**NOTES | ACCG Monitoring Group**

**Date/Time**: October 12 2022, Wednesday, 900-1030

**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>

Attending: Becky Estes, Chuck Loffland, Helen Loffland, Sue Britting, Lester Lubetkin, Zach Croyle, Linda Diesem

**Caldor Field Tour** (map and tour stop spreadsheet located here: <https://app.box.com/folder/154378768533>)

* Reviewed Dana’s 2 tour loops – see spreadsheet for additions

Low elevation stops

* Becky will check in with Dana about joining for stop 1 since she planned Trestle Project
* What about having someone from Leoni Meadows join on that day? Someone from Forestry Challenge – Diane McNealy
* Concern about 60 minutes coming up as an issue at Stop 1 and possibly other stops; Becky will ask Stacey to be a facilitator if the topic becomes difficult or strained
* Becky will talk to Mark Young and Dana about fuels treatments (second item under stop 1)
* Stop 2 – Plummer Ridge, Dan Smith and Becky
* Stop 2 might also be a place to engage Derek Young/UC Davis doing study of natural regeneration patterns; include ideas about how much regeneration is enough; cover distance from seed trees and degree of regeneration; timing of fire (maturity of cones) affects degree of seed loss; Becky will reach out to him
* Stop 2 - may need high clearance vehicles for road to guard station
* Capps Crossing – covers similar topics as Plummer Ridge, but not as good a view spot. Can see what things look like on ground, recreation issues, and what do to restore area. Any issues around historic bridge and how to manage?
* Stop 3 to MET/North South Road, lots of CACLA came up through a burned over shrub filed
* Stop 5 - topics on firing operations, focus them on where firing operations worked well for good suppression and ecological outcomes (This stop might be a good end of day.) Becky will follow up with Jesse Plummer; Ken Pimlott (chair) fire safe council
* Concern that lower loop is so focused on extremely burned landscape; possibly could add another stop between Stop 2 and 3 that is mixed severity; might also see mixed severity along MET

High elevation stops

* Becky thinks stops will be easier to find speakers; would need to find speaker for cabin tracks
* Lester asked to look at stops and see where Matt Brown’s topics could fit into
* Saba/UC Davis has inventory plots in area of Packsaddle (Becky will connect with her)
* Stop B - Becky will try to find other speaker for Long Fire site – Dave Periea (sp?)
* Stop C – find someone who was around for Caldor X Caples intersection during suppression event; Cal Academy – could talk about effects on birds pre- and post- fire; possibly a location for emergent meadows using Karen’s products
* Stop D – Silver Saddle – need someone for this stop (drop this stop and add one along MET)
* Stop E – Foster Firs and Iron Horse Burn – treatments that help manage the edges of the fire (good stop to weave in fire management)
* Include a last stop that was along MET and in high severity burn

Overall – One suggestion is to focus on lower elevation loop for November tour and upper elevation in spring, but several are more interested in upper elevation loop. The lower loop illustrates the more immediate needs

Next steps:

Meet next week 10/18 (3-4 pm) to talk more about trip stops

Decide by week of 10/24 whether doing upper or lower elevation trip

**Field Season 2022 Monitoring Activities Updates** (very abbreviated report since spent all time on tour planning)

* Aspen assessment – Helen is meeting with Pat Ferrell and others to make sure that the data she is collecting will be useful for project planning; Helene will try to share work plan at next meeting (probably December, since likely to cancel November); Jonathan Long has been working on a tool to identify hardwoods and if it can be applied to aspen; Helen and Becky will be connecting him about this
* Foster Firs – check in with Caldor Crew and FHP to pull this off – now collecting monitoring data on this red fir project

**Identify future topics for monitoring meetings**

* landscape assessment/MARS (Becky)
* way to store monitoring projects/locations – create a dashboard of something else to convey results; possibly use online ARCGIS account that Forest Service has (Becky)

**October Task List:**

All

* Review the October meeting notes and Task List
* Review 2022 Goals and make any changes

Caldor Field Tour

* Review Caldor Field Trip stop locations and determine relevant speakers for each topic
* Complete all tasks for finalizing Caldor field tour

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)
* 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. 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).