

Action Item List

North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership
Reserve Design Working Group Meeting
October 1, 2009 - 10am to 4pm
Weymouth Woods State Nature Preserve – Auditorium

Updating/revising regional datasets:

1. **Action Item:** Need to prioritize lands that are appropriate for smoke management buffers. Refine and prioritize buffers via an analysis and “culling” process using a expert-derived rule set, e.g. all known prescribed burn areas receive a priority buffer that can be refined according to on-the-ground knowledge. Jeff Marcus can provide first cut and then send to experts for review of current smoke management buffers (experts to include burn bosses from TNC, Ft. Bragg, WRC, and private consultant foresters or prescribed burners).
 - a. Adjust standard smoke buffers based on local knowledge of public and private managers controlling actions on priority (and perhaps) conservation lands. Also include buffers (but maybe at a different priority level) on areas we would like burning to occur in the future, e.g. primary areas that are not protected or potential areas.
2. **Action Item:** Updating potential areas is important, but it’s also an opportunity to build landowner relationships if they allow access to their property. We do not currently have the needed resources to do the field work. Also, it is labor intensive to review aerials, but this needs to be done first.
 - a. Identify programs/individuals that are visiting private lands or use new inventory data to refine list of potential areas prior to the aerial-photo review.
 - b. Generate a list of criteria to share with private-land biologists or possibly a seasonal technician to facilitate collection of consistent field data in order to make final determinations on each potential area.
3. **Action Item:** There is a need to compare the CPT and RD. After the comparison is completed, it may be appropriate to push for changes in the statewide map – this could be a future Action Item.
 - a. Sara could do one with the new Sandhills map. What needs to be done?
 - i. Assess based on upper third of the scale of the most important areas for conservation to compare “cut-off” points between two products.
 - ii. Broad number of acres included in some aggregate of ranks we care about and expressed as a percentage of the total acres in the Sandhills
4. **Action Item:** Check why military lands are not being included in conservation lands that are being buffered. Create a conserved land layer and a conserved land buffer layer (for smoke management) that includes the military lands.

5. **Action Item:** Use a GIS approach to “clip out” areas where buffers are not reasonable or can be adjusted from the base buffer standard. Exclude areas that are already developed within the buffer area (BB).
6. **Action Item:** Buffers on Primary Areas and Protosites:
 - a. Secondary areas do not need a ½ mile buffer
 - b. Eliminate based on small size or location for questionable sites (areas already developed within buffer)
 - c. Filter by habitat type

Performance/Accountability-related

1. **Action Item:** We need to figure out how to have the map used more effectively by the partners internally and externally, and this needs to be addressed before we “tweak”/improve the map.
2. **Action Item:** Conduct assessment of known targets captured on lands protected over the last 10 years.

Overall objective/approach for moving forward

1. **Action Item:** Need a definition of what we are trying to protect, e.g. most rare, what makes the ecosystem viable, etc. Has implications for accountability, but the next step is to use that definition to refine or revise the focal species list.
2. **Action Item:** Need to go back to the original target list prior to the 5-S Process and use the existing data.