UPPER MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP
Project Portfolio

Hanover Bluff Forest and Savannah Restoration

BACKGROUND
The Natural Land Institute will restore 10 acres of upland hardwood forest and 36 acres of savannah in the 1,066 acre Hanover Bluff complex. The project supports the joint Hanover Bluff ecosystem restoration plan which includes a wide variety of partners.

LOCATION
The Hanover Bluff complex is located in Jo Davis County, Illinois, just southwest of the village of Hanover. It is adjacent to the Lost Mound unit of the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge. Lost Mound contains the largest contiguous remnant of sand prairie and sand savannah in Illinois.

ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED
Habitat fragmentation in the Upper Mississippi River Basin has led to a large decline in songbirds populations. Large contiguous forests, such as Hanover Bluff, are need for many songbirds to next successfully. Due to its large size and location adjacent to the Lost Mound unit, the Hanover Bluff complex will provide a variety of habitat: prairie, forest, and riparian systems.

GOALS
Increase habitat for neotropical migrants and other forest and savannah bird populations.

- Reforest 10 acres to a native, mesic, upland forest (red oak, white oak, burr oak, hickory, white ash, black cherry.)
- Restore 36 acres of degraded oak savannah by prescribed burning and invasive vegetation control.
- Continue surveying bird populations

RESULT
Because this project is adjacent to the Lost Mound Unit of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife Refuge, it is an excellent example of how a small restoration project can have a large impact.

OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- 10 acres have been planted to native upland species followed by a prescribed burn to control competition.
- The 36 acres savannah area has had a prescribed burn, herbicide treatment, and seeded with locally harvested oaks and forbs.
- Several landowner workshops have demonstrated the importance of contiguous blocks of forest for neotropical migratory birds.

PARTNERS
- **Natural Land Institute**
- **The Nature Conservancy**
- **Illinois Department of Natural Resources**
- **The Prairie Enthusiasts**
- **Illinois Nature Preserves Commission**
- **Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation**

FUTURE PLANS
Continue to manage the Hanover Bluff complex as one unit, guided by the joint ecosystem restoration plan developed by the Natural Land Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, The Prairie Enthusiasts, and the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation.

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The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry and the Midwest State Foresters have joined in partnership to build a watershed-wide approach to forestry efforts in the Upper Mississippi watershed in order to improve water quality.