

# SIERRA NEVADA ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

## Notes - SNAMP Oversight Committee Introductory Meeting

**\*Please refer to meeting notes item II for an explanation of the role of the oversight committee.**

**Meeting date:** Thursday, July 29, 2010

**Purpose:** Bring together members of the Oversight Committee to review the role of the Committee, address any questions about the Committee or the SNAMP project.

**Participants:** Ann Huber, John Battles, Barbara Allen-Diaz, James Bartolome, Sam Traina, and Michael Allen

### **Desired Outcomes:**

1. Members to understand of the role of the Oversight Committee.
2. Members to understand the role of the Associate Vice President of ANR, relative to the Committee.

### **Summary of Agreements and Next Steps:**

To keep the Oversight Committee informed of the progress of project:

- 1) Ann will send the SNAMP annual report to Barbara and the Committee members every year.
- 2) Ann/John will send an overview of the current issues of interest to the Committee to Barbara and the Committee members.
- 3) Ann/John will notify Barbara and the Committee when a potential issue of interest to the Committee arises.
- 4) For particularly serious issues, Barbara and the Committee agreed that for very serious issues, the Committee might consider requesting the council of Steven Beckwith, UC Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, and Ellen Auriti, Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination at UC.

### **Meeting Notes**

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#### **I. Introductions (Ann Huber)**

Ann Huber, M.S. – UC Science Team Academic Coordinator for SNAMP

Dr. John Battles – Professor of Forest Ecology at UCB, Lead PI for SNAMP, and Chair of the Ecosystems Science Division of the Department of ESPM at UC Berkeley.

Dr. Barbara Allen-Diaz – UC ANR, Agriculture and Natural Resources Associate Vice President and Rangeland Ecology Professor at UC Berkeley.

#### **Members of the Oversight Committee:**

Dr. James Bartolome – Professor of Rangeland Ecology at UC Berkeley and Leader of UC's Sustainable Natural Ecosystems Initiative.

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Dr. Sam Traina – Vice-Chancellor of Research and Graduate Studies and Professor in the School of Natural Resources at UC Merced.

Dr. Michael Allen – Director of the UC Riverside Center for Conservation Biology, and Department Chair Plant Pathology and Microbiology, and professor in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, and in the Department of Biology at UC Riverside.

## **II. Brief review of the SNAMP project, the Statement of Neutrality and the role of the Oversight Committee (John Battles)**

John gave an overview of the history of the project, explained the need for an external committee, and gave some examples of past issues regarding UCST neutrality.

As provided in the SNAMP Brief for the Oversight Committee, and as explained in the UCST Statement of Neutrality, John elaborated on the three main purposes of the Committee:

- 1) Provide guidance to the UCST regarding its efforts to act as a neutral third party of experts. In this regard, UCST may enlist the wisdom of the Committee to provide advice on questions or issues concerning the academic freedom of UC Science Team members.
- 2) Report to the ANR Associate Vice-President regarding performance of the UCST and the efficacy and wisdom of the University's service of this sort to the State of California.
- 3) If conflicts arise that cannot be resolved internally, the UCST lead PI will ask the external oversight committee to review the issue. The external oversight committee will then report guidance and insights back to the UCST that the UCST will then consider in creating a final resolution to the specific issue.

## **III. Open discussion / Questions from the group**

The Committee members agreed that they are comfortable with being on the committee and that they see a need for the committee.

Barbara and the members agreed on some ideas for keeping the members informed of the SNAMP project and when potential issues arise (see Agreements and Next Steps on pg.1)