**July ACCG Monitoring Work Group Meeting Notes**

Meeting participants: Becky Estes, Zach Croyle, Helen Loffland, Linda Diesem, Michelle Wolfgang, Megan Layhee

7/12/2023

**Introductions/Agenda Review**

Becky asked Helen about timing of the Martin Meadow visit. Helen mentioned that she hasn’t started any of the transects, and needed to chat with Becky about whether to wait for the field workshop volunteer day or do it separately. They agreed to do as much as they can on the workshop day and then finish the rest of the monitoring at a later date.

Becky and Megan decided it would be good to run through he ACCG website one more time toward the end of the meeting to review the Monitoring-related website updates.

**Overview of Request to MARS on F3 Summary**

Becky reviewed her process to this point for developing the MARS request. She went ahead and summarized conversations that the work group have had in this setting, looked back over the monitoring strategy and found questions that could be answered at the landscape scale. Noted that she recalled the work group had at one point identified scales for each question, but couldn’t find anything.

Becky created a crosswalk between the cornerstone strategy questions and the RRK indicators and data summaries for each question. The cornerstone boundary is the scale, but Becky noted that the group could change this, perhaps expand to include the whole ACCG SLAWG footprint. The proposed timeframe for this analysis would be 2011 (pre CFLR project), 2016 (mid CFLR project), and 2021 (or most current landscape).

Group decided that the next step should be that Becky will reach out to her contacts at MARS to get a sense of their limitations/side boards to help refine the request, and also the work group will review the request and provide feedback to Becky.

**ACCG Monitoring Workshop Field Days (aspen & meadow):**

Discussed the importance of limiting to the number of people invited, Becky thought 20 people would be a good max number.

Linda added that she would like to participate on both days, but has no field experience and has had issues with Eventbrite in the past. Becky added that no experience is needed, that’s the intent of the workshops is education/training, and is putting Linda down for both days.

Michelle noted an action item from last month’s work group notes, for Sue to reach out to CNPS to solicit potential volunteers for the field days, and noted that she would volunteer herself to follow up with her contacts at both CNPS and Sierra Meadows Partnership to spread the word.

Becky asked Zach to help spread the word with STF staff (seasonal botany staff, Carinna, Ray, etc.)

Becky will update the flyers and recirculate with group to share. Becky also noted that it would be good to have the previous monitoring data available for the field days. Also, noted that we need find out where monitoring gear cache on Amador district is located, and if additional gear is needed for the STF meadow day, someone from ARD needs to bring it.

Becky also noted that she is heading to Martin Meadow soon for another project, legacy tree monitoring work. This work was performing raking around legacy trees pre-prescribed fire treatments, with the idea of establishing plots at these locations to monitor success of raking treatments. But since they were never able to get back to the plots after the Caples fire, they are doing a different approach (visual observations of what they think were raked legacy trees).

**Future Agenda Topics**

* Virtual fencing update.
* Karen Pope and others to come speak on the lost meadows model.
* Landscape scale monitoring- moving forward with that, nice potential nexus with FPP Phase 2.
* LiDAR: merging STF and ENF datasets, see if Phase 2 goes down the route of Land Tender, if so, that might be the path forward for that.
* Check status of CHIPS’ former WCB grant pre-commercial thin monitoring plot status.
* Monitoring strategy: noted that some projects are red fir monitoring, mixed conifer monitoring (Hemlock, Caples, Panther) will be wrapping up this year but no one set to analyze and do the reporting.
* CA forest observatory: not sure but well keep it on.
* Monitoring symposium: do another symposium focused on Calaveras RD (hemlock, red fir).
* Meadow monitoring protocol comparison.
* Sierra Meadows as a potential resource and partner to continue long-term monitoring (15 years).

**Round robin, closeout**

Caples work paper coming out soon, including effects on veg, but primarily effects on avian species.

Arnold-Avery monitoring: potentially update protocol if plots were included in 20-acre broadcast burning. Exercise would include incorporating a couple sentences from the Caples or Fire Effects Monitoring protocols, and updating the data being collected, including (1) did it effect trees (scorch), (2) did it just effect ground vegetation (and add fire severity class).

Next regular monitoring work group meeting in November. If there is something that needs to be addressed by the work group form the broader ACCG or something else, plan to communicate via email as a group.

**Action items**

All

* Review the ACCG Landscape Analysis Request to MARS and provide any feedback to Becky.

Becky

* Check to verify that Michelle Wolfgang is on the Monitoring work group email list.
* Update the ACCG monitoring workshop flyers and recirculate with group to share.
* Add Linda Diesem to the Eventbrite participant lists for both ACCG monitoring workshop days.
* Reach out to contacts at MARS to get a preliminary understanding of their sideboards/limitations to help the work group refine the request.

Megan

* Add MWG workshop flyers as a July general meeting discussion topic, make website post about the workshops, and update the Monitoring meeting page to reflect that the meetings will not be held in August-Oct.
* Request LMUs from Becky.
* Get website cheat sheet to Becky.
* Add Allen publication to project matrix website table.
* Ensure Becky made it on the TAG invite email/calendar invite.

Michelle

* Spread the word about the ACCG Monitoring Workshop Field Days to CNPS and Sierra Meadows Partnership contacts.