September ACCG Monitoring Meeting

Thursday, September 14, 2022

Attendees: Becky Estes, Helen Loffland, Chuck Loffland, Linda Diesem, Sue Britting, Lester Lubetkin (guest from SOFAR)

**Caldor Team:** Becky Estes, Helen Loffland, Chuck Loffland, Linda Diesem, Sue Britting, Lester Lubetkin (guest from SOFAR), Dana Walsh

**Potential Dates for Caldor Fire Field Tour**: The Week of October 31st or November 7th (just a note that our regularly occurring monitoring meeting for ACCG is the 9th and the SOFAR meeting is the same day – this might be a good day to propose since a lot of people have this blocked out on their calendars)

**Potential Topics for Caldor Fire** (this is also located in our spreadsheet for the monitoring symposium located here (https://usfs.box.com/s/7itree5joqjvfok9j3j9395o2mn846ud)

* Discussion on PODS and treatments around PODS in areas that burned at different severities particularly those areas that are within NRV and could be managed with fire. Can we use the PODS in places that are in NRV and use these as areas to conduct prescribed fires in the future?
* Prescribed fire/managed fire treatments and outcomes after the Caldor Fire (e.g., Long Fire – we could produce some quick summaries for the Long Fire based on post fire data collection)
* Visit areas where the fire was beneficial – pushed the conditions closer to NRV
* Remapped Spotted Owl PACS - what to do with these (Traci would be a good speaker on this as well as the ARU work - UW in and around the fire - could be some at least general take home messages from this work)
* Sly Park / Fleming Meadow area - understanding backburning or defensive actions vs where the fire just burned through (e.g., General Sherman)
* Post Fire Meadow Restoration/Riparian/Aspen - has affected - reclaiming these areas - Kare Pope might be interested in this - these areas might be prime for restoration - RAC $30K for Leeks Spring Meadow Could we do a Karen Pope style analysis? Could we do an analysis in Caldor that would point to some areas of restoration or help prioritize
* Brush fields that turned into wildflower havens - not sure there will be much to see now, but could talk about the changes.
* Monitoring - Matt Brown and crews were monitoring for sensitive, watchlist, and invasive plants, as were volunteers. Matt and Kaitlin worked to develop ArcGIS Survey 123 forms for volunteers to use so that data was already in usable format for FS.
* Important vegetation types such as aspen that have had positive effects – plans for removal of competing conifers that are now dead standing snags
* Private Land Management - Public Land Management Discussion - did the fire behave differently in these locations/fire effects - maybe look at some of the data from ACCEL - products for this work
* Even Aged Management - young stands at very large scales particularly those areas in large high severity patches - uniformity of these plantings – (e.g., MET and similar areas of extensive high severity and fairly accessible) – discussion of the trajectory of these types of areas
* Differences in Fire Behavior and the effects on the treatments regardless of the size and the type of treatments - intent is to inform treatments - overall discussion on

**Logistics for the Field Tour**:

Discussion on Equipment Movement during the field tour to make sure safety is priority - coordinate with Alan

Might be good to also revisit our field trip notes from the Power Fire and the Post Fire Restoration Symposium to determine if there are other topics that we could suggest.

Make sure to have both high and low elevation field trip stops to make sure we have weather contingencies in place

Smaller Group Meeting – September 26 2022, Monday 1030-1130

**Monitoring Updates:**

Arnold Avery Project – Implementation is still going in two of the four project areas. Megan has started post-treatment monitoring in those project areas that implementation is complete. I also submitted a monitoring progress report to Jill last month, see attached. My plan is to continue post-treatment monitoring later this month and next month. I also still need to talk with Jill about grant timing and if 2nd year post treatment monitoring will be feasible. The latest report is here - <https://usfs.box.com/s/os3gn2qntcauwg7j595voqo0bifrdntk>.

Foster Firs – Crew will be meeting up with Beverly Bualon on October the 3rd to train on the red fir protocol. These plots will be completed this field season.

Three Meadows: Gwen redid the photo monitoring for Three Meadows and Chuck is organizing his photos. Becky and Chuck will coordinate on getting the crews out there to complete this work.

Aspen Work - August with field crews have documented a good portion of aspen – Implementing the Rapid Assessment with GPS locations. This work has been moving forward - 70 acres have been completing this work

Martin Meadows/Caples Aspen – after thought to evaluate burned conifer trees in aspen stands – what are we going to do with these trees - Martin Meadows – could we get these transects resampled

Post Treatment Data on the PCT Power Fire - FHP grant possibility to continue this great work if we can get implementation established - data entered and

**September Task List:**

All

* Review the August/September meeting notes and Task Lists to make sure you don’t have any lingering tasks to complete
* Review the Management Recommendations and the Field Trip Notes and provide feedback
* Review 2022 Goals and make any changes or suggestions
* Review proposal for FLT for the Caldor Field Tour (Chuck and Becky will pitch again to FLT)
* Caldor Team – refine topics, think about potential speakers and stops
* Reach out to SOFAR/ACCG to suggest a Save the Date and to get any feedback (Chuck will reach out to ACCG at next meeting report out and Sue will share with SOFAR at next meeting)

Becky

* Redo the transects aspen in Martin Meadows and the rest of the Caples – quantify browse pressure in these areas (working with Chuck on this)
* Reach out to CFSC to see if there is an interest in helping to plan the field tour
* Schedule meeting with Caldor Field tour working group for September 26 – make sure Dana can attend
* Loop Helen in with Jonathan Long aspen delineation work
* Share information on GTR 270/Rapid Assessment prior to the Caldor Fire Field Tour

Helen

* Tie in with Karen Pope on whether this work and could be tied in the aspen work

Chuck

* Check on timeline for Caldor Proposed Action
* Tie in Becky to potentially share field crew (end of August – end date 1st of October) to complete aspen and meadow monitoring for Three Meadows (in process)
* Touch base with UMWRA to determine level of interest in helping us address Goals 2 and 3

Gwen

* Analyze the conifer removal data including all meadows – determine who would be point of contact for this
* Complete Climate Engine Analysis

**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

**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) a. Track key issues and make sure we are monitoring them

b. 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) a. Think about how we can use the LiDAR as a monitoring tool and start looking at outputs

b. 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? a. 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– 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).