**Notes | ACCG Monitoring Group**

**Date/Time**: November 9 2022, Wednesday 900-1015

Attending: Helen Loffland, Chuck Loffland, Becky Estes, Linda Diesem, Sue Britting

**MEETING MATERIALS**

All materials are stored on box. If you need help finding something let Becky know. Box link: <https://usfs.box.com/s/u8kn1rzklivkdfpcpaw89csrsul6caug>

**Next meeting –** taking December off, so next meeting will be January 11, 2023

**Caldor Field Tour**

* Postponed until Spring 2023
* 43 people had signed up and some were on wait list; will reach out to these same people in Spring
* May have a few more items/topics to share in Spring and possibly a proposed action from Forest Service
* Before tour in Spring: Review and summarize assessments that have been completed for Caldor, and circulate summary information prior to Caldor tour (e.g., Becky’s management briefs, summary of GTR-270 analysis completed for Caldor)

**Caldor data collection for snow**

* Snow depth being measured by UCB in high severity areas

**Field Season 2022 Monitoring Activities Updates**

* Foster Firs (red fir) monitoring is done; contracted work with Becky/UCD (last name?) will be processing that data; there are several sites that will be part of this; won’t be waiting for the red fir work on Calaveras RD to do data processing
* Three Meadows – thinking about planning some volunteer days to cover monitoring (should be 2023 goal?)
* Becky’s crew focused this year on Caldor related monitoring – a lot of data associated with Caples and Caldor; hoping to have this data summarized by next spring
* Revisit aspen plots in Caples and Martin Meadow
* Need to review ACCG monitoring data base and update it
* Caples/Hemlock/Panther – may be able to get to post treatment monitoring in 2023

Aspen monitoring (report out from Helen)

* Helen mapped largest stand southside of highway at Martin Meadow; Bear River, Three Meadows and along Highway 88;
* Did not expand to Mokelumne or Stanislaus side; Helen is developing a preliminary map and then will focus on this next season
* Helen/Becky/SYRCL met with Jonathan Long to talk over how to collaborate on hardwood assessment among all the projects;
* Helen met with Megan Layhee (GIS support) to talk over predictive modeling; Helen’s group evaluated 141 acres in 70 aspen stands; for predictive modeling need 300 acres;
* One idea is to use volunteers (CNPS?) to help map some of the more remote stands;
* Helen showed a few slides from a recent ppt about the aspen project; Helen has created a google drive with folders for each stand with photos;
* Mentioned that there are some good examples of how aspen stands in Martin Meadow are helped to slow/stop Caldor Fire; Chuck says “I think we should be making the point that having healthy aspen stands on the landscape ahead of wildfires, has multiple benefits: fuel breaks, as well as being able to quickly colonize and put something back on the landscape faster than conifers can respond post high mortality fire events,
* Chuck also mentioned “Need to consider fencing with aspen restoration projects, especially where the remnant stands are small, deer/cow browse can really do a number on the regeneration during that critical 5 years post treatment.”;
* Aspen fencing monitoring on View 88 aspen stands that were fenced – monitoring finished and stands are no longer fenced; could use these stands as an example of appropriate distance to treat/remove vegetation from edge of aspen
* Chuck asks about cottonwoods in Caldor Fire – Becky not sure yet
* Karen Pope and Adam Cunningham - gave Helen modeling results (shapefile) for where meadows might occur; Capps Crossing to Leek Springs had lots of potential; could use this for Caldor Tour in Spring 2023; create map and discuss at monitoring meeting in 2023
* Helen did bird/bumble bee monitoring at Upper Onion and Mately (and possibly another site I did not catch)

New projects

* Phase II project – need to make sure that post treatment monitoring is included in the project funding; need to connect with Karen/UMRA to make sure that monitoring is included
* Need to figure out how to get funding for post-treatment monitoring for the various projects

**Identify future topics for monitoring meetings**

**October/November Task List:**

All

* Review all meeting notes and task lists from October and November meetings
* Review 2022 Goals and make any changes in preparation for setting our 2023

Caldor Field Tour

* Think about rescheduling for the Spring
* Review Caldor Field Trip stop locations and determine relevant speakers for each topic
* Complete all tasks for finalizing Caldor field tour
* Review the Management Recommendations and the Field Trip Notes and provide feedback
* Review Caldor Field Trip stop locations and determine relevant speakers for each topic
* Loop in CFSC and circulate the advertisement for the Caldor Fire tour
* Get support from the Eldorado FLT for a field tour on the Caldor Fire

Becky

* Revisit membership and participation
* Revisit calendar invite
* Need to review ACCG monitoring data base and update it
* Website updates – did they actually get implemented
* Sort out topics and scheduling for 2023 meetings
* Share GTR 270 analysis for Caldor Fire
* Redo the transects aspen in Martin Meadows and the rest of the Caples – quantify browse pressure in these areas (working with Chuck on this)
* ACCG Participation on Caldor – encourage participation
* Check on Foster Firs monitoring and line this up for fall with field crew and FHP (done)
* Summarize Long Fire data – is this something that Saba could tackle
* Summarize Caldor field tour summaries with Derek

Chuck

* Three Meadows monitoring (2023)
* Touch base with UMWRA to determine level of interest in helping us address Goals 2 and 3

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

Helen

* Tie in with Karen on meadow work and whether it can be looped into aspen work
* Determine whether Jonathan Long work is relevant to aspen assessment (in process) (update on meeting with PSW)

**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. Review and summarize assessments that have been completed for Caldor
2. Review status of monitoring projects in database and create 2022 report
3. Helen to present approach to aspen monitoring; invite others to this meeting
4. Continue planning for Caldor Tour (e.g., adding topics like meadows with Karen Pope’s information)
5. Review map of Karen Pope’s meadow model for Caldor area and discuss at a monitoring meeting how to use this to assess meadows and aspen
6. Landscape scale monitoring – RSL/MARS is willing to help us evaluate a landscape to evaluate treatment effectiveness by pulling information together; Chuck suggests submitting Phase II as a project for evaluation
7. Need to address monitoring in plantations both the variable density PCG and the variable density planting – will we continue this
8. 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?

9. CA Forest Observatory – could be a good topic for our group (this might be a great SLAWG topic as well)

10. 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)

11. 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

12. 2023 symposium to cover monitoring projects on the Stanislaus

13. Meadow monitoring protocol comparison, Kyle– field visit of monitoring workgroup for late summer

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