

New Mexico Prescribed Fire Council Meeting

10 am Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Socorro County Annex, 198 Neel St., Socorro, NM

Present: Don Kearny – Chair, Rick Merrick - Vice Chair, Doug Boykin – Secretary, Claudia Standish - Co-Secretary, Fred Hollis - Socorro County, Andy Lopez - F&WS, Eytan Krasilousky - Forest Stewards Guild, Kent Reid- NM FWHRI. On phone: Julie Anne Overton – USFS, Lisa Bye - BLM, Doug Cram - NMSU, Pam Bostwick - USFS, Krys Nystrom – fire.

Minutes

10:00 Welcome, facility briefing, introductions

10:15 NM Rx Fire Council business

- (Donations, bank account, 501-3-c status, etc.)
SCMR&CD will be fiscal agent for Council; Boykin and Don will attend the next available meeting of the RC&D with Rick; Need to get an agreement done as the official fiscal agent for the Council.

10:30 Group Discussion Items

- Website update - Doug Cram
Signup for Capitan workshop is working, current signup is 10; Reworked the resource list to broaden the language, Eytan will help to get the appropriate language. Kent is still working on the issue of the “all about watershed” portal coming up when using Goggle to access the website.
- CFRP Grant status
Was not affected by Fire Borrowing; Approved as of Oct. 1; \$20,000 to buy a RX trailer and supplies, \$3000 for web site development (can move to other areas), \$2000 for presentation, outreach and education, including bumper stickers, banners, etc. Mike Cagliano will be at the Capitan workshop so need to plan on a short visit with him after the workshop.
Action Item: need to develop list of things to purchase for RX trailer, including the trailer (next meeting).
- Planning for Capitan area workshop
Reported by Rick, Can't Stop Smokin' has a deal that serves 15 for \$119. If we got 4 of those (to serve 60), the cost would be \$476 plus tax. We can of course add or subtract depending on the number of attendees. We have 30 confirmed, should plan on 60. Lincoln County Manager waived the \$150 rental Fee, RC&D insurance will cover event, \$150 cleanup fee will be covered by RC&D but we will need to clean up so they can get it back. Rick will work with Frank Silva (NMSF) to get a map to Sid Goodloe's place, Rick will check on drinks, finalize food issues, and be on scene Wednesday afternoon to start setup, all council members need to get there by 0800 on Thursday to finalize setup. Finalized the agenda and flyer and Claudia has already sent out with corrections, will also meet sending out additional media products. All presenters should bring their presentations on a thumb drive as WI-FI may or may not be available (Fred Hollis will attempt to set up his Hot Spot). Any Natural Resource related displays and handouts are welcome as there is plenty of room. Participation Survey was approved and will be part of meeting minutes as well as available at the workshop.

Jeremy Bailey volunteered to help develop a few talking points and introductory questions to help warm up the crowd - help the presenters understand the audience and help the audience know that we are interested in them. Whoever leads this segment needs to talk less and listen more. Start by asking for a show of hands for several questions then migrated to more open ended questions where individual landowners could take the floor and describe their situation. We should try and avoid responding to each of their responses with some example of our experience. This has to be quick and dirty, but thoughtful, fun and friendly.

- Who is burning piles? Who is burning broadcast units? What are your primary objectives for burning? Fuels reduction? Forage enhancement? Ecological benefits? Who is burning with their neighbors? Are you using pick-up trucks and slip-in tanks? UTVs or ATVs with sprayer units? What is your biggest challenges?

- Initial discussion of workshop in conjunction with Malpais Borderlands Group/AZ Rx Council; Boykin will contact Bill McDonald (MBG) for a tentative February date for a workshop in the Borderlands Region, Don will contact his counterpart in Arizona as well as the Arizona State Forester to update and build partnerships to make this a multi-state affair.
- RX Council display at 2016 NM Legislature
Date is set for Feb. 2nd in the Rotunda in Santa Fe. Julie Anne and Russ will continue to work on logistics. Reviewed talking points (see below) and be ready to **finalize at the next meeting (11/4/15 in ABQ)**. Julie Anne will also check to be sure we can use the “Fire is New Mexico True” tag line. Boykin has contacted Kenny Rodgers in TorC for possible logo development. Looking at buying a banner, and will need to follow up on legality of putting agency logos on the banner. **Press release for the day of needs to be developed.**

Talking Points for Prescribed Fire 2016 NM Legislative Session (Feb. 2, 2016)

1. Heading/title for the booth: FIRE is New Mexico *true*
Idea is to play off the state tourism marketing campaign to make the point that fire has always been a part of the NM landscape and will continue to be into the future. How do we learn to live with fire? (Illustrated by fire scars in tree rings.) “In the suburbs, every fire put out is a problem solved. In wildland, every fire put out is a problem put off.” -- Stephen Pyne
 2. We need to learn to live with fire because it’s a natural part of our landscape. The statewide goal should be fire-adapted communities, not fire-exclusion communities.
 3. Fire is essential to ecosystem health and building resilient landscapes (resilient to insects, disease, drought and future fire.)
 4. Prescribed fire is one of the best ways to protect communities and watersheds from high-severity wildfire (especially important in water-poor states like NM.)
 5. Prescribed fire brings citizens, neighbors, fire departments, agencies, tribes, non-profits and students together to learn and burn to protect community and watershed values.
 6. Prescribed fire benefits wildlife and livestock by restoring and/or improving habitat, regenerating plants and grasses, and promoting resilient landscapes. Prescribed fire can help endangered and threatened species by restoring habitat.
 7. Prescribed fire produces smoke, but it is smoke at (for most people) an acceptable and manageable level, unlike the uncontrolled smoke from wildfire.
 8. NM needs better state laws to encourage the use of prescribed fire on the landscape, including limited liability and standards/qualifications for burners.
 9. Benefits to prescribed burning:
 - a. Watershed management
 - b. Fuel load reduction
 - c. Vegetation management
 - d. Rangeland management
 - e. Wildlife habitat management
 10. Barriers to an effective statewide program for prescribed burning:
 - a. Liability
 - b. Air quality and smoke regulations
 - c. Training and skills
 - d. Public perception and education
 - e. Equipment
 - f. Funding
- Next meeting will be in ABQ (**Kent Reid will find a location**) with former legislators who can give us insight on how to write, approach and work to pass appropriate legislation to support the use of RX Fire in NM.
 - Next meeting - Nov. 4th in ABQ, location will be determined, will have the same call codes available as this meeting.