

NH Prescribe Fire Council Meeting Minutes
December 7th, 2016 9:00 – 12pm
Campton, NH

Attendees: (missed the attendee list)

Minutes: reviewed and accepted minutes from 9/14/2016

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*Brief discussion about sharing resources & fall burning

*Introductions

1. “Extent of Prescribed Fire Use in NH” review – Ben Kaufold (report provided)

-results showed more small burns than anticipated

-municipal fire departments did most of the burns and mostly in grass

-the project and report revealed several more questions

-big disparity between the amount of burns between public agencies & private landowners

-revealing large roadblocks for private landowners to burn

-only 1 burn was silviculturally driven

-**Kneely** points out that the 2 years Ben studied were very tough burn years in NH and may not be super representative of the norm.

-it was tough to track down Class IV permits (Wardens don't need to file if present on burn and Rangers may not hold onto them)

-**Kneely** suggests that when the shared state/fed resource staff gets into Campton, all of the data could flow up to him/her and get tracked in a central database

-**Lougee** would like to have a more focused conversation in the future about these recommendations

-**Mills & Weisiger** suggest we have Chief Sherman distribute the final report to all of the Wardens once in final draft

-**Lougee** asks if all of these Questions can be included in the report. **Kaufold** tried to work many of the big questions in, but there were too many to capture all of them

-**Fast** points out that this will result in a new GRANIT burned acres data layer

-**Landry** – Outreach – would it be feasible to produce an annual newsletter from the Rx Fire Council? This could be shared with local, state, other agencies, conservation commissions, etc.

-**Fast** suggests this could be distributed through Extension networks

***Kaufold** would really like feedback:

-are the recommendations doable?

-is the assessment in line with what we see?

-he'd like this back in the next two weeks if possible (will follow-up meeting with e-mail)

2. Oak-Northern Hardwood tension zone research proposal – Natalie Laura Cleavitt

Cleavitt presented research on tension zones and fire suppression and how that impacts species composition

-**Fast** asked her to share her tension zone shapefile with the group

-**Cleavitt** is looking for managed oak stands within these tension zones, particularly areas that have burned, for more research

3. UNH Burn Program – Training Opportunities – Don Quigley

-UNH is recognizing that there are more credentials needed for students who want to get into burning coming out of college. Employers are requiring a red card. UNH is looking for ways to provide students with the opportunity to burn more and get certified while in school.

- T-School provides S-190 curriculum thoroughly
- T-School covers much of S-130, but not all of it
- Quigley is looking for an opportunity to bridge the gap for students
- will look into working with the NH Fire Academy

4. Quarterly Operations Items Winter Meeting:

Burn Units Planned:

- Oehler (NHFG)– Blue Job
- Mills (NH Nat'l Guard)- Pembroke State Military Reserve (small)
- Fast – Town of Gilford (spring)
- Natale (DRED) – DRED is talking about getting more fire on the ground
- Weisiger (SPNHF) – looking at Harmon Preserve with oversight of TNC
 - Morse Preserve (Alton) – will need added staff resources to move the project forward
- Lougee – 30-acres that was mowed in the fall; 50 acre unit, Harmon unit
- Neely – Kilkenney, Albany, oak units in Warren & Wentworth, prepping units in Albany

*Training Certifications Needs:

- Mills** points out that events are getting into the system and individuals should touch base with Jen Little to be sure they get in.
- Behave Course – good youtube online course for this
- Training Needs: 410 & 310 – winter is a good time for these

*Rx Fire Needs Assessment:

- Fast** points out that we should look at this every couple of years. **Oehler** will re-distribute to the group

5. **Oehler** finished the meeting with a presentation of Blue Job: Fire in Farmington, NH

This is a 60-acre DRED lot that was a commercial blueberry operation prior to acquisition in the 1990s. They are maintaining as young forest and some core blueberry habitat

Minutes respectfully submitted by **Wendy Weisiger, SPNHF**

Next meeting date 2/16/2017 @

**New Hampshire Army National Guard Regional Training Center
Pembroke, NH**

722 Riverwood Drive Pembroke, NH 03275