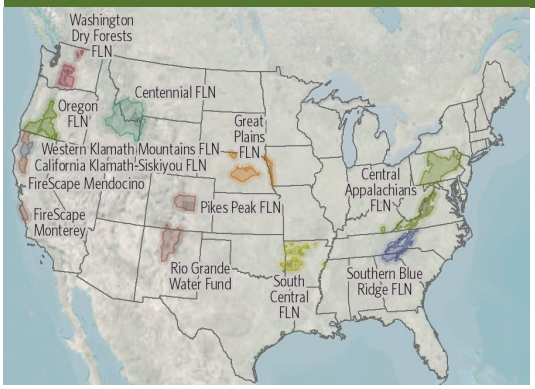
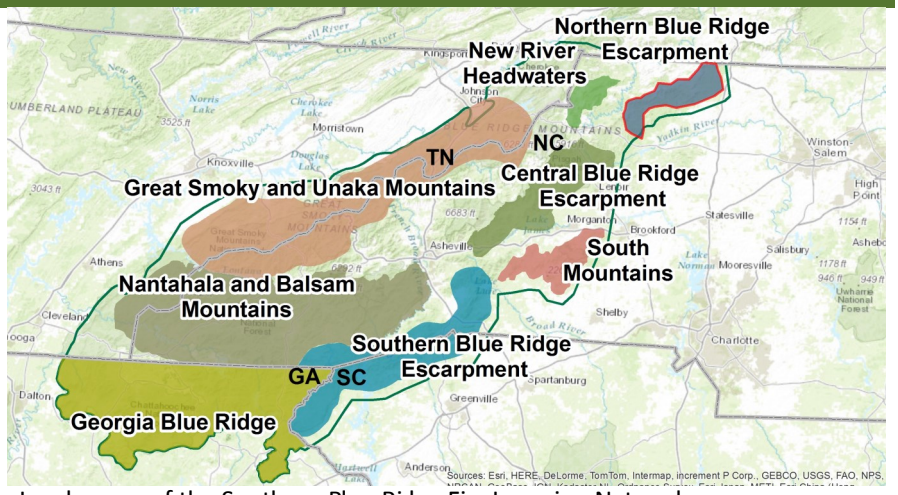
# Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network




Regional Fire Learning Networks




Landscapes of the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network

## NORTHERN ESCARPMENT

The Northern Escarpment Landscape occupies 200,000 acres of along the escarpment of Southern Blue Ridge Mountains in Northwestern North Carolina. Controlled burning in the region began here in 1987. The landscape was defined in 2011 when partners agreed to work together to build capacity for large-scale, cross-boundary treatments. A focus of these efforts is the restoration of Table Mountain—Pitch Pine woodlands which rely on fire to maintain structure and function. These uncommon woodlands occupy the low-elevation ridges and steep xeric slopes of the escarpment area.

## LANDSCAPE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Resolved social-ecological challenges to implement a 431 acre complex, multi-stakeholder burn at Air-Bellow Gap.
- Build Capacity through contracts and Memorandums of Understanding.
- Approaching desired conditions in a Pine woodland after nine controlled burns.
- Established burn program at Stone Mountains State Park and conducted a first-entry burn.

### SRB FLN 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.

Restored Table Mountain-Pitch Pine woodlands at Osbourn Ridge.

Partners in this landscape conducting their first multi-agency, cross-boundary burn.

## LANDSCAPE GOALS

- Connect with private landowners to build capacity and promote social-ecological resilience.
- Work to overcome challenges to implementing additional multi-stakeholder, cross-boundary burns.
- Designate burn units that include interagency and public-private cooperative projects.
- Continue to restore Table Mountain Pine.

## LANDSCAPE PARTNERS

National Park Service—Blue Ridge Parkway, Doughton Park

North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation—Stone Mountain State Park

North Carolina Forest Service—Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest

North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission—Thurmond Chatham Game Land

Piedmont Land Conservancy

## LANDSCAPE LEADS

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