



FDC Enterprises Inc.

Success Stories from the Field November 2009

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

Pokagon Band Completes 1,150 acre WRP Restoration Project

North Liberty Indiana, November 2009– The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, FDC Enterprises and NRCS recently partnered to complete the final stages of a Wetland Reserve Program restoration project that has spanned 4 years and 1,150 acres. Mark Parrish, Environmental Coordinator for the Pokagon Band, with help from Ms. Debbie Knepp, District Conservationist for NRCS, spearheaded the restoration effort. Mark and the Pokagon Band wanted this project to be more than just another WRP; they wanted it to serve as a learning resource for the cultural, spiritual and educational aspects of the local Pokagon community. Because of Mark's desire to make this a special project, he turned to FDC Enterprises for the native grass installation portion of the Project.



Field preparation included tilling and cultipacking. 5/7/2009

As in many WRP projects, the native grassland installation was scheduled to be the last part of this project; therefore much of the land to be planted was fallow for 2 or more years which presented a number of vegetative challenges. To prepare the ground for seeding, the existing weed and woody vegetation required extensive discing and cultipacking to create an adequate seedbed. Following this intensive site preparation effort to address these vegetative conditions, FDCE planted a diverse mix of native grasses and forbs using FDCE custom engineered precise seed placement drills. FDCE also utilized the expertise of STAR Seed, to provide the best seed varieties for this site. STAR Seed provides FDCE further processed seed products that greatly enhance germination. In addition, FDCE adds a proprietary micronutrient blend to the seed to enhance seedling vigor. A site specific herbicide blend was applied where necessary with FDCE custom engineered spray apparatus mounted directly to the planter. The entire seeding and targeted spot herbicide application process was digitally monitored and mapped using the RAVEN Envisio GPS system. Through our attention to detail, grasses and forbs emerged throughout the project area within 3 weeks of planting and many species produced a seed head at the end of the first year.



Seed planted, herbicide applied. 5/11/2009



Initial growth, two months after planting. 7/10/2009



Big Bluestem, Partridge Pea (foreground), three months+ growth. 8/27/2009

The Pokagon Band is currently conducting an inventory of plants and animals significant to their people and history. Additionally, they have reintroduced native wild rice which has established well in the wetland areas and will continue to re-establish other native plants significant to their culture. FDC Enterprises continues to work closely with the Tribe to maintain the project in high quality habitat.

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 or call Gregg Strand at (866)-270-4833

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