



A Newsletter from the SNAMP Public Participation Science Team - Volume 3, Number 1, May 2009

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TEAM (PPT) PEOPLE

The public participation team has three lead investigators: Dr. Maggi Kelly and Dr. Lynn Huntsinger from UC Berkeley and Dr. Kim Rodrigues, the regional director for UC Cooperative Extension North Coast and Mountain Region. Postdoctoral researcher Dr. Adriana Sulak and graduate student Shasta Ferranto work under the lead investigators on the PPT. In addition, the PPT has three staff members: Susie Kocher coordinates overall PPT activities, Kim Ingram is the Northern site coordinator, and Anne Lombardo is the Southern site coordinator.

# the SIERRA NEVADA *Adaptive Management Project* newsletter

Welcome to our newest SNAMP newsletter! This issue focuses on the Public Participation Team. To read other newsletters and for more information, please visit our project website at: [snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu](http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu).

## THE SNAMP SCIENCE TEAMS

As directed by the US Forest Service's 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, vegetation management treatments that remove flammable natural materials from National Forests are planned or being implemented at many sites in the Sierra Nevada where fire risk is high. How do these treatments affect fire behaviors, wildlife, forest health and water? To answer this question, a team of university scientists is monitoring the effects of vegetation management treatments in two Sierra Nevada locations: Sugar Pine (in the Sierra National Forest) and Last Chance (in the Tahoe National Forest). The SNAMP science teams are made up of researchers from University of California Berkeley, UC Merced, UC Cooperative Extension, and the Univ. of Minnesota. The science teams study fire and forest health, wildlife (focusing on fisher and spotted owl), water, and public participation. All science teams are supported by remote sensing, spatial analysis and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) techniques.

**SNAMP AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** The goal of SNAMP is to study fuel treatments on US Forest Service public lands. The Forest Service is legally mandated to incorporate public review into the implementation of these treatments by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), and the agency has almost completed this NEPA process for the two study areas. Within SNAMP, the partner groups have decided to use an adaptive management approach to study fuel treatments where the adaptive management cycle is projected to take 7 years or longer. SNAMP's approach to adaptive management emphasizes the value and importance of including interested public throughout the project. The PPT coordinates and facilitates public involvement in SNAMP, including the SNAMP Integration Team.

**WHAT IS THE INTEGRATION TEAM?** The Integration Team includes members of the UC science teams, the public, and the agency partners because input from all perspectives is essential to our success. This team is the key component of SNAMP's definition of adaptive management: it is where we review, consider and develop protocols for using the data gathered in our scientific projects for forest management. We have periodic meetings where we discuss recent results and management plans.



**OUR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TEAM PLAN** The PPT is researching the Forest Service public participation processes and working to increase stakeholder involvement in SNAMP through regular public meetings and reporting, public outreach, and an interactive website. The PPT coordinates and facilitates all SNAMP meetings, field trips, and events. In addition, the PPT seeks to facilitate an open dialogue amongst scientists and interested members of the public. Our goal is to maintain an open and transparent process throughout the research and implementation stages of SNAMP.



## 1. SNAMP OUTREACH

A primary goal of the PPT is to promote and facilitate public involvement in the adaptive management process. We are targeting our outreach through several different mediums in hopes to reach as diverse a public as possible, and accommodate a variety of schedules.

**Field Trips:** These half to full day excursions take members of the public into the field to learn more about fuel treatments and the research we're conducting about these treatments. Past field trips included a trip to look at fisher habitat, a Fire and Forest Ecosystem Health trip to learn about fuels data collection, a water quality sampling trip, and a field day with the Owl Team to illustrate catching and banding methods. We have several upcoming field trips this summer and fall, please check our website to learn about upcoming field trips and sign up to participate: <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/events/>. Due to the snowy sierra winters, field trips are limited to the summer and early fall!

**Workshops & Presentations:** Through targeted presentations and booths at local events or conferences, the PPT is trying to share SNAMP with as much of the local public as possible. We have presented at a variety of professional and academic conferences, professional organizations and clubs, community events, conservation groups, and schools. If you would like us to present for your organization, please contact Kim Ingram (northern site) - [kcingram@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kcingram@ucdavis.edu) - or Anne Lombardo (southern site) - [alombardo@ucdavis.edu](mailto:alombardo@ucdavis.edu) - for more information.

## 2. PPT RESEARCH

In addition to facilitating participation in SNAMP, we are also researching the process of public participation in adaptive management.

**Interviews:** The PPT is interviewing SNAMP participants, including members of the UC science team, US Forest Service, and stakeholders. The goal of these interviews is to assess the overall SNAMP project, the UC function as a third party role in SNAMP, and the public response to US Forest Service efforts. As of April 2009, we have completed 31 in-depth interviews.

**Participant Observation:** Through observation of meetings, field trips, and other SNAMP events, the PPT is trying to understand what kinds of participatory methods have been most effective. These results will be used to improve the participatory process of adaptive management.

**Adaptive Management and the Web:** In a time when almost everyone has access to computers and the internet, we are trying to understand what role the internet plays in adaptive management and environmental decision making. We are monitoring the use of our SNAMP website to see which resources provide an important service to participants.

## 3. SNAMP ON THE WEB

The SNAMP website provides many key resources to SNAMP participants. Important features include:

**News and Information:** The website provides general information about SNAMP, important notices, and news articles.

**Events Calendar:** The events calendar is updated as soon as an event is scheduled. Here you can find information on upcoming meetings, field trips, and outreach events.

**Document Repository:** All SNAMP documents are posted and available for download on the website. Documents include meeting notes, presentations, workplans, maps, and much more. All documents are tagged and filed by category to facilitate search and retrieval.

**Discussion Board:** This on-line forum provides a way for the public to interact with the UC Science Team between meetings. The PPT monitors the discussion regularly, and informs the appropriate UC Scientist if a question or comment is posted for their team. We encourage everyone to ask questions and share comments about SNAMP on a regular basis.

**Facebook:** Facebook members can join our new SNAMP facebook site, just search for "Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management" and click on "Become a Fan." We hope this will spread the word about SNAMP to an even broader audience.

