ACCG December Monitoring Meeting

Wednesday, December 08 2021

9:00 AM

Attendees: Becky Estes, Zac Croyle, Meredith Sierra, Kirsten Bovee (note-taker)

Next Meeting **–** January 12, 2022

Please send any agenda topics for this meeting.

**1. Introductions/Agenda Review**

**2. ACCG Monitoring Group Membership**

* Who could be tapped to join the monitoring group? We need to revisit this annually to make sure we have good representation from the ACCG Full Group.

**3. Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Aspen Grant**

* Mokelumne watershed, grant is now focused on aspen assessment
* Remote sensing (aerial flights?) to find previously unknown stands
* UMRWA is leading the proposal writing effort; wrapping this up this week
* Similar work done in North Yuba watershed (their aspen assessments funded by WCB)
* Match will be written in from within the workgroup (can be in-kind volunteer work)
* Using the Lassen’s protocol for aspen stand assessments
* LNF has extensive records if there is ever a regionwide analysis of aspen conditions
* Becky would like to re-establish R5 Aspen Working Group (could be expanded to include partners)
* Unsure whether monitoring beyond the initial rapid assessments of aspen included in grant. If grant is awarded than we will determine whether the group will be involved in assessment and monitoring.

**4. 2022 Goals and Objectives for Monitoring Workgroup**

* Have been revisiting the monitoring strategy (finalized 2014) and its questions and indicators
* Have transitioned towards more landscape-scale indicators so might need to incorporate this into our strategy
* Revisit LiDar data use in the ACCG
* Monitoring symposium in 2022 – this will be our heavy lift – set for June
* Zac – what will Forest level of engagement be with group, now that CFLR funding no longer there? Becky – ACCG remains, even though CFLR over. Need to follow up with leadership to ascertain how former CFLR projects fit in program of work
* Should group focus be on wrapping up monitoring initiated under CFLR, or continuing to add projects, which would require expanded capacity.
* Should ACCG leadership be passed to someone outside of the agency now that CFLR is over?
* Need to assess monitoring progress in 2021 and monitoring needs for 2022
* Need to discuss long-term monitoring . . . if additional funds in agreements, consider diverting to monitor treatments at three years post-treatment
* Becky – working to create a spatial geodatabase of monitoring project locations
* Questions on projects within Caldor Fire need to be re-evaluated in light of fire effects.

**4. Monitoring Symposium**

* Four years since the last symposium – the last field symposium that was planned derailed by COVID
* Field event would be preferable in light of COVID sideboards; group did not prefer the online option
* Idea to focus on lessons learned from Power Fire that could be applied to Caldor
* Tentative timeline – flesh out themes, speakers, dates in January and present to the ACCG Group at their January meeting. Bulk of prep in February-March. May-June field trip event.
* Particularly relevant items may include post-fire prescribed burning, reforestation strategies, fuels treatment effectiveness.
* All past Power fire data is located here (<https://usfs.box.com/s/q1ykqy67smllqglhc7gktwulouq7wok6>)

**5. Round Robin**

**Becky:**

* Shared monitoring reports from Caldor analysis (<https://usfs.box.com/s/4d8mm4qocrumkalsg4rcv2prh4lbzk6w>). She has analyzed basal area loss, patch size, and natural regeneration potential under low to high 5 yr precipitation levels.
* Potential for joint field tour with H-T, in conjunction with Western Aspen Alliance. Fire effects to aspen in Tamarack.

**Agenda Topics for January 12**

* Primary Topic = Monitoring Symposium: Pin down dates for field-based monitoring symposium, develop agenda and field stops, identify speakers, pass on information to full group meeting in January
* Revisit website
* Discuss 2022 priorities for ACCG

**December Task List**

All Ongoing

* 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)
* Online Symposium to Present Monitoring Data – Add to April ACCG monitoring meeting. Maybe delay presentations until winter when we have reviewed data; maybe Power/Caldor Fire Symposium
* **(NEW) Think about 2022 Goals and Objectives (Becky will send email to group)**
* **(NEW) Respond to email about 2021 Monitoring Symposium (Becky will send email to group)**

All

* Website Additions:
	+ Provide feedback on the draft Monitoring webpage and project matrix: [https://acconsensus.org/work-groups/monitoring-program/](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Facconsensus.org%2Fwork-groups%2Fmonitoring-program%2F&data=04%7C01%7C%7C065c06afce244371804708d98d0b23a2%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637695901365245611%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0&sdata=LfixQ1Kb8VlwOo5lHA7xKF8gtLV9LMIDN%2FsfC%2F2u%2BgQ%3D&reserved=0)
	+ Note: the embedded project matrix "Awesome table" is linked to google sheets in my google drive: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ttT8z1FjukOYlWq1a7lp2NOxQcjE2v8RWZOpSmtRTfo/edit?usp=sharing](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fspreadsheets%2Fd%2F1ttT8z1FjukOYlWq1a7lp2NOxQcjE2v8RWZOpSmtRTfo%2Fedit%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=04%7C01%7C%7C065c06afce244371804708d98d0b23a2%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637695901365255567%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0&sdata=3UDRQjLaVYL5LvMWbu5xdzHzF0w81GaAYCDp%2Bn8UeNw%3D&reserved=0). I can provide permission for everyone in Monitoring WG to edit this file, or we change the owner of the Awesome table to someone besides me. The project matrix on the website gets automatically updated when changes happen to the google sheet.
	+ Send me links to or copies of project-specific documents (e.g., project descriptions, monitoring plans, reports, publications, presentations) that folks want included in the project matrix.
	+ Send me photos (or other graphics) for webpage, if that's what folks want.
* 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

Alissa

* Tie in with Plumas Corp on vegetation work that is happening in Foster Fir

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
* **(NEW) Add Meredith to ACCG External on Pinyon (done)**
* **(NEW) Send emails to monitoring group about 2022 Goals and Objectives and about Monitoring Symposium**
* **(NEW) See if Caldor fuels treatment effectiveness briefs (Dana Walsh) can be shared with ACCG**
* **(NEW) Work with Kirsten and Meagan Leahy on spatial database of monitoring projects**

Chuck

* Check in with Maura and Jeff on removal of aquatic terrestrial
* Report out on Karen Pope - Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frogs

Megan

* Website additions after the group follows up on this

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

Zac

* Check to see if Matley got read prior to implementation by the range monitoring program

Kirsten

* **(NEW) Work with Becky and Meaghan Leahy on spatial database of monitoring projects**
* **(NEW) Work with Becky and Gwen to collate data from Conifer Removal Projects. Begin data analysis.**

## **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. Spring – 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 – maybe a Caldor and Power Fire field tour, also would be good to plan monitoring field tours on Calaveras
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
	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)
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 – once we have the RAVG data we can run this for Caldor fire