

Prescribed Fire Council Minutes from 9/25/2013

Attendees: Zack, Arin, Chase, Sabrina, Bryan, Andy, Tom

Agenda

- 1.) Reading of minutes from previous meeting on
- 2.) MOA finalized; discuss expectation for implementation
- 3.) Council priority survey and results, and designating a lead member for these to be acted on.
- 4.) Interagency cooperation on planning and implementation.
- 5.) Training and Qualification opportunities.
- 6.) Public awareness.
- 7.) Opportunities for private and municipal use of the Prescribed Fire Manual.
- 8.) Obtain funding, support and resources to expand the use of the Burn Manual.
- 9.) Look at and discuss fire effects on rare species, burn efficiency, and prescribed fire research.
- 10.) Review and discuss the NE fire survey.
- 11.) Other new business.

Minutes: Zack moved to accept the minutes; Bryan Nowell seconded. Minutes approved.

MOA: There is a question about the Attorney General as to lack of signature. After some discussion, it was decided that the Attorney General has reviewed the document and that will suffice for now.

Expectation for Implementation: Everyone will have to meet minimum requirements; no exceptions. As far as 'Grandfathering' for burn boss, Bryan will get Burn Boss certification for Pine River Burn. Sabrina will work with Jen Little at Forests & Lands to make sure Rx council members get notified about pack test training.

Council Priorities: Zack would like individuals to work on the priorities the Council has identified.

Issue #1

- Increase interagency cooperation to plan and implement burns.
Bryan likes the TNC notification system by e-mail. There should be a burn window notification and then a planned date for the burn. The Forest Service has two different tiers. First, is a list of priority trainees. Second, is notifying them of an upcoming burn.

Issue #2

Providing additional training and list of qualifications of available personnel. (Andy suggested that some of these issues be broken down into smaller categories.)

- Information should be posted at the website as to what resources are available from each agency; both equipment and personnel.
Pre-season discussion: A suggestion that the head of each agency for Rx burns get together, (in winter time) and plan burns and offer their resources.
Writing workshops: For writing the Prescribed burn plans.
Rx 301 for writing plans, Rx 410 for the smoke portion of the plan, and Rx 340 & 341 for the implementation portion and last, Rx 490 for the “BEHAVE” software program training. (Sabrina said Bill will bring DRED resources to the winter meeting.)

Issue # 4

- Working with private landowners and towns:
Andy will work on case studies for private landowners and Towns. These will be geared toward the how-to as well as the actual burn implementation.

Issue # 1

- Increasing public awareness:
Have more public meeting as well as having the fire trailer at different public events. Make the public more aware of the WAP plan so they will think about what they are burning and why.
Design a Prescribed Fire logo. (Jim Oehler)

Issue # 8

- Obtaining Funding:
Getting a cohesive strategy together then applying for grants thru the Compact for Fire Science to help implement these strategies.
Use graduate students that are working on effects of fire pertaining to soil, wildlife etc. (The question came up as to how the council would utilize these funds if they came available.)

Issue # 5

- Developing Fire BMP's
These include categories such as rare species both plants and animals. I.e.: snakes, turtle's moths etc.
Read some of the undergrad papers.
It was noted that the USFW already has many if these BMP's written down.

NE Fire Survey

- Jim will be sending out a survey to council members to answer these questions.

Next meeting is:

December 5, 2013 is at Bear Brook Warehouse; 9:00 am
(Agenda to be sent out at a later date.)