**March ACCG Monitoring WG Meeting**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

**8:59 AM**

**Attendance:** Becky Estes, Zac Croyle, Matt Brown, Stan Dodson, tom Hofstra, Ben Campbell, Megan Layhee, Helen Loffland, Chuck Loffland, Ty McCarthy, Linda Diesem, Sue Britting, Michelle Wolfgang, Kaitlyn Garber, Chris Shull

**Video Recording:** [Location on Box](https://usfs.box.com/s/poobmqpkifg2vkl4b2nm0pxloacyb1ex)

**Update from Past Meetings:**

Derek Young's work - Open Forest Observatory 2.0: A user-friendly platform enabling rapid, low-cost forest and fuel inventory for treatment planning and monitoring by fusing UAV and ground imagery ([link in Box](https://usfs.box.com/s/7zjtuva9nhvehvyj1bvozv076gry3l8k))

* Would this work be translated into fuel model estimates? This could be a great use of the outputs.
* Fire probability modelling – longer term but could be quite useful to fill and gaps
* Still some concern with relying on remote sensing/drone products. There is still a major role for field-based data collection.
* It would be great to have Derek come and speak to the full group

Monitoring:

* Improving efficiency of monitoring and techniques
* Innovative through research - build into the strategy moving forward

Drone based survey technique on the North Zone Eldorado - might be a path forward

* Ways of reconstructing the understory
* Density of the tree overstory - high stand density – would it work in all conditions?
* Use the local expertise in this process – we have drone pilots on the ENF that are doing data collection in meadows, reforestation locations

**MAC Monitoring Strategy – presentation of questions and metadata**

* Resilience as a word in the monitoring strategy - perhaps using resistance or make sure it is well defined – this is where measurable
* Questions should be as neutral as possible - some might be leading to a positive so better to keep potential conclusions as broad as possible
* Frame the questions to be scientific
* We could use the SMART protocol for designing monitoring questions - specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely
* Question development - neutral questions
* How specific do we need to be on the thresholds and triggers? Very specific.
* Temporal component that needs to be built into the development of the questions
  + Maintenance
  + Treatment timing
* Break down the metric column into two or thinking about which metrics could be collected with different approaches - this could help with funding with respect to what and how we collect data -this will certainly help with funding monitoring
* Having metrics broken out by data collection methods so that we can understand the methods and how the data is being collected
* Recognizing existing data collection methods and how we might use these methods to fill in our monitoring strategy
* Prioritizing questions as a group
* Does it make sense to organize ourselves around singular questions or groups of questions? Maybe we focus on a group of questions that we will tackle at each workshop
* Question needs to be less dense and more specific which would move away from leading questions
* Theme category - wildfire risk so that you don't have to include it in the question which would help keep the question focused
* Currently questions are too dense

Questions - short, specific, neutral - any other recommendations

1. SMART Framework:

**Specific:**

Avoid vague questions. Instead, clearly define what you want to measure.

Example: Instead of "How is the project going?", ask "What is the percentage of on-time project deliverables?".

**Measurable:**

Ensure the question can be tracked with data.

Example: Instead of "Is the program effective?", ask "What percentage of participants demonstrate increased knowledge after training?".

**Achievable:**

The question should be within reach with available resources and expertise.

Example: Instead of "Are there impacts on global climate change?", ask "What is the change in energy consumption per household after the program?".

**Relevant:**

The question directly addresses the project's goals and objectives.

Example: Ensure the question addresses the project's intended outcomes, not just outputs.

**Time-bound:**

Include a timeframe to make it clear when the data needs to be collected.

Example: Instead of "How many people attended the event?", ask "What is the average monthly attendance at the event?".

Timing of the monitoring effort is very important

Temporal scale - maybe this would help us inform other groups and their timelines for collecting data

 Desired conditions/thresholds - heavily focused on the ACCG monitoring framework - maybe we don't need this in both the question and the threshold/trigger

Potential question to add - How has the treatment altered the fuel load?

Look at proposed action and the modelling process and how to synergize with the MAC team – schedule a time with interested parties

 Upcoming TAG meeting - how could we put those pieces together and make sure we are incorporating the model and the project proposal

Look at granting agencies and questions associated with them - SNC and other potential grantees and make sure we are capturing these metrics as well – Ty will attend a workshop in the near future so this information can be carried forward

**Schedule Agenda:**

* Monthly ID team meetings will be attended with MAC
* Develop questions
* We could develop by theme as well rather than by key metadata
* Maybe put a pin in the questions rather sooner than later – finalize questions by end of May so our June meeting will be fleshing out the questions and the metadata
* Structure by theme and developing questions and themes
* Coordinating metrics with SERAL,HELP and others across the Central Sierra – schedule a meeting across collaboratives group at some point in time
* Coordinate across metrics
* Maybe have a coordination meeting with the HELP, SERAL, TCSI, etc.
* Concentrated 4 hour workshops to come together
* 4 hours broken up by themes - invite experts to each of these themes - wildfire, vegetation, wildlife, social/economics (maybe wait until Fall)

**Updates from the Group:**

**Helen**

* Great grey owl/CSO owl ARU report forthcoming
* Small BLM parcels - look at vegetation data that Becky has if interested
* Could we use this information for project planning?

**Becky**

* Red Fir analysis/report almost finished – working with Forest Health and Silvs
* Remote Sensing Validation and Data Summary ongoing

**Chuck**

* Finalized the remote sensing data (almost) - 6/5D and 6/5M to target areas

**Task List:**

**All**

* Review the metadata for the monitoring questions and suggest if there is any more information that we need to add
* Review program of work for this year – Subteam will provide this

**Becky**

* Send the short proposal to Sue and the ACCG Monitoring WG (see link above in notes)
* UMWRA Letter for Derek (done)
* Add folks to the Box folder and to the invite et. (done – I think)
* Add a co-owner to the Box folder (done – for now)
* Amend the monitoring meeting schedule after thinking about comments (Becky, Ty, Megan)
* Figure out where on Box all things MAC monitoring strategy should be housed
* Maybe have a coordination meeting with the HELP, SERAL, TCSI, etc
* Share the remote sensing protocol with CSERC once I amend it
* Can we use the Task Force monitoring metrics and questions?  I saw this at another meeting. It is still unclear who is summarizing this data

**Megan**

* Will send Becky full group dates for Derek presentation (done)
* TAG meeting TBD - maybe aligning with them - maybe have some initial calls with folks to connect the dots

**Ty**

* How do we create a good monitoring question? Could we provide direction for this at the next meeting? Architecture/structure of a good monitoring question - what does this look like?
* Define the difference between resilience and resistance
* Look at Sierra/Sequoia forest monitoring plans at how the questions are arranged – Megan forwarded these links
* Reach out to Stephanie C with developing/fleshing out a monitoring strategy

**Future Meetings**

* Have Derek come and present to the general meeting on this work - letter of support
* BIOS (biogeographic information and Observation System) website - this might be a good presentation (aspen delineation)
* Red Fir – Lacey and Becky