

North Carolina | Grandfather Collaborative Landscape Restoration Project | 2016



Total acreage of landscape: 330,360

Partners

- Appalachian Designs
- Foothills Conservancy
- Forest Stewards
- Friends of the Linville Gorge
- Friends of Wilson Creek
- Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation
- Land of Sky Regional Council
- MountainTrue (formally Western North Carolina Alliance)
- National Park Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- North Carolina Department of Natural Resources
- North Carolina Forest Service
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Quality Deer Management Association
- Root Cause
- Southern Blue Ridge Fire Learning Network
- Southern Research Station
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society
- Trout Unlimited
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- Western Carolina University
- Wild South



Controlled burn at Linville Gorge. © Gary Kaufman, U.S. Forest Service

The Grandfather Restoration Project landscape is located in Pisgah National Forest at the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The Project will increase controlled burning and other management practices on more than 40,000 acres of the Grandfather Ranger District. Along with restoring fire-adapted vegetation, the Project seeks to improve wildlife habitat and forest health in degraded stands, protect Eastern and Carolina hemlocks against the destructive Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, protect sensitive areas including the Linville Gorge Wilderness and Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River to remove non-native invasive plants, and restore watershed health for native trout and improved water quality.

2015 Results

- 38 jobs created or maintained on a yearly average
- 62 miles of trail maintained and improved
- 306 acres of invasive plants and noxious weeds removed
- 6,302 acres of wildlife habitat restored

Contact information

Lisa Jennings

Pisgah National Forest
CFLR Coordinator
lisanjennings@fs.fed.us / (828) 652-2144

Josh Kelly loves the Southern Blue Ridge — spending both his work days and his down time roaming its forests. As Public Lands Field Biologist with MountainTrue, a grassroots environmental group working in 23 western counties, he is looking down the road to a forest future that is healthier, prettier, and more protective of nearby communities.



Josh Kelly

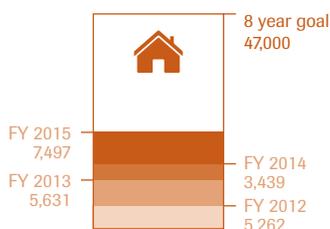
“In a few decades, the Grandfather District can once again be a place where fire is playing its natural role, helping promote forest health,” he explains. “People will see a forest with more variety — an open understory with more flowering plants, with grasses and young oaks that will attract wildlife, such as turkey and deer.”

The benefits will not stop at the forest edge, Kelly says.

“While forest health is important, the project will also be good for people in surrounding communities,” he continues. “It’s more than scenery. The Grandfather Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration project will improve water quality, hunting and fishing opportunities, and neighboring towns will also be safer from fires that burn out of control.”

Kelly believes the CFLR project will be successful because a diverse group of people and organizations are working together.

“That adds a lot of strength to the project. It is just like in an ecosystem where multiple species each fill a role. With this partnership, multiple organizations each fill a role. This gives the project a lot of energy and resilience.”



Fire Risk Reduction

Acres of hazardous fuels reduced