Five Organizations Form Partnership to Conduct 175-acre Prescribed Burn at Douthat State Park

The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy is a national collaborative effort to bring a broad cross-section of stakeholders together to address wildland fire management challenges. The Strategy directs wildland fire planning activities and has three primary goals: restore and maintain landscapes, develop Fire-Adapted Communities, and improve wildfire response.

Activity	Impact
# acres burned for forest restoration	175
# annual park visitors that can view burn results; providing excellent outreach opportunities on importance of prescribed fire use in forest restoration	250,000

In an area that had never received a prescribed burn treatment, five organizations came together to conduct a wide-reaching burn as a project under the Scaling-up to Promote Ecosystem Resiliency (SPER) program, a new initiative funding high-priority restoration actions on forests adjacent to federally managed areas. 36 staff from U.S. Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and Virginia Department of Corrections conducted the controlled burn in Douthat State Park to control the encroachment of undesired tree species and promote regen¬eration of oaks, pitch pines, and fire-dependent species such as Table Mountain Pine.

"Fire is as much a part of the natural processes as rain. Like rain, fire can be beneficial or damaging depending on its strength and duration. Our goal is to use controlled burns to safely reintroduce fire into ecosystems for their restoration and enhancement," said Al Cire, a Resource Specialist with Virginia State Parks.

The Blue Suck Burn—named for a prominent waterfall—covered 175 acres and took place near one of the most popular trail sections in the park; with 250,000 visitors annually at the park, the effects of the burn will provide excellent forest restoration outreach opportuni¬ties in the coming months and years.

Burn boss Sam Lindblom (fire manager for TNC VA) led the morning briefing covering safety precautions, communications, burn objectives and assignments. Credit: The Nature Conservancy

Partners: US Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

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