

A man with a beard and a cap is working on a sand table model. The model features a large mound of sand, a red rope barrier, a green toy truck, and several red plastic figures. The background shows a workshop setting with shelves.

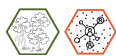
CONSORTIUM OF APPALACHIAN FIRE MANAGERS AND SCIENTISTS

Quarterly Newsletter

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Issue 3



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2025



View our library of peer-reviewed [publications](#) and plan language [briefs](#) on our website

[Publications](#)

Our website houses peer-reviewed publications, guides, articles categorized by topic:

2023-2024 Appalachian Fire Science Papers

Amphibians and Reptiles

Bats

Birds

Carbon

Chestnut

Controlled Burns

Fact Sheets/Briefs

Fire and Fire Surrogate Study

Fire History

Fire Intensity

Fire Techniques

Fuels

Insects/Arachnids

Invasives

Mammals

Mechanical Treatments

Mortality

Oak

Pine

Smoke/Emissions

Seasonality

Social Science/Communication

Soils & Duff

Syntheses/Guides

Weather

Wildfire

Water

Hurricane Helene



One year post Helene

Billions of Dollars in Damage

Fuel Structure and Load Altered

Approximately 2,000 landslides

It has been one year since Hurricane Helene swept through the Appalachian region causing widespread damage. Any kind of disaster, especially of this magnitude, will change the place, people, and landscape. A raw sense of vulnerability emerges collectively amongst people and ecosystems that experience a disturbance. Response by federal and state agencies began immediately and are still continuing today. It is imperative and critical that recovery efforts continue as the landscape heals and people rebuild their homes and livelihoods.



Image: Crew responding to damage. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)



Image: North Carolina. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Unaccessible roads, washed out bridges, thousands of landslides, toppled trees, new fuel structure and load, and extensive flood damage present new complex challenges to land managers and researchers. There is uncertainty about the future of prescribed fire and how it will move across the landscape in the presence of changing long-term weather patterns. Collaborative efforts between land managers and researchers will bridge the gap between research and management. These efforts are the inception for identifying needs and producing products that will improve resiliency and create better outcomes on the ground. One need that has been identified is the use of remote sensing technology, such as high resolution satellite imagery, which provides a comprehensive understanding of the variations of damage, fuel structure, and fuel load across the landscape. CAFMS has been working closely with federal and state partners to facilitate ongoing discussions amongst managers and researchers. Available on our [website](#) are resources to relevant fire science in the wake of Helene. This resource page will continue to evolve as new research is developed.



Image: Flooding in Asheville, North Carolina. Source: [Wikimedia Commons](#)

[The Centre for Biodiversity and Conservation Science](#) has a [brief fact sheet](#) on ecological grief—"an emotional response to losing places, species or ecosystems that are important to us"—as well as a collection of [resources](#) for further learning and action.

Fueling Collaboration Panel Discussion Series

Season 6



We are thrilled to announce season 6 of the Fueling Collaboration Panel Discussion Series will kick off November 20, 2025! A series of interactive panel discussions designed to connect fire managers and researchers. Each discussion will be built on questions from the registered attendees. We're working to bring people together to discuss, explore, and address the latest fire science and fire management issues across the eastern United States.

- November 20, 2025: Flashy Fuels and Resilient Lands – Fueling Distinct Prescriptions for Eastern Grasslands
- December 11, 2025: "Do You Hear What I Hear?" A Sensory Portrait of Wildland Fire
- January 15, 2026: Storms and Strategy: Understanding the Impacts of Hurricanes on Wildland and Prescribed Fire in the Southeast
- February 19, 2026: Reframing the Ecology of Fire in Eastern United States 'Old Growth' Forest Ecosystems

To register visit: [Fueling Collaboration](#) website



Southern Blue Ridge TREX

November 3rd - 15th, 2025

Pickens, SC

Table Rock Camp and Retreat Center

The Southern Blue Ridge Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (SBR TREX) began in 2018. The objective of this two-week TREX program is to facilitate peer-to-peer, experiential learning for prescribed fire professionals and others interested in advancing their understanding of innovative tools to restore fire-adapted ecosystems. Participants learn, practice, and share knowledge, skills, and experience in a unique, hands-on training focused on the ecological, social, communications, monitoring, and operational dimensions of planning and implementing ecologically-based prescribed fire. For more information visit: [The SBR TREX website](#).



The Shortleaf Pine Initiative 6th Biennial Shortleaf Pine Conference

November 11-13, 2025

Lake Guntersville State Park, AL

The Shortleaf Pine Initiative (SPI) was officially launched in 2013. SPI represents a collaborative network of public and private organizations, including key state and federal agencies, all committed to restoring and conserving shortleaf pine ecosystems across their historical range. The SPI works to address the alarming and widespread decline of shortleaf pine habitats and their associated ecological and economic values. **There is an open call for poster abstracts, with a deadline of September 1, 2025.** For more information visit the [SPI website](#).

Association for Fire Ecology 11th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress

December 2-6, 2025

New Orleans, LA



The Association for Fire Ecology will be hosting its 11th International Fire Ecology and Management Congress. This event will include workshops, field trips, and 3 full days of presentations, discussion groups, and networking opportunities. The Association for Fire Ecology is an international organization of professionals dedicated to improving the knowledge and use of fire in land management through science and education. Our members are scientists, educators, students, managers, practitioners, policymakers, and interested citizens helping to shape the emerging profession and growing field of fire ecology. Every two years, AFE organizes and hosts the International Fire Ecology and Management Congress [AFE Website](#).

- Southern Area Wildfire Risk Assessment Fall 2025 by Southern Area Division Support: [PDF](#)
- Recently revised NC State Extension [guide](#) “Fire-Resistant Landscaping in North Carolina” covers basic concepts and management practices, as well as lists of native plant species, sorted by flammability
- The new app, [Wildfire Safety Evaluator \(WiSE\)](#), calculates the size of a safety zone quickly and easily in the field, with no data connection required.
- [The AirNow Fire and Smoke Map](#) is a great tool to stay up to date on prescribed burns and wildfires.
- Northern Research Station (NRS) Rooted in Research: [Sign up](#).
- Incident Position Standards and the Next Generation Position Task Books are now available for [Incident Commander Type 5](#) (ICT5) and [Firefighter Type 1 Squad Boss](#) (FFT1).
- The Science You Can Use [issue](#) “Birds of a Feather Benefit from Fire Together: How Prescribed Burning Can Benefit Ground-Nesting Birds” addresses three southeastern species: chuck-will’s-widow, eastern whip-poor-will and northern bobwhite
- Bryan Kerns is the Fire Science teacher at Dobyns-Bennett High School in Kingsport, TN and a member of the SBR FLN was featured on an episode of [The Hotshot Wake Up](#)
- NC State University Extension Forestry talks all about Bats in their [Working with Wildlife](#) publication
- [Fire Learning Network’s](#) assistant director Laurel Kays (laurel.kays@rnc.org) reflected on the disaster, and our collective response to disasters, in this most recent [blog post](#) “Helene, Fire, and the Systems That (Don’t Need to) Fail Us.”
- Returning the Red-cockaded Woodpecker to Tennessee – TWRA, in collaboration with TDEC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is reintroducing the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) to Tennessee — the first since the species was last documented here in 1994. [Read more.](#)



- Pile-Knapp, Lauren S.; Guan, Shanyue; Song, Bo; Wang, Geoff G. 2022. Temporal effects of hurricanes and prescribed fire on fuel loading and pine reproduction in the Southeastern United States. In: Willis, John L.; Self, Andrew B.; Siegert, Courtney M., eds. Proceedings of the 21st Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-268. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 21–31. <https://doi.org/10.2737/SRS-GTR-268>
- I. Bouvier, P. Caldwell, P. Houser. Spatio-temporal vegetation and catchment dynamics following wildfires in the Southern Appalachian Ecoregion. Forest Ecology and Management. Volume 595, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2025.122996>
- Siskind, T., Wirth, P. E., & Lafon, C. W. (2025). Fire-dependent vegetation through the past two-and-a-half centuries on a wet-temperate landscape, southern Blue Ridge Escarpment, USA. Physical Geography, 1–26. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02723646.2025.2551201>
- Weidig NC, Wonkka CL, Ivey MA, Donovan VM. (2024) Changing large wildfire dynamics in the wildland–urban interface of the eastern United States. International Journal of Wildland Fire 33, WF24110. <https://doi.org/10.1071/WF24110>

We value your continued support and feedback!

Find us on Facebook: [Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists](#)

Find us on YouTube: [Appalachian Fire - CAFMS](#)

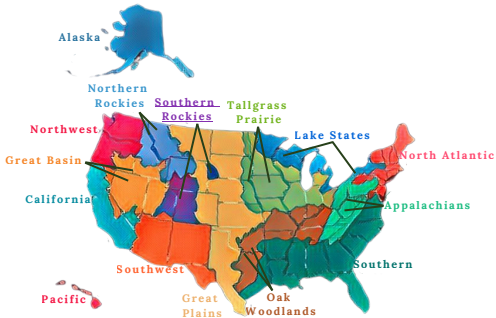
Website: www.appalachianfire.org



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A Member of the JFSP
[Fire Science Exchange Network](#)

