

MARCH 22, 2001
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP

The RMWG met March 22, 2001, at Weymouth Woods, with the following members present: Susan Miller, Scott Hartley, Jerry Holder, Steve Riley, Margit Bucher, Julian Johnson, Jackie Britcher, Debbie Robertson, Scott Brewer, and Bill Parsons.

As Bill Parsons had stated he would be late in arriving at the meeting, Susan Miller called the meeting to order. The minutes of the Feb. 21, 2001 meeting were approved by common consent.

Scott Hartley presented the management plan for Weymouth Woods. Both growing season and winter burns are used. The smaller tract size helps in maintaining good relations with surrounding residential areas. Weymouth Woods consists of three tracts, totaling 900 acres. The management plan includes reintroducing species, plant and animal, formerly present on the tract. Current species populations are monitored.

Bill Parsons arrived and outlined management practices for Sandhills Gamelands. Objectives include maintaining a longleaf ecosystem while providing for plants and both game and non-game species. The plan is moving toward more burning, eventually to annual or biennial growing season burns. SGL currently has about 60,000m acres, with 40,000 acres in upland ecosystems. 2,000 acres are in pine straw production.

Susan Miller discussed the proposed Red Cockaded Woodpecker Recovery Plan with the group, as it pertains to federal, state, and private land. She expressed the need to increase awareness of RCW ecology and status.

Scott Brewer informed the group concerning International Paper Co. management activities on tracts in the Sandhills area. He stated that buffers are left between logging areas and wetlands or sensitive areas. New plans for longleaf management are being developed. The group discussed differences in management for timber production vs. wildlife. Less burning is used.

Margit Bucher announced that The Nature Conservancy has hired Rick Studemont as its project director for this area, beginning May 7.

Julian Johnson and Jerry Holder discussed the differences in management practices on private vs. public land, primarily the need to maintain income sources from private land. An advantage in managing private land is that since it is usually in smaller tracts than public land, more micromanagement practices can be used.

The group discussed the need to proceed with determining a format and making specific recommendations, preferably beginning at the next meeting. There being no further business, Chm. Parsons adjourned the meeting. The next meeting is to be April 19, 2001, at Weymouth Woods, at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julian Johnson