National Fire Plan

Research in Northeastern Hardwood Forests

The National Fire Plan includes support for fire related research, to enable the agency to incorporate new scientific knowledge in management programs. The research addresses fire behavior, impacts of fuel reduction treatments, and a range of related topics.

The research shown here incorporates prescribed fires to assess the role of a suspected historical fire regime in shaping species composition in mixed mesophytic forests. The scientists are also recording fire behavior, including temperature at various heights as the flaming front passes a point. These data are being compared to predictions made by BEHAVE, a fire modeling system developed by the Forest Service.

In the photograph to the right, a ground fire burns primarily leaf litter. The photograph to the left illustrates temperature tags set at several heights and a tree with height increments used for visually estimating flame height. Conducted by the Northeastern Research Station, in conjunction with the University of Pittsburgh and the Monongahela National Forest, the research is designed to improve fire prediction capabilities for eastern forest conditions. These photos were taken in the spring of 2001.

For More information: www.fs.fed.us/ne/parsons

For additional information on the National Fire Plan, visit www.fireplan.gov