

NH Prescribe Fire Council
January 9, 2019 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
White Mountain National Forest Headquarters
71 White Mountain Dr, Campton, NH 03223

FINAL AGENDA:

1. Review and approve September meeting minutes – Jim Oehler (5 mins)
2. Opportunities to Improve our Rx Fire or Other Land Stewardship Capacity (45 mins)
 - Sam Perron, NorthWoods Stewardship Center
 - Katri Gurney, Squam Lakes Association (Americorps)
3. Potential for Sharing a Type 6 engine – Jeff Lougee (30 mins)
4. Opportunity to Promote Use/Benefits of Rx Fire – Lionel Chute (30 mins)
5. Fire History and Stand Age Structure of Red Pine Natural Communities in New England - Adele Fenwick (30 mins)
6. Spring Burning Preview and Training Opportunities – Round Table (30 mins)
7. Select Next Meeting Date/Location

NH Prescribed Fire Council
January 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
White Mountain National Forest HQ
Campton NH

Attendees: Jim Oehler, Chair (NH Fish and Game), Zack Boyajian, vice-chair (NH Military Affairs and Veterans Services.), Rebecca DiGirolomo (UNH Coop Extension), Kathleen Errington (NHDES Air Resources), Bryan Nowell (NH DNCR Forest Protection), John Neely (USFS, White Mountain NF), Steve Sherman (NHDNCR Forest Protection), Sean Drake (New Boston Air Force Station), Steven Junkin (Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forest), Chris Kane (NH Natural Heritage Bureau), Ralph Perron (USFS, White Mountain NF), Sam Perron (North Woods Center), Katri Gurney (Squam Lake Association), Lionel Chute (Sullivan County Conservation District), Adele Fenwick (UNH).

AGENDA:

- **Minutes:** Review and approval of June 27, 2019 meeting minutes.
- **Opportunities to Improve Rx Capacity:**
 - Sam Perron of Northwood Stewardship Center (East Charleston VT) provided a power point presentation of the Centers' capabilities. The Center can provide both youth and professional conservation crew usually within 1 hour of the Center, but can travel further. The mission of the Center is both conservation and education based. They do a lot of trail crews and water quality monitoring, and forest stewardship crew in the fall. They have a year round project planner working on partnerships with other organizations. Professional crews cost 5-6K and include a leader and 3 crew. Youth crew cost about \$6500 and include supervisor ½ week, 2 leaders and 5 youth members. Currently the Center is scheduling for summer 2020. Also work can be done at professional hourly rates. They were open to the idea of an Rx fire crew. Questions about NWCG firefighter training and chain saw certification were discussed. If the council provide the training it seemed possible.
 - Katrinia Gurney, from the Squam Lake Science Center operates the Lakes Region Conservation Corp (LRCC)) which is an Americorp program provided a power point presentation about their program. 2 ways to participate: Apply to Volunteer NH to establish own Americorp program, or apply to LRCC to be a host site. March of 2020 they are accepting applications for 2022 host sites. The program requires no displacement or duplication of resources. 22.5 week program May-October and 10.5 week program August to November are available. Currently \$1000 per member to Squam Lake to cover administrative cost, but the volunteer is paid by the grant from the National Corporation. Members are 22-30 years old. Host has responsibility for supervision and selection of volunteers.

The Council will discuss how we might use these opportunities. We will reconvene the grant subcommittee and make a recommendation prior to next meeting.

- **Type 6 Engine Sharing:** Mike Crawford of the TNC presented the problem of limited equipment, particularly Type 6 engines. Discussion of how engines could be shared if available. Steve Sherman, stated that extra engines are available from the state most of the time. Must be state employee or Special Deputy Warden to drive the engine, and getting council members who are not state employees appointed was possible. Mike also brought up the possibility of joint purchase of an engine. Who would own it,

maintain it and allocate it to burns were questions that came up. What about a possible shared state/federal position to help with staffing? Mike Crawford will head up a shared engines resources subcommittee to explore possibilities.

- **Opportunities to promote use/benefit of RX Fire:** Lionel Chute of the Sullivan County Conservation District presented to the council a possible mechanism to advance Rx fire on private lands using local fire departments. He showed raw footage of an Rx burn in Goshen conducted on a farmer's field with local fire department and others. He also asked about the potential contamination from drip torch fuel. Zack Boyajian discussed the National Guard's effort to find, develop and use alternative drip torch fuel. He also referenced the Forest Service risk assessment of fire accelerants as a good base line and will send Lionel some references.
- **Red Pine Stand Fire History and Age Structure:** Adele Fenwick UNH PhD student presented partial results of her research on Red Pine Rocky Ridge and Red Pine-Oak Rocky Ridge Communities of one study site Mount Stanton in White Mountain National Forest near Bartlett. She used tree wedges to create fire history from fire scars over more than one hundred years primarily during the 1800s as well as historical records. There was an average 9 year return interval ranging from 5-17 years during the period. There has been 114 years since a fire on the site and regeneration of red pine is almost absent. There is an increase in fire intolerant species such as red maple. In 2019 there was a lightning strike fire inside the study area that was immediately suppressed. Fire suppression is likely changing the makeup of these Red Pine Rock Ridge stands. What caused the fires that created these stands? Was it human's or lightning or both? Why have they stopped? Many questions remain.
- **Spring Burn Training Round Table.**
TNC: Scheduled another S-130/190 basic wildland fire fighter hybrid training this spring as well as RT-130 Safety refresher.
USFS: Ralph Perron Air Resource Manager has smoke monitor available.
New Boston Air Force Station: 15 acre burn on Joe English Hill is planned for this spring March-May.
Fish and Game: Conducted mechanical treatment on Joy State Forest. The site needs a burn plan.
Forest Society: Nothing expected this year.
Military Affairs/National Guard: 4 possible burn units in Pembroke.
USFS: Joint Squad Boss Academy with State Forest Protection Bureau in June.
S-130/190 classes as well. S-212 also scheduled. 3 Work Capacity Test (WCT) in April, May and June.
Cooperative Project with town of Eaton on Foss Mountain.
AT Corridor burn in Etna. Crawford notch/Bethlehem blueberry opening burns. Additional red oak understory burns. M410 Facilitative instructor is needed for forest service instructors.
Forest Protection Bureau: RT-130/WCT 3-4 this spring. June Joint Squad boss training with Forest Services in June. Asked about Seavey Island burning this year. Working with TNC on Pine River State Forest Burn Plan. Additional ROSS weather Stations to be deployed in state.
UNH: Training Burns for Forestry Class.

* Next meeting April 1. Proposed location in Bear Brook State Park

Meeting adjourned 12:00PM

Respectfully Submitted, Zachary Boyajian, Vice-chair



NORTHWOODS STEWARDSHIP CENTER



Opportunities for partnerships and land
management projects with the NH
Prescribed Fire Council

Sam Perron, Director of Forest Stewardship

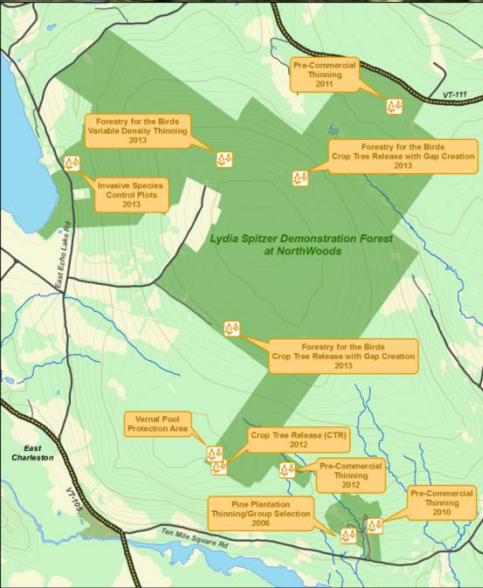
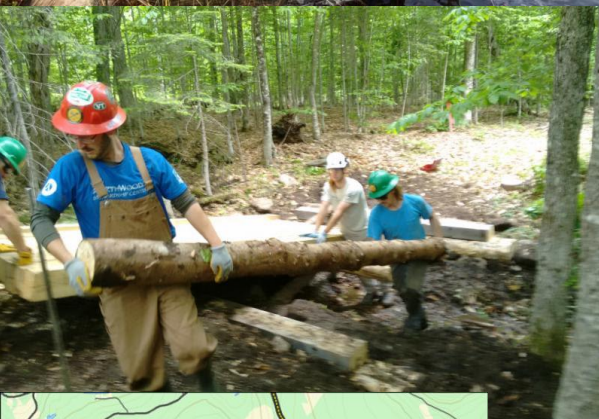
January 9, 2020

What is the NorthWoods Stewardship Center?

Education and Outreach
Conservation Corps
Conservation Science
Forest Stewardship



*Connecting People and Place through
Science, Education and Action*



Staff, Seasons, and Crews

Program Leaders:

Maria Young, Education and Outreach

Dusty May, Conservation Corps

Meghann Carter, Conservation Science

Sam Perron, Forest Stewardship

Additional Staff:

Program Coordinators

Americorps

Interns

Seasonal Crews/Crew Leaders

**Crews are hired and trained based on anticipated projects, and can include a wide range of conservation services*

Spring Professional Crews

- *Watershed*
- *Trails*

Summer Youth Crews

- *Watershed*
- *Trails*
- *USFWS*

Fall Professional Crews

- *Watershed*
- *Trails*
- *Forestry*

Year-Round Permanent Staff

- *Consulting, Project Planning, Proposals, Partnerships and more!*

Rates and Availability

Professional Crews

Typical Rate: ~\$5,000-\$6,000 per week

Includes crew supervisor (program director/coordinator), 3 crew members, and mileage. Overnight fees (locations >1 hour from NorthWoods), materials, and other project costs additional

Now Scheduling for Fall 2020!

Youth Crews

Typical Rate: ~\$6,500 per week

Includes crew supervisor for 20 hrs (program director/coordinator), 2 adult crew leaders, 5 youth crew members, and mileage. Overnight fees (locations >1 hour from NorthWoods), materials, and other project costs additional

Now Scheduling for Summer 2020!

**Contact NorthWoods if you would like a quote for a specific project, or to discuss crew options*

**Professional staff available on an hourly rate of \$25-\$50/hr*

Partners and Projects

Clients and Partners

Landowners

Municipalities

State of Vermont (FPR, F&W, AOT...)

US Fish & Wildlife

Nonprofit Organizations

Projects

Hiking trails

Riparian tree planting

Erosion control

Water quality protection

Invasive plant control

Pre-commercial thinning

Habitat management

Stonework

Dirtwork

Treework

Monitoring



www.northwoodscenter.org

(802)723-6551 (main directory)

info@northwoodscenter.org

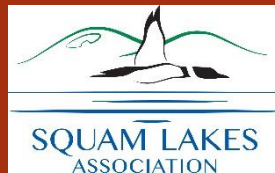
sam@northwoodscenter.org (forestry)

dusty@northwoodscenter.org (trails)

meghann@northwoodscenter.org (water quality)

Please pick up a flyer, newsletter and/or business cards!

AMERICORPS & THE LAKES REGION CONSERVATION CORPS



KATRI GURNEY
TRAILS AND ACCESS MANAGER
SQUAM LAKES ASSOCIATION

KGURNEY@SQUAMLAKES.ORG

603-968-7336

TWO APPROACHES

1. Apply for an AmeriCorps program to be administered by the NH Rx Fire Council
2. Apply to be a host site of the Lakes Region Conservation Corps

AmeriCorps was founded in 1994 with goal of “helping others and meeting critical needs in the community.”

Programs across the nation addressing:

- Disaster Services
- Economic Opportunity
- Education
- Healthy Futures
- Veterans and Military Families
- Environment

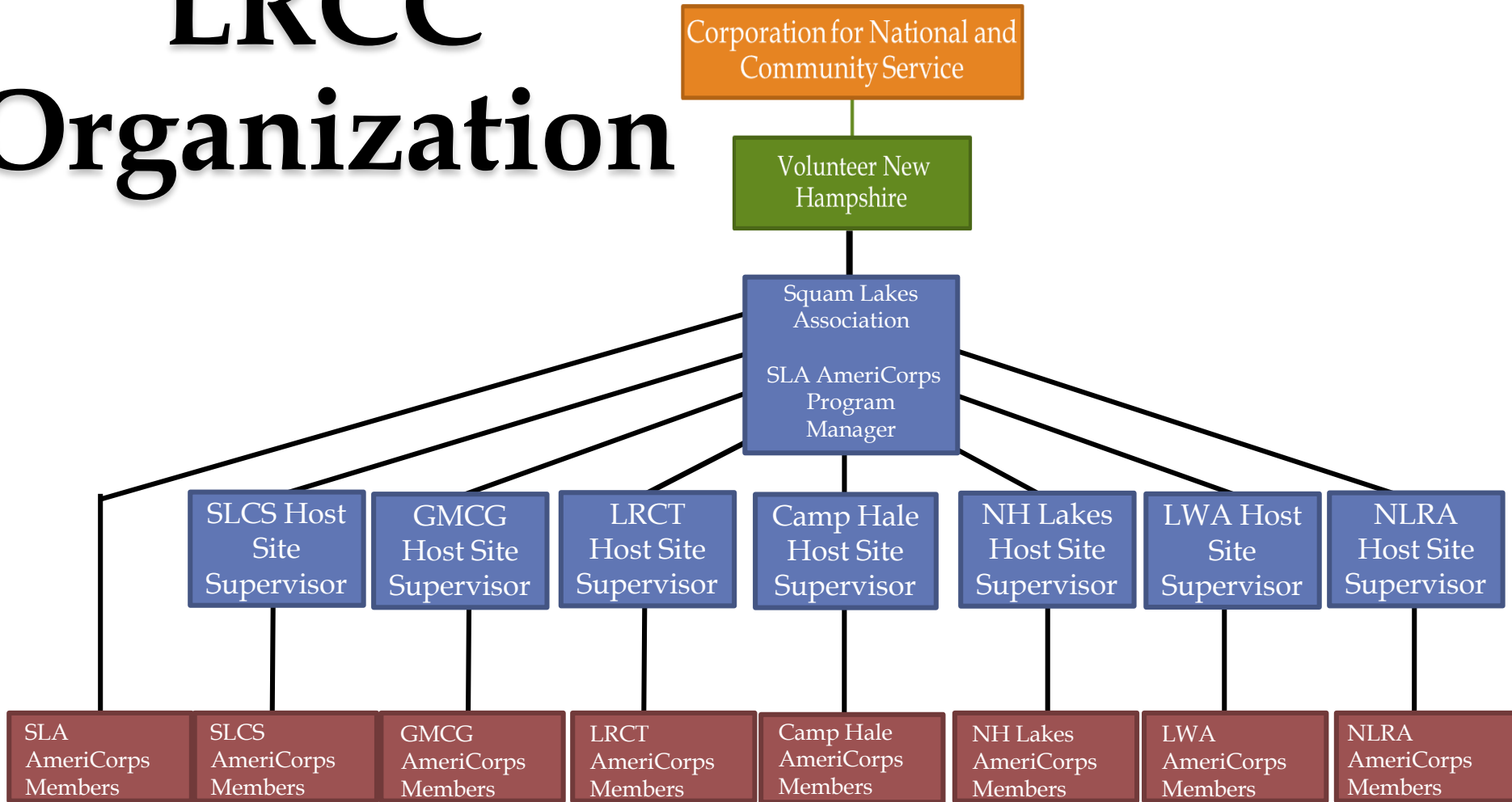
Steps Involved:

1. Planning Grant (Optional-1 year)
 - Minimum of 20 serving members
 - Show community need
 - Administration of the program (supervision, budgets, reporting, compliance)
2. Notice of Funding Opportunity & Grant Application (1 year)
3. Build program foundation if receive funding (6 months to a year)

Over 75,000 AmeriCorps members serve across the country annually.



LRCC Organization



MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING A LAKES REGION CONSERVATION CORPS HOST SITE

Application to be an LRCC host site starting 2022 will open by March 2020

- Prohibited activities: no displacement or duplication
- 22.5 weeks worth of service projects
- Full-time supervisor
- 6% contribution towards grant metrics (can potentially add fire mitigation for 2022)
 - Education
 - Invasive Species Removal
 - Trail Work
 - Volunteers Recruited/Retained
- \$1,000 per member paid to the SLA to cover administrative costs

NH RX FIRE COUNCIL- SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

NH Rx Fire Council AmeriCorps

- **Who funds and how is funding administered?**

CNCS funds.VNH disperses funding monthly to NH Rx Fire Council through reimbursement process.

- **Who supervises crew?**

NH Rx Fire Council

- **How much does crew cost?**

Depends, funding usually exceeds \$100,000 but there is required match which is about a third of the funding for the LRCC.

- **How many months is crew serving for?**

NH Rx Fire Council decides based on parameters created by CNCS.

LRCC Host Site

- **Who funds and how is funding administered?**

CNCS, with match from SLA.VNH disperses funding monthly to SLA through reimbursement process.

- **Who supervises crew?**

NH Rx Fire Council

- **How much does crew cost?**

\$1,000 per member paid to the SLA, rate will increase annually

- **How many months is crew serving for?**

22.5 weeks (May through October) or 10.5 weeks (November through August)

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM

LRCC members serve as the trainers of volunteers and the leaders of volunteer crews.



Our LRCC members also participate in other forms of community service across the state.



COMMUNITY EDUCATION

AmeriCorps members are responsible for spreading the conservation message throughout the region and the state.



They accomplish this through public programs, daily interactions, and school/camp programs.

INCREASE CAPACITY

Bolster Established Programs:

- Milfoil removal through September
- Trail work
 - Year-round at SLA
 - More frequent upkeep at LRCT
- Boundary maintenance on conservation properties
- Campsite caretaking through October
 - More meaningful interactions
- Water quality monitoring
 - Winter program at SLA
 - Exploring greater sampling opportunities and volunteer engagement at GMCG

Support/Develop New Projects:

- Protocol for cyanobacteria and contaminant sampling
- Updating trail signs (junction and interpretive signs)
- Terrestrial invasive plant removal programs
- Building landowner and property location databases
- Creating map for conservation properties on Avenza
- Development of educational programming materials for SLCS preserves

BEYOND THE PROGRAM

LRCC members leave the program with:

- Diversity of Skills
- Connection to Lakes Region
- Network of Conservationists

Host sites receive:

- Network of Conservationists
- Greater Community Engagement
- Stronger Partnerships & Collaboration