

## ACCG Monitoring Workgroup

March 13, 2019

Attendees: Alaina Osimowicz, Becky Estes, Shana Gross, Gwen Starrett, Helen Loffland

ACCG full meeting – 40 minutes for Decision Framework and 30 minutes for monitoring presentation.

Decision Framework for Meadows (Shana) – Present overall project and get feedback. Ask for volunteers to walk through process.

### ACCG Monitoring Scenario Presentation Review

#### 1) Review project list

- a. Add DBP monitoring into our project list (Cabbage Patch, Scottiago). Most important in the mixed conifer forest, not as much in the Red Fir. R5 ecology group will discuss DBP at their next meeting which is during our April ACCG monitoring meeting. Are other regions monitoring this? Need to determine if we need to change monitoring meeting because of this conflict. Tahoe implemented DBP but it was in a plantation. **Becky** will check on other places using DBP.
- b. Indian Valley Meadow – Monitoring has happened in past and we need to get back with project proponents such as American Rivers, Alpine Watershed Council, IBP. Would need additional funding for monitoring (CFLR \$\$?). Add columns to include groundwater, and completed/not-completed. Final report on Indian Valley is where? **Shana** will find it.
- c. Zach has developed a tool to determine bats in the Power Fire. Future meeting subject. The tool shows occupancy of bats in post-fire areas, Alissa would be happy to demo it! Good to use for managing recently burned areas. (Project 10)
- d. Send final project reports to SCALE and ACCG website. SCALE needs to link to ACCG site. Ask full ACCG where to store final reports. How to deal with website uploads? **Admin group** is looking into this with the website designer.
- e. Contact Martha Conklin UC Merced about status of snow study. **Alaina** following up.
- f. Forest Treatment Effectiveness for reducing tree mortality – Ecologists study – they have some sites in Arnold Avery.
- g. FIA – difficult to get data. We can get info if we have a specific need. Would be good to know where the locations are, but they have not been forthcoming with this info.
- h. Post implementation field trip – Haven't developed a photomonitoring and documentation procedure for field trips.
- i. R5 range monitoring – Robin sent out an email identifying transect locations.
- j. Consumnes Ecology Plots – revisit sites originally studied in the 1980s. Veg. and bird monitoring. Could volunteers help with this over the summer or is it too complicated? Not that complicated, but funding and trainers are needed. **Helen** has found some sites and working on putting them in GIS

#### 2) Priorities

- a. Four priorities – mixed conifer management, meadow, reforestation, red fir management. Potentially adding other priorities – tree mortality, prescribed fire, roads. Other projects might drop off because they aren't covered by these priorities.

- b. Holes – aquatic wildlife and soils/roads and landscape-scale questions (could be GIS based or Google Earth Engine).
- 3) Budget – what do we need to finish our work. Crew cost for veg. monitoring was about \$12000/year. More money for red fir was requested. ACCG group – what do we want from them? Scenario planning – Are these priorities on track? Showing magnitude of funding – current and future. What is missing? Robin asked whether we need money for 2019. Most of the projects are funded for 2019.
  - a. 1 year post-treatment. Hemlock, Panther, Thompson are funded. Red fir is partially funded.
  - b. Longer term – 3-5 year and 10 year post treatment – funding needed.
  - c. If funding is available, we could request funding for meadow monitoring using the WRAMP protocol (Wetland and Riparian Area Monitoring Plan that the Sierra Meadow Partnership has drafted) which would focus on meadows that have had some restoration work (e.g., Indian Valley, Foster) or are targeted for restoration (e.g., Three Meadows).
- 4) Presentation – Add monitoring strategy, database, SCALE. Helped get the socioeconomic group going. Collaborative survey identified need for facilitator.
- 5) We still need more participation in the monitoring WG. Monitoring is a stand alone group that is getting additional tasks (e.g. landscape mapping). What is really wanted by Michael and Katherine on this? Could we set up a different task force headed by one of them? Monitoring WG doesn't currently have the capacity for this. Where is funding for this? **Becky** – will follow up with Michael.
- 6) How are we getting presentation finished? **Helen** will provide photos for reforestation, **Shana** will do SCALE slide. **Becky** will finish up slides and then send it out to us for editing. **Becky** will let us know what we should present.
- 7) **Alaina** will ask Joe about budget for 2020 and 2021 and monitoring.

### Updates and Planning for Summer

- 1) Cosumnes veg. plots – Will Shana and Becky have time this summer? Helen is starting to transfer data into GIS and interested in how to move forward. Need money for a project coordinator. Goal for this year - field trip and relocation activity. Volunteer activity is to look for plots. **Helen** is interested in looking into funding and project design in future years. She will send out info to group.
- 2) Power Fire – 2019 Field trip to photomonitor. It has been site prepped, planting not until fall. Veg monitoring would be 2020.
- 3) Panther – Will not be until 2020 or later
- 4) Upper Onion, Tyler – Conifer removal – meadow boundaries and meadow footprint is ongoing in 2019. Once conifer removal is complete, then you can do monitoring and look at post conifer and pre-hydrology in 2020. Monitor in 2022 for both treatments.
- 5) Power Fire bumblebee – Last year of monitoring. Will be getting post-treatment on some of the herbicide treatments. Difficult to have volunteers because it takes a lot of training. Set up a field day to tag along with crews.

- 6) Bumblebee monitoring in meadows – Foster. May be a year of monitoring within the Plumas Corp. grant. To do – add bee monitoring within Foster and Upper Onion to our database. **Becky** add wildlife to Foster and Upper Onion.
- 7) Little Indian – Pre-project bird monitoring point counts. Helen has conducted these surveys.
- 8) Amphibian Watch – will that continue? **Becky** will check with Traci.
- 9) Amphibian Surveys – **Alissa** will she be monitoring in 2019 if NFWF grant is funded? No – if we are funded, fieldwork would start in 2020.
- 10) Foster Firs – Hemlock ongoing, Foster will not be completely treated by 2019.
- 11) Range monitoring – **Shana** will let Gwen and Helen know when Tahoe range monitoring is happening so they can learn those techniques to bring to their meadow restoration projects. Based on frequency monitoring – what is remaining, species composition. Keep Alissa in the loop.
- 12) Power Fire Birds and Veg – starting monitoring of reforestation efforts (mainly herbicide applications, some points with mastication) and prescribed fire. 2019 and 2020 field seasons planned.

#### Task List

- See names above for tasks
- 5 year monitoring report – Ecological Indicator Report is due in December 2019. Put on April agenda for monitoring group. Alissa cannot attend April 10 meeting – out of town for a training.
- Appropriations for CFLR is still uncertain
- Check original proposal to determine funding for monitoring on an annual basis – **Leave as an action item**
- Zach's tool re: Bats – put on future agenda
- Field trip post-implementation photomonitoring – put on future agenda