

**GOAL: Promote cooperative management of natural resources in the North Carolina Sandhills**

**Obj. 1.1 - Increase the ability of land managers to cooperatively apply landscape management concepts on conservation lands.**

**AGREEMENT**

**Strategy:** Create a Memorandum of Understanding between FWS, DFR, DPR, WRC, TNC, DOD, NRCS, NC Ag, City of Fayetteville (PWC), & SALT to permit sharing of funding, personnel, expertise and equipment to achieve management goals.

**COOPERATION/COORDINATION**

**Strategy:** Create a NC Sandhills Fire Management Council (to address relevant wildland fire and smoke issues impacting the use of prescribed fire in the Sandhills).

**Strategy:** Form a Land managers working group (to discuss and compare their philosophies on natural resource management to broaden knowledge of land managers).

**COMMUNICATION/TRAINING**

**Strategy:** Increase training opportunities for public and private conservation land managers (to support natural resource management at the landscape level).

**Strategy:** Ensure that results of research studies appropriate to Sandhills ecosystem management are identified and disseminated as needed.

**Obj. 1.3 – Increase the number of private landowners managing their lands in a manner compatible with natural resource management of public lands and private conservation lands.**

**COOPERATION/COORDINATION**

**Strategy:** Create a Private Landowner Council to facilitate management of private lands.

**COMMUNICATION**

**Strategy:** Provide information on existing assistance programs for private landowners to Communication Working Group.

**GOAL 2 – Evaluate cooperative strategies for natural resource management at the landscape level.**

**Obj. 2.1 - Establish milestones for each objective in plan.**

**Strategy 3.1.1 - RMWG members meet annually to evaluate whether milestones are reached and make recommendations about implementation of ecosystem management**

**Objective 1.1 evaluation questions**

Has the ability of land manager's to cooperatively manage their landscape increased?

Has the formation of the Land Manager's Working Group increased the ability of the land manager's to cooperatively manage the landscape?

Did the creation of a Memorandum of Understanding increase the sharing of funding, personnel, expertise, and equipment among agencies?

Has the establishment of the Fire Management Council enabled the land managers to apply landscape concepts?

Have we increased training opportunities for public and private conservation land managers?

Has public perception of land management practices changed for the better?

Have we identified any research topics related to Sandhills ecosystem management?

**Objective 1.2 evaluation questions**

Have we identified lands that buffer or link existing conservation lands?

Have land acquisitions made it easier to manage existing conservation lands?

**Objective 1.3 evaluation questions**

Did we increase the number of landowners involved in the management of their property in a manner compatible with public/conservation lands?

Have we established good lines of communication with landowners by compiling and disseminating to make it easier for them to obtain information on existing programs?

Has the formation of the Private Landowner Council resulted in an increase of private lands being managed in a manner compatible with public and conservation lands? How?

Have we increased availability of funding for private landowner's conservation incentives?