MOUP/UCST Meeting Notes
Conference Call February 24, 2009

UCST Present: John Battles, Ann Huber, Anne Lombardo, Doug Tempel, Roger Bales, Lynn Huntsinger

MOUP Present: Kim Squires (FWS), Mike Chapel (USFS), Tony Rodarte (USFS), Christopher Fischer (USFS)

The purpose of the call is to discuss developments related to the state budget shortfall for SNAMP.

1) Review the UCST budget and workplan reduction summary

- John articulated the specific steps that the Science Team has taken in order to compensate for the current freeze on state funds. The summary, which was sent to MOUP, is appended to these notes.

2) Seek input from MOUP on the state funding outlook for SNAMP now that the CA budget has passed

- No insight on state funding since no participants from the state were on the call.

Mike Chapel will follow up with state members on Friday’s Grants Team Call, and inform UCST of any insights they might have. He expects that Crawford Tuttle, Todd Ferrara, and Frank Gehrke will be on the call.

3) Meeting Dates for 2009

Q.5 meeting dates drafted. Full schedule of draft Quarterly and Q.5 dates below:

- April 22 / 1-4 pm / 2009 Q1
- June 16 / 1-3 pm / 2009 Q1.5
- July 16 / 1-4 pm / 2009 Q2
- Sept 8 / 10 am - 12 pm / 2009 Q2.5
- Oct 20 / All Day, In person / SNAMP Annual Meeting - Q3
- Dec 8 / 1-3 pm / 2009 Q3.5
- Jan 11 / 1-4 pm / 2009 Q4
Quarterly Meetings are 4 hour blocks of time to allow flexibility for an in-person meeting if needed or requested by either UCST or MOUP.

Mike will distribute proposed Q.5 meeting dates to MOUP; and Ann to UCST.

4) Other discussions

- John expects that SNAMP will face another budget crisis in June when funding will begin to run out for Spatial and Water teams, since the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has indicated that bond renewal will not happen for another couple of months.

- Mike – outlook for future SNC funding is not good. SNC is looking for projects that are site improvement, on the ground restoration, not education and research.

Discussion about invitation from Fraser Shilling (SNEP II planner) to coordinate or collaborate with SNAMP.

Ann H. and Mike will seek clarifying information about the invitation to coordinate with SNEP II (Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Assessment Project).

Discussion about other sources of funding: DFG, NSF. John: people view SNAMP as already funded, donors do not like to fill in for what they see as fed and state responsibilities, science team can leverage SNAMP funding for new research.

John going to DC Science Innovations Conference to present SNAMP poster and talk to potential donors.

On the next page is a copy of the UCST workplan and budget reduction summary sent to MOUP.
This document describes the methods in which we, the UCST, will compensate for the current funding deficit with immediate cuts to the Fisher, Project Integration and Management, Public Participation, and Fire and Forest Ecosystem Health team budgets. It also summarizes the specific ways in which the workplans of these teams will be affected until full funding can be restored, while protecting core missions of each team.

**Project Integration and Management (PIM)**
The PIM team has reduced its operating budget by ~30%. The Academic Coordinator position will remain part-time (0.75 FTE). The planned infill in project management support (0.5 FTE, Aimee Sprague) has been eliminated. Michi Takata’s (SNAMP financial analyst) salary will be partially covered by the UC Berkeley’s College of Natural Resources. The support to complete the first “meta-replication” project (management effects on fire behavior) is covered in the Year 3 budget, but support for a meta-replication project in Year 4 has been removed to achieve the 30% reduction. Almost all travel and meeting support has been eliminated.

The PIM team will no longer be able to 1) produce detailed meeting notes of UCST and UCST-MOUP meetings; 2) attend every Integration Team or Grants Team meeting, as well as other meetings that are scheduled on days in which the Academic Coordinator is not working; 3) internal UCST updates will be reduced from bimonthly to monthly; 4) it will take longer for the PIM team to respond to emails and complete other coordination and management tasks; 5) the costs associated with science integration meetings will be distributed to the participants; and 6) there is no support for integrating SNAMP research with other research efforts in the Sierra Nevada (meta-replication projects).

**Fisher Team**
The fisher team is taking a temporary 10% cut until July 2009. We will defer payments for necropsies, age determination, genetic analysis, scat dog surveys until funds are restored.

**Public Participation Team (PPT): Research and Analysis**
The research arm of PPT will take a 15% cut with reductions to Lynn Huntsinger’s salary, benefits, and travel budget. Lynn will be less available to write reports, create papers, participate in interviews, and go to meetings.

**Public Participation Team (PPT): Outreach**
To achieve the necessary reduction, the program representative position assigned to develop and support local outreach in Sugar Pine will be reduced from 1.0 FTE to 0.5 FTE. This reduction will reduce by half the ongoing local outreach efforts around Oakhurst.
Public Participation Team (PPT): Website
Cuts to the outreach via the website are made via balanced reductions in salary and supplies (e.g., printed color newsletters). The primary reduction will be in the level of revision and redesign. To date, the SNAMP website has constantly and quickly evolved to meet demand. The reductions in its budget will necessitate a slowing of the innovation that has been a hallmark of this effort.

Fire and Forest Ecosystem Health (FFEH)
FFEH will achieve a 15% reduction in two major ways. The development of pre-treatment fire models will be slowed by reassigning 0.25 FTE of Brandon Collins post-doctoral appointment to another project. In addition, the focus of the forest ecosystem health has been narrowed. Instead of acquiring empirical, field-based measures of tree health for the entire firesheds, we will focus our initial efforts on the instrumented catchments being used by the Water Team. This decision greatly reduces the spatial scale of our research however it will provide the necessary data to develop our novel measure of forest health and permit the essential integration with the water team results. Our hope is to develop an approach to scale-up the forest health assessment for the catchments to the entire fireshed using some of the scaling and modeling approaches being developed by the Water and Spatial teams. If we can restore our funding, we should be able to collect the necessary field data in Year 4 to calibrate and perhaps validate our upscaling tec