Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network

Regional Fire Learning Networks

Great Smoky and Unaka Mountains

This landscape includes the high ridges that extend along the Tennessee/North Carolina state line where elevation reach above 6,000 feet. At lower elevations fire dependent Pine-Oak forests are abundant. Partners strive to be innovative and proactive in applying the latest science to management and often lead the network in the use of new prioritization and planning tools. Stakeholder engagement is important to successful management. An active stakeholder collaborative group representing a cross-section of interests provides recommendations based on an ecological departure analysis study.

Landscapes of the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network

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.

Landscapes Goals

- Implement management based on the Landscape Conservation Forecasting (LCF) process.
- Advance resource sharing to build capacity for large-scale, cross-boundary treatments.
- Expand landscape-scale Ecomath analysis to additional sections of the landscape.
- Inspire engagement of additional stakeholders and new staff.

Landscapes Accomplishments

- Ecomath analysis completed in the northern area of the landscape.
- Using the Landscape Conservation Forecasting (LCF) process to develop strategies.
- Building capacity for large-scale, cross-boundary treatments by establishing additional MOUs.
- Three-time host of the annual SBR FLN workshop.
- Experimental reintroduction of American Chestnut and Shortleaf Pine.

Burning to improve forest health and restore shortleaf pine (Pinus echinata) habitat.

Landscapes Partners

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
National Park Service—Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Private landowners
The Nature Conservancy—North Carolina, Tennessee
Tennessee Department of Agriculture—Forestry Division
USDA Forest Service—Cherokee National Forest

Landscapes Leads

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