SOUTHERN BLUE RIDGE ESCARPMENT

This landscape spans the state line between North and South Carolina, along the transition zone between the Piedmont and Mountains. This area harbors an unusually unique diversity of flora and fauna. Multiple partners in two states are working at varying scales to bring fire back to mountains. Much research and monitoring is conducted here, including the national Fire and Fire Surrogate (FFS) study and the longest ongoing monitoring program for prescribed fire in the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

LANDSCAPE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Stakeholder engagement resulted in a watershed management plan that includes a fire program for 30,000 acres of watershed.
- Prepared to implement a complex, multi-stakeholder burn that spans state borders.
- Building capacity by providing basic fire training to partners and more than doubling burning acreage.
- Acquired preservation land.
- Completed Ecological Zone Mapping and Southern Wildfire Risk Assessment for the entire landscape.

LANDSCAPE GOALS

- Develop a strategic outreach and communication plan based on approaches taken by network partners.
- Implement a complex, large-scale, multi-agency burn on 2,800 acres in two states.
- Demonstrate the connection between fire and water through watershed-scale partnerships and successful restoration activities.
- Conduct a first-entry burn as well as second and fourth-entry burns.

LANDSCAPE PARTNERS

Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy
Duke Energy
Greenville Water
North Carolina Forest Service
North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
South Carolina Forestry Commission
South Carolina State Parks
The Nature Conservancy—North Carolina, South Carolina
USDA Forest Service—Sumter National Forest

LANDSCAPE LEADS

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