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 fore 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*