

## September 20, 2006 Resource Management Work Group Minutes

The Resource Management Work Group (RMWG) met on September 20, 2006 at the Conservation Center of the Sandhills with the following persons present: Terry Myers, Jessie Schillaci, Deanna Noble, Mike Norris, A.B. Crawford, Pete Campbell, Jim Gray, Dan Ryan, Jen Maynard, Scott Hartley, Julian Johnson, Joe Stancar, Jesse Wimberley, and Susan Miller.

- ❖ Pete Campbell gave the group an update on the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership's recent activities. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be Wednesday, September 27, 2006 at 1 pm.
- ❖ Status updates were provided for the 3 subcommittees of the RMWG that were created as part of the RMWG's Strategic Plan:
  - Sandhills Prescribed Fire Council: The fire council met on September 13, 2006 and the majority of the meeting was spent discussing the draft communications plan that the State Fire Council created and reviewing what elements apply to the Sandhills Prescribed Fire Council. Many of the basic outreach elements of the state plan can be used by the RMWG to address **non-fire** management issues. The State Fire Council will have its inaugural meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> in Asheboro.
  - Land Manager's Working Group: This group has not met recently and we discussed how to get this group re-energized. All agreed that the field tours have been very beneficial for all that have attended and should be continued ASAP with Weymouth Woods and SALT as the next hosts. We also discussed the need for a new chairperson for this group to help keep things moving forward. It was suggested that perhaps someone from DFR could chair the Land Managers working group.
  - Private Landowner Council: After a quick recap on the status of trying to get this group initiated, there was much discussion about whether or not the private landowner council and land manager's group should remain separate or should be combined into one group. The group decided that while there will be an overlap of priorities these groups should remain separate entities. SALT will continue to take lead in establishing this council.
    - Suggestions for Landowner Council:
      - Focus on economic issues related to forest management and provide feedback to RMWG;
      - Public outreach and education: example topic – importance of longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem management;
      - Promote cooperative management between neighboring landowners; and,
      - Establish a “drive-by” tour of various private lands to showcase how landowners are restoring/managing their pine forests. Relate to Working Forest Handbook recommendations.

Some other topics of interest:

- ❖ Pete stated that the NCSCP intends to ask DFR to join the steering committee.
- ❖ The Society of American Forester's will be meeting in the Sandhills January 24-26. Foresters from three states will attend. This would be a good opportunity to get the word out about the NCSCP and for the RMWG to conduct a "grassroots" demonstration of longleaf pine management.
- ❖ The Environmental Educator's of NC will hold its annual conference at Fort Bragg from November 2 5, 2006.

#### Action Items

1. Prioritize establishment of Private Landowner Council
  - a. Craft vision statement and talking points for use in recruiting members
  - b. Identify key landowners to invite and make sure all counties are represented.
2. Hold at least one Land Managers meeting/tour before December 31, 2006.
3. Inventory available outreach materials currently in use by management agencies and organizations. Identify areas where new material will need to be developed.

Pete then walked the group through a review of the June Summit breakout session results. The feedback indicated that most participants thought there should be more details included in the RMWG section of the Strategic Plan. Many of the recommended additions already exist in the detailed version of the Strategic Plan. The version that was used during the breakout session was intentionally general so that the breakout group could brainstorm independent of the RMWG planning process. For the most part, feedback was positive and provided some suggestions on how to improve the clarity and readability of the document.

Meeting adjourned

Susan Miller, Acting Chair