Fire Learning Network
Notes from the Field

Updates from the Southern Blue Ridge FLN
A Brief Round-up of News
November 2015

The **Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment** landscape is working on building partner capacity, offering basic fire training courses to state parks and wildlife agencies in North Carolina and South Carolina. S-130 and S-190 will be offered at Clemson University December 2-4 under the leadership of Tom Dooley (TNC-SC) and Helen Mohr (Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists).

The landscape team partners have also prepared fire lines for the first burn across the North Carolina-South Carolina state line in spring 2016. The burn is part of 2,800 acres of burning planned in the Jocassee Gorges.

The **Northern Escarpment** team members from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Blue Ridge Parkway and North Carolina State Parks have established fire lines in preparation for that landscape's first collaborative burn at Air Bellows Gap in late

Poster presented at the Association for Fire Ecology Conference, November 2015. The center box says, if not "it all," at least a lot about the FLN: "It's all about the people!"

http://www.conservationgateway.org/ ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/ FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/ Poster-SBR-FLN-AFE-2015.aspx

winter/spring 2016; the planned burn is 432 acres.

The **New River Headwaters** team completed an 89-acre burn on TNC lands at Bluff Mountain with leadership from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, The Nature Conservancy, North Carolina State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, and the North Carolina Forest Service and its B.R.I.D.G.E. program.

The **Georgia Blue Ridge Escarpment** team is beginning review of a just-completed draft map of ecological zones that will inform their burn and restoration priorities.

A new **agreement to share resources** on prescribed burns between TNC and the National Park Service's Southeast Region was recently finalized and signed. The agreement grew from Katherine Medlock's work with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the Unaka / Great Smoky Mountains landscape. Park Service staff saw an opportunity to find collaborators across the region as the National Park Service moves towards fire management zones. This agreement has been shared with TNC fire managers.

Findings from research on SBR FLN monitoring plots were shared through a poster by Dr. Peter Bates and his team at the Society of American Foresters conference in Baton Rouge. Data from the plots are also being used to inform models predicting smoke dispersal.

Beth Buchanan and Margit Bucher **represented the SBR FLN** at the Association for Fire Ecology Conference in San Antonio, Texas. There they networked with fellow

FLN members and shared a poster about the regional network. There were also three posters and a presentation on the fire effects monitoring efforts across the landscape that are ongoing with FLN partners. Another presentation and poster highlighted monitoring and collaboration in the SBR's sister network, the Central Appalachians FLN.
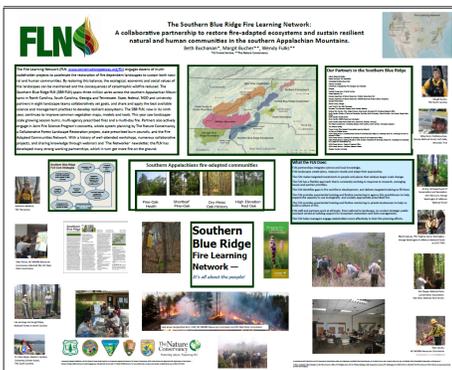
Upcoming Workshops
Southern Blue Ridge Escarpment Landscape

December 16 (10:00-2:00)
Gorges State Park, NC
Information: Kristen Austin
kaustin@tnc.org

SBR FLN Regional Workshop

May 16-18, 2016
Johnson City, TN

This workshop will be hosted by the Unaka-Great Smoky Mts. landscape/Cherokee NF. Key topics will include updates from the eight landscape teams, reviewing what we can learn from monitoring plots and spatial data about fire effects, how we can scale up restoration, and the effectiveness of our added burn capacity this winter/spring.

For more about the SBR FLN:

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