



## Fire Learning Network Notes from the Field



### Lake James Prescribed Burn

**Grandfather Restoration Project** (Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program)  
**Central Escarpment Landscape, Southern Blue Ridge FLN** January 2015

#### Lake James Rx Burn

**Date:** January 28-31, 2015

**Size:** 1,950 acres (about 1,720 acres USDA Forest Service; 230 acres North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission)

**Location:** north of Lake James Road, south of Dobson Knob

**Purposes:** fuel reduction, restoration of fire-adapted vegetation

**Partners:** North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service (Appalachian RD, Grandfather RD, Pisgah RD)

**Treatment #:** second entry with prescribed fire

With a window of dry weather in the last few days of January, partners on the Grandfather Restoration Project carried out a large burn at Lake James. This was a true collaborative burn, with the unit including both North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and U.S. Forest Service land, and the crew including The Nature Conservancy as well.

**After a few unsuccessful** tries at the end of last spring's burning season, when the weather failed to cooperate, partners hiked back up the mountain to try it again. The 1,950-acre Lake James burn was split into two sections, with an upper section of 850 acres and a lower one of 1,100 acres. There was great weather on the first day. Burning was delayed by an equipment malfunction that held up the helicopter, but another helicopter was available, allowing the completion of the upper 850-acre section. The next day, work began on the bottom portion; this was stalled shortly after noon by an unpredicted rain shower, allowing ignition on only about 50 acres. The following day had very high

winds, so the crew worked to monitor the burn, with no active firing. On the fourth day, the weather finally cleared up again for a great day of burning that allowed completion of the remaining acres.

**FLN monitoring plots** had been installed in this unit by Forest Stewards and Western Carolina University, who will also collect the post-burn data next year. Partners are particularly looking forward to seeing the results, since this was the second time the unit has been burned, and the effects of multiple burns within a single unit on the Grandfather District are of great interest.

**Smoke monitoring** is part of the Grandfather project's smoke management program, and on this burn mobile smoke monitoring stations were deployed for the first time. Grandfather District staff are assessing the information and will share through a blog post on <https://grandfatherrestorationproject.wordpress.com>.



Photos: TNC/Adam Warwick (above),  
USFS/Lisa Jennings (top of page)

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The Fire Learning Network (FLN) is part of *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information, contact [Lynn Decker](mailto:Lynn.Decker@tnc.org) [ldecke@tnc.org](mailto:ldecke@tnc.org) or (801) 320-0524.



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