A History of the Heart of the Appalachians Fire Learning Network

Revised January 2018 Created by Marek Smith, modified by Nikole Simmons

Evidence

- Minimum Dynamic Area Defined
- Matrix Forest Blocks, Aquatic and Karst Portfolio
- Numerous Fire History Studies
- LANDFIRE BpS Model Refinements
- Resilient Sites for Terrestrial Conservation
- Socioeconomic Needs Identified
- Ecological Departure Analysis

Strategies/Actions

- Submittal of Collaborative Fuels Reduction and Ecological Fire Management in the Allegheny Highlands of Virginia Proposal (Challenge Cost-Share Agreement aka USFS Warm Springs I)
- Allegheny Highlands FLN Partners begin 4-Workshop Series (CAP)
  Identifies KEAs, Indicators, Strategies
- George Washington National Forest Plan Revision Begins
- Avian Monitoring Protocol for WSMRP developed and piloted
- Ecological Zones Mapping on the George Washington National Forest completed
- George Washington National Forest Stakeholder Collaborative Forms
  Provides social license for landscape-scale, integrated resource projects and shared vision for outcomes
- Burn Unit Prioritization Tool Criteria Development Workshop
- Monitoring Working Group is formed
- Burn severity monitoring using RAVG satellite imagery and Composite Burn Index protocols utilized on Easter Complex wildfires
- Allegheny Highlands (VA) and Allegheny Border (WV) landscapes merge into one FLN
- Name is changed to Heart of the Apps FLN
- Last MOU signed between FLN partners (DGIF-USFS)
- Ecological Zones Mapping on the Jefferson National Forest completed
- George Washington National Forest Plan Finalized
- Monitoring Working Group produces summaries for Forest Structure and Composition data collected from 2009-2015
- Characterizing the Effects of Prescribed Fire on Forest Canopy Cover in the GWJNF GTR is published (Canopy Gap Analysis)
- Fire History of the Appalachian Region GTR SRS-219 is published
- Heart of the Apps FLN Workshop to revise strategic plan

Outcomes

- Central Appalachians Fire Learning Network (FLN) forms
  Southern Blue Ridge FLN splits off to form "sister" regional network
- Forest Structure and Composition Monitoring Protocol adopted across GWJNF
- Environmental Assessment (EA) for WSMRP Completed
- First TNC/GWNF collaborative burns in WSMRP (Mare Run & Bear Loop units)
- Forest structure and composition monitoring protocol for Warm Springs Mountain Restoration Project (WSMRP) piloted
- USFS Warm Springs II Challenge Cost-Share signed
- Big Wilson North and Central burned
  Largest burn ever conducted between TNC and USFS east pf the Mississippi River
- First GWJNF scoping notices use Burn Unit Prioritization
- PERC Scaling-Up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) funding integrates FLN with Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area (CWPMA), AHP TNC hires FTE
- Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Management Project planning begins
  First landscape-scale integrated resource project to be developed on GWJNF
- Canopy gap analysis informs existing conditions and Ecological Departure Analysis for Lower Cowpasture Restoration and Management Project
- First Collaborative Burn at Douthat State Park (DCR)
- Allegheny Partnership I Participating Agreement signed
- First Collaborative Burn at Highland Wildlife Management Area (DGIF)
- CWPMA expands boundaries to more VA counties
- North Shenandoah Mountain Restoration and Management Project planning begins
- DGIF & DCR adopt Forest Structure and Composition monitoring protocol
- Monitoring results are included in WSMRP Supplemental Information Report to the Environmental Analysis
- First prescribed fire module is contracted through TNC
  Boosts capacity for implementation on all lands
- Eastern Divide Highlands Restoration Project planning begins
- 4th collaborative burn at the Bear Loop unit (WSMRP)
- Heart of the Apps FLN averages 10,847 acres of prescribed burning per year 2014-2017
- GWJNF & NRCS receive funds from Joint Chief's to implement work in the Lower Cowpasture Restoration Project
- Produce and distribute interpretive signs across network

2005 — 2005 — 2007 — 2009 — 2011 — 2013 — 2015 — 2017 — 2019 — 2019

CENTRAL APPALACHIANS FLN