

NRCS

Fire plays a significant role in shaping the plant and animal communities within the woodlands of northeastern Oklahoma. HFRP can assist with a forestry prescribed burning program.

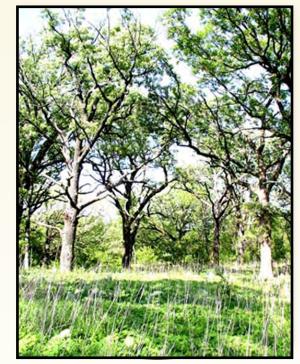


United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

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HEALTHY FORESTS RESERVE PROGRAM

MONEY FOR CHEROKEE COUNTY WOODLAND OWNERS



For more information contact: Lisel Worley

District Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 918 West Choctaw Suite 2 Tahlequah, OK 74464 918-456-1924

WWW. OK.NRCS.USDA.GOV/PROGRAMS/HFRP



Dante Finolio

For the Ozark cavefish, minimizing disturbances and following water quality best management practices are important considerations.



The Ozark big-eared bat forages primarily on woodland species of moths occurring in healthy, mature, open canopy hardwood forests.



The Gray bat also forages in woodland habitats, but prefers to feed along streams, open water bodies, and wetlands adjacent to forestland.

Opportunities for Woodland Owners

The **Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)** is a voluntary program established for the purpose of restoring and enhancing forests to promote the recovery of threatened and endangered species. Oklahoma has received HFRP funding for landowners within five northeastern Oklahoma counties: Adair, Cherokee, Delaware, and parts of Ottawa and Sequoyah.

HFRP funding promotes habitat restoration and protection for the gray bat, the Ozark big-eared bat, and the Ozark cavefish.

HFRP is being implemented by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oklahoma Forestry Services. Professional foresters are available to assist you.



Landowners retain ownership of the property but agree to protect bat habitat. Landowners may also qualify for protection under the Endangered Species Act. Enrollment is now open



A healthy, mature, open canopy oak-hickory forest is critical to the needs of the targeted species.

Four Enrollment Options:
10-year cost share easement
30-year easement (75% of the easement value)
Permanent easement (100% of the easement value)
Native American easement