**June 10, 2020 Notes | ACCG Monitoring Group**

**Next meeting August 8th 9-11ish**

**June Task List:**

* **Gwen**: Currently on hold - Use climate engine to look at pre and post meadow restoration for Calaveras meadows – work with Shana on this
* **All** Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group
* **Alissa** Take a look at what's on the website to determine what type of presentations and publications are available particularly for climate change (carryover from May did not get an update)
* **Alaina** Take a look at the planning documents to figure out what Rich wanted in regards to climate (carryover from May did not get an update)
* **Becky**
	+ contact Derek to see if use protocol at smaller plots for getting at heterogeneity
	+ send out conifer CSE 1-pager – this is most recent draft: <https://usfs.box.com/s/d1scuocng7tzpyrf53ypdmw6qry0dv55> I don’t think it was ever finalized, but folks can take a look at this before it is finalized
* **Regine, Marc, Helen** and Jeff: Talk offline to drill down into WCB planting units
* **Helen**: present WCB monitoring at full group July 15th meeting

**Participants:** Alissa, Becky, Regine, Shana, Helen, Alaina, Shane, Marc, Gwen

**Thompson meadow**: contractor is going to start in July, will help us plan for when we need to get back out and monitor

**July 8th is next meeting**: if we accomplish what we need to do today, how to folks feel about taking a month off – ecology crews are starting that week so we are going to skip July 8th meeting – next meeting will be **August 12th**

**WCB protocols**

Helen’s questions: Hoping to get a sense of what we need to answer questions a-c in draft protocol, Do need to take on ICO protocol in some or part of the area?

* Main questions
	+ A) Did reforestation planting and thinning encourage a structure consistent with a more resilient forest stand (variable spacing designed to maintain the individual, clump and opening pattern, a desired future tree density consistent with historic forest conditions and moderate levels of shrub cover)
	+ Second 2 just planting related:
		- B) Do different planting densities affect competition with the dominant cover type
		- C) Do different planting densities affect survival and growth of planted seedlings.
* Got an email from Jeff clarified mapping part of it – map Helen sent does not necessarily represent what was funded from WCB some of it funded from other places
	+ Will know what units will be planted under the grant for a while, this wont happen now until 2021 so there is time
* Question: Is all planting in area variable density and is it different between WCB?
	+ Complicated – all of planting arrangements approved in final decision had some level of heterogeneity built in, what changed is number of trees planting, but each provides opportunity for variable spacing - grouping
	+ There may be a small number of acres planned for highest density planting unit which may have been more even spacing
	+ **Regine, Marc, Helen** and Jeff: Talk offline to drill down into WCB planting units
	+ For WCB will want to monitor with funds from WCB – but could use FS funds as match for monitoring other units

For QA: ~1000 acres pre-commercial thin and ~300 acres of roadside thinning

* Current proposal: A number of components of CSE – 1/10 acre circular plots and measuring cover types, modal height, DBH trees, fuels part, and species composition
	+ Form for seedlings/saplings/regeneration oaks
	+ Standard height/DBH status
	+ Clumping of trees within
* There are a lot of measurements – are we going to sacrifice our sample size to collect all information
* Focus first monitoring question to something more specific
* **Becky** to send out conifer CSE 1-pager – this is most recent draft: <https://usfs.box.com/s/d1scuocng7tzpyrf53ypdmw6qry0dv55> I don’t think it was ever finalized, but folks can take a look at this before it is finalized

How revise protocol for Qa:

* What question really aimed to get at was heterogeneity indicator of more resilient stand condition – one of more complicated pieces to any monitoring pieces
* ACCG is very interested in idea of heterogeneity – focus monitoring in the pre-commercial thin areas – not roadside, includes clumps and gaps
* Roads and gaps is a different specification – maybe don’t monitor these areas?
* Helen wasn’t sure how important it is to use CSE – is it important to have consistency between other projects – probably not as important as making sure have correct protocol to get at question
* ICO (individual clumps and openings) protocol – developed out of University of WA, it’s a way to evaluate heterogeneity in stands – uses GPS locations to identify if trees are a part of a clump or opening – really focused on spatial arrangement and clustering
* Add in plot-based measurements for at a minimum shrub cover – this would be valuable to understand what is in openings
* **Becky** – contact Derek to see if use protocol at smaller plots for getting at heterogeneity

Logistics:

8 precommercial thin units that we are going to follow but going to start treating in July

* Could look to LiDar as pre-treatment data if miss opportunity to monitor these before treated

Also 7-8 hand thinning and expect additional ones for next year, while great to capture some of hand thinning this summer, will be possible to collect hand data on other units – have some leeway

Planting questions Q:b and C

* Michelle Coppoletta on PNF has implement something similar to ICO in plantations
* When it gets to planting and gets to competition and cover type
	+ How does competing vegetation change after planting
	+ Not sure how much pre-planting data comes in
	+ When it gets to growth of seedlings, what do we actually measure for growth
* Overlap for planting from Power fire decision and monitoring
	+ Some overlap with plots have pre-treatment data
	+ Wonder how much pre-treatment information for planting part will be useful
	+ Still waiting on areas to be planted to develop that protocol – so we still have time for WCB portion of planting
	+ Have some initial data that is generic – based on percent cover of shrub species
	+ All this information in box folder
	+ Utilize same limited protocol for pre-treatment data

**Due to grow clean up site there is a unit that still needs to be stayed out of**

* Same areas as last year

Next steps:

* Let group know if needs information before July – can set up a smaller group meeting
* First project went through ACCG consensus approval process – will be important to make a presentation to full group about monitoring plan and what was developed with full group for either July or August meeting – 20-minute updates, what plan is and why protocols were chosen from Helen
	+ Plan for July 15th – send out draft plan and supporting documents prior to meeting

**Field planning**

* Don’t forget other JHA in addition to covid

**Future meetings**

* Gwen request Alissa or Helen – can share bird abundance paper on restored meadows in future
* Climate smart restoration framework and thinking about what meadows to restore – full group, Pt Blue received a grant to present

**Task List from May Meeting** blue indicates updates at June meeting**:**

* Keep Alissa in touch with what is happening in the Three Meadows for timing of avian monitoring (Gwen) Alissa will be able to do bird and some soil monitoring for three meadows; Gwen looking at 29th for contractors to get out there
* Use climate engine to look at pre and post meadow restoration for Calaveras meadows – work with Shana on this (Gwen) – put on hold because trying to work on Three Meadows
* Reach out to the variable density stand/plantation work for next agenda topic – Iris and Jianwei (Becky) (done) – interested in giving a presentation so it might be later in the summer
* Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group (All)
* Reach out to Michael and SLAWG to determine the mechanism between the ACCG Planning WG and SLAWG so we can implement with Grant Monitoring – is it an MOU (Regine) – Sean were fewer people and last SLAWG meeting, decided need more frequent calls with more specific objectives to get details – calls every 2 weeks, nothing new to report out about – discussed what present to full ACCG at next full ACCG meeting – Thursday 18th from 1-2
* Take a look at what's on the website to determine what type of presentations and publications are available particularly for climate change (Alissa)
* Take a look at the planning documents to figure out what Rich wanted in regards to climate (Aliana)

**Future Agenda Topics**

1. Monitoring Strategy - review the strategy and see if there is something else we might need to pursue (March/April)
	1. Track key issues and make sure we are monitoring them
2. Maybe have Michael connect with CA Forest Observatory – could be a good topic for our group (when Shana gets back – March/April)
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?
4. Summarizing data now that we have data – what projects need a report out?
5. Iris and Jianwei to present variable density stand/plantation work for next agenda topic – late summer
6. Alissa or Helen – share new bird abundance paper on restored meadows in future
7. Full group presentation from Point Blue on Climate smart restoration framework and thinking about what meadows to restore