ACCG Monitoring Meeting

Wednesday, June 12, 2019

8:52 AM

Attendees: Chuck, Robin, Elena, Becky (in office), Alissa, Helen, Shana, Joe (on phone)

**Ecological Indicator Report**

Are there any changes to the structure of the 2019 report?

* Ecological Indicator Report guidance (2 documents - 1 has specific information on potential data to dig up)
* The monitoring group will tackle this report with help from the districts
* Draft Due Date is October 1 to districts for review with a final deadline of November 1 to the WO
* So much be completed in this fiscal year 2019
* Will be submitted with the Annual Report
* Target audience of this report is fairly broad which is likely why it is more qualitative
* We can likely utilize quantitative data that we have available although some of these efforts are not all completed
* Can draw upon the updated business plans
  + Really the only item that we are behind on it forest vegetation establishment
  + If the Power money is returned this will move along on schedule for completion

The report is very focused on implementation and determining if we are meeting desired conditions but maybe the monitoring data can help us identify whether we are moving closer to that goal

Need to read both guiding documents - template and guidance as both have a variety of information that will be useful

The report focuses on current success, future projections and any problems that have arisen in the process

* Look at annual report to determine what projects have been completed
* All projects are in the annual report (2 years ago)
* Table with all the projects

2019 Indicator Report Tasks

* Shana will be task master with the help of Chuck
* Each section will have a lead (Elena - Fire Regimes, Becky - Watershed Condition, Shana - Wildlife Habitat, Chuck (Helen) - Invasive Species
* Each person will review requests and report back to the group in August monitoring meeting on a draft plan to complete the section. Each lead will reach out to corresponding district contacts as well as review the monitoring database to determine if there is any quantitative data that we can draw upon.
* Create a folder on the box external for the report (<https://usfs.box.com/s/u6eeiu5pj14w429mcytslq0rx5gyobmr>)

**Upcoming Field and Monitoring Projects**

Scottiago Field Tour

* June 26th
* Planning Group field trip
* Discussion of how to transition older plantations and mid seral habitat into late seral habitat good for owls
* Discussion of owl strategy might occur
* Malcolm and John Keane will be attending
* Mark would be the contact for the field trip and identifying the stops on the field trip
* Similar areas that were previously treated with CASPO are now being considered for retreatment

Power Fire Monitoring Field Tour

* Robin contact Jesse to see whether he is available on this day
* July 10th field trip will replace our regular recurring meeting
  + - Meet at day use area across from the Lumberyard at 0800 to beat the heat
* Who others should we get to join?
* Bring ride along forms finalized
* Contact Jesse and others that might be good to participate in the Power fire field tour
* Provide a write up for the Power Fire Monitoring trip to share with the full ACCG (Becky)
* Share Power Fire Field monitoring field tour with ACCG at next full meeting (Gwen)

* Needs for the field tour

Hardhats - for out in the field (Robin)

Tailgate safety session

Photo monitoring protocol for the field tour (Becky will share with group)

Ride along form (Robin or Chuck)

* Stops for Power fire - Alissa can help plan these sites - contact her for stops on this field trip (Alissa)

Potential stops: Bumblebee plots - talk about this monitoring – overlap, Variable density plots to photo monitor

* Annual report - a short write up of the field tour and other tours

 Purchase of Tablets

* Need to fill out the paperwork for CIO - justification
* Who would be the contacts on the district? We would need to identify whom these are so that they can take these over after when Cornerstone is done
* These tablets would be used by the planning group and the monitoring group for Photo monitoring

 Meadow Projects

* Volunteer work early July for implementation
* Crews would be focused on conifer removal so no need for the monitoring group to help with this process
* Need to verify whether the meadow will be grazed this year
* Utilization study would be important in a meadows in the same allotment
* Need to figure out the correct protocol to use and whether we need any equipment
* Maybe a good year to get baseline information if it isn’t grazed
* Does the FS do any utilization monitoring in the past in Upper Onion?
* Helen can help with the utilization work
* This can be completed at Leaudeux and Deer Valley (Bear River allotment) as well
* Leaudeux - ESA frogs need to really monitor this location
* Might be a great opportunity to schedule some group time as it is really difficult to travel to Leadeaux meadow
* Upper Onion/Foster - bumblebee and avian this year
* Still waiting on weather to clear up to access most of these sites
* August/September
* Follow up on the utilization studies

Project Specific Monitoring that occurred on Calaveras RD

* Specialists - spent a lot of time developing this plan on Calaveras RD
* Shana contacted the respective resources years ago and it didn’t appear to have gone anywhere
* Dig up the spreadsheet and share with Elena
* Shana will share the information

Consumnes Projects

* 50 or so ecology plots in the Consumnes
* Bird data that has been entered
* Some veg data was collected but never entered
* Report from 1997 that would be interested
* Overlay with FACTS database to see what treatments
* Query our database to find the location of the Ecology plots
* Established in old growth and limited here - identify whether these areas should be targeted for restoration
* Helen - will share the plot locations
* Late season for this project maybe September or October

Amphibian Watch

* Jeff came to update on this
* Opportunities to follow up on this with the ACCG
* Baseline data on Ledeaux for utilization
* Share information with ACCG on where to do amphibian watch – in areas where data doesn’t exist
* Recording in Inaturalist
* Getting set up to move this forward
* Eldorado Amphibian Watch on I Naturalist is the name of the project but I think you have to be invited to see or add to this site location

**Task List:**

2019 Indicator Report

* Shana will be task master with the help of Chuck
* Each section will have a lead (Elena - Fire Regimes, Becky - Watershed Condition, Shana - Wildlife Habitat, Chuck (Helen) - Invasive Species
* Each person will review requests and report back to the group in August monitoring meeting on a draft plan to complete the section. Each lead will reach out to corresponding district contacts as well as review the monitoring database to determine if there is any quantitative data that we can draw upon.
* Create a folder on the box external for the report (<https://usfs.box.com/s/u6eeiu5pj14w429mcytslq0rx5gyobmr>)

* Add Chuck to email and box - Pinyon folder (Becky - done)
* Ask Tania whether they are paring down the email list or consider just emailing the list to determine who wants to continue on the email list (Becky)
* Begin the CIO paperwork for the tablets - focus on the Cornerstone mission and monitoring and who will be responsible for the tablets after Cornerstone is no longer around (Becky)
* Brief Rick and Jason on tablet request so that - need Joe to help for the STF acquisition (Robin and Joe)
* Provide us with a table of the projects that have been completed (Robin and Joe)
* Contact Jesse and others that might be good to participate in the Power fire field tour (Robin)
* Provide a write up for the Power Fire Monitoring trip to share with the full ACCG (Becky)
* Share Power Fire Field monitoring field tour with ACCG at next full meeting (Gwen)

* Needs for the field tour

Hardhats - for out in the field (Robin)

Tailgate safety session (Robin or Chuck)

Photo monitoring protocol for the field tour (Becky will share with group)

* Stops for Power fire - Alissa can help plan these sites - contact her for stops on this field trip (Alissa)
* Annual report - a short write up on the Power Fire tour (ACCG Monitoring group after field trip)
* Provide information on potential contact at Rock Crawlers to Gwen for transport into Leadeaux meadow (Robing)
* Talk offline on utilization work to determine needs in the meadows (Chuck, Robin and Gwen)
* Gwen will do homework on a utilization study protocol and whether we need any equipment to purchase before this is implemented (Gwen)
* Schedule time and date for Leaudeux work – (Robin, Chuck, Jeff and others)
* Share Consumnes Eco plot locations (Helen - done)
* Look at these plots in GIS and determine if any treatments have occurred in those areas before moving forward with a field trip or monitoring needs (Becky)
* Dig up project specific monitoring that occurred on the Calaveras RD several year ago and share with Elena and Joe (Becky)
* Share any past research or follow up that was done on the project specific monitoring plan (Shana)
* Follow up with us on the amphibian watch work that is occurring (Jeff)