



New Mexico Prescribed Fire Council Meeting

10 a.m. Thursday, December 10th, 2015

NM State Forestry – Socorro Office

Present: Don Kearny, Tim Kirkpatrick, Nate Nozie, Rick Merrick, Doug Cram, Doug Boykin. **On phone:** Jeremy Bailey, Claudia Standish, Julia Ann Overton, Cliff Russell, Bill Armstrong

Minutes

10:15 Welcome, facility briefing, introductions

10:15 NM Rx Fire Council Business

- a. bank account, 501c3 status – no movement, will sign agreement with SCM RC&D to serve as fiscal agent for CFRP grant; Don is planning on attending the meeting on 12/16 to review and sign agreement papers; first step for 501c3 work is incorporation papers and tax id#; Don and Boykin will start working on it...with Tim's help will try to get this done the week of 12/21.
- b. Logo – Boykin will contact WX Fire Graphics for slight final changes to the logo and cost of a banner, possibly shirts and caps for sale, and to get a list of other projects and prices that we could use to raise funds.

1. Old Business

- a. Website update, Doug Cram – will contact e-mail list to see if they are interested in being listed on the web page as supporters; develop an interest button for people to sign up as a participate/supporter of the council; standard disclaimer will be added; will create a link to the Western Landowners Association and the East Mt Interagency Fire Protection Association.
- b. CFRP Grant status/update, Mike Caggilano
- c. RX Council display at 2016 NM Legislature (February 2nd, 2016) – Cliff coordinated PowerPoint; will also include video of the Santa Fe watershed work done with TNC; will add additional slides that show more support for Rx fire; send ideas to Cliff ASAP as well as be sure that talking points are available for to support the slides if questions are asked; Cliff will get display from USFS-Espanola; any pictures that you want to work in please send to Cliff; Don discussed the “memorial language “for the legislative staff to work on (see below); Don will get these to the appropriate legislative staff to review and receive feedback by the week of 12/20; we need to get a NM Representative and NM Senator who would be amenable to supporting Rx Council work and projects; will also need to identify individuals who will be able to staff the council display on 2/2/16.

2. New Business

- a. Planning another Rx Fire Workshop with Malpai Borderlands Group/AZ Rx Fire Council on February 18th, 2016 at the Chihuahua Desert Museum north of Rodeo, NM; Boykin will contact Ben Brown, Bill McDonald from the MBG and Don will contact Doyle Shamley from the AZ Rx Council to set up a conference call date to discuss and start planning efforts; Boykin sent Ben and Bill a proposed conference call date of 12/15 at 0900; Don will contact Doyle ASAP; Eytan has a portable speaker system that is available; will need to talk about agenda, food and field trip.

- b. Finalize Language for Legislative Memorial (see below)
- c. Additional Workshops
 - 1. Chama Peak Landowner Alliance has contacted us about a possible workshop in the Chama area; contact person is Monique DiGiorgio who represents the Landowner Alliance; Boykin will also contact Mary Stuever - Chama District Forester for follow-up; will try to get on the agenda at their March 2016 meeting.
- 3. Action Item Capture
 - 1. Don will make a list of items for the Rx fire trailer for review and comment so that when agreements are in place we can purchase; targeted to be out by the week of 12/21; will need to develop standards for usage, rehab, staging, and etc. for the trailer when it is operational.
 - 2. Claudia is retiring and Charlie Luevano will be acting smoke desk staff.
 - 3. Discussion about making a presentation to the NM Cattle Growers Association for support and partnership opportunities with the Rx Council.

12:00 **Dismissal**

Next meeting will be on 1/14/15 at the Socorro State Forestry Office (Hwy 60 West). Call in information will be the same.

2016 NM Legislative Session – Prescribed Fire Memorial (Draft Language)

Where as...Fire is an environmental driver and an essential part of most New Mexico ecosystems...

Where as...Fire is an important tool used by NM agriculture to clear fields, clean ditches, and burn debris...

Where as...Prescribed fire is an important tool used by NM livestock industry to maintain open grasslands and improve forage quality...

Where as...Cyclic burning in NM forests and woodlands promotes forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire...

Where as...Fire maintains and improves NM wildlife habitat...

Where as...Natural fire regimes promote desirable hydrologic function...

Therefore...The NM legislature promotes the continued use of prescribed fire in a safe and effective manner to enhance natural landscapes and support NM agriculture.

Questions for NM Legislative Committee

What are the liability laws concerning prescribed fire in NM? Strict Liability (deters burning), Simple Negligence, or Gross Negligence (more encouraging to burning)?

Are there provisions in NM law that protect the public right to use prescribed fire as a resource tool? Right to burn statute?

What is the legal process for initiating burn bans?

Does NM public law identify specific guidelines that an individual needs to follow in order to use prescribe fire on one's private land?