

Prescribed Fire Council Minutes  
USFS HQ in Campton  
April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Attendees: Chase Marshall, Andy Fast, Jeff Lougee, Zach Boyajian, Lisa Landry, Pete Bowman, Tom Natale, Wendy Weisiger

Minutes: Minutes from the 11/16/2014 meeting were accepted with one minor edit.

AGENDA:

DISCUSSION:

- Question came up of what staff NHFG might have for a burn crew. They have on Wildlife Tech position and Heidi Holman. Jim Oehler might get to the point that he is writing burn plans.
- Chase brought up the Red Card Review Committee. The NE Dispatch Center is coming to NH and DRED will have a new position for this. It's a compact position between DRED and USFS.
- **Prescribed Fire Data:**  
Discussion about the need and utility of having a central database for all Prescribed (and wild) fire data in NH. Disparate information exists amongst different agencies. Local fire department data may be harder to track (who would get that information and what information would we ask for?)  
\*We could add this to the Calendar to collect information after each fire season.  
Andy Fast suggested he might be able to find a graduate student who could develop a program for collecting and synthesizing this data. Jeff Lougee suggesting making it an academic project by adding an emissions modeling simulator.  
Andy Fast will draft a proposal for the group to circulate and discuss at our next meeting.
- **Northeast Interagency Coordination Center**  
-The WMNF will now host this position.  
-IQCS – will be managed here now and all agencies will forward that administration to this position  
-this is the shared position between DRED and USFS
- **NE Fire Science Consortium**  
-Do we need a representative on this board?  
- Jeff Lougee suggests our role with them is to pose research questions that we may need in NH  
-this is mostly a networking group  
-the general consensus is that the RX Fire Council doesn't need a rep on the Consortium.
- **Any Proposed Changes to the Task Book, Guides, Burn Template?**  
-Jeff Lougee asked if they are being adopted and used  
-Discussion ensued about if the Rangers are using them  
-It was decided that we would ask Bryan Nowell to talk with us about the Ranger capabilities  
-Chase said that training is being consolidated and held in Bethlehem office starting in June
- **Fire News**  
NE Fire Network (Fire Learning Network) - TNC and Dept of Ag partnership  
-perhaps we can all give a photo and paragraph to Zach and he can submit to the network

- **NLEB**
  - the bat was listed as “Threatened”
  - USFS has had to back off on some burns as a result
  - The bat falls under the 4D Rule – does Rx fire fall under this? We’re not certain but the feds are being conservative
  
- **Granite State Div SAF (Fast)**
  - GSDSAF has had inquiries about some educational programs about Rx fire:
    - Ecology, operations, how to make it available to foresters as a tool
    - “Rainbow Series” for USFS fire effects
  
- **Burning Plans**

Chase (USFS) – sent folks to Ohio in March

  - hired 5 seasonals
  - had to pull out some big fires units because of the Bat listing
  - 163 acres and 20 units this spring

Zach (National Guard) – 4 burn units (2 spring/2 growing season)

  - Pembroke will be later in the year

Jeff L (TNC) – business as usual

  - NH – Harmon, Madison Town Forest and would like to plan another unit
  - Jeff has been collecting fire affects data for 4 years and is trying to get into a report that he will share
  
- **Do we have an Rx Council Set of Priorities?**

Agenda Item for next Meeting – What do we want to focus on in the next year?

  - We’d like to get Bryan Nowell to come to a meeting to discuss what the State has for resources

\* Next meeting 7/16<sup>th</sup> (possibly at Bear Brook and possibly a field trip?)