

Wednesday, August 12, 2020 9:00 – 12:00

Participants: Thurman Roberts, Becky Estes, Chuck Loffland, Helen Loffland, Robin Wall, Shana Gross, Gwen Starrett, Shane Dante, Greg Suba

Task List from August Meeting:

All

- Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group (ongoing)
- Review current website format for monitoring and determine what should be included and how it can easily be found to provide feedback at next meeting
- Provide CHIPS/Thurman feedback
- Read Helen's paper on restoration/birds that she sends out for discussion at next monitoring group meeting and to determine if it should be a presentation to larger group
- Review socio-economic final report so you have background for discussion in Sept regarding next steps monitoring
- Review scenario planning and think about updates/edits/changes so we can use it as a document for understanding how to move forward and where we are going

Gwen

- Send climate engine report out for 3 meadow restoration
- Prioritize meadows using a combination of American River Scorecard and Climate Vulnerability/Decision Framework
- Report out at general August (8/19) meeting
- send out conifer transect monitoring planning to monitoring group
- Look at equipment list and help Robin clean it up – see bullet 2 under Robin

Robin

- Send out monitoring supply list – **done**
 - Now stored on box in a folder called equipment
- Update monitoring supply list so it is more of a tracker and just includes what we have (and maybe where it is stored)
 - Probably want a cleaner spreadsheet but I wasn't comfortable cleaning it up, essentially key items would be: category, item, number, if labeled with corresponding number code, and where stored

Becky:

- Send full group presentation topics and contacts to Regine and Tanya with cc to Robin.
 - Variable density stand/plantation work for next agenda topic – Iris and Jianwei
 - Amphibian survey in Power Fire – Karen Pope
 - STF and ENF climate trend assessments – December or later – Shana/Becky
 - Helen's paper on meadow restoration and birds
- Followup with STF if there is a backup we can use for Calaveras participation, maybe someone from SO
- Let Helen know when ecology crew is training on Aspen protocol in Caples
- Make sure there are browse metrics in Aspen protocol

- share TCSI pillars of resilience with group
- Follow up on status of Hemlock treatments, specifically Red Fir sites
- Send out scenario planning document to monitoring group so we can discuss/update in September

Helen

- Send out a map to everyone where pre-commercial monitoring plots were installed
- Let everyone in group know if you need monitoring assistance
- (Chuck) send some photos post cow grazing (upper onion) to Robin
- to share pdf of this paper as pdf well as other papers:
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/rec.13212>
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Shane

- check in with Robin on the status of the socio-economic grant with SI and next step of training for future monitoring since Robin put together the contract and would know where we need to go
- send final report – **done**

Shana

- let Becky Wayman know foster firs complete for red fir monitoring – **done**

Meeting Notes

8/19/20 General Meeting: **Gwen** to give report out

From Calaveras add – Zach to monitoring list

- **Becky** – followup with STF if there is a backup we can use, maybe someone from SO

Report out for WCB Grant Monitoring

- Helen reported out monitoring strategy at full group meeting – has not received any additional comments
 - Few clarifying comments at end of presentation – i.e. added in exotic plant species presence
- Working in some pre-commercial thin areas (PC7 and PC2), was worried that she was going to be behind but has been in front so far – going to create a map that shows where all pre-commercial thin data is going to be collected
 - 19.6 circular plot and feels like it is capturing some openings – larger plot does seem like it is capturing ICO but it does take some time
 - Nice because we will capture a change – feels like it is going good
 - 6 plots in PC7 (larger plot) – **Helen** will send out a map to everyone
- Needs to start some camera monitoring – could probably put off until next year, but next thing Helen trying to get on her radar
- Aspen stands have been flagged for fencing
 - **Becky** will invite Helen when we train Ecology crew at Caples on Aspen (Martin Meadow)

- End of August treatment PCT stuff – PC7 will be primary focus for hand thinning to use as a test run for cost per acre – over next couple of years will be a lot of hand thin work along roadsides
- Crews will start setting up posts soon and then netting will arrive in about 10 days for fencing
- **Thurman** would like to be part of the field work so would like to work with monitoring group and Marc to make sure project is implemented correctly and to understand what is being monitored
- **Helen** will let everyone know if she needs any assistance

Report out on SLAWG

- Moving into second phase of consultant work – help prioritize where future treatment should be
 - Fire behavior outputs – fire hazard
 - Special areas/high values/resources – identifying things want to line up against fire hazard to identify where highest priority for treatments that happen
 - For project prioritization decision point of how much and how complex a tool to December (Megan L. – end of contract)
 - Protect areas exist today – HVRA/special areas are the focus for now
 - And/or include future conditions that want to move landscape towards – while everyone wants to do this they decided it was too much to accomplish between now and December – something Greg thinks ACCG should do in future they just cant right now
 - Consultant is starting to compile special areas for the prioritization tool
- 1st phase was to produce a project map (query-able online map) of where fuels have been treated in past
- Currently 5 categories of values at risk and needs to be discussion at least at planning or larger group level because all people might not rate things similarly
- Really tool we use to protect landscape focused on values
 - Fixed tool v1
- Needs to be “in person” discussion on weighting or some sort of survey – virtual full group once SLWAG develops HVRAs, but needs to happen sooner rather than later
- Robin talked with Tanya because need facilitator and Tanya was going to talk to SLAWG – have funding to do that if it is separate meeting or full ACCG
- One of Megan’s tasks was to determine how others have weighted things in other areas of the SN – this could be a helpful reference sheet
- TCSI – survey monkey tool that is being developed to do just this, even if do survey will still need everyone talking together
 - Survey that will help better understand how people rank pillars of resilience
 - **Becky** share pillars of resilience with people
- Best thing monitoring group can do is review more ecological risks
- Develop more ecological assemblages – monitoring group can help with this
- If need some help with facilitation you can ping Shana
- Talked about having California Observatory present to the monitoring team – future agenda item for monitoring and/or full group
- 20th at 1 pm is the next meeting – Greg/Becky will talk about some of the discussion we had today
 - Just make sure that we are available if there are specific tasks that they need

Round Robin ACCG Monitoring for 2020

- Caples Fire monitoring – including Aspen both inside and outside of fire as well as CSE that burned
 - Curious if browse pressure is going to be hard – middle of July to end of August seems to be when browse happens – do we need to get fences out – **Becky/Shana** make sure browse is in the protocol (I think it is) and then let Chuck know if any fencing is needed
 - Might want to consider sampling next year as well
- Helen did a bumblebee survey at Upper Onion
- Gwen set up photo monitoring points on three meadows
 - Photos were pre-cow, cows obvious now
 - **Helen/Chuck** – send some photos post cow grazing (upper onion) to Robin
 - No bid on Three meadow implementation so provides another field season before channel is put in
 - Going to get a small field crew out to sample conifer transects – will call on some folks from Native Plant Society
- Aquatic monitoring tied to culvert replacement and road monitoring throughout the Power Fire and Nexus (Hwy 88 to canyon floor)
- Foster Firs pretty much complete as logging, may still be fuels and clean up on way out – sale still open – **Shana** will let Becky Wayman know if they have time to get out there and sample it this year since her crew is moving fast, would loose forb and shrub response
- **Becky** – has Hemlock red fir areas been treated?
- Robin finishing up 2 grants with SNC – there was a monitoring component in that, but Aspen part pulled out. Has been working with Regine – will be submitted GA today, there will be additional discussions needed for monitoring component of this grant in future
- Amphibian surveys completed from PSW in Power Fire (Pope) – **Can she come present?**
- There was extension on NFWF proposals/grants into next spring
 - Native plant proposal extended
- CHIPS doing an internal audit about their task lists – Thurman asked for our feedback, crew has had 2 scares but both negative – been a great partnership and if we have any concerns we will share
- Upper Onion pretty much dry, a few pools in middle, all wet spots along roads are all dry

Any topics for September?

- Helen report out about some of Paper they put out on meadow restoration – some local projects that are part of this – bring forward as a full group topic
 - **Helen** to share this paper as pdf well as other papers:
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/rec.13212>
 - Discuss paper at September meeting and then discuss if we think this should be a full group agenda
- Website – would be important to know where the reports are: add to September agenda, will start by having Alissa present on what she accomplished and then **All** look at the website and think about content and also where it should be located and then we can provide to admin group after the meeting
 - Regine might be who was supposed to update website, supposed to be a sub-committee to help with website design; this has been put on the back burner
 - Admin group currently working on communication outreach
- Revisit scenario planning – include in the notes

- Things added such as SNC work, WCB, etc
- Annual report will be coming out soon
 - Second week of November for strong draft, has to follow target accomplishment inputs
 - SLWAG piece
 - List of all papers
- Monitoring as part of grant opportunities – determine mechanism to help facilitate this
- Socio-economic report was realized – part of the scope of work was training
 - Socio-economic group was just formed in the last couple of months
 - **Shane** – can check in with Robin on this, Robin put together the contract and would know where we need to go
 - **Shane** – will send final report

Other topics

- If anyone needs monitoring supplies stored at both Amador (trailer in locker and mixed in with range stuff) and Gwen's house: DBH, transect, range finder
 - Before you need to buy something check in with Gwen and Robin
 - **Start** an equipment list and identify where stored
- **Gwen and Robin** find equipment list and then update it
- **Gwen** – send out conifer transect monitoring planning to monitoring groups

Task List from July:

- Use climate engine to look at pre and post meadow restoration for meadows – work with Shana on this (Gwen) – **done Gwen produced a report – Gwen to send out to the group**
- **Becky:** Reach out to the variable density stand/plantation work for next agenda topic – Iris and Jianwei (Becky) (done – possibly September but wondering if better for full group topic) – **Send to Regine and Tanya cc Robin as potential speakers and contacts**
- **Becky:** Pope - Amphibian survey – **Send to Regine and Tanya cc Robin as potential speakers and contacts**
- Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group (All) - **ongoing**
- 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)
 - SLAWG part of planning workgroup, might just be monitoring as part of
 - Make monitoring considered during grants submitted as part of proposal – opportunities for grant funding
 - Consider these questions for every opportunity for monitoring.....
- 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) – issue being taken care of with other work groups, Rich has been interested in having climate speakers – removed
 - Add climate topic to agenda for full group maybe December for forest trend assessments
 - Climate Smart Meadow Planning is being presented

- Prioritize meadows using a combination of American River Scorecard and Climate Vulnerability/Decision Framework - **Gwen**

Future Agenda Topics

1. Monitoring Strategy - review the strategy and see if there is something else we might need to pursue (March/April)
 - a. Track key issues and make sure we are monitoring them
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)
 - a. Think about how we can use the LiDar as a monitoring tool and start looking at outputs
 - b. Shana could present about how was used in LTW for assessment and now for monitoring
4. Summarizing data now that we have data – what projects need a report out?