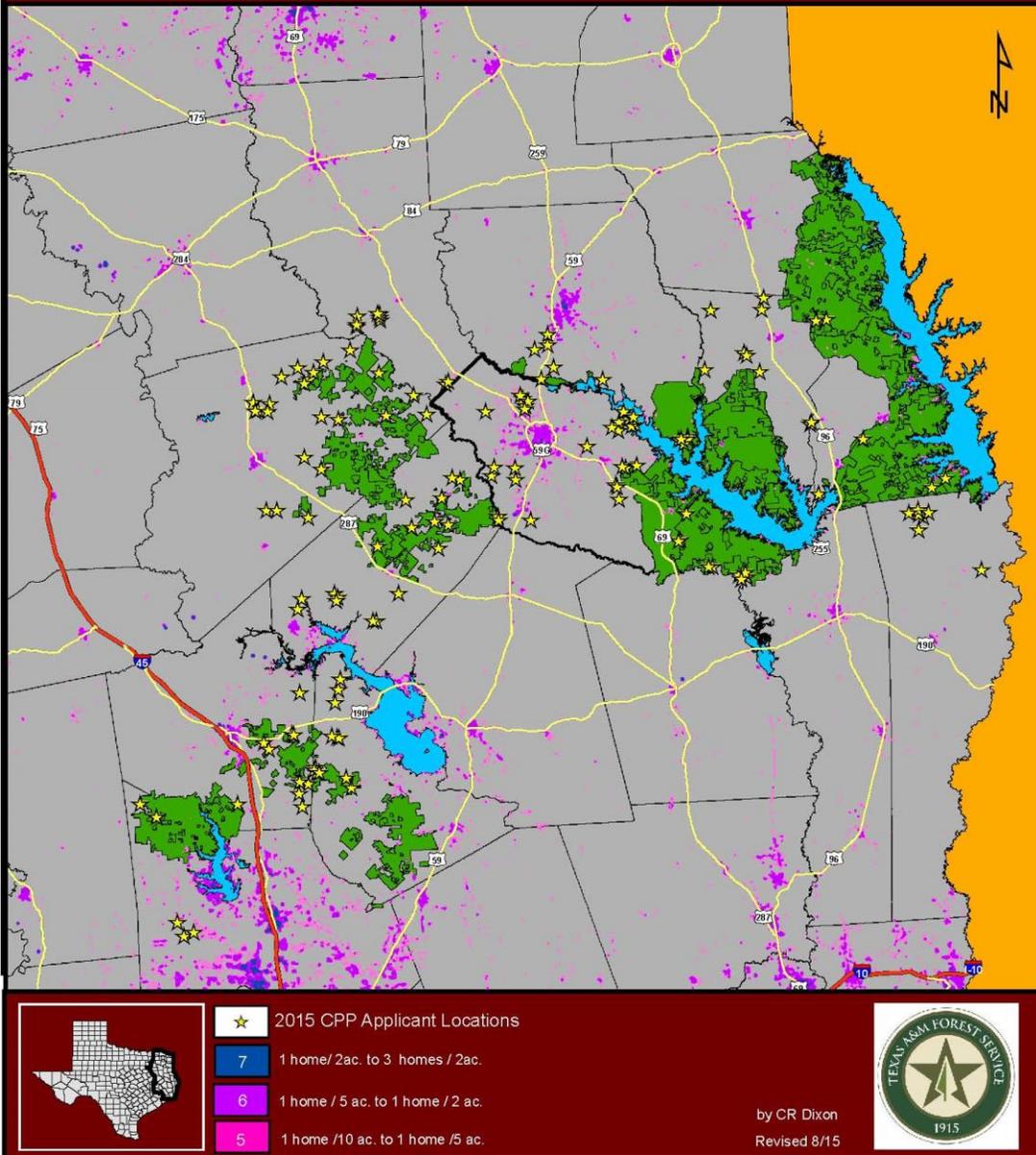
The Community Protection Program is intended to protect natural resources, local communities, and national forest land within the Wildland Urban Interface. One method used to mitigate this hazard is prescribed burning. Prescribed burning on private land is an often underutilized but effective tool for reducing the threat of wildfire to communities near the National Forests. 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 2015 funding received additional points in the matrix scoring system. TFS gave no extensions to agreements.

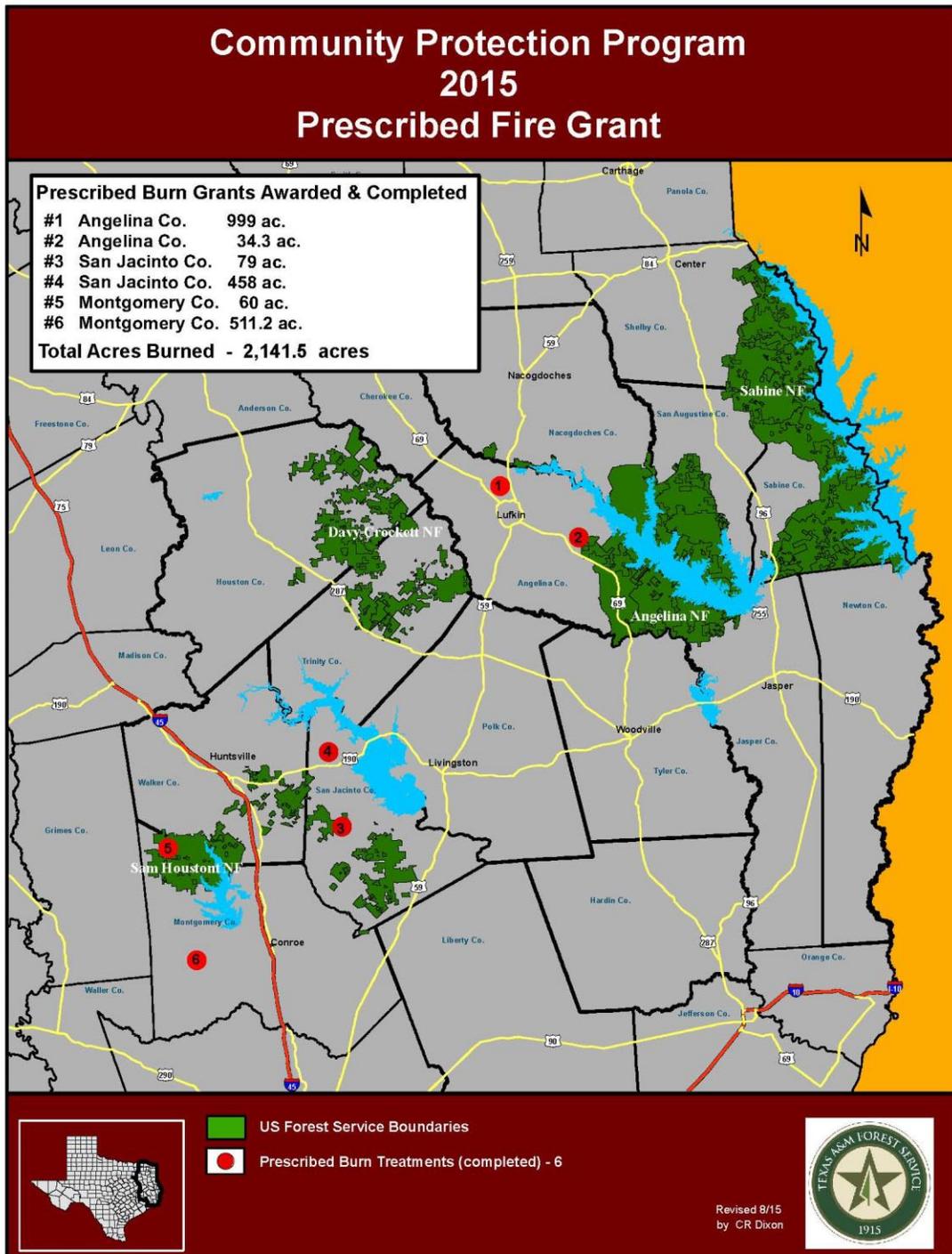


TFS's Community Protection Program- Prescribed Fire Grant opened for applications on September 29, 2014 with a deadline to apply on or before October 31, 2014. A total of 138 applications were received from 12 East Texas Counties. Of these, 33 applications were approved based on the criteria in the ranking matrix. The approved landowners had until July 31, 2015 to complete their prescribed burn treatment.

2015 Community Protection Program Applicants showing "Where People Live Index" from TxWRAP in correlation with National Forest Land



The 2015 Community Protection Program– Prescribed Fire Grant accomplishments include **6 landowners** completing prescribed burn treatments for a total of **2,141.5 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 **\$64,245.00** 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.



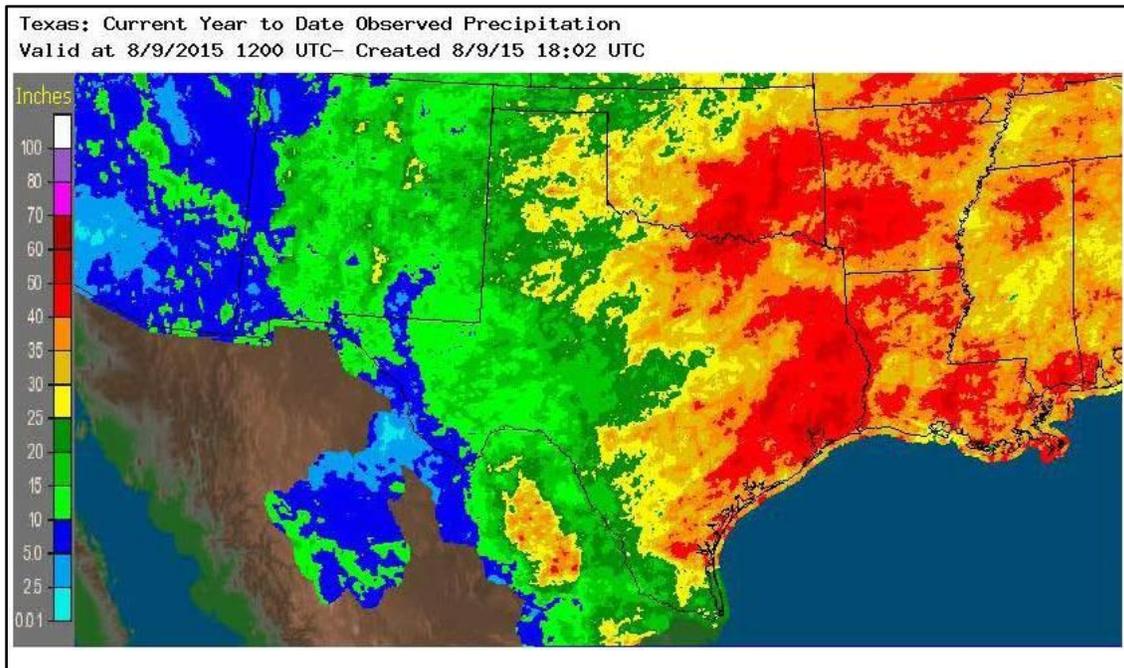
Detailed Breakdown of the Grant Program for 2015:

- 138 applications were received by TFS
- 33 prescribed burn treatment agreements were approved by TFS
- 6 of these 33 sites completed prescribed burn treatments
- 27 of these 33 landowners were not able to complete the burn treatments due to wet weather conditions.

List of Prescribed Fire Treatments Completed by County:

- Angelina – 2 burns, 1,033.3 acres
- Montgomery – 2 burns, 571.2 acres
- San Jacinto – 2 burn, 537 acres

Landowners who were not able to complete the prescribed burns during the stated contract period were encouraged to apply for the 2016 Community Protection Program. These applications will receive additional points in the matrix scoring system used to select the appropriate sites to fund. In correspondence with landowners, the number one reason for failing to complete the planned prescribed fire treatment was weather conditions. This was mostly attributed to high relative humidity and frequent large rainfall events. Many parts of South East Texas received 10 to 20 inches above average rainfall in the spring and summer of 2015. These weather conditions did not allow for adequate periods between rainfall events that are required for prescribed burning. Most landowners notified TFS that they will be reapplying for the 2016 Community Protection Program with hopes of improved weather conditions for burning.



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Post Treatment Photos



Mid-rotation loblolly pine plantation, Angelina County, 999 acres



3 year old longleaf pine plantation, Angelina County, 34.3 acres



Mixed pine hardwood stand, San Jacinto County, 458 acres