

Fire Management at Morrow Mountain State Park
Or:
How to Get The NC Forest Service to Set Your Park
on Fire Without Really Trying







Photo: David Hearne

Park Dedication Parade

DEDICATION SCENE



A parade scene at the dedication and official opening of the park.

108

DEDICATION SCENES



113



114



115

Various scenes of parade held on opening day.

European Colonization – Early 1700's



CCC and WPA Projects – Early 1940's

Nationally Significant Archaeological Site



“Naked Mountain”



Morrow Mountain ca. 1920



Morrow Mountain ca. 2015



Lots of Critters



“Snakes. Why did it have to be snakes?”
- Indiana Jones



"There's lots of deer."

Yeah, we get that a lot.



No Shortage of Fire Scars



No Shortage of Wildfires

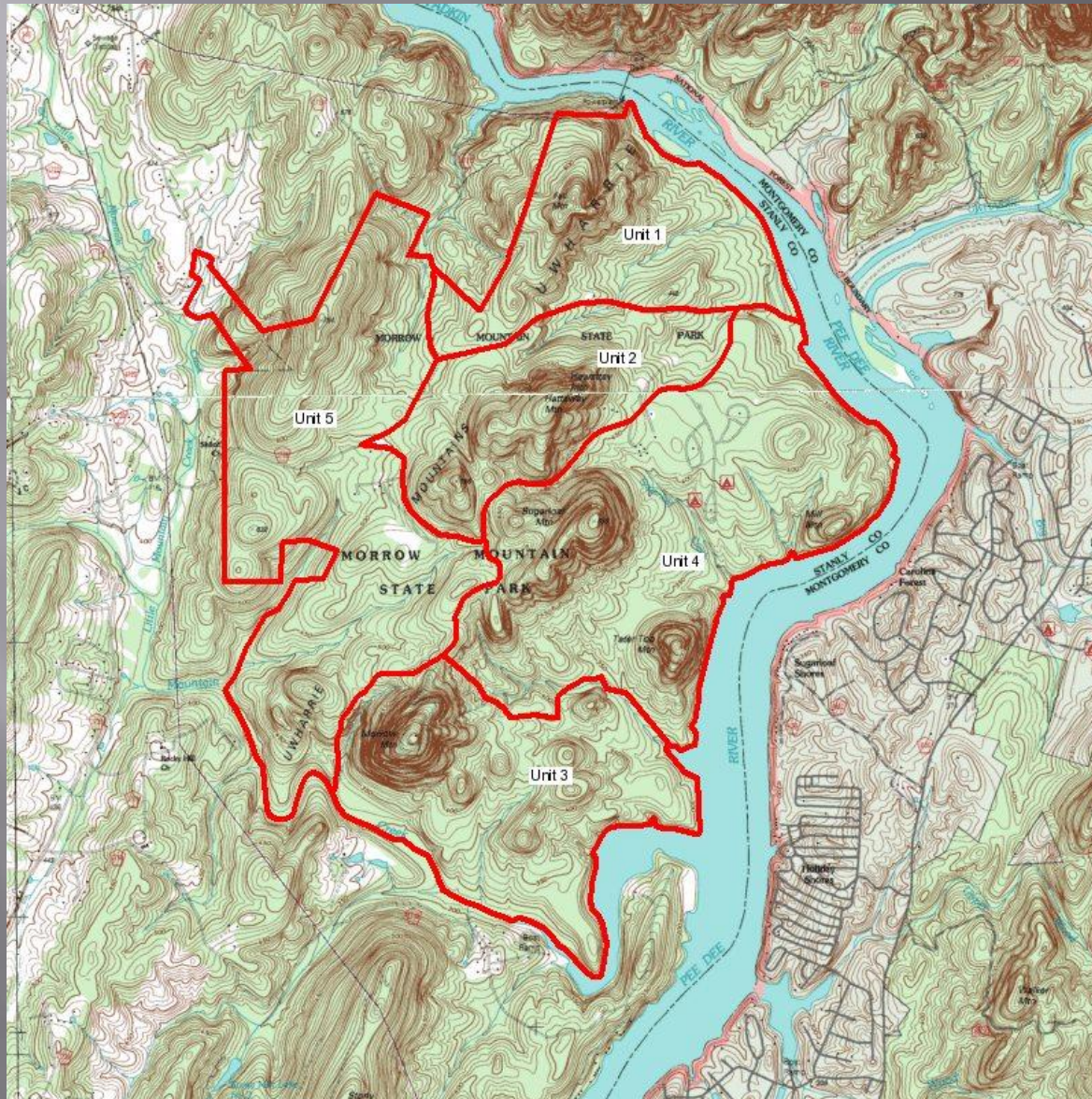




US Forest Service Fire Crew ca. 1923



Morrow Mountain Burn Units ca. 2011





“Helicopter? Way cool!”



January 2012 600 Acre Burn Unit





2014
900+ ac in 24 hours



April 2015

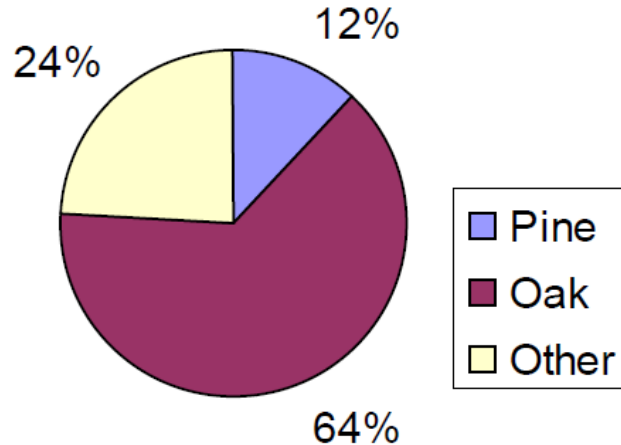
260 Acres

The Future is Smoke-Filled

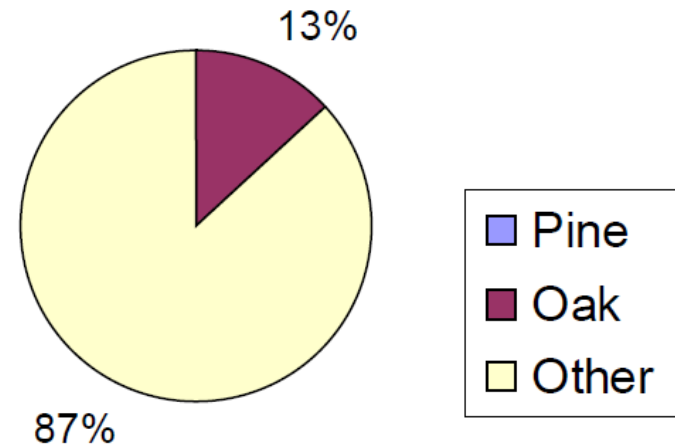


- What is in the understory now is likely the future canopy
 - “The babies don’t look like their parents”

Stems > 10cm DBH



Stems <10cm DBH



Are We Maintaining Landscape Resilience?



Are We Changing Forest Trajectories?

A photograph of a forest fire. In the foreground, a thick layer of dry leaves and brush is engulfed in bright orange and yellow flames. A single, dark tree trunk stands prominently in the center-left, its base surrounded by fire. In the background, more trees are visible, some with flames rising from the ground around them. The overall scene is hazy with smoke, and the lighting is dominated by the warm colors of the fire.

Definitely maybe.

Sort of.