

SWCC Monitoring Committee

Meeting Notes

June 23, 2011

Present: Keith Stockmann*, Jim McKay, Jon Haufler*, Mo Bookwalter, Amber Kamps*, Tom Bansak*, Shane Hendrickson, John Ingebretson, Adam Lieberg*, Rich Kehr, Scott Tomson*, Joe Kerkvliet*, Gary Burnett*, Anne Carlson*, Cory Davis, Jim Burchfield*, Cara Nelson*, Dick Hutto*, Travis Belote*, Megan Birzell*, Cameron Thomas, Beth Hahn, Lorraine Brewer, Renate Bush, Terry Carlson, Scott Robinson
(*Indicates voting member.)

Action Items:

- **Cory** will send out a call for nominations for a new Monitoring Committee Chair.
- **Committee members** will contact Cory if they are interested in participating in the Data Management Committee.
- **Megan, Amber, Gary, and Cory** will ensure that questions around matching requirements are brought to the Executive Committee.
- **Cara** will recirculate the task list that led us to create a full-time monitoring coordinator position in order to refresh our memories about where and how Cory will be spending his time.
- **All proposal leads** will submit their proposals to Cory by 12pm on Monday, June 27th.
- **Cory** will combine proposals, incorporate cost efficiencies, and develop a final proposed monitoring plan by Friday, July 1st.
- **Cory** will submit the final proposed monitoring plan to the SWCC via Megan by July 1st. Gary - Have Cory look at integration and potential cost savings and take that to the ExComm.

I. Welcome/Introductions/Updates

- a. The notes from the April 21st and May 19th meetings were approved unanimously.
- b. The one-year term for the Monitoring Committee Chair is up on July 31, 2011. We will vote for a new chair at the July meeting.
 - i. ACTION ITEM: **Cory** will send out call for nominations for a new Monitoring Committee chair.

II. First steps to developing data management strategy

- a. The group discussed the need for a meta-strategy for data management that is ties together data collected in individual monitoring projects and ensures that it is available to the public.
- b. The group decided to form a data management committee to work in depth on this. The committee will consist of Cory Davis, Renate Bush, and Beth Hahn. Others are welcome to participate.

3. Fire Management Options and Costs – Lead: Keith Stockmann, CFLR Fund Request: \$5,700
 - a. The purpose of this project is to get a sense of whether fire managers will see any change in the latitude they have to do fire management over time as a result of the CFLR program.
 - b. The Executive Committee has somewhat already agreed to do this through the National Monitoring Indicators workshop.
4. Developing, Testing, and Implementing Sampling Protocols to Assess the Efficacy and Ecological Effects of Forest Restoration and Fuels Treatments – Lead: Andrew Larson; CFLR Fund Request: \$141,000
 - a. This project would integrate the work of the fuels, vegetation, and wildlife working groups into a multi-resource plot system (a.k.a. “super FIA” plot) and is thus cost-effective.
 - b. There are two parts to the study. The first is observational (study of past treatments; \$35,000), and the second involves establishing plots (study of planned treatments; \$105,000). It was suggested that perhaps the two aspects of the proposal should be split into two proposals with two budgets.
 - c. Several members emphasized the need for those involved in this project to work closely with the FS to develop a sampling scheme
5. SWCC Meadow Smith Old Growth Monitoring – Lead: Renate Bush; CFLR Fund Request: \$13,000
 - a. Continued funding for a monitoring program that began in 2008.
 - b. There is the potential to add weed monitoring to this project.
 - c. Analysis and reporting would be conducted with in-kind match from Renate and Mick Harrington.
 - d. The Meadow Smith Project is not a CFLR project but was used as match for the SWCC’s CFLR Program in FY 2010.
6. Fire History and Fire/Fuels Monitoring – Lead: John Ingebretson; CFLR Fund Request: \$13,000
 - a. The budget covers costs for the Swan District, but the Lincoln and Seeley Districts will likely also be added.

- b. This project would monitor the fire/fuels effectiveness of three projects with NEPA initiation, five scheduled prescribed burns, and six fuels/vegetation projects currently under contract.
 - c. Protocols haven't been ironed out yet.
- 7. First Year Post-treatment Monitoring of Roadside and Aerial Herbicide Treatments – Lead: Cara Nelson; CFLR Fund Request: \$60,000
 - a. This would build off of monitoring being conducted this summer.
 - b. The vegetation working group does not plan to ask for money for this every year but thinks it's important to get first-year post-treatment data.
- 8. Swan Valley Cutthroat Trout Genetic Health Baseline Monitoring – Lead: Beth Gardner; CFLR Fund Request: \$22,000
 - a. This would occur in the Crazy Horse fire area and would collect baseline genetics data to use in the future to see if CFLR projects are effective in preventing diminishing native trout.
- 9. Synthesizing Aquatic Monitoring Data with Existing Reporting Frameworks – Lead: Shane Hendrickson; CFLR Fund Request: \$14,000
 - a. While this is a very needed task, it was suggested that this be funded out of a different pool of money because it isn't directly monitoring.
- 10. Demonstration of NetMap spatial watershed tool to determine aquatic effectiveness and to guide restoration prioritization at the landscape scale – Lead: Bruce Rieman; CFLR Fund Request: \$3,500
 - a. This would fund a workshop for biologists to look at results of pilot work and figure out if it's a valid tool that should be used in the future.
- 11. Calibration and Use of Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package (GRAIP) for use in the Southwest Crown of the Continent for Project and Site Scale Effectiveness Monitoring – Lead: Tom Bansak; CFLR Fund Request: \$41,000
 - a. This would help to validate the modeling of the effects of removing or keeping roads at the 7th Code HUC level.
 - b. 140 miles of roads would be surveyed.
- 12. Piloting a Chronosequence Approach for Monitoring the Effectiveness and Ecological Effects of Management

Activity – Lead: Dick Hutto; CFLR Fund Request: \$50,000 - \$60,000

- a. This project is useful for working groups outside the wildlife group because you can measure/record anything that is available. It isn't limited to wildlife.
 - b. This meets the monitoring goals of the CFLR Program by helping us to better understand the effects of the treatments we are implementing on the ground.
13. Multi-Species Carnivore Baseline Inventory in the SW Crown Landscape – Lead: Scott Tomson; CFLR Fund Request: \$25,000
14. Development of Habitat Models and Identification of Vegetation Parameters for Monitoring Wildlife Responses to SWCC Treatments – Lead: Jon Haufler; CFLR Fund Request: \$34,000
- a. FS attendees were enthusiastic about this proposal as they see a large need for developing a consistent set of habitat models across the three districts.
 - b. It was suggested that a field component be added in order to validate the models.
15. Meadow Smith Old Growth Forest Restoration Bird Surveys – Lead: Steve Anderson; CFLR Fund Request: \$16,000
- a. This would fund the 4th year of bird survey work associated with this project.

IV. Nest Steps regarding final proposals

- a. ACTION ITEM: **All proposal leads** will submit their proposals to Cory by 12pm on Monday, June 27th.
- b. ACTION ITEM: **Cory** will combine proposals, incorporate cost efficiencies, and develop a final proposed monitoring plan by Friday, July 1st.
- c. ACTION ITEM: **Cory** will submit the final proposed monitoring plan to the SWCC via Megan by July 1st. Gary - Have Cory look at integration and potential cost savings and take that to the ExComm.

V. The next monitoring meeting will be held Thursday, July 21st, 1 – 4pm at Lubrecht Experimental Forest.