**Notes January 13 2021 | ACCG Monitoring Group**

Participants: Shane Dante, Becky Estes, Rich Farrington, Alissa Fog, Chuck Loffland, Megan Layhee, Gwen Starrett, Zac Croyle, Shana Gross, Helen Loffland, Robin Wall

## January Task List

**All**

* Review ACCG current monitoring programs relative to questions questions (when Helen sends – prior to Feb meeting)
* Reminder: Climate Smart Meadow Restoration scheduled for Feb 11th

**Alissa**

* Point person for website updates with help of Alissa and Gwen working with Megan

**Becky**

* Share examples of successful landscape scale monitoring
* Start to shift data to ArcGIS online account

**Zac**

* Check if STF is going to do optional update to WCF

**Helen**

* Review/Summarize current ACCG monitoring activities relative to questions in order to evaluate if we are answering the questions well (more details below)

**Chuck**

* Let planning group know why we are reevaluating based on changing conditions – and that there are likely some questions missing based on changed conditions (i.e.: Egress from forest, changing fire regime, mortality, marijuana groves, SLWAG)
  + Ask group what are key (maybe top 3) topics/issues/questions folks want to see monitoring information for and make sure to think as the ACCG as whole not what is required from CFLRP

All Ongoing

* Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group (ongoing)
* Provide CHIPS/Thurman feedback on monitoring efforts (ongoing)

## Website discussion

* Megan can do all of the website updates, except for the ArcGIS story map which will continue forward as a need – need to figure out who would host
* Megan is using the bulleted list the monitoring group came up with for content and thinking about location – there will be a quick link and they will think about main ribbon
* Talk about website redundancy – info specific to Monitoring group and found in other locations
* Location, content, and formatting – formatting will come down the road
* Megan has a starting point for content
* As it develops Megan wants to connect with a point person
* She is developing it on word press so public won’t see until ready to publish
* Story map can be a time sink in terms of time – really easy to embed but need to think about who’s account it will be on to think about storage it takes to store it indefinitely
  + Could have discussion with Regine about cost over time about how many credits the story map takes because it’s a cost and cloud space
* Megan will start developing webpages soon, also developing for SLWAG and funding work group
* **Alissa** will be point person, but Becky and Gwen can review things as part of smaller committee to review things and will then bring back to the larger group
* Need strong presence on first page
* Megan wants more discussions on how to make website more streamlined, user friendly, and useful and then bring it to admin work group

## SLWAG post workshop discussion

* Webinars were fantastic
* Tools are really good and there is a place for the monitoring piece
* A lot of good participant feedback which will be included as supplemental material in general meeting this month and at SLWAG meeting
* Moved really fast and created useful products
* SLWAG group really needs to meet to determine next steps
* Megan will now be active participant in planning workgroup to use SLWAG tools
* Next steps: calibration, use datasets like LiDar and look at other folks using Risk and PODS analysis to see where they go with the tools that they generated
* Megan will bring up place for monitoring workgroup spatial data in larger landscape assessment
* Started just with fuels, but this could be grown to whatever is wanted
* Would be very useful to add spatial monitoring data – spatial information could be incorporated into that
* Monitoring data could be sent through Chips as a shapefile or through USFS ArcGIS online
* What scale of monitoring data to we want to present? -plot locations or project locations? Polygons?
* Need to dive into monitoring strategy to think about what projects can be shared through FS side
* Touch base with CHIPS to see how we share
* Next agenda item more discussion on what we actually want
  + California Avian monitoring data – Alissa could demo
  + Polygons might be sufficient
  + Maybe just really shooting for coarse monitoring locations with metadata with location for raw
  + Maybe link to existing polygon data to identify if it is a monitoring spot
  + GPAS could get fuels/veg treatment and would be same as what project was to identify monitoring
* Next step – ask planning work group what they are interested in to understand what to present
* **Becky** – start to shift data to ArcGIS online account

## WO – CFLRP Monitoring Strategy

* CFLRP has thresholds but looked like any difference
* Thinking more broadly about evaluating watersheds
* **Zac** to check if STF is going to do optional updated to WCF
* Doesn’t provide a lot of recommendations
* Still begs question of how to do landscape scale assessment
* Waiting on LiDar from ENF
* Social economic piece is potentially most valuable piece of this
* Unlikely that the ACCG will need to follow this, but really intended for new CFLRPs to provide a bit more guidance
* Indicators really FS centric so hard to interpret
* Key areas fuel reductions and areas of prescribed fire
  + If we could have support with FLAMMAP from R5 this could be a priority to pursue
* Take homes: bring forward landscape scale, thresholds, social economic
  + What is the reduction in fuels hazards based on our treatments is one of our missing questions

Existing ACCG Monitoring Strategy - review the strategy and see if there is something else we might need to pursue

* 15 of the 30 ecological monitoring questions fit into tier 1 and tier 2
* Are we adequately monitoring those questions being addressed in database
* Is there something that has changed since we asked our original questions that we still need to answer?
* Has importance of wildfire been elevated since we started this process?
* Drought/mortality questions
* Fuels treatment influencing fire questions we might not have been addressing this well enough – Q14, Q13 – right now we are just looking at this from individual project and not at the landscape
  + Q14 – portion of indicator to look at by land zone (e.g. community - WUI, general forest)
* Is there value in narrowing scope so that more of our project focus on key questions
* Do we want to develop and modify our current questions?
* Purpose of monitoring for adaptive management – will the questions help with this?
* Infrastructure, water, health and safety – evacuation routes
  + Are we protecting communities?
* Change condition: questions not currently monitoring
  + Need to add question revolving around drought and beetle mortality
* Revisit risk assessment piece to see what came out as a priority
  + Questions related to fire, do they address wildfire affects?
  + Tracking invasive plants and how we would want to track (e.g. Power fire) – focus on smaller set with short course hand out – make sure link back to management and what is happening on the landscape
* Take a look at monitoring questions, is it something we want to take on and tackle – SLWAG tracking could be tool use
* Marijuana grows – clean up last effects?
* Hard look at fire questions and how overlaid with social economic
* **Priorities**: is it important to management, public, science, etc, how long is it going to be able to apply to management, are there uncertainties that we don’t understand, streamline projects forward
* Landscape scale assessments and where are our treatments on the landscape
  + Where do they occur? And are they having an influence on fire behavior?
* 1) Let planning group know why we are reevaluating based on changing conditions – we think there are some questions might be missing – **Chuck (next planning group meeting)**
  + Egress from forest, changing fire regime, mortality, marijuana groves, SLWAG
  + What are top 3 topics/issues/questions folks need – priorities are where we are currently
  + Think outside of CFLR to ACCG
* 2) Evaluation of tier 1 questions and what we think we are monitoring well?
  + **Helen** will create query/table about projects we are respond to
  + Some questions may seem tangential but can streamline other objectives
* 3) Identify new questions based on changing questions, data gaps spatial (e.g. WUI, Landscape), new questions – methodologies?
  + Fire
  + Mortality
* 4) Given the new questions, how much uncertainty and how valuable are they to adaptive management
* No intention of dropping monitoring we have ongoing – but could help to transition things to move forward

## Socio-economic discussion

* One of the items came up on checklist had to do with monitoring – does it change or affect any of checklist topics
* Easy enough data to collect along the way
* Would like to present checklist to planning workgroup, but question is do we see anything about way questions are posed that we can benefit from
* Could be as simple or complex as project proponent makes it
* Check boxes above assessment could inform what an assessment would look like (includes an assessment of community and economic benefits)
  + None of it is a requirement
* Later can we go back and look at specific check boxes to see if there are underlying questions that the project proponents can answer or ask themselves for more solid footing
* Group could fill out form and if they are willing then ask them for quantitative information for how you accomplished what you checked
  + Good as a tool for are you going to do this
  + Not as useful as monitoring
  + Add something into includes assessment identifying final report will be presented to ACCG – also include some information as to why this is important, so people understand why they are doing it and the importance
    - Provide a way so the people know what we are going to report on – is it important to have things at the top we would actually wanted to have reported on to understand social and economic issues in ACCG
  + Indicators only need to pick 4 to discuss in annual report – TREAT has to do with people hours, contract work, money spent
* Purpose is intending to help, its not going to make or break a project
* Robin sent socio-economic indicators in annual report to everyone
* Will be presented to planning work group later this month

## 2020 Monitoring Updates – Round Robin

* Becky will reach out to both districts to find out what monitoring has been completed
* Eric Nicita has group of volunteers organizing and it could be for monitoring – January 31st 3:00
* Climate Smart Meadow Workshop – Thursday Feb 11th

## Agenda Topics for February 10th

* Socio-economic discussion – review SI report, UMRWA results from contractor survey, CFLRP WO strategy, project checklist if needed, other topics – need someone with familiarity to present and who can task with this – push to March agenda
* How want to share monitoring data and what information is useful
* ACCG monitoring strategy

## December Task List - Action Item Review

**All**

* Review ACCG monitoring questions (when Helen sends – prior to January meeting) - done
* Review WO CFLRP monitoring strategy (2 documents) - done

All Ongoing

* Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group (ongoing)
* Provide CHIPS/Thurman feedback (ongoing)

**Rich**

* Send checklist if want monitoring group help to evaluate how to turn checklist into meaningful socio-economic monitoring (done) - done

**Becky**

* Add Rich to ACCG monitoring pdl (done) - done
* Share examples of successful landscape scale monitoring

**Alissa**

* Propose pyro-silviculture and high severity/patch size papers as a full group topic

**Helen**

* Review/Summarize ACCG monitoring questions in strategy and send to group to reevaluate group questions to see if additional questions needed - done

# Future Agenda Topics

1. Monitoring Strategy - review the strategy and see if there is something else we might need to pursue
   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. March – 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
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
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