



Southern Blue Ridge – Workshop 12 | 2017 May 16–18 | Hiawassee GA

Lessons Learned from the 2016 Fires and Next Steps to Advance Resilient Landscapes and Communities

16 May TUESDAY

Exploring operational and ecological aspects in the Southern Blue Ridge after the 2016 fires

Registration and Welcome

08:00 – 09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome and introduction to the SBR FLN

Margit Bucher (TNC)

09:15 – 09:30 Welcome to the Georgia Blue Ridge Landscape

Betty Jewett (USFS)

09:30 – 10:30 Regional Forester's perspective on recent fires

Tony Tooke (USFS)

10:30 – 10:45 *Break*

10:45 – 11:30 Introduction to Case Studies

Beth Buchanan (USFS)

Pinnacle Mountain

Mike Bozzo (SCFC)

Rough Ridge

Jeff Gardner (USFS)

Rock Mountain

Mike Davis (USFS)

11:30 – 12:30 **CASE STUDY 1:** Operations – Pinnacle Mountain

Moderator:

Helen Mohr (CAMFS)

Relationships established before emergencies help during wildfires

Panel: Mike Bozzo, Michael Weeks, Darryl Jones (all SCFC),

Mark Hall (SCDNR), and Henry Poole (Greenville Watershed)

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch provided*

Benefits of Building Resilient Forests

Moderator:

Margit Bucher (TNC)

13:30 – 14:00 Building resilient forests

Jim Vose (SRS)

14:00 – 14:30 The relationship between mesophication and water yield

Peter Caldwell (SRS)

14:30 – 14:50 Discussion

14:50-15:10 *Break*

Ecological Assessment and Impacts of Wildfires

Moderator:

Beth Buchanan (USFS)

15:10 – 16:10 **CASE STUDY 2:** Fire Ecology & Effects – Rough Ridge

Impacts and implications of managing a wildfire in a USFS Wilderness

Panel: Jeff Gardner, Ruth Stokes and Taylor Beard (all USFS)

16:10 – 16:30 Ecological effects of wildfire in the Great Smoky Mountains NP

Rob Klein (NPS)

16:30 – 16:45 CAFMS' role in the upcoming 2016 wildfire research

Helen Mohr (CAMFS)

16:45 – 17:00 Overview of field trip logistics

Mike Davis (USFS)

18:00-20:00 Barbeque Dinner at Frank Riley's farm (directions will be provided)



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17 May WEDNESDAY

Working with wildland urban interface (WUI) communities

08:00 – 08:10	Welcome to Towns County	County Commissioner Cliff Bradshaw
08:10 – 08:20	Welcome to Young Harris	Mayor Andrea Gibby
08:20 – 08:30	Welcome to Hiawassee	Mayor Pro-Tem Liz Ordiales
08:30 – 08:50	Presentation by Towns County Fire Adapted Communities Citizens Coalition	Marsha Elliott
09:00 – 17:00	Field Trip (lunch provided)	

Field Trip Goals: Three groups will each visit three sites in the Georgia Blue Ridge landscape. Each participant will be assigned to a group at registration. We will explore and discuss both prescribed and wildfire effects with local staff, firefighters and BAER team members. We will also discuss joint jurisdictional burning across ownership boundaries in the wildland urban interface. Participants will have the opportunity to explore fire effects at each site.

Field trip Stops:

- 1) Roger's Road:** A joint WUI burn between the Georgia Forestry Commission and the US Forest Service utilizing a Community Wildfire Protection Grant (aka Stevens Grant)
Presenters: Shawn Alexander and Tony Harkins (both GFC), Jason Demas (USFS)
- 2) Reed Branch:** A small fire-dependent wetland managed for rare species
Presenters: Malcolm Hodges and Erick Brown (TNC)
- 3) Rock Mountain:** USFS wildfire which is the focus of Thursday's case study
Presenters: Peter Myers, Ryan Peacock and Jimmy Rickard (all USFS)

*Hard hats are required for USFS personnel (bring your own) and strongly encouraged for all attendees. Please wear hiking shoes (expect to hike up to 1 mile) and be prepared for rain and inclement weather. Bring sun screen and bug spray.

Lunch and water (including refills) are provided. Please bring your water bottle. Each group will eat lunch separately.

Dinner will be on your own. A list of area restaurants will be available.

We will announce a suggested meet-up place in the evening for those interested.



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18 May THURSDAY

Effective communications, internally and externally; plan next steps for SBR FLN

Collaboration and Communication

08:00 – 08:30 SC Foothills Joint Chiefs Project: All Lands
Mike Brod (USFS)
Brian Schaffler (USFS)

08:30 – 09:30 Cohesive Strategy Panel: FLN and fire adapted communities
Panel: Adam Warwick (TNC), Mike Davis and Mike Brod (USFS)
Gary Wood (SGSF)

09:30- 09:50 *Break*

9:50- 10:50 **CASE STUDY 3: Rock Mountain Fire** **Moderator: Judy Toppins (USFS)**
Examining communication successes and needs through the perspectives of affected community members
Derrin Giles, *Rabun County Administrator*
Klark Byrd, *Clayton Tribune*
Joel Hitt, *Affected Resident*
Michael Mazarky, *Rabun County Emergency Management Agency*

Research and Monitoring Highlights

Moderator: Helen Mohr

10:50-11:10 Monitoring and meta-analysis of SBR FLN monitoring data
Don Hagan (Clemson)
Pete Bates (WCU)

11:10- 11:30 Research Updates
Helen Mohr (CAFMS)

11:30 – 12:00 Synthesis of Appalachian Fire History
Charles Lafon (Texas A&M)

12:00 – 13:00 *Lunch provided*

Advancing the impact of SBR Fire Learning Network

13:00 – 14:50 Small group discussion
Judy Toppins, table hosts
In-depth discussion on key issues raised during the workshop, develop actionable tasks to be advanced through FLN.

14:50 – 15:40 Report from small group discussion
Table hosts

15:40 – 15:50 Next steps for SBR FLN
Beth Buchanan, Margit Bucher

15:50-16:00 RAFFLE! Must be present to win.

16:00 *Adjourn*