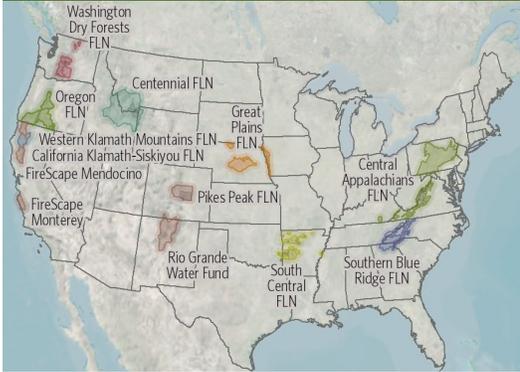
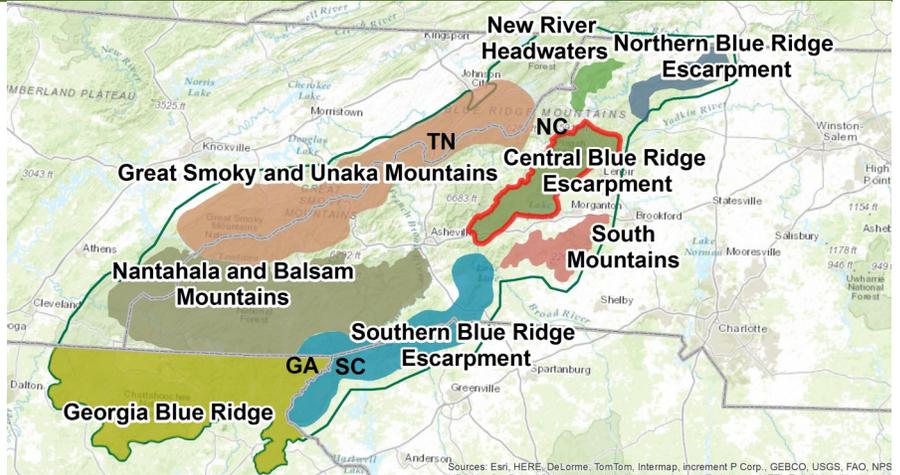


SOUTHERN BLUE RIDGE FIRE LEARNING NETWORK



Regional Fire Learning Networks



Landscapes of the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network

CENTRAL BLUE RIDGE ESCARPMENT

Characterized as the descent from the western mountains toward the Piedmont in North Carolina, this landscape consists of steep slopes and elevations ranging from 1,200 to 6,000 feet. Lower elevations support Pine-Oak forests that depend on fire to maintain structure and function. A [fire history study](#) here showed that fire dates back to 1701, predating European settlement in the area. Partners have taken a collaborative approach to land management that invites participation from stakeholders with varying interests. This resulted in funding for an eight year [Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration \(CFLR\) project](#).

LANDSCAPE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ▶ Successfully managed 2,000 acres of naturally-ignited wildfire using a [confine and constrain strategy](#).
- ▶ Launched the [Fire Learning Trail](#), a podcast-style interpretive tour.
- ▶ Successful outreach with [social media website](#), [#goodfire](#), and [videos](#).
- ▶ Doubled burn acres and increased other restoration activities.
- ▶ Conducted [Shortleaf Pine Restoration](#) and associated educational video.

NETWORK PRIORITIES

- Build Capacity for large-scale, cross-boundary treatments.
- Integrate social and ecological function of fire on landscapes.
- Inspire Fire Adapted human Communities in additional landscapes.



A collaborative approach to restoration with fire has been highly successful in this landscape.



Mountain golden heather (*Hudsonia montana*) is a rare endemic, fire-dependent plant found only in the Central Blue Ridge Escarpment Landscape.

LANDSCAPE GOALS

- ▶ Continue to build social-ecological resilience with collaborative and effective outreach.
- ▶ Develop Fire Adapted Communities
- ▶ Maintain capacity as CFLR funding expires
- ▶ Increase Shortleaf Pine restoration

LANDSCAPE PARTNERS

Consortiums of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists
 Forest Stewards, Inc.
 Land of Sky Regional Council
 National Park Service—Blue Ridge Parkway
 North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
 North Carolina Forest Service
 North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
 The Nature Conservancy—North Carolina
 USDA Forest Service—Pisgah NF (Grandfather RD)
 USDA Forest Service—Southern Research Station
 Western Carolina University
 MountainTrue
 Wild South
 Foothills Conservancy
 The Wilderness Society
 Trout Unlimited

LANDSCAPE LEADS

Adam Warwick, The Nature Conservancy
 828-350-1431, awarwick@tnc.org
Lisa Jennings, US Forest Service
 828-652-2144, lisanjennings@fs.fed.us

