



## Multi-Partner Controlled Burn Conducted on Skull Knob

**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 at Skull Knob for habitat improvement and fuels reduction	1,200
# partners that implemented landscape-level burn at Skull Knob	5

Many of the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network partners, including North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, and The Nature Conservancy, joined forces to work across jurisdictional boundaries to implement a landscape-level burning project. Agencies 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. It is also clear evidence that partnerships are 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.

“The partnership in this landscape has allowed for larger, more efficient and effective landscape-level burning projects,” said Dean M. Simon, Forester with NC Wildlife Resources Commission, “By removing the barrier of property boundary restrictions, increasing the resources available, and finding common ground for expanding prescribed burning programs, partners were able to meet common goals and objectives in the South Mountains Landscape.”



NC Wildfire Resource Commission. Credit: Ryan Jacobs

**Partners:** North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, North Carolina Forest Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the Nature Conservancy, and the Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network



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