**March Monitoring Meeting Notes**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

**9:02 AM**

**Attendees**: Zac, Megan, Helen, Linda, Becky, Sue

**Impromptu Ice Breaker** – How has the weather affected your neck of the woods? Is everyone hanging in there?

**Aspen Monitoring Plan Updates** – Helen and Megan

* Important to note that there are monthly meetings to move the aspen assessment and restoration work forward with the team working on the WCB grant – this team is committed to keeping the monitoring workgroup up to date;
* The monitoring WG will review the plan when it is finalized in the coming months;
* Helen presented a draft presentation to the group to begin the discussion on the monitoring plan which covered the rapid assessment and the monitoring work that will occur on the treatments
* The goals for the aspen monitoring will be the 1) Map and rapid assessment 2) Define aspen and wildlife monitoring 3) Prioritize 4) Collect baseline data 5) Start restoration planning for 300 acres of priority stands 6) Collect year 2 baseline data
* Second year of baseline monitoring - might have one year of baseline data
* Rapid assessment that was developed by SYRCL - not really rapid
* Might try to change the change the stand condition section - all subjective - does give some idea of us an idea of the surrounding area but doesn’t give any quantitative data
* The buffer isn't really identified in this rapid assessment - this does get addressed in the expanded sampling method
* Plan would be to have the wildlife plots in the areas being treated - need to be 200 meters apart so that they are unique - co-located bee and avian plots
* The other monitoring protocol (Ecology Program has been using) would be to use the Lassen Protocol - along belt transect - also includes browse pressure
* Need enough information to prioritize the aspen restoration treatments
* Where should transects be located? It would be good to co-locate these with wildlife plots - these should also expand out into the buffer
* These polygons will have a rapid assessment as well as a final plots
* Until the prioritization plans are finalized it would be difficult to determine where we are putting in the permanent monitoring plots
* Control sites that don't get treated would be important - not all the plots will get treated - could focus on those in the wilderness boundaries - definitely want to focus on the controls
* Collecting CSE data for this project - this could be employed later to get at more specific conifer data - this would be for the NEPA planning

**Website Updates and Changes -** All

Monitoring Webpage has been developed but isn’t live at this point. We need to finish final changes so that we can review at the April meeting and make the website live.

**Final changes to website:**

* Awesome table - need to make sure the entire table range is based on the Box folder (Becky - done)
* Delete projects that aren't necessary in the awesome table - see the Box spreadsheet to determine which ones need to be deleted (Megan - done – these are hidden in the Awesome table)
* Delete the sidebox on the page so that there is more room for the Box (Megan)
* Finalize the information for the awesome table (All – done with the exception of a few projects)
* Reach out to final project leads for material to include (Helen and Chuck)
* Is there a way we can shrink the project titles or shorten the titles? (Becky - done)
* Load all final documents to the website - see Box table highlighted in red (Megan/Becky)
* Remove ACCG Collaborative Monitoring Surveys, Consumnes, Design by Prescription, Post Implementation field trip (done - hidden)
* Delete the X Column in the Awesome Table (done - deleted)
* Can we show grids on the Awesome table so that it is easier to see (Megan)
* Resort by Project Title (Megan)
* Move the monitoring website under the Projects tab (Megan)
* Need to add the 2022 Post Fire Restoration Symposium - link here <https://www.cafiresci.org/events-webinars-source/category/postfirecaldor> (Megan)
* Need to reorder the symposiums section - there are some that have photos and some that don't - let me know if we need more photos (Megan)
* Develop a cheatsheet on how we will keep the projects tab updated (Megan/Becky)

**Topics for Next Meeting** -

* Ten minutes for final website changes
* Caldor Fire Field Tour pre-planning
* Monitoring Plans for 2023 Field Season
* Ten minutes - aspen monitoring plan
* Review Gavin’s presentation on CSO and discuss at April meeting (<https://usfs.box.com/s/7oqv92jfb0m3jgajrs7i2puorehv9cyh>)

**Task List**

All

* Review Caldor Field Tour in June and begin to think about rescheduling dates
* Need to review the Aspen Monitoring Plan for the WCB Project
* Everyone should check the awesome table once published on the website
* Share photos with Megan for the web if you have any great ones
* Review all changes to website (see above)

Becky

* Dig up the threshold for the stand size for number of transects for the aspen work
* Think about criteria for the publications - either date, subject, etc.
* Reach out individually on specific projects to finish up the website awesome table (done)
* Share the projects for the website where we can delete them (done)
* Need to add the latest symposium and change the wording in this list (see above)
* 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

Megan

* Need to explore the link in the awesome table - could be just the publication link that isn't numbered
* Delete projects in the awesome table and getting rid of the sideboards

**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/April
2. Finalize website updates for the monitoring workgroup – March/April
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).