



Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project Integration Team Meeting Summary Notes
May 27th 2008, 10:00 to 1:00 pm

In Attendance:

Reg Barrett	Amy Fesnock	Anne Lombardo	Gary Roller
Tim Biddinger	Ann Huber	Dave Martin	Kimberly
Steve Brink	Lynn Huntsinger	Gary Nakamura	Rodriguez
Sue Britting	Marek	Larry Peabody	Richard Rypinski
Mike Chapel	Jakubowski	Audrey Powell	David Saah
Brandon Collins	Maggi Kelly	Tony Rodarte	Mike Skuja
Jan Cutts	Susie Kocher		Adriana Sulak
Marie Davis	Nick Konovaloff		

Summary of Key Agreements:

1. The group recognized that there are constraints in implementing SPLAT theory in its ideal spatial arrangement and scale on the selected study sites.
2. The group recognized issues involved in modeling from inventoried forest data from plots 500 meters apart. The FFHT may use Lidar data in between plots.
3. The group recognized issues involved with the effects on the larger landscape. Dave Saah will be looking at larger scales to predict effects on fire behavior in SPLATs and DFPZs.
4. The group recognized that information flow is working well with the UC Science Teams and USFS District staff but that fisher data information sharing between the USFS and the public could be improved. Dave Martin agreed to work on improving this and to send out the prescriptions and fisher design features of the Sugar Pine project to the group.
5. An IT meeting will be held focusing on work of the fisher team before the final planning decisions are made by the USFS on September 19th. Kim and Susie will work with the District Rangers and staff to determine possible dates for future IT meetings.

Summary Notes:

Implementation update: The two USFS ranger districts involved in SNAMP are at slightly different stages of implementation. Both are trying to reach the ideal SPLAT spatial pattern on the landscape, but are constrained by road access, cost and other nearby treatments.

The American Ranger District (Tahoe National Forest) is using the traditional 30 day comment period and subsequent appeal period. Goals of the Last Chance project are to modify the surface flame length that would occur during a wildfire and to increase the wind speed that would be

needed to generate a crown fire. The project encompasses both tractor and cable ground treatments. Mastication will be used on the west side of the project and in plantations.

The Bass Lake Ranger District (Sierra National Forest) implementation timeline has changed due to contracting delays. They hope to have the Draft EIS out by the end of June. Implementation via service contract will begin next spring. The discovery of denning fishers by the UCST Fisher Team also affects the project. The 2004 Record of Decision (ROD) says only ground and ladder fuels may be removed within a protected area of 700 acres for each den. This would reduce thinning in the project by 70%. However, the District may be getting interim guidelines to move forward. Dave Martin sent out the prescriptions and wildlife design features to the group.

Fire and Forest Health Team (FFHT) update: The FFHT inventoried treatment plots last summer and will inventory control plots this summer. Plots are 500 meters apart and measure basal area, canopy cover, understory density and structure, snags and coarse woody debris. The team may also use pre and post treatment Lidar data to characterize conditions in between plots.

Models to be used include FARSITE and FlamMap. Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS) is being used with Arc Fuels. Stand definitions from the Forest Service timber strata maps were used as a beginning point to define stand boundaries for modeling and were modified based on collected data. The team will be doing modeling of the fire of most concern to USFS District staff (with specific wind and temperature). Dave Saah from the UCST is looking at larger scales to predict effects on fire behavior in SPLATs and DFPZs.

Another component of the project is fire scar mapping. 1000 trees will be cored and many will be analyzed for fire scars. Fire scar data will be interpreted based on historical fires. Growth rings from the last 40 years will be used to build a tree mortality model before and after treatment. Past research indicates that a probability of mortality of greater than 1 or 2% is a problem.

Adaptive Management Discussion: Information flow is working well with the FFHE team and USFS District staff. Data is being used in project design and is more intensive than would normally be collected. This shows that the design of the classic adaptive management loop is more theoretical than practical. Information sharing between the Fisher Teams and the US Forest Service is also going well. Improvements sharing this information with the public is important. The USFS is willing to make this information available more public, but needs to work out timing issues.

Public members of the IT remain concerned about how the fisher den discoveries will affect project design. Management standards for the fisher are included in the 2004 ROD. The work of the fisher team may be more suited to defining triggers and thresholds. NEPA allows halt due to “new information” when risks are high

Next steps: An important next step is to hold an IT meeting with the fisher team, ideally before the final planning decisions are made on September 19th. This may be held near the southern site. Conference calls and video conferencing were suggested to improve attendance. Kim and Susie will work with the District Rangers and staff to determine possible dates for future IT meetings, and then will involve the UCST for planning.