Notes from the SNAMP Public Participation Team Integration Meeting
February 2nd, 2011 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in Davis, CA

In Attendance:
Heidi Ballard – UC Davis
Reg Barret - UC Science Team
Steve Brink – California Forestry
Association
John Buckley - Central Sierra
Environmental Research Center
Mike Chapel – USFS Region 5
Aaron Cotter - USFWS
Ron Eng - CA Dept. of Agriculture
Shasta Ferranto - UC Science Team
Chris Fischer – USFS, Tahoe NF
Cay Goude - USFWS
Lynn Huntsinger - UC Science Team
Kim Ingram – UC Science Team

Jeremiah Karuzas - USFWS
Maggi Kelly - UC Science Team
Susie Kocher - UC Science Team
Cathy Koos Breazel - Amador FSC
Shufei Lei - UC Science Team
Anne Lombardo - UC Science Team
Dave Martin - USFS Sierra NF
Shay Overton - Provost & Pritchard
Consulting Group
Kim Rodrigues - UC Science Team
Sarah Swenty – USFWS

Webcast: Marie Davis, Carolyn Hunsaker,
Adriana Sulak, Craig Thomas

For presentation information, please see the presentation posted online at
http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/documents/354/.

Action Items:
- PPT will develop a tracking process to show how SNAMP information is being used within the Forest Service. This will be used as a pilot process to identify how the formal adaptive management loop will work. A candidate case for this will be the use of fisher den information by the Bass Lake District on the Sierra National Forest.
- PPT will consider reforming the Integration Team meeting format to include all the other agency players that will need to be in attendance when recommendations are made concerning their issue.
- PPT will investigate additional means of "inreach" within agencies such as the US Forest Service and other MOU partners to help spread information from SNAMP to other districts and decision makers that are not participating in SNAMP.

I. Welcome and overview: Kim Rodrigues facilitated introductions and gave a background on the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP). The goal of the meeting was to share the latest findings from the UC SNAMP Public Participation Team and to seek input on

evaluating the success of the adaptive management project. Kim reminded the group that in "the middle of collaboration is labor".

II. Forest Service Implementation Updates: Dave Martin from the Sierra National Forest Bass Lake District and Chris Fischer from the Tahoe National Forest American River District gave updates on the status of the Sugar Pine and Last Chance projects respectively. Both projects have sold and will be implemented this summer. Last Chance is a stewardship contract with funding from the American Resources Recovery Act (ARRA) to complete both the mandatory and optional services. Congress is still considering whether to withdraw unobligated ARRA items but the money slated for Last Chance has been awarded so that money cannot be withdrawn.

Both contracts have been awarded to Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI). There is the potential to get both jobs done this year although both allow for the company to push the project into 2012 if the market for timber does not recover. One advantage that might allow for the treatment to be completed this year is that there is a lot of cedar within Sugar Pine and it is in demand now and so has a higher price.

The Districts and SNAMP Public Participation Team will work together to host field trips during mechanical project implementation, probably during late June or July 2011. Field trips during any prescribed fire treatments will be harder to plan since burn windows open and close overnight. However, the districts will at least contact the SNAMP project representatives so they can attend and film the burn to post on the SNAMP website.

Mike Chapel shared some key lessons learned by the Forest Service from their participation in the SNAMP project. There are a few consistent messages coming from the public participation work that are very helpful for Forest Service planning. The Forest Service used to think people were only interested in results, but they have learned that participants are actually interested in the details and the process as well. They have learned that participants bring resources that add to the process. They are also learning skills about outreach and collaborationfrom the Public Participation Team to implement internally. They have also learned that websites are very important. Mike said that it takes more time and money to do this work, but it's worth it in the long run.

Several different Forest Service efforts have spun off from SNAMP, using a similar public involvement process. These include Wildfire Conferences in 2010 and 2011, the Sierra Cascades dialogue and the Forest Plan Revision process. This kind of work will become part of new forest plans – collaborative adaptive management.

III. Intro to the SNAMP Public Participation Research: Public Participation Team Principal Investigator Dr. Lynn Hunsinger gave an overview of the three main components of the Public Participation Team 1) promoting the SNAMP process through strategic facilitation, mutual learning, open and transparent methods and two-way communication, 2) researching SNAMP program progress and participation efforts, and track creation and use of scientific results and participant input and 3) maintaining and developing SNAMP website and publications to support

outreach and research goals. Research methods have included participant observation of SNAMP and Forest Service NEPA participation, in-depth interviews (a total 42 individuals in ennvironmental and forestry NGOs, industry, federal & state agencies, local government and fire safe councils were interviewed), web tracking, and an email survey.

The Public Participation Team organized its presentations around three main questions and their supporting data. The Team's intention was to collect feedback on the information and encourage input on indicators for these three areas of interest.
1) Who is participating? How are we reaching them? The goal is to develop indicators of engagement and inclusion.
2) What is participation accomplishing? Are we learning? Is there mutual learning? Is "trust" increasing? The goal is to develop indicators of participation outcomes.
3) Is adaptive management happening? Will the research be used to change management? The goal is to develop indicators of adaptation and information use.

IV. Indicators of Inclusion and Engagement – Susie Kocher, Kim Ingram, Anne Lombardo and Maggi Kelly presented information on SNAMP outreach. The goals of outreach are to increase participation from diverse audiences and all those who have a stake in Sierran national forest management, promote involvement and mutual learning, and to lay groundwork for future adaptive management.

In person outreach: In person outreach is being done through public meetings, outreach presentations to local groups, Integration Team meetings, fieldtrips, lectures, workshops with UC Science Team, and special projects by outreach staff. PPT has hosted 114 different events since 2005 and the project has made over 3,315 contacts. SNAMP science teams have participated in 33 different outreach events to present and discuss their science information to stakeholders. SNAMP program representatives are giving SNAMP overview presentations to a wide variety of arts, civic, educational, environmental, fire, forestry, local government, recreation, tribal, and water groups. There has been a special effort to raise awareness about the Pacific fisher in the local communities around the Sugar Pine project through development of a documentary, art class drawing sessions, 4H camp talks, and development of a fisher brochure.

Reasons for participation: SNAMP research data shows that people participate because of their jobs, the topic discussed, to build up relationships, to defend their interests and because they are enthusiastic about the issues. Some do not participate because they were not informed of events or did not feel invited, have scheduling conflicts, locations are too far away or because of cost of travel. Some feel they are represented by another group or do not feel that it pertains to them or their work. Some have little confidence in the project or do not feel heard.

Web outreach: Outreach at a distance has included media efforts, an on-going email list and the project website. The website is being used to track information, increase transparency, and carry on dialog. Dr. Maggi Kelly, a Public Participation Team Principal Investigator, described the effort to better understand the role of the web in facilitating public participation in adaptive management of public natural resources. The site had 7,035 hits last year including 4,357 unique visitors from 101 countries. Nearly 60% of users were first time viewers and another third

returned numerous times. Information from the email survey showed that the site is easy to use, helps people keep informed of SNAMP events and makes SNAMP more transparent to the public. Dr. Kelly concluded that the web can allow for information flow and can be a vital communication device – both aspects can be very helpful for agency consultation with the public. However, in the SNAMP context, the website is not a substitute for the kind of mutual learning that happens at public meetings.

*Discussion***:** Some participants said they did not feel outreach about SNAMP as a project was appropriate. They hoped that the outreach would be focused on improving the public's ability to participate with the Forest Service. What matters is finding out how the public can most effectively participate in Forest Service management. Some of the outreach being done is similar to interpretation. The value of this was discussed. In the past the Forest Service funded interpretation but no longer does.

Participants suggested doing outreach to the David Brower Center in Berkeley. They also suggested focussing on recreation groups such as mountain bikers and others using the National Forests. The Forest Service can also help with tribal contacts.

Forest Service participants suggested it would be useful to develop information on the cost and effectiveness of different types of outreach. Participation and collaboration is expensive but could save money if done well. Could money be better spent on outreach instead of lawyers? Information on outreach costs and effectiveness could help guide agency decisions and budgets.

V. Indicators of Participation Outcomes – Dr. Lynn Hunsinger presented interview and email survey results on how SNAMP has affected trust, mutual learning, and relationship building. Research shows that the more meetings and events participants have attended, the more respondents agreed that they are learning new things, trust is building, and relationships among agency, public, and UC participants are improving.

Trust: The Team measured trust by asking people directly, looking for viewpoints indicative of trust, and using surrogates as indicators of trust. About half of those who were asked said that trust is increasing. People said that trust is increasing due to better understanding and talking together, SNAMP meetings and participation are important, because the University lends credibility to the process or because taking the time to develop relationships was helping to reduce baggage they had from previous interactions with the Forest Service in the past. Others said that increased trust would depend on results of the project.

Learning: Almost 85% of participants asked said that they had learned new things as a result of the project. There was widespread agreement that there is learning about forest health, owls, fisher, LIDAR, about how research is done. They felt learning is an important reason to attend meetings, and many specifically see learning as an important component of adaptive management. Some also said that they are learning about working with the public.

Mutual Learning: Researchers found learning is occuring and found that the Forest Service and participants are learning from the UC Science Team research and outreach methods. However,

they have not asked specfically whether *mutual* learning is occurring – whether the Science Team and Forest Service are learning from participants. The Team has documented that the Owl Team did investigate a specific question drawn from participants comments in a public meeting about whether owls nest closer to forest edges and has published their results in the Journal of Raptor Research http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/news/2011/feb/24/do-california-spotted-owls-select-nest-trees-close/ . However, participants in interviews said the UC Science Team listens and engages but also said that listening is not enough and that some felt their was resistance by the Science Team to their ideas.

Relationship building: Participants were asked whether relationships have improved as a result of SNAMP. Over half said yes because of closer working relationships, though some said they were beginning to change even before SNAMP. About 10% said disagreed – though they are getting to know people better, they have not seen change, they already good relationships or they already knew participants. Participants reported increased understanding of the Forest Service and the UC Science Team.

Discussion: Some participants said they would like to see research into the level of public trust with the Forest Service before SNAMP and after SNAMP. Obviously the Forest Service has a public trust issue or it would not have the problems that it is having. It's not just the public's opinion, other agencies have this issue with the Forest Service too.

Forest Service participants said their goal is to learn how best to publicize opportunities for participation and make participation easy for people. It would be useful to know how to increase satisfaction with participation from those that participate. Do those who engage in NEPA, etc, feel like they got satisfaction from it? How can the Forest Service gain value from participation? It is important to end up with outcomes from SNAMP that will lead to different actions.

Participants suggested that research and other products focus on extending the lessons learned beyond the SNAMP project.

VI. Indicators of Adaptation and Information Use: Drs. Maggi Kelly and Kim Rodrigues led a discussion about adaptation and information use. The discussion focus was on the concepts of adaptive management and information tracking.

Adaptive management: Adaptive management has been defined in SNAMP as the application of research results on the effects of fuels reduction treatments in the two SNAMP study sites, Sugar Pine and Last Chance to future Forest Service treatment projects. The project goal has been to supply recommendations based on final SNAMP research results that can be applied to future fuels reduction projects.

The Public Participation Team will need to work with the Integration Teams to develop the final steps in this adaptive management loop. There is a need to clarify the process that will support the feedback loop of adaptive management. Some of the most important questions center on how to track the sharing of research information from SNAMP and develop recommendations. How

will information be utilized by decision makers and what criteria will be applied to future projects?

Participants said that the ideal adaptive management decision process would be in an open forum where research results are presented followed by dialog on how the results should affect management. This formal discussion and recommendation structure is the key piece of the process. It is critical that decision-makers not be left to decide on their own whether the information is important and how to use it. Decisions need to be made through this collaborative and transparent process.

Integration Team meetings have become something like this however, they have not yet focused on making recommendations for adaptive management (in the official SNAMP definition of adaptive management, recommendations will happen at the end of the project when all research is complete). One way to prepare for this would be to foster specific and exact dialogue on this at each Integration Team meeting, such as: has anything changed as a result of the UC Science Team research being shared? The Integration Team meetings should occur where data sharing and dialogue can work towards understanding the type of management recommendation that will surface once the data is published and peer-reviewed.

Details to be worked out include identifying what kind of informaiton will be engaged the adaptive management recommendation process. How will issues get into the deliberation queue and who should be there to discuss them? The Public Participation Team should track this through the recent NEPA documents for both sites. The MOU Partners and UC Science Team should frame questions such as: What is the new informaion, how does it relate to decision making, and what might change? This information will inform who should be in attendance at the discussions.

Information sharing: As has been brought up at past SNAMP events, some participants said they did not feel that adaptive management was a process that should wait til the end of the seven year experiment. They hoped SNAMP's adaptive management would be an ongoing process. The UC Science Team has defined adaptive management as something that happens after post treatment research has been completed. However, there are already instances where the Forest Service has learned things and used them to alter their management elsewhere.

There are a number of ways that the ongoing study has already informed the practices of the Forest Service but they have made these SNAMP influenced decisions incrementally so it does not appear to the public that there has been any affect. They have changed project design criteria based on SNAMP and Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station information, but the ability for SNAMP participants to see this is missing.

One example of a mid-stream change is the use of fisher den information. SNAMP fisher research identified many fisher den trees in the Sugar Pine project area where very few had ever been found before. The research showed that there are a lot more den trees (up to three or four per denning female) than originally thought. The Forest Service's Regional Standards & Guidelines required buffers around dens that allow for surface and ladder fuel treatments only.

The Forest Service used an exception tothe forest plan to limit the number of buffers established around fisher dens.

The Forest Service's use of fisher den data was not tracked by SNAMP. The Public Participation Team should identify whether the Forest Service decision adequately included public participation. Also, the sharing of this new fisher information and exception process with other districts and agencies is incomplete. Participants expressed the need to document how this mid-project learning is occuring and being used. SNAMP risks losing trust and interest among participants if it waits to document these types of Forest Service changes till the end of the project.

Underlying conflicts: Participants suggested that the Public Participation Team should focus more on the underlying issues creating the long term conflicts related to forest treatment in the Sierra. The time to address these may be coming since strong working relationships and a process for supporting the dialogue have now been established. It is important for this group to flag ongoing conflicts for future dialogues.

Major conflicts that could be addressed in SNAMP include tree diameter removal limits, crown cover, canopy retention, ground cover and snag retention and recruitment. Other issues are stand density, economics and treatment feasibility, and fisher as representatives of the old forest component in the Sierra.

Participants suggested conducting focused discussions in the field about how cutting trees with diameters greater than 20 inches affects forest health, forest structure and ecological function. The Sierra Club appealed the Sugar Pine fuels treatment projects partly because of the size of trees being cut, the reduction in the number of snags and resultant loss of habitat those snags would have created. The goal of these discussions would be to identify the conflicts and see if there is any way to resolve them. A way to start working on this would be to work with the SNAMP District Rangers to get input on a summary of conflicts from the Forest Service point of view.

We may want to develop a group that can inform management recommendations specific to issues of concern (i.e. fisher group may have different composition than owl group or forest health group). The MOU Partners will need to be re-engaged to ensure they are part of the decision-making feedback loop.

VII: Discussion/ Next Steps/ Wrap up/ Evaluation
Next Steps: Next steps for the Public Participation Team will include developing notes from the meeting and circulating them to participants. Specific tasks include development of tracking to show how SNAMP information is being used within the Forest Service. This can be done by investigating with Forest Service District Rangers how the information was shared with their interdisciplinary teams, decision makers, and the rest of the agency. The Public Participation Team should draft a lessons learned product to share with the MOU Partners and participants. Other next steps could be to focus SNAMP outreach more closely on specific issues that are under contention within the 2004 Framework.

In addition, the Public Participation Team should begin work to identify how the formal adaptive management recommendation process will work and how to reform the Integration Team meeting format to include all the players that will need to be in attendance.

The Forest Service should conduct more "inreach" within the agency to help spread information from SNAMP to other districts and decision makers that are not participating in SNAMP. Employee turnover, multiple projects and the shear size of the agency adds to the need for this. This could include lessons learned with the Public Participation Team that Mike Chapel described earlier.
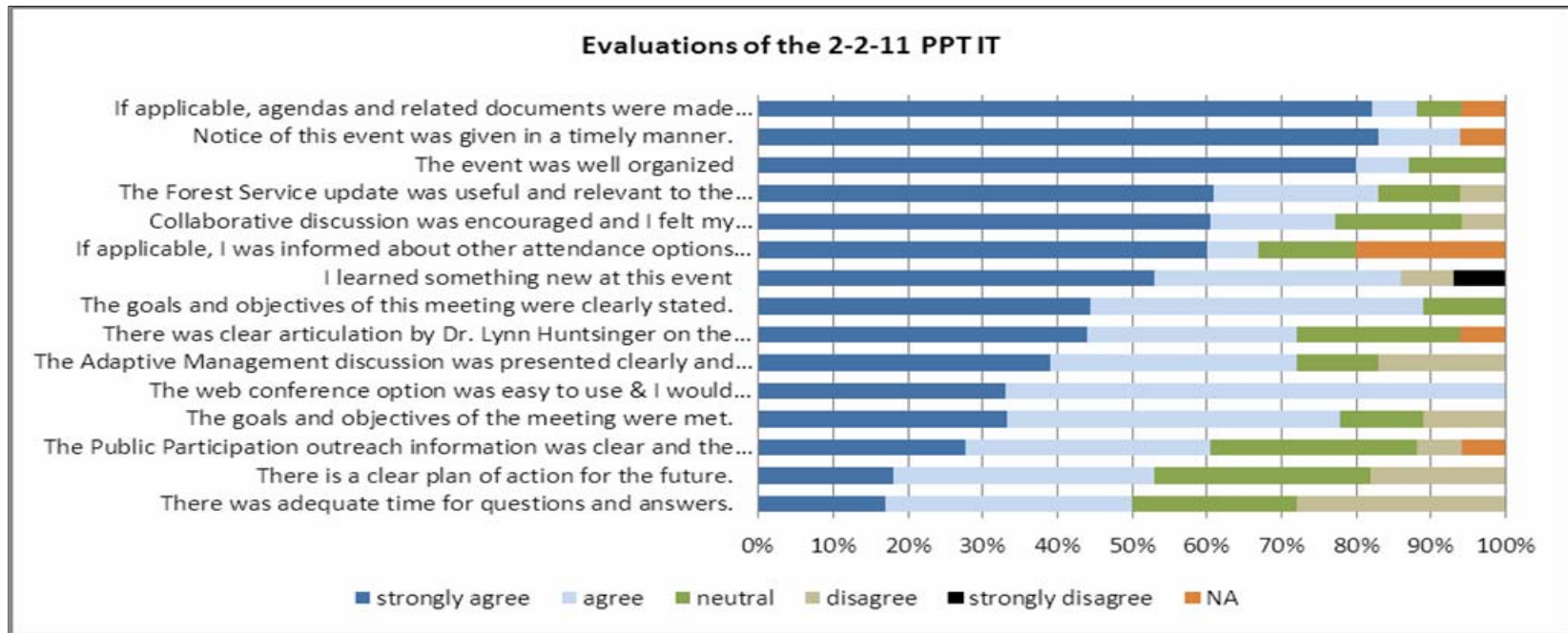
Evaluation:

What went well*:*
- Online feedback is great
- Webinar getting better
- Food
- Facilitation worked well
- Location

What could be better next time*:*
- More time for discussion and next steps
- We should go until 3pm instead of 2pm
- The room could have been laid out better.
- Microphones for the webinar could be improved.

Evaluations of the 2-2-11 PPT IT

Evaluation Question	# responding
If applicable, agendas and related documents were made accessible to me for meeting preparation.	*18*
Notice of this event was given in a timely manner.	*18*
The event was well organized	*15*
The Forest Service update was useful and relevant to the SNAMP process	*18*
Collaborative discussion was encouraged and I felt my comments were heard.	*18*
If applicable, I was informed about other attendance options such as web conferencing and conference calls..	*18*
I learned something new at this event	*15*
The goals and objectives of this meeting were clearly stated.	*18*
There was clear articulation by Dr. Lynn Huntsinger on the research questions, methods and indicators of participation outcomes used by the PPT team	*18*

Evaluation Question	# responding
The Adaptive Management discussion was presented clearly and the discussion was beneficial.	18
The web conference option was easy to use & I would participate via the web conference at future SNAMP events.	3
The goals and objectives of the meeting were met.	18
The Public Participation outreach information was clear and the discussion useful for further outreach	18
There is a clear plan of action for the future.	17
There was adequate time for questions and answers.	18

Additional written comments:

- Much better with having enough time for Q&A
- We need to finish our next steps better…with more time
- In hindsight, I wish 2 1/2 years ago we would have recognized there likely would be no project implementation until 2011 or 2012. At this time, I wish we would have asked the Plumas NF Supervisor if the IT could have been helpful to her in identifying what should be considered to modify the owl S&Gs in the 2004 SNFMP immediately following the Moonlight Fire.That fire incinerated 65,000 acres including incinerating 25 occupied owl PACS. Since the fire, the forest has gone ahead with fuels reduction projects adjacent to the Moonlight Fire, with no change in Stds & Guides. We could have tested adaptively in a hurry with a real live project. Perhaps the Fisher den mgt that Craig brought is a good case study as well (though I'm fearful we'll rapidly bog down because we don't think we know enough). Steve Brink
- I appreciated the webinar option.It was technically well administered and Susie's presence and responsiveness very helpful.
- It was almost impossible to hear some of the speakers & discussion on the phone so I got less than I hoped. That is why I marked some questions as NA