



Appalachian RC&D Fire Adapted Communities Coalition

Southeastern Association of RC&D Councils
Annual Meeting- August 26- 28, 2019
Asheville, North Carolina

2013 + 2014

Chest/Chatt RC&D is the first **Fire Adapted Community hub** east of the Mississippi River

2013- 2015

Chest/Chatt RC&D demonstrates a reduction in local wildfires correlated to an increase in Firewise USA communities

2017

Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition formed; funding provided for two years

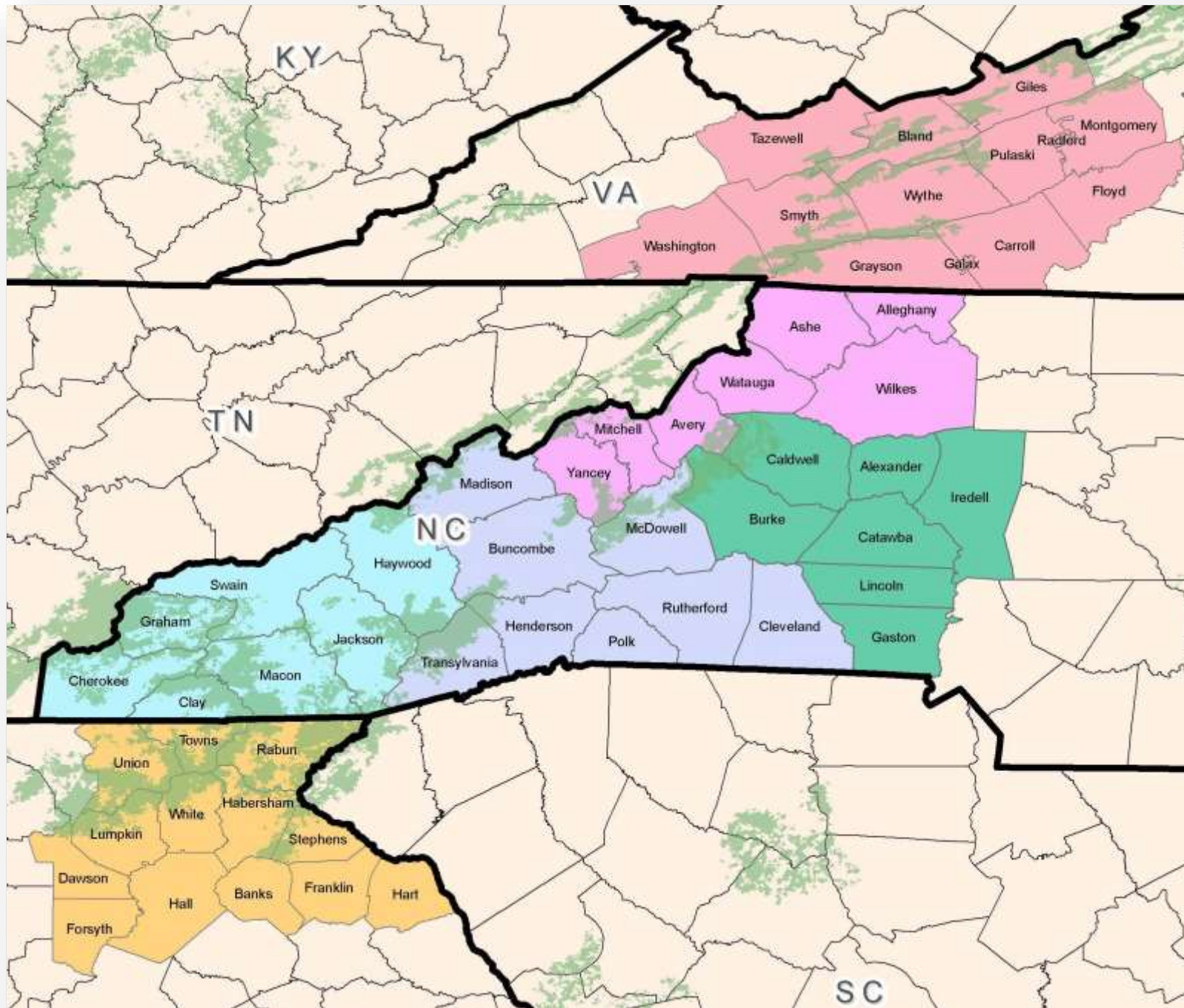
2018

Additional funding for Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition approved; October 2018-September 2020

2019

Appalachian RC&D FAC Coalition expanding programs and partnerships
RC&D SUCCESS!!!

HISTORY



OBJECTIVES

The intent of the Southern Appalachian RC&D Coalition is to expand the success of the Fire Adapted Communities concept up the Appalachian Mountain Chain from Georgia to Virginia to help reduce the risk of wildfire in communities in the Wildland Urban Interface most of which border National forests.

- ▶ Outreach
- ▶ Assistance
- ▶ Partnerships
- ▶ Projects



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RESIDENTS REDUCING WILDFIRE RISKS





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AWARENESS



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ACTION

Wildfire Risk Reduction
10 Safety Tips

Every year, wildfires burn across the U.S. and cause at least \$200 billion in damage. While wildfires are a new risk, but by working together, residents can take the right steps to protect their property — and their safety — when a wildfire strikes.

Action Items to Improve Your Home's Resiliency

- **REMOVE** leaves, pine needles, and other flammable material from the roof, gutters, and around under the deck to help prevent embers from igniting your home.
- **SCREEN** areas below decks and porches with 1/2" wire mesh to help prevent material from accumulating underneath.
- **COVER** exterior walls and soffits with 1/2" wire mesh to help prevent sparks from entering your home.
- **ENCLOSE** eaves to help prevent ember entry.
- **INSPECT** hinges of roof tiles. **REPLACE** missing shingles or tiles. **COVER** ends of tiles with felt strips or cement to help prevent ember penetration during a wildfire.

Tips for Landscaping Around Your Home

- **REMOVE** dead vegetation and other flammable material especially within the first 5 feet of the home.
- **KEEP** your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, cut it short to help reduce fire intensity.
- **PRUNE** tree limbs to the lowest branches with 6 to 10 feet above the ground to help reduce the chance of fire getting into the canopy of the trees.
- **MOVE** construction material, trash and vehicles at least 20 feet away from the house and other outbuildings.
- **DISPOSE** of branches, weeds, dried twigs, and grass clippings that you think act to reduce fuel for fire.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Increase your wildfire safety. Make at least one small change to your home and landscape starting today.

Visit www.firewise.org for more information.

Fire Logo

IT'S A BIG WORLD. LET'S PROTECT IT TOGETHER.



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Hardscaping & Fire-safe Landscaping



Home Hardening improvements



Increasing Defensible Space

RECOGNITION



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PROGRAMS

Lake James State Park- Good Fire in the Mountains



"GOOD FIRE" IN THE MOUNTAINS

Saturday, March 2, 9:30 AM - 3 PM

Rain or Shine

Lake James State Park
Paddy's Creek, East Picnic Area

7321 NC-126
Nebo, NC 28761



Become familiar with the benefits of prescribed (controlled) burning and how "Good Fire" prevents "Bad Fire". Learn about the wildfire mitigation work being done in Lake James State Park to reduce its wildfire risk and how it can benefit the surrounding communities. Find out how you can adapt to living with wildfire with the Firewise USA program and how neighbors can work together to take action now to prevent losses.

- **LIVE PRESCRIBED BURN & DEMO** - See (3) different fuel types and learn how prescribed burning can reduce hazardous fuels & benefit wildlife habitat
- Learn landscaping & mitigation techniques on how to make your home Firewise including how to create defensible space around your home.
- Find out the benefits of becoming a Firewise Community
- Get a home wildfire preparedness checklist
- Get to meet your County Rangers & community resources



This is a **NO Cost** workshop, open to the public & lunch is provided.

Space is limited. Register with Christina Newhouse by **Feb. 27th**

Phone: (828) 361-2266 or Email: christina@carolinalandandlakesrcd.org



- Once registered, your name will be on a registration list at the gate. If you **are not** on the registration list you will not be admitted to the event.
- Please be in the park **no later** than 9:45 AM.
- **Clothing:** Wear closed-toe boots or shoes, long pants and sleeves, preferably cotton/wool or other non-synthetic clothing. Presentations and lunch will be undercover, but if it's raining the day of, please bring appropriate rain gear.

Event Location:
Paddy's Creek
East Picnic Shelter

Event Agenda

- 9:30 AM - 10 AM - Registration
- 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Firewise and Lake James State Park Presentations
- 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM Lunch and meet & greet with agencies
- 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM - Mock prescribed burn crew briefing & live demos
- 12:45 PM - 2:30 PM Prescribed burn unit tour in Lake James State Park



Severe Ice or Snow Inclement Weather Date March 9 (same time).

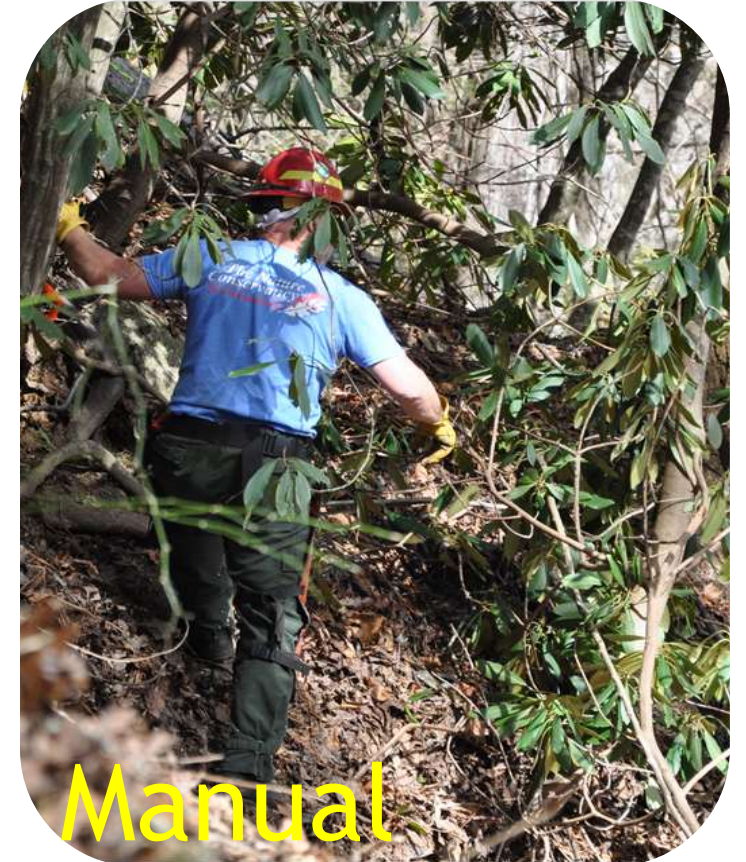








PROJECTS/FUEL MITIGATION





Before



After



Before



After

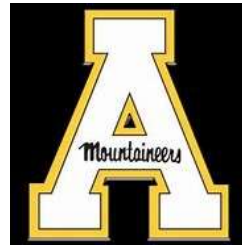


Before



After

PARTNERSHIPS



AND MORE!



Fuel Mitigation



Outreach



Partnerships



Communities



www.appcofac.org