**May ACCG Monitoring Workgroup Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

**Attendees:** Zac Croyle, Chuck Loffland, Linda Diesem, Megan Layhee, Helen Loffland, Becky Estes, Sue Britting

**2023 Field Tours**

**Aspen Field Tour** – Report out from Full Group/Discussion

Western Aspen Alliance hosts workshops each year. Held on eastside SN in 2022. Interest in hosting workshop on westside SN. Two locations being considered – North Yuba or ACCG. Checking with collaborative groups to check on interest in hosting. ACCG – support and interest, but slightly lukewarm. Interest in being involved, but if close will attend, but if farther away may not attend. No one volunteered to take active role in planning. The working group expects to decide next week – SYRCL is interested in hosting/planning, Becky likely to support them moving forward with workshop in North Yuba area. Chuck suggests a one-day field trip in ACCG area to give people an opportunity to see aspen in project area, and others agree. Perhaps we can invite North Yuba folks as well. Helen mentions that it would be good to review sites in the context of the monitoring sites. ACCG monitoring will take planning for this again in July for a trip in August-September.

**Caldor Fire Field Tour**

Main idea is to attempt to coordinate with these other two groups and join their tours/advertise them to ACCG/SOFAR in order to save time in a year where the WG has a lot on its plate

Possibly host a smaller tour toward end of summer that is ACCG/SOFAR specific, depending on how the other two tours shape up.

CFSC planning an event in Caldor this season. May be some opportunities to coordinate with them. Becky will follow up with Tara/CFSC to find out what they are up to. Might be good to have the CFSC tour

Becky is also involved with the group publishing the next GTR (278) for reforestation that focuses on specific bioregions. They have been talking about a field tour to Caldor area. This may be another tour to loop SOFAR-ACCG in to. Becky will keep in touch with their group and float opportunities to this group for consideration.

**Thompson Meadow Field Day**

Pre-treatment transects in 2016. Would like to get out for post-treatment transects this season. Will need volunteers to support this event. Sue will recruit in CNPS for volunteers. Target is likely to be August-September.

Becky asks about the status of field crews and if others have capacity. Looking for folks who might be interested in cross training.

**2023 Field Season**

Four main projects need to be resampled this year

* Thompson Meadow (12 transects) – to be covered in the volunteer day mentioned above
* Hemlock – red fir (21 plots) and mixed conifer plots (24 plots); more of a focus on pest/disease with Beverly and Martin; may be some hazard tree work this season
* Panther Plots (32 plots) – Panther Creek road is not opened to public, but open to workers – road is a bit sketchy; should be opened up all the way up to top, if regular warm weather continues; target date for site visits might be August; need floristics and plants have to be out
* Government Meadow/Caples Aspen (27 transects)– aspen transects
* Caples Red Fir Monitoring (21 plots)

Total of 98 plots and 39 transects; Becky has access to a crew and looking for other support.

Helen may be able to add some of the aspen transects to her plan of work for the summer

Becky and Helen will make some decisions about which transects to bring forward and which to not measure this year

Becky will share with group her filed support availability/needs after she figures out what her Caldor crews will be doing

Becky will create summary of monitoring projects that would benefit from volunteers to help

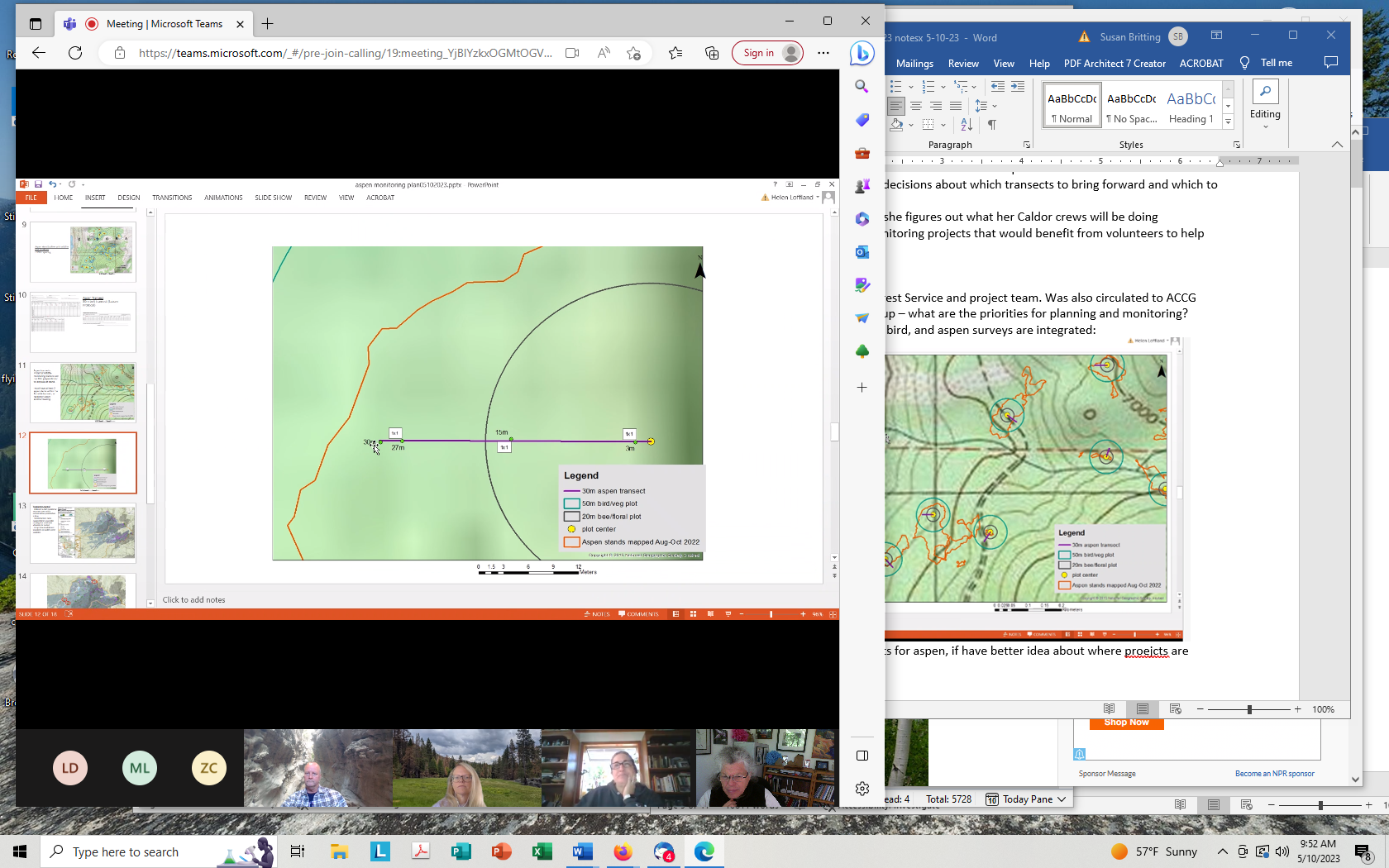
**Aspen Monitoring Plan**

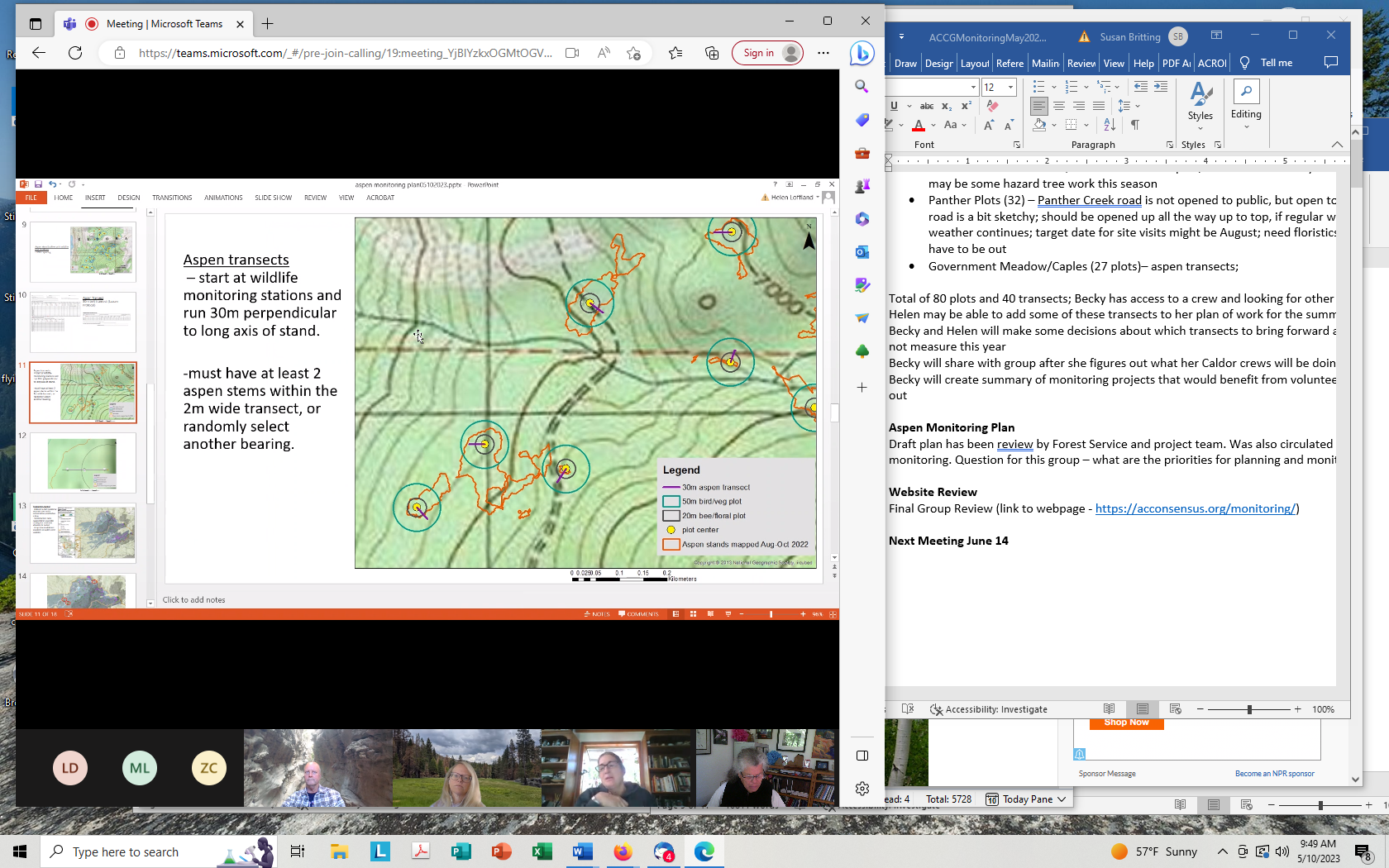
Draft plan has been reviewed by Forest Service and project team. Was also circulated to ACCG monitoring.

Question for this group – what are the priorities for planning and monitoring? From Chuck: Priority for Aspen on Amador: 1. stands that have road access (can use equipment to treat the stands) (planning and monitoring); 2. Stands in the Cole Creek/Foster Meadow areas (monitoring); 3. stands that are last stand alone aspen in an area where the aspen is likely to wink out without treatment regardless of access (planning and monitoring)

Megan – needs to figure out how to prioritize 300 acres of aspen treatment for the WCB funding; Chuck suggests access is one of the key factors, since if cannot get equipment into the area, it is very expensive to treat

One thing added since last time is how bee, bird, and aspen surveys are integrated shown in the two maps that follow.





May add additional 30-m transects for aspen, if have better idea about where projects are being completed.

Plan still needs to address aspen delineation process, but Helen is feeling like things have really come together in last couple of weeks.

Aspen project – Update on aspen ecology, treatments and monitoring to be given to full ACCG meeting in June. Regine, Becky and Megan will be delivering this.

**Website Review**

Final Group Review (link to webpage - <https://acconsensus.org/monitoring/>)

Table needs to be made accessible to all (not there yet)

Megan needs to have latest table to upload

Megan and Becky need to sort out logistics of management, updating, etc.

“Strategy” section – last two sentences should be updated to reflect all of the reports that have been prepared. Becky and Megan will work on this.

**Landscape level monitoring**

How best to interface with other large landscape monitoring efforts such as ACCEL or the Regional Resource Kits?

Possible agenda topic – How can regional resource kits be used for monitoring?

**Next Meeting June 14**

**To do list:**

**All**

* If others have field crew capacity or have crew members who want additional training opportunities, contact Becky to help boost her capacity to get monitoring done this year

**Becky**

* Share final aspen workshop information with ACCG (tentative dates September 19-20)
* Caldor Tour: Becky will follow up with Tara/CFSC to find out what they are up to and if ACCG/SOFAR can piggy back with their tour.
* Caldor Tour: Becky will keep in touch with the GTR group (Reforestation for Resilience) about tour they are planning and if ACCG/SOFAR can piggy back on to that.
* Will create a listing volunteer opportunity for monitoring for this season
* Send monitoring reports to Megan for posting on ACCG website (2019 Monitoring Indicator Report)
* Send Megan most up to date tale for webpage

**Sue**

* Recruit CNPS folks for monitoring when more specific information is available
* Recruit more SOFAR folks to help plan a future field trip to Caldor

**Megan**

* Revise last two sentences of “strategy” section of website to make them less dated and to reflect all the monitoring reports that have been completed.
* Work with Becky to finalize table and agree on maintenance approach for the new webpage
* Will share a write up of the Google Studio methods

**Ongoing Task List**

**All**

* Share relevant papers or talks that might be important to share with the group

**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)
* Update the monitoring database and draft up plan for this field season;
* Continue to merge all monitoring spatial data into one place
* Determine whether the Forest Service can house the spatial database on our ArcGIS Online

**Helen**

* Will look into potential effects of changes in phenology and how this might affect the NDVI - no hurry on this task - 2025 revisit this analysis

**Future Agenda Topics**

1. Another interesting project Virtual fencing - UC Extension - in Caldor Fire - interest to ACCG - relatively new technology for grazing allotments - topic for future meeting
2. Thompson Meadow Monitoring Field Event (September)
3. 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
4. Landscape scale monitoring – RSL/MARS/RRK 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
5. 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)
6. Need to address monitoring in plantations both the variable density PCG and the variable density planting – will we continue this
7. 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).