

North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership

Steering Committee Meeting

July 15, 2010

Reserve Design Working Group Update

The RDWG last met on May 4, 2010.

The following questions guided a discussion about how the RDWG could more effectively support conservation efforts in the Sandhills:

- What information is missing but necessary for more effective implementation – learn from/ask the on-the-ground implementers?
- How can the Reserve Design Working Groups spur efforts to fill in these gaps/address implementers' issues?
- How can we reconnect with other working groups within the Partnership/encourage them to use the reserve design as a central resource/find out what is needed to do so more effectively?

From the discussion that ensued, four action items came to light:

1. Identify priorities for conservation action –
 - a. The key places that are missed
 - b. The key places in target areas
2. Promote awareness among other NCSCP partners about how the conservation data and conservation maps produced by the RDWG can be used in their work within their own organizations.
 - a. Deliver message using a partner from within the organization and one other partner.
 - b. This could be an opportunity for the RDWG to also solicit information from on-the-ground partners. For example, determinations about the biological value of sites within the Potential Areas data set need to be made. If we provided this file with landowner attributes identified, we could ask that partners familiar with any of the landowners approach them about having a biologist survey their land.
3. Continue to ask partners how the resources the RDWG creates can be more effective.
 - a. This is something that can be done in conjunction with Action Item 2, promoting awareness. As part of the discussion, we can ask this particular question and let the audience know that this is our goal.
4. Schedule some field visits.
 - a. This could be done for the purposes of determining the value of some Potential Areas.
 - b. This could be done to increase understanding of, and even enthusiasm for, some underappreciated habitats.
 - c. Other: maybe related to RMWG: visit sites in need of improved management.