

North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership

Steering Committee Meeting

December 17, 2009

Reserve Design Working Group Update

The last meeting of the Reserve Design Working Group (RDWG) was on October 1, 2009. Major agenda items included: a review of background information (e.g. the TNC/USFWS Site Conservation Plan for the NC Sandhills - 2004, Reserve Design map iterations including the Natural Areas Suitability Surface, and the Sandhills Conservation Partnership Conservation RDWG Draft Plan - 2005); an evaluation of progress to-date; a review of grant efforts; and a discussion about conservation targets and integrating elements of SHC into the Reserve Design. Conversation focused on the use of the map by Partners, the Green Growth Toolbox as a new means for external communication, the required updates to Reserve Design data sets, and whether implementing elements of SHC would improve the Partnership's Reserve Design. Since the meeting, Sara DiBacco has been working with members of the RDWG and other partners to update and refine the Reserve Design data, especially in preparation for use in a Sandhills appendix of the Green Growth Toolbox. The RDWG will meet again on January 6, 2010 to focus on resolving data issues, but they will also follow-up on other action items that resulted from the October 1 meeting as time allows.