ACCG May Monitoring Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

8:29 AM

Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Becky Estes, Helen Loffland, Chuck Loffland, Megan Layhee, Zac Croyle, Linda Diesem

**Additional Agenda Topic:**

**CCI Proposal in conjunction with UMWRA**

* Forest Health Grant Program
* 10,000 acres for planning and 3,000 for implementation
* Other funding has been applied for through other grant programs to address the landscape level work
* CalFire Grant also requests for implementation funding for a smaller portion of the lanscape
* Still developing project areas for implementation with the FS side of things
* Both on Calaveras and Amador RD
* Hand thinning and aspen restoration but where is still being developed
* Did go before the planning workgroup for ACCG to sign a letter of support for this grant and their was support
* Phase 1 planning component for large scale projects
* Mutually agreeable and non-controversial treatments are the focus of this project
* More work that might include more agreeable - submitting a layer of support for Phase 1 planning
* Phase 1 work are areas that don't affect CSO that are accessible and non-controversial
* Aspen restoration work - (3,000 acres) don't have to do pre-work surveys
* Fuels reduction, regeneration, treating the understory - less issues with resource specialties
* Creating aspen projects areas along the 88 and maybe a small portion of Calaveras based on UC Davis meadow layer and personal knowledge
* Do we have any aspen delineation for these areas?
* Budget will have for baseline monitoring for aspen monitoring - similar work for Prop 1 funding
* Browse pressure on aspen following treatments - late July – should include the Caples area as well

**Evaluation of ACCG Monitoring Questions (notes will also be in the spreadsheet)**

E13 - to get at landscape question you might need landscape level fuels metrics to help evaluate this question in a fire modeling aspect so the canopy base height and fuel loading might be important alter fuels inputs after treatment

How do we pull this data together to get a landscape view?

Becky will dig deeper into this question

E14 - seems like a one and done - this is a more of a cyclic snapshot at any given time - SLAWG tool should be useful in this analysis in the future - not trying to answer this at a project scale but maybe combine all projects to address - bring all FACTS data together to evaluate this

E16 - Is this project scale or landscape scale? Are we combining these into one or two?

Refer to the dominant type of aspen - this is what the crown class refers to

Might need to address these at both scales - project specific and the landscape scale?

Are oaks well distributed and healthy across the ACCG area?

Methodologies - the landscape and project scale might be very different

There might be data that is out there

Helen and Chuck will dig deeper into this question

E17 - Invasives species - noxious weed tracking - contact Matt on district monitoring

No invasives monitoring is happening on Calaveras - no organized effort - ad hoc

Are we tracking aquatic species - maybe need to reach out from Maura and Jeff to determine the need for monitoring here.

Chuck will dig deeper into this question

Might be good for us to think about what metrics are being collected that could be used to answer some of these questions from other protocols?

**POSCRPT Presentation**

* Webinar might be good for the full group and then maybe look at presenting the tool/interaction session at the planning meeting
* Brief could be easy to fit in and anything larger than that would be September – Monitoring WG decided to wait until September to slot this in to the large group so that maybe the tool could be applied after the 2021 fire season or we could make it a more broad presentation of restoration after fire

**Arnold Avery Monitoring Plan**

* This project will get underway this year so baseline data needs to be completed
* Everyone should provide feedback on the monitoring plan
* Also on SPI and private lands as well but baseline monitoring likely won’t occur here or will be very little
* Plot locations were done randomly and incorporated vegetation data (conifer dominated areas) which is represented in the map
* Compliance monitoring will also be occurring to get at certain questions - might be collected by FS folks so need to check on this
* Megan will share the final plan and the WG should provide feedback on the plan – might be some volunteer efforts

**Round Robin**

* Bumblebee monitoring - occupancy modeling that is being done Sierra Nevada wide
* Grids have been identified that were developed for visiting – some are located within the Consumnes Grid
* If anyone is interested bumblebee monitoring work should check in with Helen
* IBP - CCI research grants - whitebark pine project monitoring/Clark's nutcrackers work - forest health (Helen will loop in with the Monitoring WG in case more information is necessary)
* Herbicide treatments will be happening in Power this field season just a heads up to those that might be working in this area
* Foster Meadows restoration - revisit will be completed this field season
* Matley is moving along - just need funding for implementation – Plumas Corp grant - invited for full application but not sure where this is at

**June 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.
* Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group (ongoing)
* Online Symposium to Present Monitoring Data – Add to April ACCG monitoring meeting. Maybe delay presentations until winter when we have reviewed data.

All

* Review Arnold Avery monitoring plan if necessary prior to the full group ACCG meeting before baseline data is collected
* Continue review of ACCG monitoring strategy for June meeting

Becky

* Share homework on reviewing the monitoring strategy with group for May monitoring meeting (done)
* Dig up oak protocols for the WCB work – might be useful framing
* Check on using Teams or contact Helen for Zoom for next monitoring meeting (done but revisit for June)
* Snow survey Hemlock update (Bales or Conklin)
* Continue to merge all monitoring spatial data into one place
* Develop spreadsheet for website to share with Megan
* Tie in with Tahoe on aspen protocols to share with the group if we receive funding for restoration work
* Tie in with Chuck on Caples browse pressure (Becky)
* Need to add latest projects to the Access DB (WCB and Arnold Avery and other projects - Becky)

Chuck

* Chuck will look for aspen delineation for ENF for CCI proposal planning
* Check in with Matt on the invasives work
* Check in with Maura and Jeff on removal of aquatic terrestrial
* Report out on Karen Pope - Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frogs

Megan

* Share final Arnold Average with group fuels monitoring strategy with group

Gwen

* Check with MaryAnne Garamendi to see if Forestry Institute students might take on Thompson meadow monitoring.
* Add Little Indian Valley, Thompson, and Foster Firs to Climate Engine monitoring

Helen

* Helen will share WRAM with group when finalized.

Zac

* Identify any aspen restoration areas on Calaveras (Zac)

## Future Agenda Topics

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. May – 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
6. Presentation or working group meeting on POSCRPT tool – post fire regeneration tool