

August 5th, 2008.
Resource Management Working Group Meeting Summary

RMWG was asked to supply suggested cooperative activities that should be included in the NCSCP MOU document.

The following is a list of activities that our group thought should be included in the MOU but we recognize that there could be a lot of legal issues related to some of these activities.

- Prescribed burning/fire suppression
- Hardwood control
- Invasive species control
- Research
- Training
- Education/Outreach
- Grants/Grant writing
- GIS/mapping
- RCW cavity provisioning

The MOU was discussed; especially page three, which pertains to cooperative activities of NCSCP partners.

Some issues that came up:

- The MOU needs to address possible problems related to fires for things like who's responsible when things go wrong or personnel get hurt?
- Can we support fire training at our local community colleges? (ex: Montgomery Community College)
- Group should look into research regarding smoke generated from prescribed burns and how it differs from industrial pollution. (State Fire Council??)
- PR: i.e. "The forests will burn." Bumper sticker.
- Group could develop an informal list of contractors that perform different needed services (burning, planting, herbicide application). NC Forest Service District Office might maintain such a list?

We had a lengthy discussion related to prescribed burning and smoke management; research on smoke from forests vs. industrial pollution; education of public on why prescribed fire is so important, etc. We agreed that the State and Sandhills Fire Councils will likely tackle these issues and we'll work with them on these topics.

We also discussed how the statewide burn bans were implemented during the drought.

A suggestion was made to maintain a list of contractors that are qualified to conduct activities such as tree planting, silvicultural practices, herbicide applications, etc. There already is a list like this housed at the districts offices of the NCDFR.

Need for a centralized place to promote training (ncscp website could host this)

Next we came up with suggested research topics for the NCSCP to consider:

pyxie moss moth (Scott Hartley can clarify)

impact of deer on rare plants

survey for feral cats/management recommendations and stance on established cat colonies near managed/protected lands (followed by a brief discussion on the new Moore county animal control ordinance related to feral cats)

effects of fire on rare plants and animals

beavers – how they affect management of rare & common species

effects of 2 year fire rotation versus 3 year rotation on insects.

effects of two versus three year burn rotations (suggestion was made that herbicide and raking could reduce some of the fuels so that we could burn more often without more smoke

work with private landowners to help find ways to fend off development pressures (private landowner council??)

Other items of interest:

Two Progress Energy lines being constructed (230V). Burning is prohibited within a certain distance of the lines to prevent transmission interruptions and arcing – as more lines are built this could impact our ability to burn.

Research into feasibility of herbicide control of hardwoods being thrown into burn rotation as a way to reduce the number of burns needed (thus improving air quality).

Moore Co. is running out of landfill space and there is talk of trash being used as a biofuel. Suggestion that this could work out well if hardwoods could be harvested to use as fuel source for electricity generation.

Discussion of CO2 sequestration and revenue to be gained from such programs. There are aggregators who enroll a minimum amount of land and then sell the credits on the Chicago Climate Exchange. Most credits being issued for planting of trees (in old ag fields, for instance).

We need to work with private landowners to find ways to help keep them keep their land and deal with development pressures.

Next meeting 10/15/08 @ Weymouth Woods @ 10am.