



Fire Learning Network
Notes from the Field

Skull Knob Controlled Burn South Mountains Landscape

April 2014

Fire Learning Network partners in the South Mountains landscape recently conducted a 1,200-acre prescribed burn at Skull Knob on part of the state-owned area split between South Mountains Game Land and South Mountains State Park. The objectives of the burning included wildlife habitat improvement for early successional species, forest restoration in fire-adapted and fire-dependent oak and pine communities, and fuels reduction on the landscape. This was the second burn for most

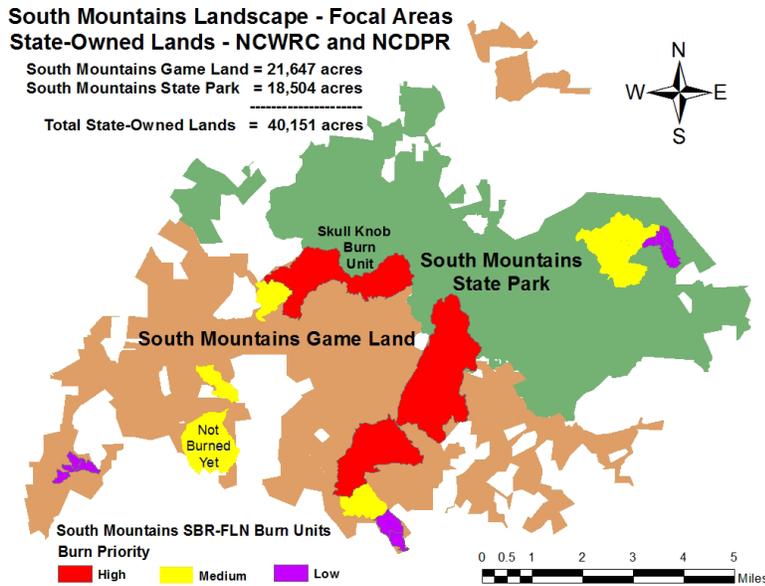
of the unit, which is important because the unit scored high in the burn prioritization modeling done for the landscape (see map). It is also clear evidence that the partnership is starting to make large collaborative and multi-ownership burns more routine, helping to restore fire-adapted systems on a larger scale: All but one of the established burn units in this landscape has been burned at least once and several have received multiple burn rotations.

Participating Agencies

- North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
- North Carolina Forest Service
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

The partnership in this landscape has allowed for larger, more efficient and effective landscape-level burning projects by removing the barrier of property boundary restrictions, increasing the resources available, and finding common ground for expanding prescribed burning programs to meet common goals and objectives in the South Mountains Landscape.

*Dean M. Simon
Wildlife Biologist / Forester
NC Wildlife Resources Commission*



For more information, contact:

Dean Simon
dean.simon@ncwildlife.org

More about the landscape: <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/northcarolina/placesweprotect/south-mountains-game-land.xml>



Ryan Jacobs/NC WRC

The Fire Learning Network is supported by *Promoting Ecosystem Resiliency through Collaboration: Landscapes, Learning and Restoration*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior. For more information about the FLN, contact Lynn Decker at ldecker@tnc.org or (801) 320-0524.



An equal opportunity provider