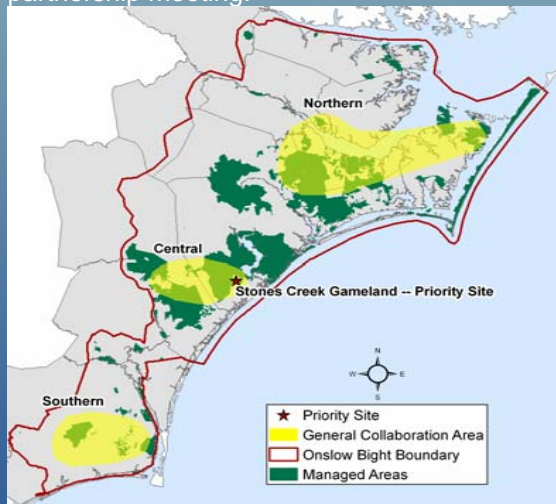


ONSHOW BIGHT FIRE PARTNERSHIP

working to restore and maintain fire adapted ecosystems and processes within the Onslow Bight landscape under a model partnership of interested agencies and organizations which will work to increase the capacity for and reduce obstacles to conducting prescribed burning.

The Onslow Bight Fire Partnership held its 2nd Fire Learning Network meeting in Wilmington, NC on Nov. 7-9, 2006. Forty participants representing 19 agencies/organizations were in attendance. The meeting began with an overview of the partnership's vision and goals formulated during the first partnership meeting.



The focus was on identifying partner priorities that would lead to identifiable projects for implementation.

For more information contact Margit Bucher, mbucher@tnc.org.

Day 1:

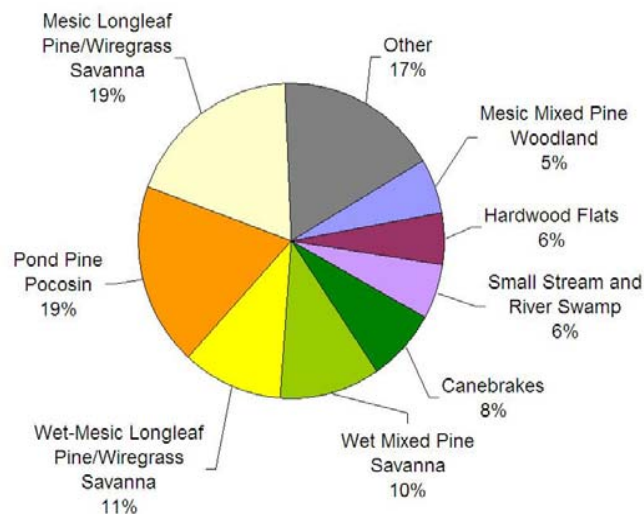
Partners were provided updates on presettlement vegetation mapping efforts for the Onslow Bight (OB) landscape. This included an overview of LANDFIRE Rapid Assessment data and work by Cecil Frost and Jen Costanza on presettlement vegetation mapping of all counties within the OB. In addition, Bob Mickler - Alion Science and Technology; and Ken Outcalt - USFS provided current research updates on *Smoke modeling and emissions; the Effects of fire return interval and seasonality in longleaf pine savannas.*

The day's highlight was a discussion of desired future conditions, in which partners identified three target areas for collaborative restoration. To assist in the process, Alexa McKerrow of NC GAP developed maps of fire dependent species guilds (contact Jen Costanza jcostanza@tnc.org for a copy).

Day 2:

Partners visited 6 sites within the central target area identified during day 1. Sites visited included lands managed by DOD

Onslow Bight Presettlement Vegetation



Cecil Frost and Tommy Hughes discuss the presettlement vegetation of Stone Creek Gamelands.

Camp Lejeune, WRC Stone Creek Game Lands, and TNC Sandy Run and Shaken Creek Preserve.

Presettlement vegetation conditions, Desired Future Conditions, and the challenges faced managing and restoring each tract was discussed. It is important to understand that each partner's desired condition varies depending on each agency/organization's operational mandates.

Day 3:

The final day began with an overview from Gary Curcio - NC DFR about changes to NC Smoke Management Guidelines. It is hopeful that the new guidelines will increase opportunities for burning under the current Ventilation index system or the newly proposed Atmospheric Dispersion Modeling method.

J.J. Bachant Brown provided an overview of the Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership (GCPEP) which was formed in 1996 and is an active FLN landscape. It was this landscape which shared the burn prioritization model that Camp Lejeune now utilizes.

The highlight of the day was a discussion on how the partnership narrows its focus and identifies "priority projects" within the landscape. The importance of an MOU between partners was re-visited as well as determining some steps this group can pursue in order to develop plans, pursue funding opportunities and begin the process of implementing fire action on the ground.

ACTION ITEMS!

- Move forward with an MOU between the partners to ease implementation practices.
- Cooperation between DOD Cherry Point, USFS Croatan NF, and NC WRC to repair and put to use an idle DE4 tractor to assist with partner Rx fires.
- Examine the usefulness & feasibility of a PFTC crew for February 2007 to increase partnership burning opportunities.
- USFWS agreed to investigate NFP funding channels and CWPPs as this process is required for Cedar Island in the next year.
- Tentatively scheduled our next FLN meeting for the last week of **June 2007** to be held in New Bern, NC.