Abstract

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On the borders of Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee and Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina lie the balds of Carver’s Gap - a rare and unique ecosystem subtype that hosts high floral and faunal diversity. These balds are experiencing woody encroachment from the surrounding forest, that is threatening alteration from a grass bald to a heath bald. In 2020, a survey of the balds of Carver’s gap was conducted following 30 years of mowing management. In February of 2022, a low-intensity ground fire burned approximately 9.7 hectares of area on Round bald. This study examined the vegetation composition post fire and one year post fire at the plot level to determine density of *Rubus* species on the bald. Two soil seed bank samples were taken in July of 2022 and January of 2023, the first underwent seedling emergence trial, while the latter will undergo seedling emergence and seed extraction trials. Preliminary analysis of plot level data on *Rubus* and Grass, indicates that a greater percentage of *Rubus* and Grass were burned and a lesser amount were unburned.