**NOTES | ACCG Monitoring Group**

**Date/Time**: June 8 2022, Wednesday 900-1100

Attending: Becky Estes, Sue Britting, Chuck Loffland, Helen Loffland, Zach Croyle, Gwen Starrett, Meredith Sierra

**Introductions/Ice Breaker/Agenda Review**

* Sue will take notes going forward
* Next meeting –July 13 - hold this meeting time to cover final logistics for webinar or tour

**Monitoring Symposium**

Becky will circulate sign-up for both field tour and symposium again; after this week will circulate beyond ACCG/SOFAR

Webinar:

* Finalize speakers and agenda for webinar – all have been confirmed; Leslie Mink will be pre-recording her talk
* Introduction on agenda – Chuck and Sue
* Lessons learned in post-fire landscapes – Becky will reach out to Dana Walsh for this topic
* Becky will request final talk titles from speakers and 1-3 management recommendations; ask presenters to create one slide with the management recommendations and then compile all recommendations into one document to circulate to participants
* Decided not to hold any polls to audience
* Need to 1-2 develop panel questions; Chuck offered this one: 1) how do you integrate regeneration treatments, and reintroducing prescribed/naturally occurring fire into fire adapted landscapes post-fire. Becky will work with group to develop those in next couple of weeks
* Before final panel, ask people to pose questions in the chat that they would like to see addressed on the field tour
* Becky will touch base with group if more is needed

Field tour:

* Finalize field tour stops and speakers: Chuck is arranging the stops and people; Chuck talked to fire shop (Jesse/James); Jeff Mabe is available; not sure if Tracey will be available, but Chuck can cover this; Martin is going out to check oak locations form his study, but unclear if those locations will fit into the tour stops, Martin is not likely to join field tour; Chuck with reach out to Amanda/RCD for meadow stop
* 13 have signed up for field tour; will circulate to outside of ACCG/SOFAR next week; Becky will circulate to ACCG/SOFAR one more time

**Field Season 2022 Monitoring Activities**

**Three Meadows Project conifer sampling** – Gwen joined to talk about project and potential for additional monitoring money. What additional monitoring should be done? Related to conifer removal at upper onion, they set up vegetation plots and collected post treatment data. This year could collect post-channel restoration data using some transects, but Gwen cannot do the data analysis. Gwen could also do photo monitoring. She is trying to sort out what can be done, what she can do, and how to coordinate volunteers or others. Becky’s crew could do the 6 transects in a day, but volunteers or less familiar people probably 2-3 days to complete the 6 transects. Gwen thinks that funding is needed to continue monitoring on three meadows. Chuck thinks re-doing some of the monitoring on Three Meadows, but is uncertain about future connection to NWFW project that has been funding the project. Gwen asks if someone from IBP help to guide volunteers – Helen says yes, but needs 3-5 days of funding to support it. Gwen left equipment at Amador RD to support doing 2 transects at a time. Gwen did photo monitoring July 1 and pre-grazing. This probably needs to be done same way in the next round. Chuck visited all three sites yesterday; all looks good and things are wet; Gwen will consult with Chuck about when cattle will be on the upper onion allotment (Josie’s), Pardo allotment cattle will likely be on beginning of July. Gwen will plan on doing photo monitoring beginning of July and will coordinate with Chuck. Becky mentions Kristen’s analysis and looking at how to summarize/group meadows for analysis. Something related to Thompson’s Meadow and having forestry students do some monitoring; not sure if plots overlap with treated areas; need to sort out if Thompson’s is ready for post-treatment monitoring. Helen/Chuck – will reach out to Amanda/RCD to find out about funding.

**Aspen assessment –** Helen reports that WCB approved Aspen Project at May 23 meeting. Karen Quidachay has not yet received anything form WCB yet though. Funding has not yet arrived though. Next step will be to have an agreement between IBP and UMRWA. Idea will be to start in July-August, if funding arrives. Helen meeting with Alpine Watershed group to coordinate approach to study. Gwen has some GPS points of aspen; Pat (?) and Gordon Long have data; Gwen will look for data and if cannot find, will reach out to Pat.

**Arnold/Avery monitoring -** Megan (?) taking lead; not sure if all of area has been treated yet

**Variable Density Planting** – pre-treatment monitoring has been done and waiting for planting; fall planting may occur this year; these were plots that CHIPS took on, but are now back the FS to complete

**Power Fire PCT –** not mentioned

**Review ongoing monitoring list:** 1) Panther – postpone sampling because logging done, but fuels not yet treated; Caldor Fire closed things done last year, so treatment not done; Chuck will check with operations to see where treatments stand; 2) Foster Firs – harvesting done outside of Caldor Fire footprint, so ready to sample, not clear how Caldor Fire affects Foster Firs; 3) Cabbage (sale in Hemlock project) not clear where plots are in relation in to Caldor Fire. To do:

* Becky will be focusing on red fir monitoring given the crew that she has this year; will focus on mixed conifer plots in 2023
* Becky needs to check plot locations and Caldor
* Gwen can run data collected to date through Climate Engine; Chuck will provide start dates for the treatments
* Gwen mentions that Matley project can also be run through Climate Engine
* For a future discussion, recirculate Climate Engine results and think about how the results can be used as a summary of outcomes
* Gwen to send out cheat sheet on Climate Engine operation (https://app.climateengine.com/sierrameadows)

**Caples monitoring network –** Crew will resample plots that were sampled pre-Caldor and that were burned in Caldor. Becky’s crew will be doing post-Caldor plots. After collection, now can evaluate pre- post- Caples/Caldor for birds and vegetation. Now have aspen plots that can be sampled since they burned in Caldor. Helen mentioned that this area burned pretty hot; that are is in aspen grant, so might be able to include then in monitoring next year – maybe delineate extent of stand and see where regrowth is happening.

**Foster Meadow** – Chuck will do photo monitoring this year

**Bee surveys** at Foster and Onion this year

**June Task List:**

All

* Develop topics for discussion during the webinar – Chuck suggested 1) how do you integrate regeneration treatments and reintroducing prescribed/naturally occurring fire into fire adapted landscapes post-fire.
* Finalize stops and speakers for the field tour (Chuck – lead)
* Create Avenza map for the field tour to share with everyone (lead on this?)

Becky

* Becky will circulate sign-up for both field tour and symposium again; after this week will circulate beyond ACCG/SOFAR (done)
* Will reach out to Dana to add as a speaker to the webinar portion (done)
* Finalize speakers and agenda (done)
* Send out final agenda to speakers and have them check over the talk titles and request top three management recommendations from research and create a slide that we can use in the discussions
* Check on resampling in Foster Firs – implementation is complete (done)
* Check on resampling in Hemlock (check on status of implementation and monitoring)

Chuck

* Reach out to Jeff Mabe on participation on field tour
* Chuck with reach out to Amanda/RCD for meadow stop
* Arrange field stops and speakers for field portion of the symposium
* Will check on status of reforestation units particularly the variable density units
* Provide start dates for treatments in the Three Meadows project
* Foster Meadows photo monitoring

Gwen

* Follow up on Three Meadows project
  + Monitoring this field season based on additional funding – this could be a group activity for us
  + Analyze the conifer removal data including all meadows – determine who would be point of contact for this
  + Complete Climate Engine Analysis
* Share cheatsheet on climate engine meadow analysis

Helen

* Updates on the Moke Aspen Project
* Power Fire PCT – brainstorm a way forward – might be able to wait until FY23
* Bee surveys at Onion and Foster

Megan

* Check on status of Arnold Avery project

**Ongoing Task List**

**All**

* 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
* Monitoring Briefs – Many current through 2017, update those that are presenting at the ACCG
* ACCG Monitoring members asked to provide updates to Becky (who has edit privileges for Awesome table) in ACCGProjectsforWebsite\_2021.xls in Box External. Include presentations, spatial data, photos.
* Megan requesting more field work photos from everyone for web site (post to external Box drive)
* Add Little Indian Valley, Thompson, and Foster Firs to Climate Engine monitoring

**Becky**

* Continue to merge all monitoring spatial data into one place
* Determine whether the Forest Service can house the spatial database on our ArcGIS Online

**Helen**

* Look at range plots for potential inclusion to address monitoring strategy questions

**Zac**

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

**Megan**

* Create a cheatsheet for Google Awesome Tables
* Did our website updates ever go live?

## **Future Agenda Topics**

1. Need to address monitoring in plantations both the variable density PCG and the variable density planting – will we continue this
2. 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?
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. 2023 symposium to cover monitoring projects on the Stanislaus
7. Meadow monitoring protocol comparison, Kyle or Shana – field visit of monitoring workgroup for late summer
8. Short presentation to appropriate audience re: need for monitoring funds post-project (up to 10 years post).