ACCG January 2022 Monitoring Meeting

Wednesday, January 12 2022

9:00 AM

Attendees: Becky Estes, Zac Croyle, Meredith Sierra, Kirsten Bovee (note-taker), Sue Britting, Linda Diesem, Rachel Kieffer, Helen Loffland, Meghan Layhee

**Next Meeting: February 09, 2022**

Please send any agenda topics for this meeting.

**1. Introductions/Agenda Review**

* Now an audio number with TEAMS, so transitioning to using this instead of Zoom for this and future meetings.
* Membership Changes: Greg Suba retired; Sue Britting representing Sierra Forest Legacy; Rachel Kieffer representing Alpine Watersheds

**2.** **2022 Goals and Objectives for Monitoring Workgroup**

Brainstorming our priority goals for 2022 (top 3)

*top goal! conduct a monitoring symposuim*

* Field-based monitoring symposium – have a plan to present to full group in 2 weeks
* Who will lead monitoring group into the future?
* Not much of Caldor is within ACCG, but lessons-learned from Power and/or Caldor (where were treatments successful) could apply broadly to post-fire restoration
* Sue: invite SOFAR to symposium (South Fork American River Cohesive Strategy)- present to SOFAR at next meeting to get buy-in

*landscape-scale monitoring*

* Meaghan Leahy / SLAWG tool – how to incorporate landscape-scale monitoring / indicators from SLAWG into ACCG monitoring?
* LiDAR now available – consider training to familiarize ACCG monitoring group with data

*2022 monitoring prioritization*

* need to prioritize 2022 data collection/field crew needs
* Monitoring Briefs – Many current through 2017, may be need for updates to these (project-scale) or for an ACCG-wide status report
* ACCG-wide monitoring status report could include status of project (treated? analyzed?) and/or lessons learned; this could help to prioritize work to carry forward through 2022 and beyond.
* in addition, a report could focus on how results from Power Fire can help guide post-fire restoration in Caldor; Caples could constitute another stand-alone report

**3. Monitoring Symposium**

* Becky displayed symposium spreadsheet from 2020 – how to update for 2022?
* 2020 was intended as field-based as a follow-up to 2018 presentation-based symposium
* Need for small write-up to present to ACCG broader group (Becky will create a flyer)
* Consider two days . . . one with lessons learned from Power, one focused on Caldor? Or a Zoom day + field tour?
* Zoom format idea from Sue: (“5 x 5” presentations – five slides, five minutes, result and application-focused)
* What are 1-3 management recommendations gleaned from Power Fire from each monitoring project? For group to consider.
* Sue Britting and (Helen?) volunteered for symposium working group
* Consider July or October because have not yet acquired buy-in from ACCG or partner groups or FS permission for a field trip
* First steps: get buy-in (ACCG, SOFAR, FS), decide on format (Zoom, field, both), pin down dates
* Becky will design flyer with an eye toward communicating clear purpose

**4. Website Finalization**

* Background: have been working to improve public interface with ACCG monitoring efforts
* Megan revamped webpage for ACCG, and has reorganized so that monitoring easier to “find” from homepage
* Megan requesting more field work photos from everyone (post to external Box drive)
* Populating table (imbedded “Awesome Google” table) with links to briefs, publications, and presentations. Group discussion about including only the most representative presentations/reports for each project so as not to overwhelm viewers.
* Include contact field so that viewers can obtain more information if desired
* ACCG Monitoring members asked to provide updates to Becky (who has edit privileges for Awesome table) in ACCGProjectsforWebsite\_2021.xls in Box External. Include presentations, spatial data, photos.
* Megan will develop a cheat sheet on AwesomeTable editing prior to end of contract
* Becky – discussed issues with FS hosting interactive online map . . . complications with AGOL use for this. Hold off for now.
* Group discussed working toward incorporating a monitoring geodatabase into SLAWG page (which already has an interactive map set up) instead of hosting a stand-alone map on the monitoring page

**5. Round Robin**

**Helen Loffland:**

* + Chips/Upper Molekolumne Thinning . . . none of thinning happened in 2021 as scheduled in plots where baseline data collected
  + Post-fire bee survey at Foster Meadow completed
  + UC Irvine bumblebee crew may be available next field season!
  + WCB aspen proposal submitted in December; map aspen stands more comprehensively, tied in with SERCAL for alignment in rapid assessment protocol. Identify priority areas for aspen treatments; initiate planning and treatments in highest priority areas. Monitoring that aligns with Caples aspen protocol, as well as bird and bee point counts. Feb/March decisions.
  + Will send links to Northern California Botanist symposium
  + Little Indian Valley . . . may be a candidate for conifer removal monitoring

**Megan Layhee:**

* + Multiple fuels reduction projects deferred

**Kirsten Bovee:**

* Analyzed pre- and post-treatment conifer removal data
* Initial results show that protocol enables detection of conifer removal (post-treatment decreases). Prescribed fire follow-up and 3-year post-treatment available only for Baldwin Meadow on LTBMU for far.

**5. Future Agenda Items**

* Monitoring Symposium updates
* Forward future agenda items to Becky

**Agenda Topics for February 09, 2022**

* Primary Topic = Monitoring Symposium: Pin down dates for field-based monitoring symposium, develop agenda and field stops, identify speakers, pass on information to full group meeting in January
* Revisit website
* Discuss 2022 priorities for ACCG

**January Task List**

All Ongoing

* Short presentation to appropriate audience re: need for monitoring funds post-project (up to 10 years post).
* Use SLAWG to help address whether we are treating/monitoring the right acres.
* Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group (ongoing)
* Think about 2022 Goals and Objectives and priority projects
* Monitoring Briefs – Many current through 2017, may be need for updates to these (project-scale) or for an ACCG-wide status report
* **(NEW) ACCG Monitoring members asked to provide updates to Becky (who has edit privileges for Awesome table) in ACCGProjectsforWebsite\_2021.xls in Box External. Include presentations, spatial data, photos.**
* **(NEW) Megan requesting more field work photos from everyone for web site (post to external Box drive)**
* **(NEW) What are 1-3 management recommendations gleaned from Power Fire from each monitoring project?**

Becky

* Snow survey Hemlock update (Bales or Conklin)
* Continue to merge all monitoring spatial data into one place (ongoing)
* Tie in with Chuck on Caples browse pressure (Becky)
* Determine whether the Forest Service can house the spatial database on our ArcGIS Online
* Becky and Megan to plan post fire restoration talk at Planning WG (this could also be packaged with the Rapid Assessment that the Regional Office is producing
* Add Meredith to ACCG External on Pinyon (done)
* Send emails to monitoring group about 2022 Goals and Objectives and about Monitoring Symposium
* See if Caldor fuels treatment effectiveness briefs (Dana Walsh) can be shared with ACCG
* Work with Kirsten and Meagan Leahy on spatial database of monitoring projects
* **(NEW) design flyer to present to ACCG, SOFAR, FS about monitoring symposium and initiate conversations with these groups to establish interest/permissions for field trips**

Chuck

* Check in with Maura and Jeff on removal of aquatic terrestrial
* Report out on Karen Pope - Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frogs

Megan

* Website additions after the group follows up on this (such as additional photos)
* **(NEW) create a cheatsheet for Google Awesome Tables prior to end of contract**

Gwen

* Add Little Indian Valley, Thompson, and Foster Firs to Climate Engine monitoring

Helen

* Helen will share WRAM with group when finalized
* Look at range plots for potential inclusion to address monitoring strategy questions
* Helen will share WRAM with group when finalized
* **(NEW) Serve on monitoring symposium working group**

Zac

* Check to see if Matley got read prior to implementation by the range monitoring program

Kirsten

* Work with Becky and Meaghan Leahy on spatial database of monitoring projects

Sue

* Bring up symposium idea at next SOFAR meeting
* **(NEW) Serve on monitoring symposium working group**

## **Future Agenda Topics** *(carried over from November notes)*

1. Monitoring Strategy - review the strategy and see if there is something else we might need to pursue (ongoing)
   1. Track key issues and make sure we are monitoring them
   2. Is there any new information gained that can be applied to management?
2. Spring – Power fire field symposium – reevaluate if there are additional speakers (i.e. Gwen and conifer effectiveness), need to be able to carpool for field tour to be feasible – maybe a Caldor and Power Fire field tour, also would be good to plan monitoring field tours on Calaveras
3. CA Forest Observatory – could be a good topic for our group (this might be a great SLAWG topic as well)
4. Landscape Scale Assessment – circle back to reporting and how we can tackle assessing at a broader scale – maybe LiDAR will help us with this? (linked to part 2 of SLAWG been postponed)
   1. Think about how we can use the LiDAR as a monitoring tool and start looking at outputs
   2. Shana could present about how was used in LTW for assessment and now for monitoring
   3. Presentation on LiDAR products once it is available for the ENF (maybe have Van and UW folks to talk about the LiDAR outputs for the ACCG)
5. Summarizing data now that we have data – what projects need a report out?
   1. discuss how information is being presented/translated and if we can improve that
6. Presentation or working group meeting on POSCRPT tool – post fire regeneration tool – once we have the RAVG data we can run this for Caldor fire