**ACCG Monitoring Meeting**

February 10, 2021

9 AM

Virtual – Zoom Call

**Attendees:** Chuck Loffland, Helen Loffland, Alissa Fogg, Gwen Starrett, Shane Dante, Becky Estes, Rich Farrington, Robin Wall

**Website Discussion**

Website still needs some additions. Our monitoring meeting items are being updated which is great.

**Action Item**: Request meeting in early March with Megan, Becky, Alissa and discuss changes on a screen share.

**Existing ACCG Monitoring Strategy**

North Yuba Project and Becky working together on their monitoring strategy. Lessons learned: Becky shared flow chart. Adaptive management step – how do you really feed back into adaptive management. Post-treatment monitoring often does not get done because grant funding ends before post-treatment monitoring (5, 10 yrs out). *Need to elevate this issue to funders as a concern for adaptive management.* CFLN projects are a perfect example since there is no funding for the post-implementation. We have not gotten to the point where post-implementation monitoring is informing future projects.

Questions to inform monitoring:

Is the problem defined correctly?

Are desired conditions and uncertainties defined correctly?

Are we treating the right acres?

Are treatments contributing to desired conditions?

Are we monitoring the right things?

Is monitoring effective?

Recommended reading – Becky will send out basis for these questions.

**Action Item**: Short presentation to appropriate audience re: need for monitoring funds post-project (up to 10 years post).

**Action Item**: At a future meeting, use SLAWG to help address whether we are treating/monitoring the right acres.

Evaluate existing monitoring programs to determine which questions we are answering well.

We evaluated current monitoring projects for whether we are asking right questions (also captured in Monitoring Projects spreadsheet)

1. Mixed Conifer Monitoring – Priority 1. Qs get at whether we reduced fuel treatments, change forest structure and heterogeneity, and make forests more fire resilient? Caples Fire may provide data on smoke emissions and fire severity. Look at NEPA documents and 2004 framework ROD for desired conditions. Are we all on the same page for desired condition or have conditions changed? Start with Forest Plan desired conditions and evaluate change from that framework.
2. Indian Valley Meadow – Priority 2. Monitoring groundwater wells. Is Alpine Watershed Group still monitoring wells? Do we need to update data? Who has time to do the data analysis? Will gathering this data help answer other questions? Important to meadow restoration in general to know project effectiveness. Include Foster meadow groundwater monitoring in this strategy.
3. Black Oak in Power Fire – Priority 2. Planting treatments in Power Fire had biggest impact on oaks.
4. Prescribed Burns – Priority 1. Tie in with SLAWG. Do we need trigger points for certain monitoring instead of committing to too much monitoring?
5. Plantation Monitoring (Zhang) – Completed. Move to different list. Make sure info is disseminated for future planning.
6. LIDAR Ground Validation in Power Fire – Priority 1. Use forest veg simulator with LIDAR data as a next step.
7. Veg plot in Power Fire (Richter) – Data was used in predictive tool for regeneration but no feedback tool to management. **Action Item** – Present predictive tool POSTSCRIPT - to ACCG planning WG. Available in a more useful app to use in post-fire landscape.
8. Western Bumble Bee – Priority 1. Almost done, no western bumble bee found so might move down the priority list. Need post-treatment data to help with mgmt. decisions. This project ties to herbicide use.
9. Birds and bats – Priority 1 for phase 2 on bird data. Results by Sept 2021. Data will help inform herbicide use. Need a monitoring question that addresses biodiversity rather than focusing only on T&E species. Bat data are complete and has been presented. But how are we really bringing that into mgmt. decisions?
10. Snow Study – **Task list** – Becky will check on this, are they waiting for project completion? Check with larger group on priority.
11. Red Fir – Priority 1. Ongoing at Hemlock, Caples, Red Fir. Addressing similar Qs as mixed conifer.

LIDAR DATA – By end of February, USGS will have useable raw data. You can tell hardwoods from conifers so this can be useful tool for oaks and aspens (if leaf off), if they are not overtopped by conifers.

If time allows – continue with identification of key questions not currently monitoring or existing that have data gaps (e.g. only at project scale) or better methodology to address (e.g. use of remote sensing)

RESPONSE to Outreach to Planning WG – One response re: are we evaluating treatment longevity? Difficult question to answer but we are starting to get a significant amount of data to address.

Will continue reviewing monitoring strategy at March mtg

**Socioeconomic discussion**

Simplify data collection – questionnaire for contractors on projects

**Action Item** – Review socioeconomic questions to populate/inform questionnaire. Results from Sierra Institute were a broader indicator of the socioeconomics of the area and impacts (marijuana, Butte Fire). The results could not link socioeconomic impacts to our projects. Better to focus on project info with contractor survey. This cannot come from FS, but one from UMRWA and CHIPS would be helpful. Becky will dig up FS contractor survey, review UMRWA, CHIPS.

**Agenda Item:** April Monitoring WQ Agenda – review socioeconomic questions

**2020 Monitoring Updates – Round Robin**

 UMWRA – large area planning grant using SLAWG data or project grant (Rich)

Prop 1 grant – very difficult grant process, not applying this year (Helen, Becky)

Great Outdoor Funding– Possible fee-use campground across from Martin (Chuck)

Point Blue – Paper released <https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/12/2/150> Alissa will present to monitoring group in April (Alissa)

Conifer Effectiveness Data Analysis – Gwen will do analysis if provided support from Shana or Becky (Gwen, Becky)

Variable Density Plot data – need to determine implementation status and whether ecology crews could support monitoring this summer

**Task List:**

All Ongoing

* Short presentation to appropriate audience re: need for monitoring funds post-project (up to 10 years post).
* **U**se SLAWG to help address whether we are treating/monitoring the right acres.
* Review monitoring strategy paper Becky cited in her presentation
* Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group (ongoing)
* Provide CHIPS/Thurman feedback (ongoing)

**Becky**

* Share Monitoring Strategy paper cited in your slide presentation
* Share FS socioeconomic contractor questionnaire
* Facilitate presentation of ‘postscript’ application to Planning WG
* Snow survey Hemlock update (Bales or Conklin)
* Share examples of successful landscape scale monitoring
* Continue to merge all monitoring spatial data into one place

**Alissa**

* Request meeting to discuss website development. Attendees – Megan, Helen, Becky, Gwen
* Present recent research at April monitoring mtg
* Propose pyro-silviculture and high severity/patch size papers as a full group topic

**Helen**

* Continue as lead in Review/Summarize ACCG monitoring questions in strategy

**Future Agenda Topics:**

* March - Monitoring Strategy – continue to review the strategy and see if there is something else we might need to pursue
	+ Track key issues and make sure we are monitoring them
	+ Is there any new information gained that can be applied to management?
* 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
* April – Review socioeconomic monitoring questions, contractor questionnaire
* April – presentation of Point Blue research (see link above, Alissa)
* CA Forest Observatory – could be a good topic for our group (this might be a great SLAWG topic as well)
* 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)
	+ Think about how we can use the LiDar as a monitoring tool and start looking at outputs
	+ Shana could present about how was used in LTW for assessment and now for monitoring
* Summarizing data now that we have data – what projects need a report out?
	+ discuss how information is being presented/translated and if we can improve