



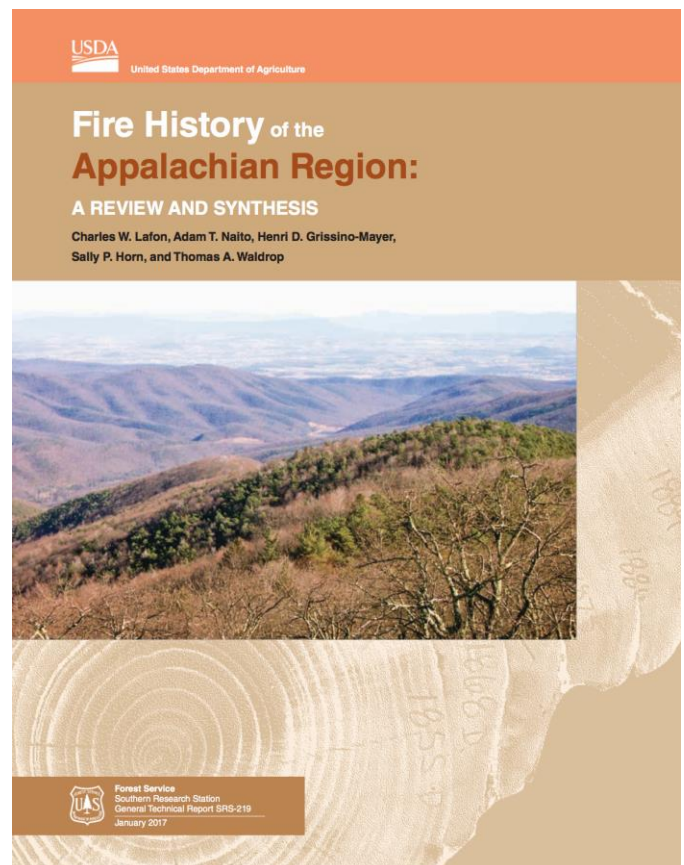
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## Don't Miss This New Publication Sponsored by CAFMS!

Much of the Appalachian Mountain region is covered with a mosaic of oak- and pine-dominated forests that are being replaced by fire-sensitive mesophytic vegetation in the near-exclusion of fire. These vegetation changes imply that Appalachian vegetation had developed under a history of burning before the fire-exclusion era. This possibility has motivated investigations of Appalachian fire history using evidence from witness trees, fire-scarred trees, stand age structure, and soil and sediment charcoal. Our report synthesizes these investigations to obtain an up-to-date portrayal of Appalachian fire history. This synthesis yields three important points:

- 1) The vegetation of the Appalachian region was shaped by fire prior to the beginning of the fire-exclusion era in the middle twentieth century. Fires had recurred at short intervals (a few years) for several centuries, as evidenced by fire-scarred trees. Additionally, charcoal records suggest that fire has played an important role in the development of Appalachian vegetation for many centuries to millennia.



<http://www.appalachianfire.org/featured-article/2017/3/22/fire-history-of-the-appalachian-region-a-review-and-synthesis>

2) Fires were especially common and spatially extensive on landscapes with large expanses of flammable oak and pine forest, notably in the Ridge and Valley province and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Frequent burning favored the development of an oak-pine mosaic that still covers as much as three-fourths of the total land area in the National forests that sprawl over the Ridge and Valley province and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

3) Fire exclusion has enabled mesophytic tree species to expand from moist coves and other fire-sheltered sites onto dry slopes that formerly supported pyrogenic vegetation. While oak and pine species remain as overstory dominants over much of the landscape, the formerly open, flammable woodlands have transitioned toward dense forest stands with canopy dominants that were recruited under one fire regime but with an understory of shrubs and mesophytic trees that emerged under a new fire regime. As the overstory dominants die and are replaced by the understory species, former vegetation patterns are disappearing.



**We're hitting the road!**  
**June 6-8, 2017**

**CAFMS is hosting a summer road trip! We're planning a bus tour with stops in Gatlinburg, TN, Asheville, NC and northern GA for a tour of lessons learned from the 2016 wildfire season. Registration info to come, but save the date and we'll see you on the bus!**

# Webinar Recording is Up: Mobile Mapping: An Introduction to Avenza Maps

If you missed this popular webinar don't worry! We recorded it and its up on our website for you to view at your leisure. Follow the link below to access it.

<http://www.appalachianfire.org/past-workshops-and-webinars/2017/3/17/webinar-mobile-mapping-an-introduction-to-avenza-maps>



## Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network – Workshop 12

Don't miss workshop 12 of the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network. We will meet in Hiwassee Georgia on May 16-18<sup>th</sup>. The theme this year is Lessons Learned from the 2016 Fires and Next Steps to Advance Resilient Landscapes and Communities. Click the link below for more information and the draft agenda.

<http://www.sbrfln.com/ws12.html>



# Can We Ask You a Favor?

As most of you know we are part of a larger network known as the Joint Fire Science Program Knowledge Exchange Program. Once every couple of years we have the opportunity to administer a survey of our activities with the help of the University of Reno, Nevada. We want your input on how we are doing. What can we improve on or is there something we do well that you want to see more of? So, we are asking you to take a few minutes to follow the link below and fill out the survey. Thanks!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JFSP2017Evaluation>

## Did you Miss Our Last Workshop?

In February we co-hosted a workshop titled **Burning Issue: Sparking Effective Communication About Fire**. We partnered with the PA Prescribed Fire Council and the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange for a great meeting.

The presentations from that workshop can now be accessed on our website!

<http://www.appalachianfire.org/past-workshops-and-webinars/2017/3/17/presentations-from-the-2017-pa-prescribed-fire-council-meeting>

### Communicate With Us!

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Find us on twitter @APfirescience or find us on Facebook by searching Consortium of Appalachian Fire Managers and Scientists.

### Join CAFMS:

The consortium is for all land managers and researchers in the region who deal with any aspect of fire. To join, simply

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