



Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network
Workshop 4
May 19-21, 2009
Dillard, GA

Themes of Workshop 4: Refine and peer review implementation plans for landscapes; review monitoring results and plans; assess fire needs and opportunities in revised landscapes; develop communications strategies.

Tuesday, May 19

Goals of day: Peer review plans of 4 landscapes (Tallulah Dome, South Mountains, Central Escarpment, Unaka/Great Smoky Mountains), hear about the Warm Springs FLN project, share new fire history research, evaluate what we can learn from modeling of management actions.

08:30-09:00	Registration	
09:00-09:20	Welcome to Georgia	George Bain, Supervisor Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest
09:20-09:30	Southern Appalachians FLN Review	Margit Bucher, TNC NC
09:30-09:40	Updates from National FLN	Wendy Fulks, TNC US
09:40-10:15	Example of Successful Collaborative Work at the Warm Springs FLN site in VA	Beth Buchanan, USFS Region 8, <i>for</i> Judy Dunscomb, TNC VA
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-10:45	Historical Wildfires in the Smokies: A Century-scale Story as Told by the Trees.	Lisa LaForest, U of Tennessee, Knoxville
10:45-11:00	Fire History in Southern Appalachian Forests: Fire Frequency, Extent, and Implications for Vegetation Dynamics	Will Flatley, Texas A&M
11:00-11:15	Effects of Land-Use on Fire Regimes, Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, U.S.A.	Ian Feathers, U of Tennessee, Knoxville
11:15-11:30	Discussion	
11:30-12:15	Tallulah Gorge Project Presentation & Review	Mike Brod, USFS Chattahoochee NF
12:15-13:15	Lunch – provided	
13:15-14:00	Central Escarpment Project Presentation & Review	Bart Kicklighter, USFS Pisgah NF
14:00-14:45	South Mountains Project Presentation & Review	Dean Simon, NC Wildlife Resources Commission Doug Sprouse, NC Dept. of Parks and Recreation
14:45-15:00	Break	
15:00-15:45	Great Smoky & Unaka Mountain Project Presentation & Review	Greg Salansky, USFS Cherokee NF Rob Klein, NPS Great Smoky Mtns NP
15:45-16:15	General Peer Review	Margit Bucher, Wendy Fulks
16:15-16:45	What can we learn from modeling management actions?	Margit Bucher, Mike Brod

Wednesday, May 20

Tallulah Gorge and Sarah's Creek Field trip:

Visit Tallulah Gorge Demonstration landscape and Sarah's Creek, a growing season burn area in pitch pine/scarlet oak, and a planned restoration project on the Chattahoochee NF.

Goals of Day: Look at the effects of several dormant season and growing season fires, and visit a planned mechanical restoration treatment. Discuss restoration efforts, goals and how to determine success.

08:30 Assemble at Dillard House

09:00 Leave Dillard House

12:00 Bag Lunch – will be provided in the field

16:30 Return to Dillard House

Please bring a hard hat and hiking shoes (expect up to one to two miles or so of hiking total, mostly on roads), and be prepared for rain and inclement weather. We will work out carpool details Tuesday afternoon.

Questions for discussion on the field trip:

Tallulah Gorge:

- 1) Given two prescribed fires over the last 5 years (2004 and 2009), what are the next steps to further restore and maintain this site as a woodland habitat?
- 2) How do we measure success? How much time will it take to determine if the desired future condition of the project area has been met?
- 3) How has the woodland restoration treatments affected the riparian systems within the project area?

Sarah's Creek:

- 1) How do growing season fire effects differ from dormant season fire effects?
- 2) What are the next steps to further restore and maintain this site as a woodland habitat?
- 3) What should be the level of concern about invasive species? What are the best detection and control efforts?

Thursday, May 21

Goals of Day: Discuss landscape fire needs, develop communications message, refine monitoring, plan monitoring strategy,

08:00-08:20	Review of field trip and lessons learned	Beth Buchanan, USFS
08:20-09:30	Landscape-wide fire needs based on GIS mapping	Steve Simon, USFS retired
	Discussion: how can we address needs beyond Demo Landscapes	David Ray, TNC
09:30-09:45	Break	
09:45 - 09:50	Communications workshop: goals of session and overview	Debbie Crane, TNC
09:50 - 10:20	Finding of fire communications research	Wendy Fulks, TNC
10:20 -10:30	Example of Communication plan from SE NC	Debbie Crane
10:30 -10:40	Importance of fire staff as communicators	Angie Carl, TNC
10:40 - 10:50	Questions and Answers	
10:50 - 11:00	Presentation of Draft Communication Plan and explanation of Hands on Session 5 break-out groups for communication plans	Rudy Evenson, NPS, Alice Cohen, USFS Alice, Rudy, Debbie, Wendy and Angie
11:45 -12:00	Feed back from small groups	Debbie Crane, TNC
12:00-13:00	Lunch – provided	
13:00-13:45	Review of monitoring high elevation red oak fire effects	Pete Bates, Western Carolina University
13:45-14:30	Next steps in Monitoring	Beth Buchanan, USFS
14:30-15:00	Review of meeting and next steps for SBR FLN	Margit Bucher, TNC