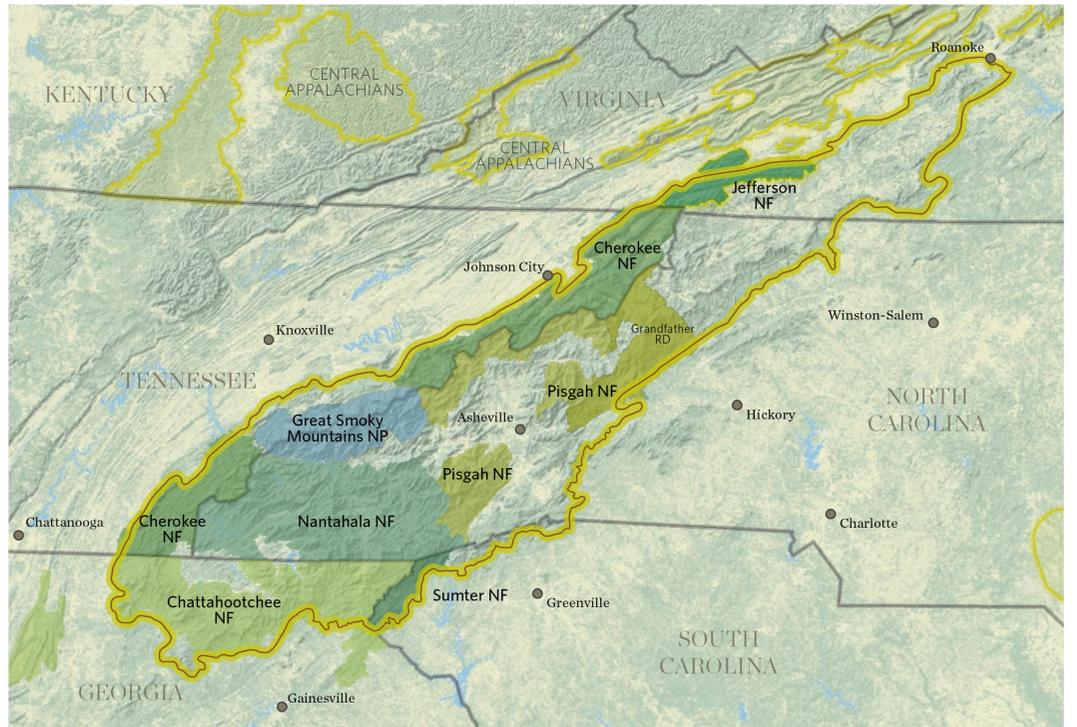
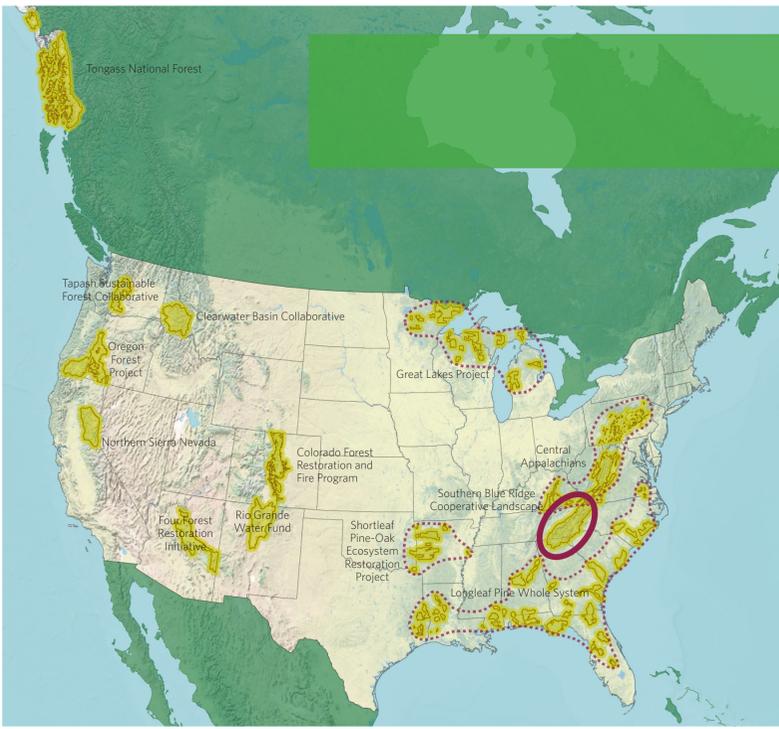


RESTORING AMERICA'S FORESTS



Maps: Liz Rank (lrank@tnc.org); RAF data v. 7 Oct 2015; basemap © 2013 National Geographic Society

SOUTHERN BLUE RIDGE COOPERATIVE LANDSCAPE

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

The Southern Blue Ridge is one of the most biologically significant regions in the United States, boasting an **unbroken network of our country's most diverse forest** that spans and connects the mountains of Virginia, Tennessee, the Carolinas and Georgia. Yet **a third** of the national forest land in the region **needs active restoration**. The Nature Conservancy is participating in **several collaborative efforts** designed to increase the pace and scale of restoration.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Partners in the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network collectively burned **35,000 acres in 2015**.
- ▶ The U.S. Forest Service secured \$600,000, allowing the TNC-USFS **controlled burn program** in South Carolina to **continue for 6 more years**.
- ▶ The Grandfather Ranger District of the Pisgah National Forest **burned 6,000 acres through the CFLRP** program — which included managing a lightning strike ignition — to restore fire-adapted ecosystems and reduce fuels while ensuring fire fighter safety and community protection.
- ▶ A decision notice, based largely on the restoration **recommendations of a collaborative group of diverse stakeholders**, was signed for 22 locations in the 15,000-acre Paint Creek watershed within Cherokee National Forest.
- ▶ We completed a region-wide collaborative **Spruce Restoration Plan**, which is available on Conservation Gateway at nature.ly/tncsbr.

LOOKING AHEAD

We will continue our partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to create a **shared vision, goal and targets** for ecological restoration on federal lands. By enabling collaborative landscape-scale NEPA in priority places, we will work to facilitate NEPA for larger areas to **increase the efficiency** of the process and ultimately **implement more restoration** projects in priority areas.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The Southern Blue Ridge project is supporting national efforts to double the pace of forest restoration by addressing:

- Improving restoration through **better forest planning** and **innovative NEPA tools**
- Enhanced partnership tools and emphasis to support federal **Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program** projects
- **Outreach and training to facilitate restoration** for fire-adapted forests and communities



IN THE FIELD

Forest Service mountain staff participated in a TREX interagency fire training sponsored by the Southern Blue Ridge FLN. © Margit Bucher/TNC



RESTORING THEIR HOME

Our fire restoration work is helping to enhance key food sources like blueberries and oak-hickory mast for the black bear. © Kent Mason

WORKING TOGETHER

Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists
 Forest Stewards
 Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 Georgia Forest Watch
 Greenville Water
 Land Trust for the Little Tennessee River
 Mountain True
 National Park Service—Blue Ridge Parkway;
 Great Smoky Mountains National Park
 National Wild Turkey Federation
 North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
 North Carolina Forest Service
 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 Ruffed Grouse Society
 South Carolina Department of Natural Resources
 South Carolina Forestry Commission
 South Carolina State Parks
 Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network
 Southern Environmental Law Center
 Southern Highlands Reserve
 Tennessee Division of Forestry
 Tennessee Forestry Association
 Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
 The Wilderness Society
 Towns County (Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network)
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 U.S. Forest Service—Region 8; Southern Research Station; Chattahoochee, Cherokee, Jefferson, Nantahala, Oconee, Pisgah and Sumter National Forests
 Numerous local citizens

LEADING THE PROJECT

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