

2019

**Neches River & Cypress Basin
Watershed Restoration Program
Prescribed Fire Grant**



TEXAS A&M
FOREST SERVICE



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2019 Neches River & Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program Prescribed Fire Grant

**Grant Funded Through U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Award #F17AS00015 & #F18AP00561, CFDA #15.631**

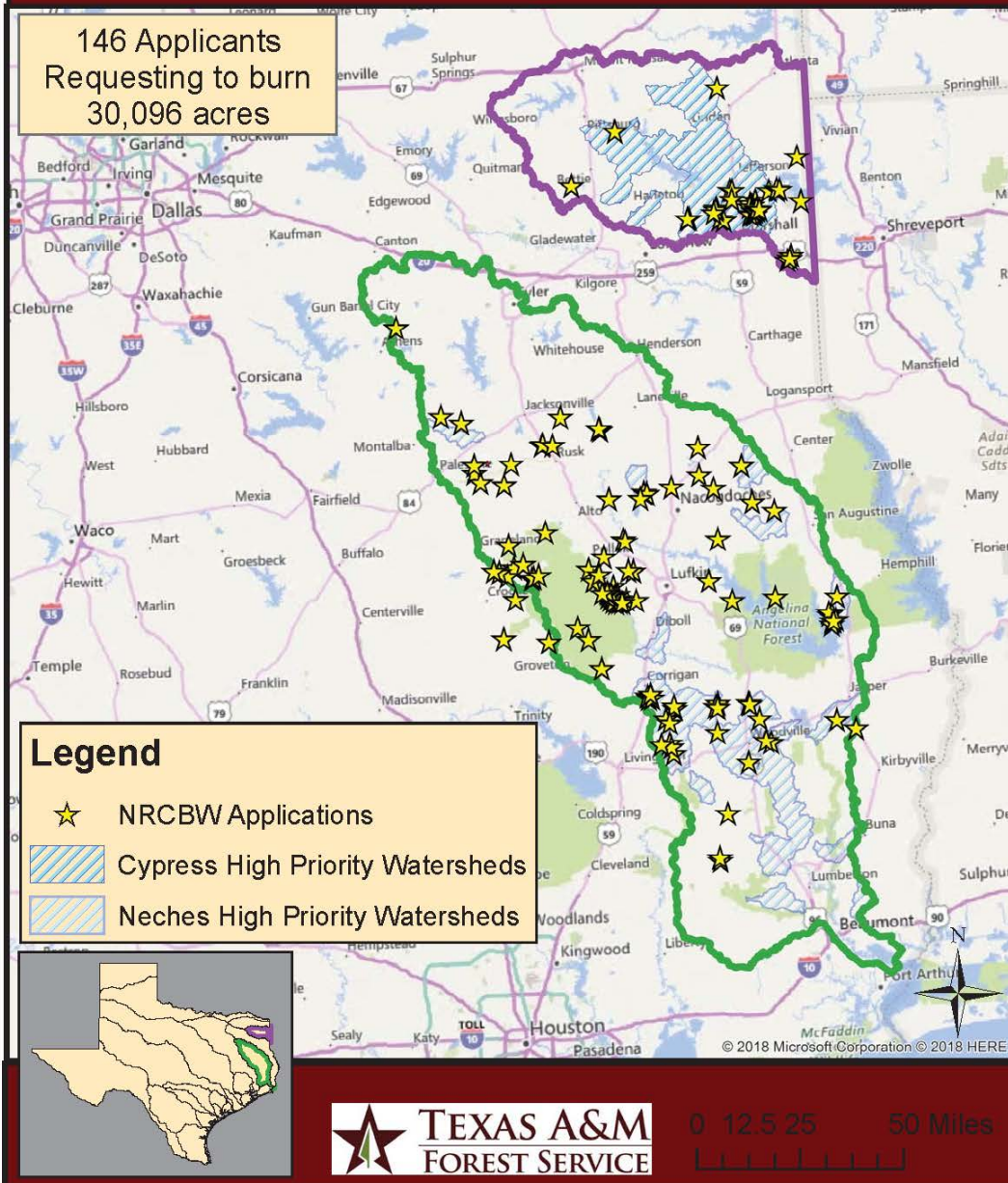
The Neches River & Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program Prescribed Fire Grant is intended to provide assistance to private landowners for ecological improvement of properties in the Neches River and Cypress Basin watersheds. This program is funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department to control invasive species, enhance habitat, and improve water quality and quantity. Prescribed fire is one of the most effective methods land managers have for restoring the natural function of our forested ecosystems. By utilizing fire to reduce competition from invasive or unwanted plant species, property owners are able to convert their land back to the native plant communities that support biodiversity and stream quality.

The Texas A&M Forest Service's (TFS) Neches River & Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program Prescribed Fire Grant was available to private landowners within the Neches River and Cypress Basin watershed boundaries. As part of the program, a ranking matrix was used to determine which prescribed burn treatments would be most effective at restoring the native function of these watersheds. Priority was given to prescribed burn treatments that promoted native ecosystem restoration, were in priority watershed protection zones, promoted longleaf or short leaf pine, and were located near managed public land. If selected, landowners received reimbursement for the cost of having a licensed Certified and Insured Prescribed Burn Manager conduct a prescribed burn on their property.

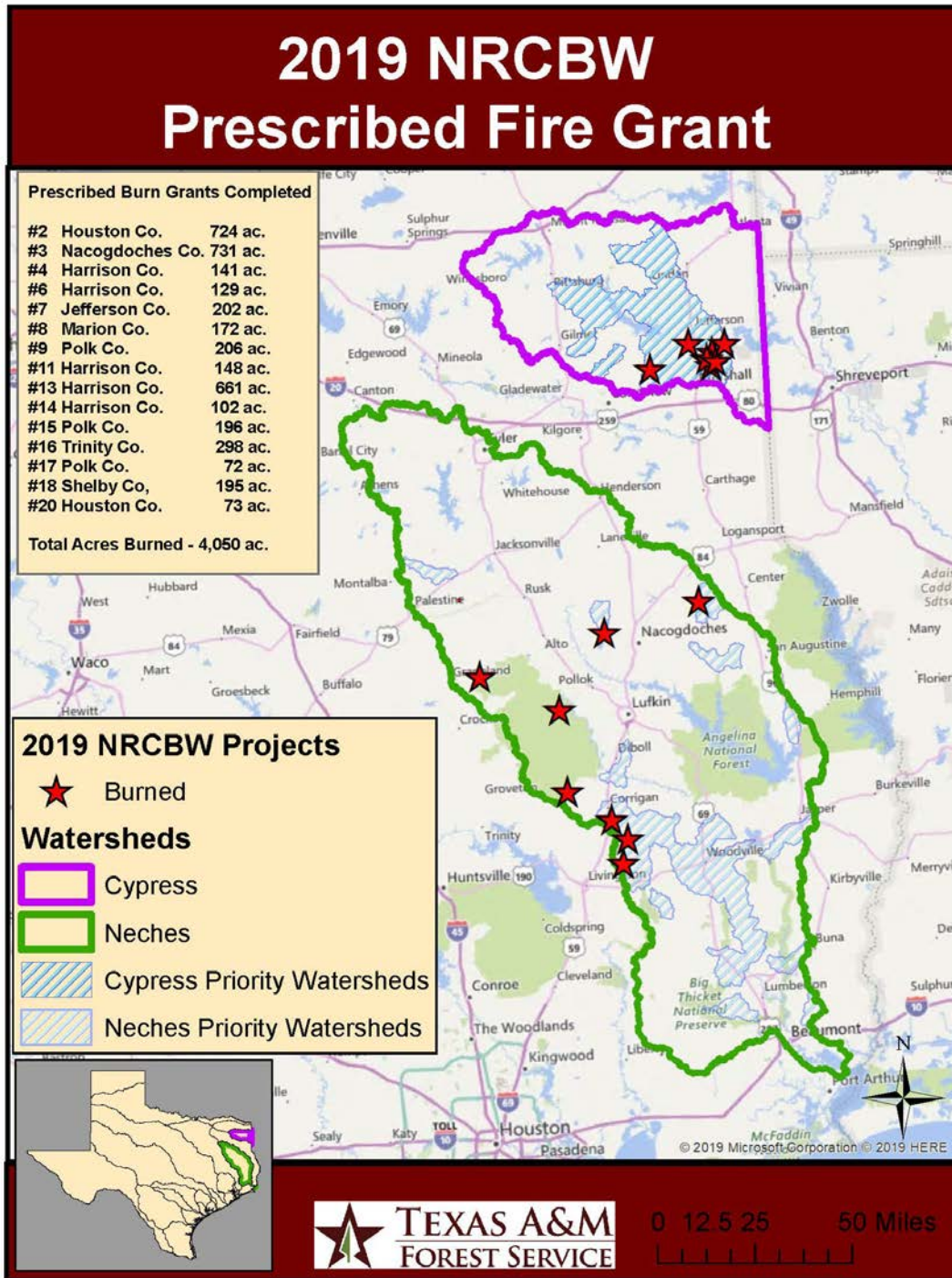


The Neches River & Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program Prescribed Fire Grant opened for applications on August 21, 2018 with a deadline to apply on or before September 28, 2018. A total of **146 applications** were received. Of these, **20 applications were approved** based on the criteria in the ranking matrix. The approved landowners had until July 31, 2019 to complete their prescribed burn treatment.

2019 NRCBW Prescribed Fire Grant Applicants



The Neches River & Cypress Basin Watershed Restoration Program Prescribed Burn Grant accomplishments include **15 landowners** completing prescribed burn treatments for a total of **4,050 acres**. The grant program allowed these landowners to be reimbursed at a rate up to \$22.50 per acre, for a total of **\$71,325.00** paid through the grant funding process.



Detailed Breakdown of the Grant Program for 2019:

- 146 applications were received by TFS
- 20 prescribed burn treatment agreements were approved by TFS
- 15 of these 20 sites completed prescribed burn treatments
- 4,050 acres were successfully treated
- \$71,324.00 was paid to landowners for reimbursement of costs

List of Prescribed Fire Treatments Completed by County:

- Harrison – 5 burns, 1,181 acres
- Houston – 2 burns, 797 acres
- Marion – 2 burns, 374 acres
- Nacogdoches – 1 burn, 731 acres
- Polk – 3 burns, 474 acres
- Shelby – 1 burn, 195 acres
- Trinity – 1 burn, 298 acres

Contributors:

Andy McCrady
Fuels Coordinator II
Texas A&M Forest Service

Tammy Russell
Business Associate III
Texas A&M Forest Service

Bobby Dixon
Resource Specialist
Texas A&M Forest Service

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Pre and Post Treatment Photos



724 acres of mixed longleaf, shortleaf, loblolly pine stands in Houston County.



731 acres of loblolly pine plantations within a priority watershed in Nacogdoches County.



298 acre mixed species stand in Trinity County.