ACCG February 2022 Monitoring Meeting

Wednesday, February 09 2022

9:00 AM

Attendees: Becky Estes, Zac Croyle, Meredith Sierra, Kirsten Bovee (note-taker), Alissa Fogg, Linda Diesem, Chuck Loffland, Helen Loffland, Sue Britting

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 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.

**2. ACCG Monitoring Worksroup 2022 Goals**

* goals have been circulated to group, and have been updated to incorporate feedback
* brief review of goals, group can find this document [here](https://usfs.box.com/s/h3gcyz7xkrg7b3ebwa04m3m7w4oif1i0)
* ACCG Monitoring report . . . status report would be a good idea, perhaps prior to the field season/field tour (e.g. Power Fire review, Caples review); additional request for this by the ACCG greater group. Unclear who would take ownership of this.
* No more money associated with CFLR

**2. Monitoring Symposium**

* Need to obtain leadership buy-in . . . Chuck suggests presenting a brief write-up and an agenda item to the next FLT meeting (shoot for March)
* Becky and Sue obtained support from SOFAR for the symposium, Becky has monitoring brief that can be shared for the FLT – will share with team for review before sharing with FLT
* Discussion about dates – considered late June/ early July so that lessons learned can help to inform post-Caldor restoration planning, and tentatively selected **7/14 for virtual presentation, and 7/15 for field tour**)
* Team agrees to focus on lessons learned from Power for the July monitoring symposium, with SOFAR-led field trip to Caldor in October
* Plan of action is to resurrect the 2020 symposium planning documents – group needs to review, decide whether these speakers still relevant and available, which field stops priorities
* Initial discussion about topics – emphasize reforestation, post-fire restoration in CSO habitat, follow-up prescribed burning, aquatics/water quality may be of interest for downstream (literally) water users, beetle mortality from drought v. fire/BBW. Group can review and provide comment.
* Discussion about lessons learned from approach to design of post-fire restoration treatments in Power Fire (prioritization, implementation timelines – what could be delayed? where do you need to walk away?). Scale of fires like Caldor, Dixie, may mean that not every acre can be treated, which was the presumption for smaller, earlier fires such as Power.
* Will continue to address symposium needs in this meeting; not establishing subgroups at this time
* Consider 2023 symposium for Stanislaus NF monitoring (Bales hydrology research, mixed conifer monitoring, etc., meadow monitoring) as culmination of CFLN work

**3. LiDAR Data Discussion**

* Becky – screenshare of LiDAR acquisition for the ElDorado NF. Presented data from the Caples Fire to demonstrate types of outputs available (Canopy Cover, tall trees (e.g. > 32 m), dominant tree height, canopy rugosity (e.g. overlapping canopy that can help get at vertical and horizontal structure))
* LiDAR also available for the Stanislaus. Both flown in 2019. Talk of merging so that seamless coverage across the ACCG area.
* Large trees are not necessarily tall trees -- need to incorporate site quality, climate water deficit, etc. to get at important habitat characteristics for species such as CASPO
* Sue – CA Natural Resources Agency effort to capture which products are most useful to derive from LiDAR, should statewide acquisition occur thru USGS in 2022. Becky says R5 ecology has responded to this. There may be an opportunity for ACCG to weigh in as a group or in collaboration with others. Point person is [Loretta.Moreno@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Loretta.Moreno@resources.ca.gov).

**4. Round Robin**

**Helen:**

- shared map of WCB-funded work

- hasn’t heard back about aspen grant – there’s another grant submittal associated with Tamarack Fire

- plan to collect bumblebee data at Foster and Onion meadows this year

- published willow flycatcher paper! effects of meadow restoration. Will share with group.

**Alissa:**

- reviewing woodpecker habitat models to help inform post-fire restoration planning

- discussing potential for post-fire meadow inventories in Caldor with Forest

**Becky:**

- going to share upcoming webinars of interest

**5. Future Agenda Items**

* Monitoring Symposium updates
* Forward future agenda items to Becky

**Agenda Topics for March 09, 2022**

* Monitoring Symposium updates

**February Task List**

All

* 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
* 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 requesting more field work photos from everyone for web site (post to external Box drive)
* What are 1-3 management recommendations gleaned from Power Fire from each monitoring project?
* **(NEW) Symposium: review and update proposed 2020 symposium topics and speakers, think about additional topics to consider, speakers to invite, field visit stops. Becky will send 2020 planning documents to group for comment.**
* **(NEW) Review symposium flyer that Becky put together before it is shared with Forest Leadership Team in March**

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) Work with Chuck to get symposium on agenda for March 2022 Eldorado Forest Leadership Team meeting**
* **(NEW) Send flyer and 2020 symposium docs to group for review**

Chuck

* Check in with Maura and Jeff on removal of aquatic terrestrial
* Report out on Karen Pope - Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frogs
* **(NEW) Work with Becky to get symposium on agenda for March 2022 Eldorado Forest Leadership Team meeting**
* **(NEW) Review 2020 field trip stops for efficiency and ability to address multiple topics in one location**

Megan

* Website additions after the group follows up on this (such as additional photos)
* 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) Share details of Sierra Meadows Partnership field trip to Red Clover Valley that will demo monitoring protocols (6/30 – 7/1?)**

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

## **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. CA Forest Observatory – could be a good topic for our group (this might be a great SLAWG topic as well)
3. 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)
4. 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
5. 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
6. 2023 symposium to cover monitoring projects on the Stanislaus