

# Grandfather Restoration Project

a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program

**Presentation by Lisa Jennings**

**Grandfather Restoration Project Coordinator**

**[lisanjennings@fs.fed.us](mailto:lisanjennings@fs.fed.us)**

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# The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

The purpose of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) Program is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program expands collaborative landscape partnerships to:

- encourage ecological, economic, and social sustainability;
- leverage local resources with national and private resources;
- **facilitate the reduction of wildfire management costs, through re-establishing natural fire regimes and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire;**
- demonstrate the degree to which various ecological restoration techniques achieve ecological and watershed health objectives; and,
- encourage utilization of forest restoration by-products to offset treatment costs, to benefit local rural economies, and to improve forest health.

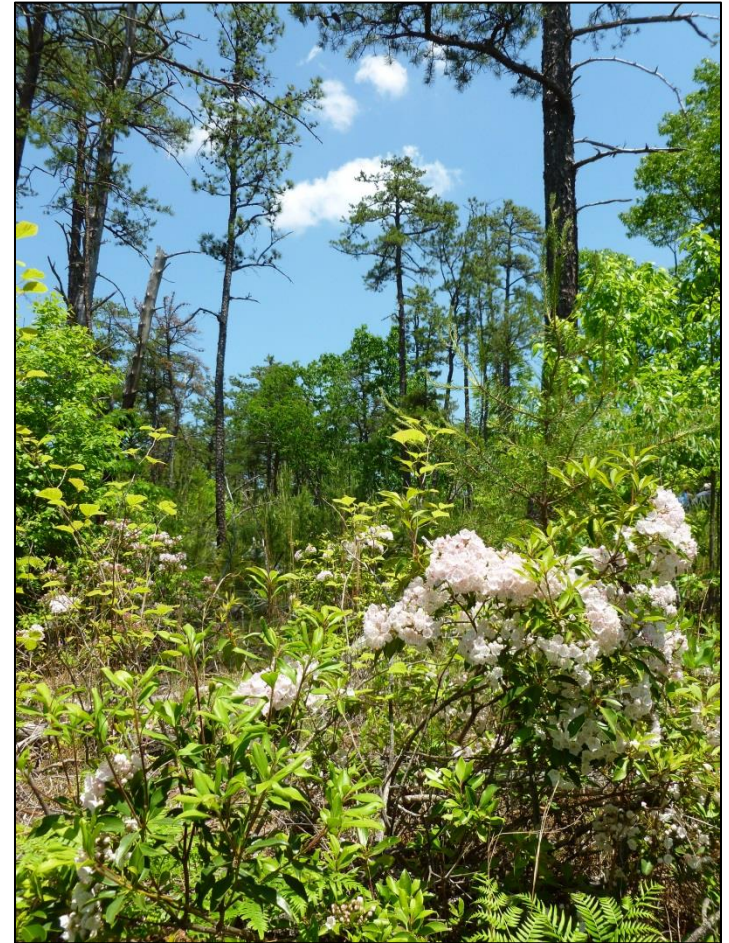




# The Grandfather Ranger District



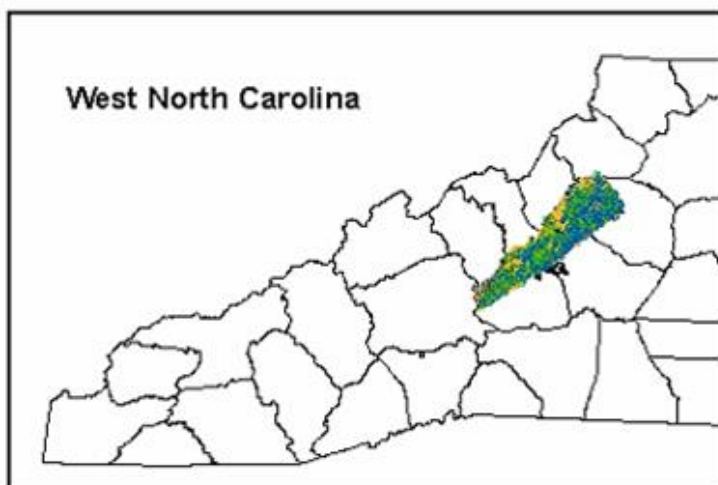
# A Fire-adapted Landscape



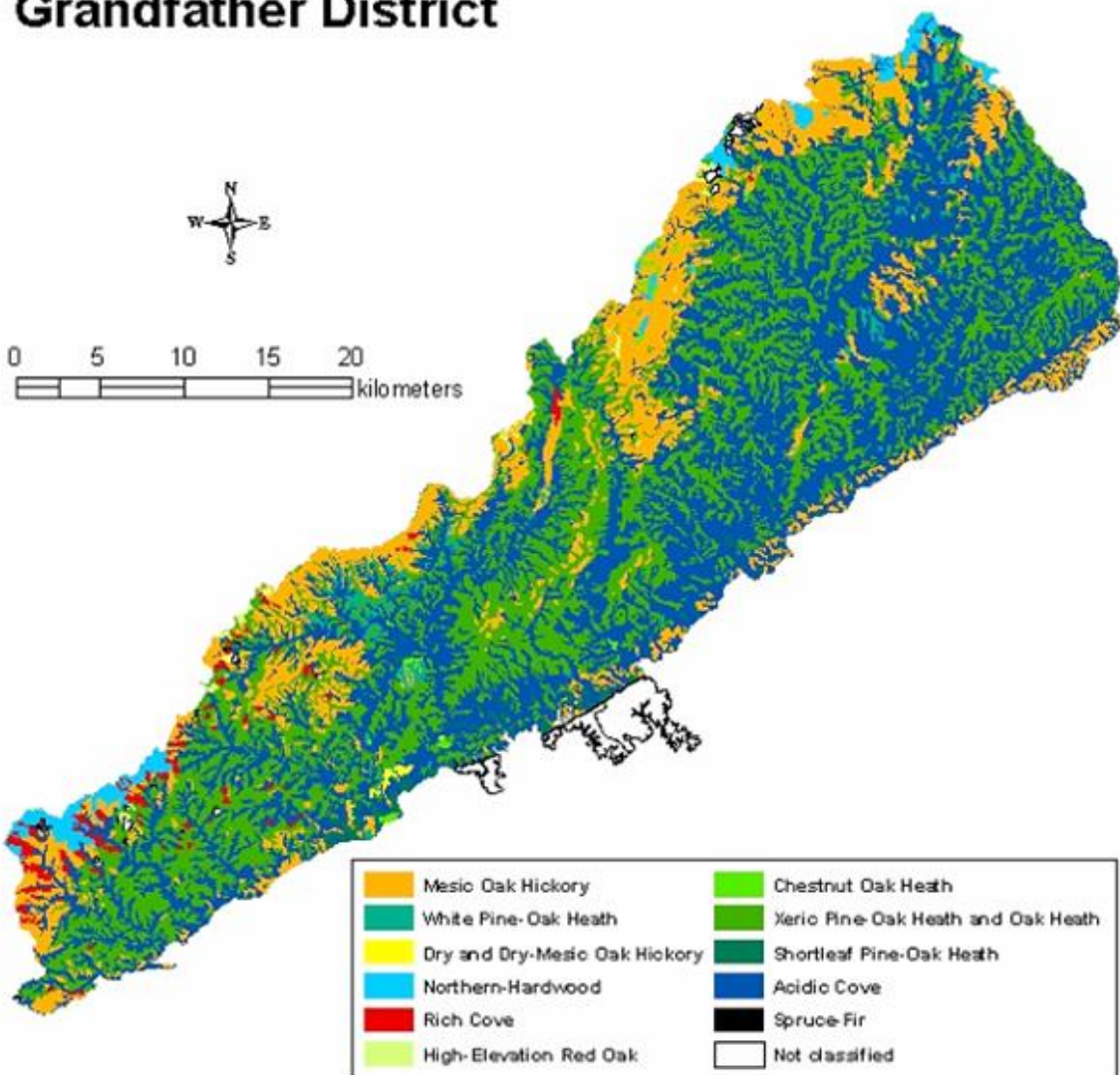




Grandfather District covers over 777 square kilometers, including Avery, Burke, Caldwell, McDowell, and Watauga counties.



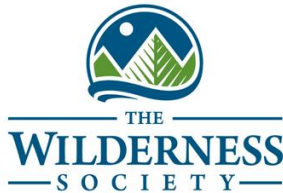
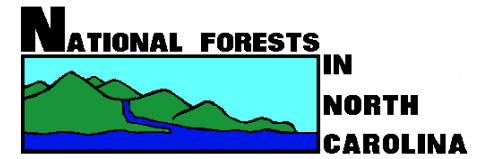
## Landtype Map for Grandfather District



Data Source: USDA Forest Service and National Forests in North Carolina



# PARTNERS





# Grandfather Restoration Project

- **Restore the natural fire regime** to fire adapted vegetation to benefit T&E species, restore native forests and woodlands, benefit early successional wildlife species, and reduce wildfire costs and severity.
- **Control non-native invasive plants** to benefit threatened and endangered species at Linville Gorge and restore riparian vegetation at Wilson Creek Wild and Scenic River.
- **Treat eastern and Carolina hemlock** for hemlock woolly adelgid to maintain genetically and ecologically important hemlock forest in the face of a non-native pest.
- **Use small diameter materials for specialty furniture** and building products such as railings. Use small diameter wood for firewood, pulp, and if a facility is available, bioenergy.
- **Use off-site species as saw timber.** Use white pine from restored plantations as saw timber, pulp, firewood and specialty wood products.



# The Proposal: 2012-2019

Forest Restoration	
46,590 acres	Wildland urban interface (WUI) areas treated with prescribed fire; restoring natural fire regime to areas with fire adapted species
4,613 acres	Silviculture and timber treatments to create early successional habitat, and to restore fire adapted species
Invasive Treatments	
2,825 acres	Highest priority acres treated for non-native invasive species
586 acres	Hemlock woolly adelgid treatments
Fish and Wildlife Habitat Restoration	
4,043 acres	Terrestrial acres restored or enhanced
2 miles	Stream miles restored or enhanced
Watershed, Road, and Trail Restoration	
4 AOPs	Stream crossing structure upgrades to provide for aquatic organism passage (AOP)
109	Watershed function restored from Functioning at Risk to Properly Functioning
717 miles	Road best management practices (BMP) work and maintenance
57.5 miles	Trail maintenance and improvement for water quality and drainage
Social and Economic	
48.1 jobs	Local jobs created as economic benefit of CFLR work





# CFLR and Prescribed Fire

- Goal of 6,000 acres per year
- 5,191 acres in FY12; 5,322 acres in FY13



# Added Capacity through CFLR



- Grandfather RD burns 3x more acres than other RDs in Pisgah NF
- Priority for:
  - Personnel
  - Equipment
  - Helicopter
  - Funding









# Grandfather Rotational Burns

*Goal: to reduce fuels, improve wildlife habitat, and promote fire adapted and fire dependent species*

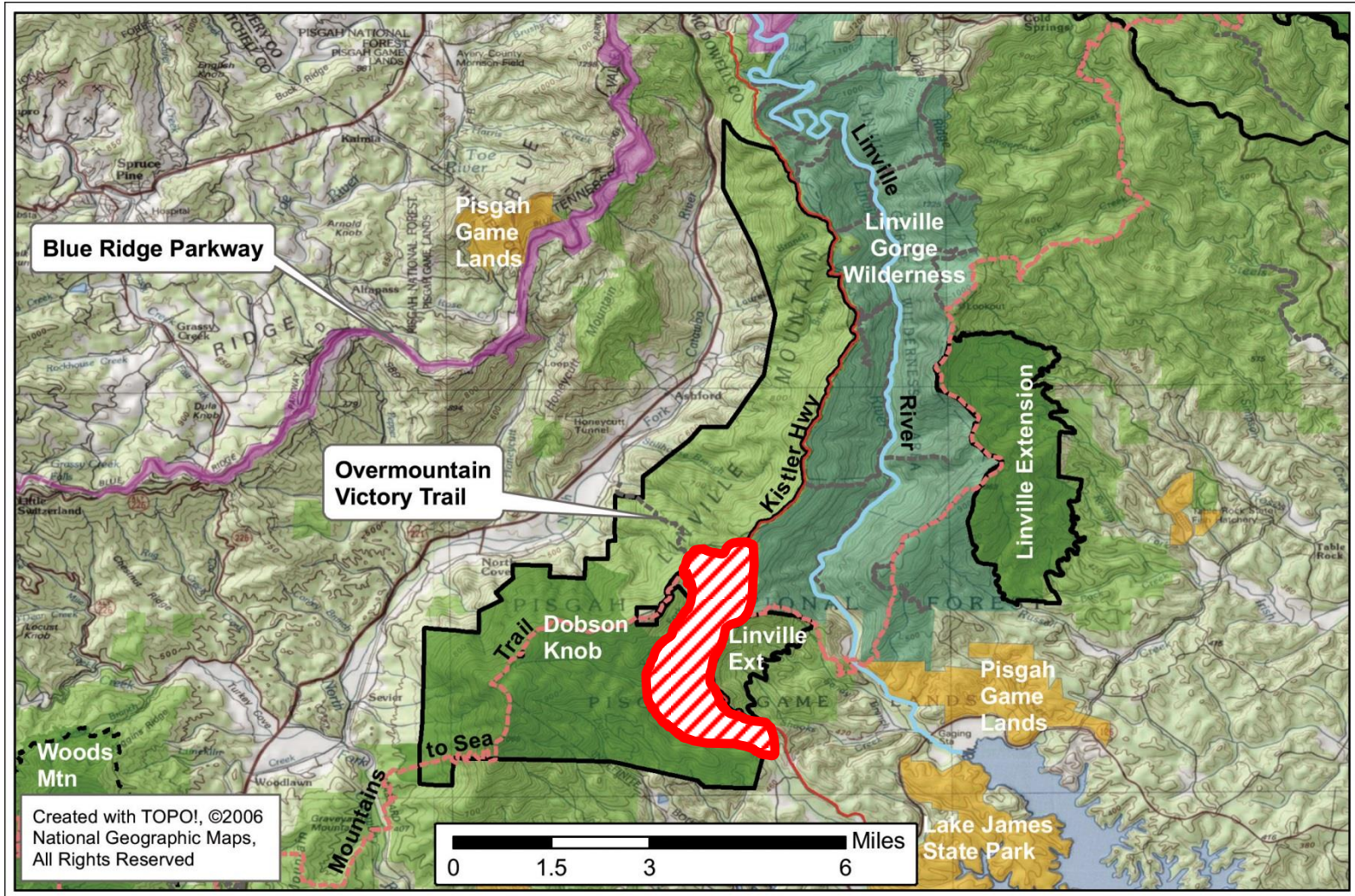
- Prescribed burns on 14,965 acres in 13 burn units
- Lost Bear E & W (4,725 ac), Dobson Knob (2,365 ac), Singecat (2,100), Lake James (1,950 ac), Wilson Creek (1,240), Adams Mtn (340 ac), Boyd Gap (200 ac), Woodruff Ridge (255 ac), and Rock House (560 ac), Bee Branch (235 ac), Bark Camp Ridge (550 ac), Laurel Mtn (445)

Status: Ongoing; currently burning on approx. 3 year rotation as weather permits





# Dobson Knob Rx - 1488 ac





**\$50 OFF ANY PLUMBING REPAIR! DRIP? CLOG? LEAK?**  **SAVE \$N**

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Posted: 5:08 p.m. Thursday, March 27, 2014

## Neighbors concerned over 2,300-acre prescribed burn near homes

 COMMENT (1)

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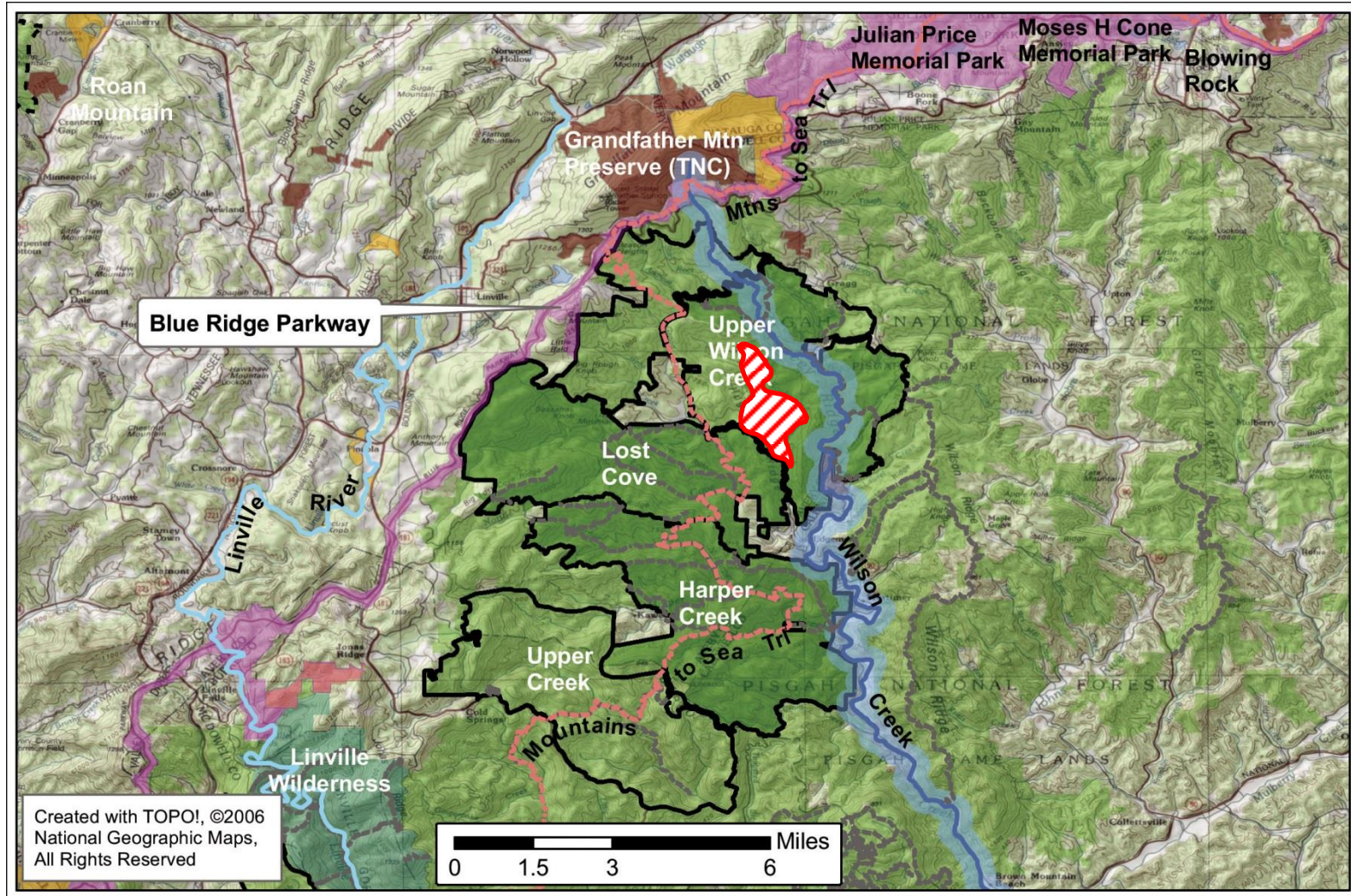








# Rockhouse Creek Rx – 560 ac









# Restoration Burns

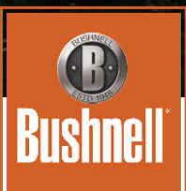
*Goal: reduce fuels, improve wildlife habitat, and promote fire adapted and fire dependent species*

- Prescribed burns on 10,405 acres in 6 burn units
- Roses Mountain (2,887ac), Old Way Ridge (1,688 ac), Steels Creek (4,156 ac), Mills Creek (519 ac), Upper Creek (603 ac), and Crawley Branch (552 ac)

Status: EA under analysis; final draft expected summer 2014; first burns to be conducted fall 2014







Camera NameV 64°F17°C



07-16-2014 10:44:59



# Linville Gorge Rx Fire Proposal

*Goal: Use prescribed fire in LGW to reduce dangerous fuel loads, allow lightning fires to play more of its natural role, and restore fire adapted T&E species, all of which will contribute to restoring and maintaining wilderness character*

- Allow lightning fires to burn under prescribed conditions
- **Use prescribed fire to reduce fuels to an acceptable level to allow lightning fire to play more of its natural role in the LGW**
- Use prescribed fire to restore, recover and maintain natural fire-dependent communities in the LGW when lightning fire does not occur with the frequency or intensity needed

Status: Early stages of project planning





# Save the Linville Gorge!

[SaveLGW - Home](#)

[Time to Save the Gorge](#)

## CALL TO ACTION

Sign the [online petition](#) to stop the US Forest Service plan to burn the Linville Gorge Wilderness.

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## Save the Linville Gorge Wilderness



Photo taken 8/17/12

**March 2011, U.S.F.S. Prescribed Burn Dobson Knob**

### Why You Should Stop the U.S. Forest Service Prescribed Burning of the Linville Gorge

The US Forest Service has advised that the Grandfather Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Grant Program plan that would include extensive "prescribed" burning of the 12,000 acre Linville Gorge Wilderness has been put on hold. Many thanks to all of you that have supported efforts to stop the burning of the Linville Gorge.



# Grandfather Media Response

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A GANNETT COMPANY

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## Silver lining seen in Linville Gorge wildfire

Clarke Morrison, cmorrison@citizen-times.com 7:15 a.m. EDT July 20, 2014



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### MORE STORIES



**Obama: Russia responsible  
for separatists' behavior**

July 21, 2014, 3:09 p.m.



## GRANDFATHER RESTORATION PROJECT

A COLLABORATIVE FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROGRAM

07.24.14

by Lisa Jennings

### JAPANESE WEED A GROWING PROBLEM AT WILSON CREEK

The Grandfather Restoration Project has been highlighted in the news once again! A story detailing the invasive species work being done at Wilson Creek was featured on the front page of the Sunday edition of the Lenior, NC Newspaper, The Lenior News Topic.



#### RECENT POSTS

Japanese weed a growing  
problem at Wilson Creek

Silver Lining Seen in Linville  
Gorge Wildfire

Fuel Treatments and Wildfire  
Behavior: A Preliminary Report from  
the Rim Fire

Upcoming Project: Catawba  
Falls Improvements

Rockhouse Creek Prescribed  
Burn: First ever Growing Season