



THE  
**EcoFORESTER**  
**FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER**

**Inside This Issue**

**Landscape Scale Restoration Grant.....2**

**State Action Plan Helps Define Landscape Approach.....3**

**Public Lands Update.....5**

**Partner Spotlight: The Nature Conservancy.....6**

**I Do It For The Trees.....7**

**Challenges for Pacific Northwest Nonprofit.....8**

**Calendar of Events.....11**

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# EcoForesters Selected for Landscape Restoration Funding: First Non-Profit in North Carolina to Receive This Nationwide Grant

EcoForesters has been selected by the US Forest Service to receive funding from the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grant program that funds collaborative, science-based restoration of priority rural forest landscapes in support of State Forest Action Plans. We were proud to be the first nonprofit in North Carolina to access these funds that will help the NC Forest Service (NCFS) reach more rural landowners and improve forest health. This three-year funding will enable EcoForesters and partners to accomplish additional forest restoration on private lands while leveraging projects on adjacent public lands.

Our mission calls us to use education and stewardship to engage landowners in their forests. Many private landowners are unaware of the threats facing their forests or the opportunities for professional help and cost share funding. The goal of our grant is to increase the capacity of the NC Forest Service by hosting workshops, consulting with landowners, writing forest stewardship plans, and implementing ecologically beneficial forest management. In short, this grant will support what we have already learned to be effective while allowing us to easily partner with the conservation com-

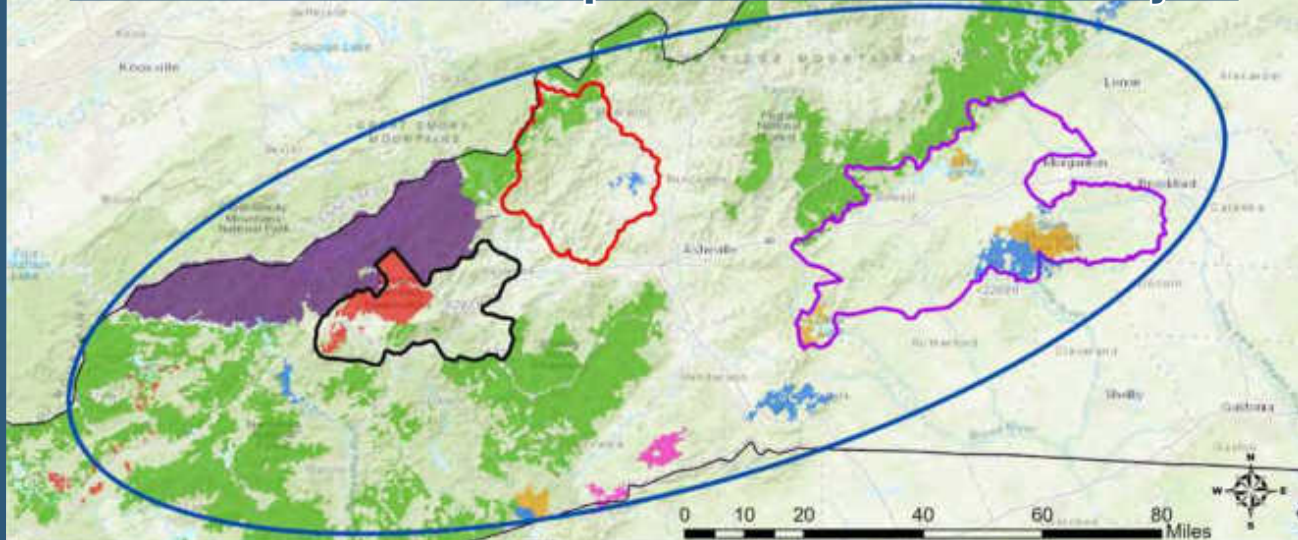
munity to accomplish more.

The focus of our grant will be strengthening ongoing projects and relationships while expanding into additional rural communities. One such planning project is the Forest Development Plan that EcoForesters helped create for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. This funding will help the plan be more easily implemented, allowing us to assist tribal members to tackle invasive plants and regenerate oak in support of their cultural beliefs. They continue to be the standard bearer for the sustainable use of natural resources by considering what will happen seven generations in the future when deciding how to use their natural resources. By partnering with tribal leaders, we will add capacity to their forestry program so these ongoing generational efforts will continue.





In addition to strengthening current projects, we will venture into additional rural communities that are facing the same forestry challenges: access to planning and funding forest stewardship. These two issues continue to rise to the top for every forest landowner, public and private.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## EcoForesters Landscape Scale Restoration Project



### Areas of Impact

-  Impacted Landscape
-  Foothills Project Area
-  Cherokee Project Area
-  Sandy Mush Project Area

-  US Forest Service Land
-  Great Smoky Mtns National Park
-  Game Lands
-  NC State Parks
-  NC State Forest
-  Cherokee Tribal Boundary

*The three landscape focus areas are in close proximity to permanently protected lands. This approach will help strengthen both public and private lands.*

# State Action Plan Helps Define Landscape Approach

By: Andy Tait

As a part of the 2008 Farm Bill, states were tasked with assessing forest health every ten years and developing strategies to conserve, protect, and enhance public benefits from trees and forests. Dozens of government agencies and professionals from the natural resources, outdoor recreation, and community/public spheres partnered to help create the NC Forest Action Plan, which was updated in 2020. This document is the blueprint which all federal and state money for forestry in NC (millions of dollars) must be directed toward achieving. EcoForesters strongly supports this Plan.

The Action Plan incorporates adaptive management, whereby we periodically assess our forests and see if they are moving toward the common goals and desired conditions all stakeholders have agreed on. The state then adjusts stewardship resources as needed to assure that we are providing “the greatest good for the greatest number in the long run”, in the words of Gifford Pinchot (the first American forester and founder of the USFS). This falls right in line with EcoForesters’ mission to conserve and restore our Appalachian Forests; the Plan is a roadmap to do just that in the mountains, as well as the piedmont and coastal plain.

The Plan identifies 5 goals to enhance the incredible diversity and vast natural benefits of our forests, both public and private. These benefits include clean air & water, wildlife habitat, recreation & scenic beauty, carbon sequestration, as well as both timber & non-timber forest products. We are fortunate to have over 3 million acres of forests in western NC; over a million acres of public forest, but more than double that is privately owned. Conserving all these forests requires a co-operative effort by all the natural resource entities in the mountains. EcoForesters is now working with partners such as both the NC and US Forest Services, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and all the local land trusts to strategically improve both state and federal forests and permanently protected land trust properties, as well as continuing to serve the vast number of private forest owners.



*A beautiful view from the crew at a property in the Sandy Mush Project Area.*

The first goal of the Plan is to increase the sustainable management and conservation of forests. Like many private landowners, both state and federal public natural resource agencies – such as the Forest Services, Park Services, and Wildlife Agencies – don’t have the resources to do all the work that is needed on their forests, and public agencies are charged with helping private landowners too. So EcoForesters is doing work on public and private lands while focusing our outreach and education efforts on private forestland owners – only about a quarter of whom have forest management plans to help them assess and be good stewards of their land. Planning and education about the need for forest restoration is the first step toward stewardship.

But we don’t stop there because there are many challenges facing our forests – including non-native invasive species, climate change, and deforestation – and addressing those is the second goal in the NC Forest Action Plan. EcoForesters is making a difference on the ground. On over hundreds of acres of both public and private forests we have controlled non-native invasive plants and done light thinnings to enhance oak regeneration and increase forests’ resilience to climate change all while improving wildlife habitat. In addition, we help private woodland owners access public cost-share assistance, so they have the funds to carry out this much needed work on their lands.

Other goals from the NC Forest Action Plan which EcoForesters supports include promoting the ecologically beneficial use of controlled prescribed burns in woodlands and ensuring that water quality is enhanced and never compromised. We are working to develop partnerships with organizations conducting prescribed burns that benefit forest health and human safety. EcoForesters always engages the NC Forest Service’s expertise and authority to ensure that all best management practices in regard to water quality are met or exceeded on any project we are involved with.

Through positive impact forest management, we can enhance and expand our forests and their social, environmental, and economic benefits for all. Please join us in supporting action to enhance our forests either by being a good active steward of your woodland or helping us conserve and restore more forests.

**To read more about the NC Forest Action Plan visit [www.ncforestactionplan.com](http://www.ncforestactionplan.com)**

# ECOFORESTERS LANDSCAPE APPROACH

The threats facing Appalachian forests are not bound by property lines. One landowner's efforts can be made more difficult if their neighbor chooses to do nothing. And while private landowners are the majority forestland owner (~70%), forests include lands managed by the USFS, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the National Park Service, local land trusts, and the NCFS. This patchwork of forests is why a landscape approach is necessary to make the greatest impact and reach the most people. Each landowner base has different needs and capabilities, so EcoForesters' efforts are intentionally tailored to address those needs.

## PRIVATE LANDOWNERS

We reach this diverse group of people through direct outreach and landowner workshops. Landowners value their forests for different reasons and it's important that any management planning lifts up and strengthens those values.

### SUPPORTED BY:

Free landowner workshops, training videos, planning & implementation

### PROJECT EXAMPLE:

Sandy Mush Forest Restoration Project

## LAND TRUSTS

Conservation lands play a vital role in the protection of special places and endangered species. The responsibility to steward this growing land base is immense and must be supported through funding and professional expertise.

### SUPPORTED BY:

Funding, planning, and restoration expertise

### PROJECT EXAMPLE:

Creation of the FOREST Fund

## USFS & NCFS

Government agencies oversee our public lands, but are not given the proper resources to do so. As threats to forest health increase with a changing climate and population pressures, nonprofits must fill the gap created by funding shortages.

### SUPPORTED BY:

Participation in USFS planning process, restoration of public lands

### PROJECT EXAMPLE:

Dupont & Headwaters state forest restoration in partnership with TNC

## EASTERN BAND OF CHEROKEE INDIANS

As one of our most important partners, the Eastern Band is the forerunner in ecological forestry. The historical lack of support from the Federal government has created a shortage of capacity and professional expertise to assist the Cherokee nation.

### SUPPORTED BY:

Forest management and development planning for the 50,000+ acres Qualla Boundary

### PROJECT EXAMPLE:

Landscape Scale Restoration project

### ***(Continued from page 2)***

Leveraging state agency efforts by the NCFS and NC Extension will help build trust with landowners while increasing access to forestry professionals. Both agencies are stymied by shrinking staffs and this project will bring additional experience and resources that landowners need. If we expect to make a landscape level difference, this landowner base that makes up 70% of the region's forests must be helped.

This multi-year funding commitment is a first for EcoForesters and will allow for us to more easily fund our long term strategic planning goals and objectives. The uncertainty nonprofits face around funding year after year impacts planning efforts and can make it more difficult to scale up outreach programming. We have already begun outlining what the 3+ year initiative will look like and we are excited about the future, but this funding will not be the silver bullet to stopping forest threats.

Because this is federal funding, a 1:1 match of non-federal funds is required to meet the total cost of the project. This three-year award is for \$286,495 which will require EcoForesters to provide approximately \$100,000/

year in cash or in-kind matching funds. This is a great opportunity for us to leverage ongoing project funding, but to also solicit funding from our donors in support of this initiative. We are constantly looking for ways to double our impact. The FOREST Fund created by EcoForesters provides match funding to Land Trusts for ongoing forest restoration and planning. Our Sandy Mush Forest Restoration project helps share the cost of planning and non-native invasive species control on conservation and private lands. We have determined that bringing funding to the table is the best way to keep forests healthy for future generations. This is where our donors and supporters can make the biggest impact.

There is so much information to be excited about in this edition of the EcoForester. If you are a landowner, reach out and let us know how we can help you take your next step. If you are a donor, consider supporting one of the projects highlighted in the newsletter. And if you are a supporter of ecological forestry, find solace in knowing that many groups are achieving ecologically minded forestry on a landscape scale. Onward!

# PUBLIC LANDS UPDATE: Where Do We Go From Here?

By: Lang Hornthal

If you read the news, you probably think that the US Forest Service's management plan for the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forests is a give away to timber interests and ignores ecological restoration. Collaboration does not sell newspapers and unfortunately there is little interest in highlighting the approximately 85% of things that everyone agrees on. Our forests are out of whack and past management and use has created some diverse problems for the government agency in charge of finding answers. As someone sitting at the table for over 8 years, I don't envy their position.

From the beginning, groups have acknowledged the shift happening on public lands. Once used as reserves for industry, there has been more focus on how the public uses the lands recreationally. When the last plan was written, mountain bikes were not mentioned because there was not the demand that we see today. The last two years of pandemic driven outdoor recreation put a fine point on the fact people want access to trails and scenic beauty. The forest products industry has also changed since the last plan and many mills that supported rural communities have closed.

There is widespread agreement that our forests have been degraded, making them more susceptible to damage caused by drought, flood, and invasive species. Certain species like white pine were out of place and tulip poplar was overly present across the landscape, crowding out oaks and using more water. The current forest is also even aged due to past clear cutting and in need of both new and older ecosystems. Partners agree that we can ecologically restore degraded forests while protecting rare habitats.

Over 8 years there was back and forth between collaborative groups and the USFS about ways to manage the over 1.1 million acres of public lands. Of those acres, about 10% (100,000 acres) were in dispute about how to manage them and the types of activities that should be allowed there. Harvesting timber seems to always be a contentious topic, but groups agreed that using timber harvests as a vehicle for forest restoration and to support rural communities made sense. Support for wilderness, ecological interest areas, expanded recreation opportunities, and both young and old forest types meant making sacrifices and not everyone getting everything they felt was important. But this is a solid plan, and better than what you're reading about in the newspaper.

So what now? The USFS has listened to three days of objections, seeking solutions that can resolve conflict and add tweaks to a final management plan. In the meantime, groups are meeting with the Forest Service to plan projects and look for opportunities to work together. I have attended several meetings where voices that are often portrayed in conflict were instead in agreement about how to work together and what needed to happen in the forest. It's not easy for a large government agency to turn on a dime, but staff sense the urgency to work together and are showing a willingness to be nimble and try new things. EcoForesters is helping and finding ways to lend professional assistance, expertise, and in some cases funding for the management of our public lands. Stay tuned for the final decision and ways to stay involved with the stewardship of these important forests.



*Special places in the Pisgah and Nantahala forests need to be protected and restored when needed.*



*Almost 40 agency and conservation professionals met at the Pink Beds to discuss potential forestry projects on the Pisgah National Forest.*

## Oak Regeneration Necessary to Prepare Forests for Changing Climate

By: **Greg Cooper** *Southern Blue Ridge Conservation Forester, TNC*

Over the past year, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has worked with EcoForesters to begin work to transform Southern Appalachian Forests to be more resilient to the warming climate. In the mountains, our oak forests are in danger of being replaced by a wave of fast-growing, water-loving tree species in a process known as mesophication. If this were to play out, our forests would lose a keystone group of species that supports tremendous biodiversity and are resilient to our warming climate. Oaks are more efficient in their water use and are better at sequestering carbon at higher temperatures than mesic species such as tulip poplars and red maples. To ensure that our forests will continue to be oak forests in the future TNC is employing practices to help young oaks get a leg up on the mesic competition so that when the older oak canopy begins to age out, those mature trees will be replaced by vigorous oaks in the understory. TNC has been a leader in restoring fire to the mountain forests that depend on them using controlled burns across thousands of acres. These burns have had a positive impact by giving oaks a competitive advantage to grow from acorns but these seedlings are still shaded out by mesic trees in the midstory that have grown in the absence of fire corresponding with fire suppression policies in the early 1900's.

Our forests have been shaped by millennia of human influence, first with indigenous populations that would set fire to the forest to create optimal conditions for hunting and food gathering and then later as European settlers displaced the native populations, they too burned the forest to open them up for grazing and cut small trees for firewood and farming. It wasn't until the turn of the 20th century that land managers changed the paradigm



*A forest after repeated controlled burns and silvicultural thinning resulting in a restored shortleaf pine and oak open woodland with a rich herbaceous layer. Photo Credit: Adam Warwick*

of disturbance on the landscape and took fire off the landscape so that forest management was focused on wood production. After a hundred years of these production focused practices our forests have generally become uniformly aged and denser as mesic species have infiltrated the midstory resulting in a forest that is vulnerable to a changing climate. To reverse this century of mesophication TNC recognizes the need to employ new methods to get oaks from seedlings to the midstory. These methods include practices such as midstory reductions that target trees such as yellow poplars and maples that are growing under oak canopies and taking light away from the seedlings that will eventually replace the mature trees.

The Wildlife Conservation Society has awarded TNC a grant through its Climate Adaptation Fund which was established through funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. With support from these funds, TNC has begun this oak-promoting work on hundreds of acres of forest that include our own Silver Run Preserve near Cashiers, NC and, with the help of EcoForesters, on partner lands that include the immensely popular Dupont State Recreational Forest and the new Headwater's State Forest. EcoForesters crews have traversed the forest selecting individual midstory trees less than 10 inches in diameter to girdle and knock-back allowing for more light to get to the forest floor and thus allowing oaks to take their place. This work is time intensive, and it takes intimate knowledge of our southern Appalachian forests, but the reward will be an oak forest that will persist as an oak forest into a warming future. With the help of organizations like EcoForesters, over the course of the next few years TNC will guide the restoration of thousands of acres of forestland through treatments that promote oak, hickory, and southern yellow pine that include midstory reductions and controlled burns.



*TNC Crew conducting a controlled burn at TNC's Silver Run Preserve in April 2022. Photo Credit: Matt Vaughan (TNC Burn Crew Member)*

# I Do It For The Trees

By: Linda Tatsapaugh Board President

I love a good tree. I love to hike among them, to lounge under one on a hot day, to climb into their lofty branches, to stare at their quiet, powerful presence – and to utilize them in building shelter, furniture, and fires. Trees are organisms of beauty and utility, and I am dedicated to ensuring we have a sustainable approach to them as a resource. Trees are also just the most obvious of many elements of a healthy forest. In this time of climate crisis, healthy forests are critical to the health of our planet and ourselves.

For all of these reasons, I enthusiastically joined the board of EcoForesters four years ago, and have now accepted the role of board president. EcoForesters' unique approach of balancing conservation with thoughtful use of resources appeals to the former landowner in me. While I also support the preservation of wild public lands, much of our forest, especially in NC, is privately-owned. Owners usually want to take care of their land, but don't always know how. EcoForesters dispels the myth that the best approach is hands-off, and that timber harvesting is bad. With a comprehensive professional plan, landowners can have their cake and eat it too, to an extent. It's sometimes hard to find that in the conservation world.

I cannot in any way step into the shoes of the first – and only other – president of EcoForesters. Rob Lamb was the conceiver and founder of EcoForesters. He brought his great idea to fruition, from nothing to a successful and sought-after enterprise of 18 full-time staff that is writing management plans, removing invasives, and educating the wider community about sustainable forestry. Through Rob's huge and persistent efforts, EcoForesters thrives like its forests. Rob is fortunately still on the board, and I look forward to learning from him, as well as Lang and Andy and the rest of the team, as I do my part to keep us moving forward in our pursuit of healthy forests across the state and beyond. Join me in showing appreciation to Rob and the crew through a donation – the more resources we have, the more forests we can save.



*Linda and dog Pepper enjoying a hike among the trees!*

## Why Are You Reading This Newsletter?

I'd like to think it is because you get it. Healthy forests mean clean water and air, abundant wildlife, and a quality of life unlike any other ecosystem. Perhaps it's because you have the responsibility (joy?) of managing your family's land and find this information helpful in your quest to be a good steward. Or, you just have a conservation-focused mindset and are eager to learn how you can make a difference during challenging times. Whatever the reason, we are glad you read and share our newsletter with others.

The guiding principles for our organization and this communication tool come from our strategic plan, updated last year. Our Board of Directors and staff met for almost a year to identify where our impact is most effective and what we need to accomplish our mission. We identified where staffing was needed to properly support one another and where we could increase programming that would make the biggest difference. In support of this planning, we have created a second restoration crew, moved into a larger office (finally!), and established ongoing committees that are moving all strategic planning goals forward.

The planning goal that remains at the top of our list is fundraising. Like landowners, without proper funding we simply cannot do the work. This includes expanding our impact but also paying our staff a competitive living wage. Your ongoing support for EcoForesters means we focus on impact and helping landowners. Please consider a gift in support of healthy forests that will support our planning and future forests.

# Past Use Defines Current Challenges for Pacific Northwest Nonprofit

By: Seth Zuckerman *Director of Northwest Natural Resource Group*

What are forests for? For a long time in the Pacific Northwest, the answer was simple: growing timber and feeding the mills to build the local economy and homes all over the country.

But it turns out that approach had some undesirable side effects on streams and wildlife, as our industrial capacity to clear and reshape the land exceeded our understanding of the ecosystem processes we were disrupting along the way. Those unintended consequences worsened after vertically integrated wood products companies sold most of their land to REITs (real estate investment trusts), which prioritized quick returns on investment and shortened harvest rotations (the time between clearcutting).

Consider the impacts on the forest landscape since mechanized logging arrived over a century ago. The landscape had comprised patches of forest of many ages, ranging from seedlings to ancient cathedral-like groves, with habitat for different species that depend on each seral stage. Now the industrial forest as seen from space looks like a moth-eaten carpet, with none of the trees older than about 40 years. Other forests provide continuous cover, but that even carpet of green often conceals the ecological damage done by previous management.

At Northwest Natural Resource Group, a Seattle-based nonprofit founded in 1992, we help landowners restore the ecological functions of their forestland, so that they can reap a sustainable harvest of timber while also improving wildlife habitat, water quality, carbon storage, and their land's value for recreation. In almost all cases, these lands were previously logged with less care for values that don't show up on financial balance sheets.



*Cutting the marked trees will help reduce fuel loads and promote the growth of desired tree species.*

In practice, this means creating more snags, leaving more wood on the forest floor, thinning dense stands, and restoring patchiness where previous management had made each stand homogeneous. As a stand reaches merchantable size, it will be thinned instead of being clearcut, allowing it to develop a more complex habitat that can support a broader array of wildlife.

But as we use these tools of forest and landscape restoration, we realize that we cannot simply think in terms of recovering a status quo ante that approximates what the forest was like before widespread industrial harvest. The climate has already begun to shift under the burden of excess carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses in the air. With that realization comes the need for forest stewards to think about how to make the forest resilient to these new conditions.

In our region, that means preparing forests for hotter, drier summers, when the risk of severe wildfires will be higher and recur more often. Climate resilience forestry involves thinning the forest to lower densities than we might previously have chosen, so that the available moisture doesn't have to support as many trees. It means re-thinking which of our native species will grow on a given site, avoiding water-hogging species on droughty, gravelly soils. We are even beginning to test techniques of "assisted migration," in which we introduce some seedlings with more southerly or lower-elevation genetics into our reforestation projects.

Forestry is necessarily a pursuit that unfolds over generations, in which you don't get to see the results until decades have passed. To properly tune our techniques to the changing climate, we will have to pay close attention at much closer intervals than before, to test our theories about the kinds of stewardship that will promote the resilient landscapes we strive for.



*As part of the 2018 conference on forests and climate, folks got the opportunity to tour a more mature forest.*

For more information go to, [www.nnrg.org](http://www.nnrg.org)



# Summer in WNC Provides Rewarding Work for EcoForesters Restoration Crew

By: Pat Barcas

Wild hogs, thunderstorms, angry yellowjackets, and a whole lot of kudzu. Working outside all summer brings its perils, but it also brings endless connection to nature and the world growing around us. Welcome to the EcoForesters restoration crew, a key piece in the puzzle that allows EcoForesters to complete the mission of conservation and restoration.

Each weekday, the restoration crew meets at the EcoForesters office in the morning and takes one or two work trucks to a forest or riparian site that is generally within an hour's drive radius of Asheville. The trucks are loaded up with the specific gear needed for the job, and once at the site, the crew of generally 5-10 restoration technicians gear up and fan out in a grid, using digital maps to locate and eliminate invasive species. Special care is taken to honor any special requests by the client, with the overall goal being improving the health of the forest.

The crew is prepped with site information each week via email by Forest Stewardship Director Krishun Karau, who runs the show, along with two crew leaders. She attaches digital maps with emphasis points, informs them on what invasives to look for, the terrain of the property, and provides details such as sun exposure. Safety is paramount.

As the busy summer draws to a close, EcoForesters has been reflecting on several new projects that have been accomplished. The organization has also been steadily increasing the restoration crew as it expands, and has moved into a new office in east Asheville.

One brand new project expansion is trail construction. Karau, an accomplished trail builder, explains that the crew has started trail building to offer another service for landowners in the area. "The crew has built more than a mile and a half of new trail construction on one property so far. We're using trail tools to bench into the side of the hill, clear new tread, clear the trail corridor, build grade reversals and dips, drainages, and cribbing to support the edge of the trail," she said. "By creating trails, we are encouraging people to recreate in the forest. It's an easier way for folks to get out into the woods and enjoy their forested property."

Karau said the work performed is in a sustainable way: it's all hand built with no heavy machinery, no large trees are removed, and the trail is built to fit the contours of the landscape, using interesting trees and boulders as positive points of interest.

In terms of non-native invasive species removal, summer is absolutely the busiest time. Karau said it's growing season, and the plants are there on full display, ensuring that summer is when



*You never know what you'll find in the woods! A crew member was lucky enough to find a nest of turkey eggs.*



*The EcoForesters crew is having a great time as it expands from invasive species removal to trail building too.*

EcoForesters gets the most phone calls. But while invasive species removal provides the bulk of the restoration crew's work, this summer they also focused on forest stand improvement at DuPont and Headwaters State Forests.

"We are getting rid of some components of the thick mountain laurel and rhododendron, and also removing a certain middle size class of some very common native trees: sourwoods, maples, yellow poplar, sweet birch, and white pines," said Karau. With natural forest fires no longer occurring, these native trees grow pretty quickly and outcompete the oaks and hickories, upsetting the natural order of things, Karau explains. After killing these midstory trees and large rhododendrons, the dead wood will burn more readily during a controlled fire in the future, further opening up gaps for oaks and hickories to grow.

Now is the time to call or email to schedule invasive control on your property next summer. Multiflora Rose leaves out in March- it's a great time to kill it as it's easy to see then and collateral damage is minimal. Kudzu is present in May, and it's best to remove it then, as well as multiple times throughout the growing season.



*A great spot to enjoy lunch among the boulders and the trees!*

## New Office

We are excited to announce that after 9 months of working from home, we have finally found a new office space! It was well worth the wait, and we found a great spot with an office and warehouse in East Asheville, right by Highland Brewing Company! Our new address is 38 Old Charlotte Highway. It is great to have everybody all together in person again!



## Community Based Group Assists Landowners With Controlled Burning

The Southern Blue Ridge Prescribed Burn Association (SBR-PBA) seeks to educate and support landowners throughout Western North Carolina to implement safe and effective prescribed fires on private lands in the Southern Blue Ridge region of North Carolina. Controlled burning discourages fire-intolerant and shade-tolerant trees (like maples, birches, American beech, etc) that contribute to the mesophication of fire-adapted communities. Including fire as a management tool opens up the understory and prepares the seedbed to allow for more desirable oaks and other advanced tree regeneration, and a better-developed herb layer. To learn more or to get involved, visit [www.southernblueridgepba.org](http://www.southernblueridgepba.org)



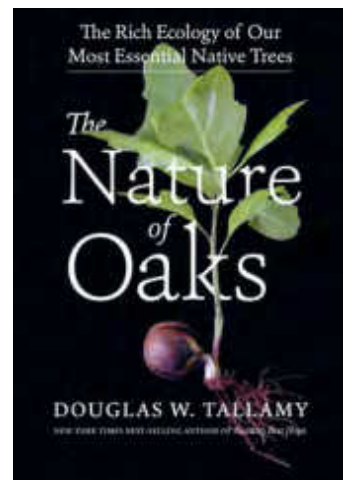
## Social Media Update

Willow Ogburn recently joined the EcoForesters team as the new Social Media and Outreach Assistant! She is a graduate of UNC Asheville with a B.S. in Biology and is particularly passionate about conservation and evolutionary biology. During her time at UNCA, she worked as a Social Media Coordinator for a marine community science project, and as a Writing Consultant for students and community members. Her role with EcoForesters will focus on expanding our social media presence on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. You can find us on each of these platforms as @ecoforesters. Make sure to follow us to keep up-to-date on events and projects!



## Book Recommendation: The Nature of Oaks

Have you ever thought about migrating songbirds and how hungry they must be when they come through Appalachian communities? Each year they feast on insects as they make their way back home. Over 500 insect species utilize oak trees as their habitat, placing even more importance on oak regeneration. *The Nature of Oaks* is a fascinating dive into what is happening in the trees and plants around us and the complexities involved with survival in nature. This book is not a downer, but instead an exciting journey into the author's appreciation for the tiniest of critters and their relationship with the natural world. EcoForesters' message of active stewardship and ecological balance is felt throughout the book and we encourage you to take a look.



# Calendar of Events

**14**  
OCTOBER

## EQUIP Deadline

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers and non-industrial forest managers. Applications will be accepted for all eligible lands including cropland and hayland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland, other farm or ranch lands, and environmentally sensitive areas.

**15**  
OCTOBER

## EcoForesters Workshop

Join EcoForesters, Madison County Extension, North Carolina Forest Service, Mountain Valleys RC&D, and NRCS and learn about opportunities to steward your forest! Perfect for any landowner that wants to take the next steps towards restoring and preserving their family forest!

For more information or to register go to: [www.sandymushforestry.org/events](http://www.sandymushforestry.org/events)

**01**  
NOVEMBER

## Baily Mountain Learn and Burn

Southern Blue Ridge Prescribed Burn Association is hosting a learn and burn event, with a burn window between November 1-19, at 889 Forest St., Mars Hill, NC 28754. Contact Jen Haas for more information.

[jen.haas@mountainvalleysrcd.org](mailto:jen.haas@mountainvalleysrcd.org)

**03**  
NOVEMBER

## EcoForesters Annual Event

Come join EcoForesters and our partners for an end of the year celebration! Celebrate the EcoForesters award winners and hear about what's happening in our forests. Location to be determined.

**03**  
DECEMBER

## Oak Hill Learn and Burn

Join Foothills Conservancy, Carolina Land-and-Lakes RC&D, The Nature Conservancy, Forest Stewards Guild, and NC Forest Service to learn about the benefits of prescribed fire. Scheduled on December 3rd, with a backup date of December 10th.

To register, go to: [www.foreststewardsguild.org/events](http://www.foreststewardsguild.org/events)

**31**  
DECEMBER

## Present Use Value (PUV) Deadline

This county wide program can help reduce the property tax burden for landowners with 20 acres or more of forestland. The program requires a forest management plan be completed by the end of year deadline. Call us for more information.



## Our Mission

*EcoForesters is a 501(c)(3) non-profit professional forestry organization dedicated to conserving and restoring our Appalachian forests through education and stewardship.*

**Please contact us  
with any questions  
about your forest or  
our mission!**

## How To Reach Us

**Mail:** PO Box 16007

Asheville, NC 28816

**Email:** [info@ecoforesters.org](mailto:info@ecoforesters.org)

**Phone:** 828-484-6842

**Website:** [www.ecoforesters.org](http://www.ecoforesters.org)

**Follow us on Facebook,  
Twitter, and Instagram!**



**@ecoforesters**

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## What Does Your Donation Support?

How do you reach the thousands of landowners that make up the largest segment of Appalachian forestland owners in a meaningful way? This question gets to the heart of how we achieve our mission to conserve and restore forests. Through community partnerships and innovation, EcoForesters is dedicated to effective landowner engagement that fosters a stewardship focused land ethic. Many landowners want to do right by their forest but just need help getting started. Our adaptive practices are made possible through grant funding and individuals like you. Please consider a donation and join the growing number of EcoForesters.

**To Make Your Tax Deductible  
Donation, Go To:  
[www.ecoforesters.org](http://www.ecoforesters.org)**

*EcoForesters also accepts donations of land and asks you to consider us in your legacy planning.*