

At FDC Enterprises, we believe successful conservation is a result of successful partnerships comprised of landowners, government agencies and private enterprise. Our new "Success Stories from the Field" series is intended to share with others some of the special projects we have been involved in throughout the United States, in hopes of inspiring similar efforts elsewhere.

Since 2002, FDC Enterprises has successfully established over 109,000 acres of native grass across 18 states. Through encouragement from our partners to bring additional necessary services, we have recently expanded our business services to include chemical and mechanical control of exotic/invasive weed and/or woody vegetation species. To learn more about FDC Enterprises, please visit our website at [www.fdcenterprises.com](http://www.fdcenterprises.com)

## **FDCE Teams up with Missouri Department of Conservation to deliver CP-38 to 22 customers over 4 counties totaling nearly 1,000 acres**

In Spring 2009, Sand Prairie CP-38 program participants (located in Southeast Missouri) voluntarily agreed to work with Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) to complete their projects. They further agreed to have MDC select a professional contractor through a bid process; then coordinate with the selected contractor to make sure the work was done in a timely and professional manner.

FDCE Enterprises (FDCE) was awarded the native grasses and forbs installation portion of the contract based on FDCE's past performance working with multiple landowners and partners, FDCE's quality of past work as well as price considerations. Once individual contracts were completed, FDCE mobilized specialized equipment and personnel and planted approximately 1,000 acres in 25 locations over a 4 county area in 5 days- April 23-29.

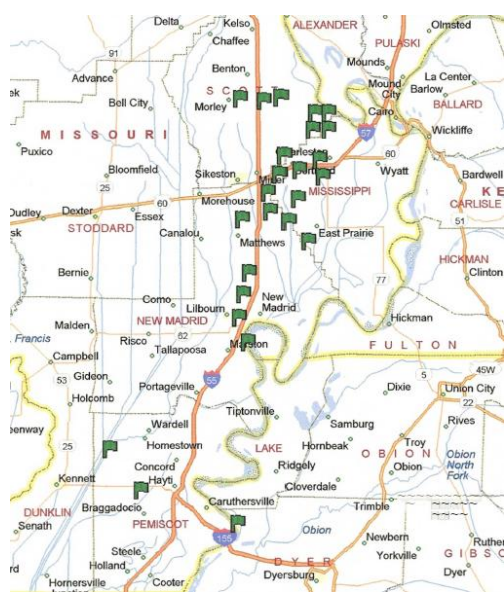
All FDCE work was planted per specification of USDA CRP program and additional special recommendations of MDC. Additionally, all work was completed within the cost share that was available to the landowner through the program. "One of the goals of our company is to complete CRP and WRP projects within the cost share that is available to landowners", said Tom Schwartz, FDCE Sr. Biologist and National Marketing Manager. Schwartz added, "By partnering with agencies like MDC, who can coordinate multiple projects, organize consistent seed mixes and oversee field installation, we are able to keep our costs reflective of most cost share allowances."



One goal of MDC was to complete the work in a timely manner. Bob Gillespie, Natural History Regional Biologist, and coordinator of the program, was particularly pleased about FDCE's ability to provide a turn-key service including seed, installation, chemistry and chemical application and that multiple planting/spraying units would be used to complete the projects. "Bob was excited when he learned we would be using three tractor/drill/sprayer combos" said Kevin Mason FDCE VP of Field Operations. "With three combos, we had the capacity to plant 200-300 acres per day, even with typical small field sizes and the geographic area we were required to cover."

"We were very pleased with the Southeast Missouri project" said Fred Circle, President for FDCE. "This project was ideal for us. By coordinating with MDC and USDA on a multi-landowner project we were able to employ the efficiencies and quality control our company prides itself on. We hope more opportunities like this will be available to us not only in Missouri but all states looking to put good quality grasslands on CRP and WRP ground."

In the fall of 2009, Tim Kavan, MDC Private Land Conservationist for Southeast Missouri, was able to identify successful establishment of all grasses as well as 7 of the 10 forb species planted on a majority of the projects. "For FDCE, visual validation of success is key, not only to us but also our customers" said Schwartz. "We look forward to a continued relationship with MDC and their landowner conservation project partners."



Projects were completed in 4 counties

If you have any questions regarding this project, or if you would like to learn more about FDC Enterprises, you can visit our website at [www.fdcenterprises.com](http://www.fdcenterprises.com) or call Gregg Strand at (866)-270-4833

