February ACCG Monitoring Workgroup Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023

8:58 AM

Attendees: Zac, Chuck, Megan, Helen, Linda, Becky

Presentation on Gavin Jones work on habitat vegetation monitoring including a case study on Mexican Spotted Owl

* This might be the new focus on the landscape scale piece for MIS and CSO species
* Box Location - <https://usfs.box.com/s/7oqv92jfb0m3jgajrs7i2puorehv9cyh> - Gavin’s recorded presentation and the two referenced publications are located here (Please let me know if you have any issue accessing these)
* This might be a good topic for a future monitoring meeting – living maps

GTR 270 Presentation – ran through a draft presentation

* Major question - How does this feed into this proposed action?
* Need to make sure we have a response to this question either how it has influenced the proposed action but also how the GTR 270 will be subsumed moving forward
* Feedback on this presentation - ACCG would really love this to be involved into this work
* Discussion - are lower severity areas important for maintenance
* Need to check in with Kirsten on how whether she can present the CSO piece in the future
* The presentation to the ACCG and SOFAR will set the stage for the field tour
* Stay tuned for the field trip on the Caldor Fire tour – potentially no general meeting or monitoring meeting that month to encourage participation
* Make sure to put a hook in for the field tour - be strategic about how we plan the presentation and the presentation

**Updates/Monitoring**

Website Project Table - revisit this information for the awesome table - maybe need to make this live and finalize this work – think about how the spatial database can be looped into this work

Aspen Presentation to this group on the monitoring plan - March

Phase II - what is the role of the ACCG monitoring workgroup - 2 to 3 years out - technical advisory team (TAG - answer questions that the group is struggling with) (250K) (utilize Planscape)

* Chuck and Jesse are a part of this team so they will keep us apprised of whether we need to be involved in this process
* Are the two forests supportive of this? 250K
* Contractor is preparing a workplan (10% could go towards the NEPA for Phase II)
* There has been a lot of turnover on the two forests so unclear as to how this would be supported
* Do we need to have all the amendments across the forests?

ACCG Spatial Database - links to reports and such - ArcGIS Online and links to ArcPro

* ArcGIS Pro
* WCB units should be included (Helen sent these)

Tree Mortality (ADS) Spatial Mortality Database - we should take a look at this report and understand the background to this - tied to this Emergency Declaration (see attachment in email)

 **February Task List:**

**All**

* Watch Gavin's presentation and discuss at the next meeting (see Box link above)
* Review Caldor Field Tour in June and begin to think about rescheduling dates
* Review the Website Project Table - revisit this information - next month's monitoring meeting

**Becky**

* Summarize website changes from past meetings and share with group for discussion topic (awesome table)
* Share the ADS database with the group
* Pull together the spatial database for presentation in April
* Continue to merge all monitoring spatial data into one place
* Determine whether the Forest Service can house the spatial database on our ArcGIS Online
* Redo the 2023 Goals and Objectives

**Helen**

* Prepare a presentation on the aspen monitoring plan for the March meeting

**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

**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

**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)
* Summarize Long Fire data – is this something that Saba could tackle
* Summarize Caldor field tour summaries with Derek
* Summarize Foster Firs Data (Becky W. will complete this task)
* Overlap the HRV work and the AGGC and determine interest in workshop or presentation on this work

**Caldor Field Tour (hold for later this Spring)**

* Think about rescheduling for the Spring
* Check in with engineering to determine road conditions
* 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 topi
* 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 (this might have to happen again since we will have new leadership)
* ACCG Participation on Caldor – encourage participation

**Future Agenda Topics**

1. Helen to present approach to aspen monitoring; invite others to this meeting – March
2. Finalize website updates for the monitoring workgroup - March
3. Caldor Fire Field Tour and preparation presentations – June
4. Review status of monitoring projects in database and create 2022 report
5. Continue planning for Caldor Tour (e.g., adding topics like meadows with Karen Pope’s information)
6. Meadow Monitoring Field Event (June)
7. 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
8. 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
9. 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)
10. Need to address monitoring in plantations both the variable density PCG and the variable density planting – will we continue this
11. 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)

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).