August 16, 2010

Resource Management Working Group Meeting Summary

Mark Bost reviewed the notes from the last meeting in brief. The Resource Management Working Group contact information was reviewed and updated.

Pete Campbell discussed the upcoming 10 year celebration for the Sandhills Conservation Partnership which is scheduled for Friday September 10th and Saturday September 11th. Assistant District Forester Roger Hart (D-6) and Assistant District Forester Bill DeMay (D-3) will coordinate availability of firefighting equipment to be available from DFR. Nature Conservancy will have equipment and personnel available also. Information on available equipment should be sent to Mike Morris and Scott Hartley by Sept 27th (RSVP date). The celebration on the 10th will be held at the "Calloway Tract" in Hoke County and Mike Norris will be the contact person. Festivities on the 11th will be held at Weymouth Woods State Park and Scott Hartley will be the contact person.

There is a need for good digital photographs of work being done by the partnership for a display at this celebration, which should be emailed to brady.beck@ncwildlife.org.

The group collaboratively decided to conduct a LO education meeting with a focus on the Sandhills Region. The meeting will be held at Weymouth Woods State Park on Saturday January 22nd. Complete details were not discussed but proposed speakers include:

USFWS discussing the Red Cockated Woodpecker and other USFWS updates

Nature Conservance discussing their land holdings and management strategies

NC Division of Forest Resources discussing services and cost share assistance opportunities (and possibly results of recent forest assessment)

Private LO and/or Consulting Forester Jim Grey discussing a local project

NC Wildlife Resources Commission employee discussing management on the game lands and NCWRC assistance for private LO's

Other topics as appropriate and field tour in afternoon to see work being done locally

Kerry Brust discussed a recent lightning strike and wildfire that occurred on Moss Foundation Land in a RCW nesting cluster. Better coordination is needed between partnership members and NCDFR to help minimize damage to nesting cavities. Kerry will attempt to provide DFR with maps of the known cavity trees, and DFR will make attempts to notify her of wildfires that occur on those sites. Kerry also coordinated with ADF's Hart and DeMay about attending upcoming District meetings to discuss the woodpecker's nesting sites and the basic biology and ecology of the endangered species (Woodpecker 101). Most of the meeting attendees went out and looked at the Moss Foundation site in the afternoon and met with Moss Foundation employees on site.

Mark Bost discussed a recent "Herbaceous Plant ID" class that was held at Jordan Lake Educational State Forest. Interest in having similar training in the Sandhills area was discussed to help educate partnership members in this topic. It was suggested that Tracy Rush to assist with this training. A date was not finalized for this endeavor and with September approaching it may be difficult to schedule something this season. Training is scheduled in Rocky Mount for September 21st and any interested members can attend (notify Mark Bost if interested). Laura Fogo with USFWS and Nell Allen with NC Zoo will be instructors for the training in Rocky Mount.

The next SCCP Resource Management Working group meeting will be held on Tuesday October 26th at 9AM at Weymouth Woods State Park library. This meeting will focus on preparation for the LO meeting in January.