



### *Timeline for the development of the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP)*

The controversies over the United States Forest Service's management of our national forests are part of a long and complicated history of involving the public in policymaking. The Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) focuses specifically on the ongoing conflicts over forest fuels management efforts in the Sierra Nevada national forests and the controversial Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) that established the current legal constraints on management prescriptions in the Sierra Nevada.

SNAMP was set up to help provide top quality independent science information from a neutral party to help inform some of these ongoing conflicts. The SNFPA continues to be legally challenged in the courts while the research, treatment and outreach efforts associated with this project proceed. USFS forest fuel reduction treatments are scheduled at the two SNAMP study sites in 2011 and 2012, and associated research, monitoring and analysis may allow the full implementation of the adaptive management framework as proposed in the UC Science Team's work plan.

#### Brief Historical Outline

- 2001      The USFS amended the forest plans that set management direction on 11 affected National Forests. The 2001 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (or Framework) included a rule set that limited effective fuel reduction outside the urban wildland interface and the size of tree that could be removed. Scientific uncertainties were addressed through an adaptive management approach which funded research studies directed toward the highest priority questions.
  
- 2004      Because of concerns that the 2001 Framework limited the ability of National Forests to effectively treat forest fuels, an internal USFS management review recommended the Framework be modified. The 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) allows for fuels treatments across the landscape and increases the diameter limit of trees that can be removed to 30 inches. The uncertain consequences of fuels treatments on sensitive wildlife species remained and the 2001 adaptive management process was adopted by the 2004 SNFPA without change.

The State of California and the federal government agreed that science was too limited to be certain about many treatment effects and that the best way to move forward with the public was to join forces (and resources) to study and learn about the most. And so the idea for SNAMP was born.

- 2005 The California State Resources Agency, the USFWS, the USFS and the Pacific Southwest Research Station signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of California seeking their assistance as a "neutral, third party," to resolve this conflict. The UC Science Team (UCST) and the MOU Partner Agencies (MOUP) initiated a planning process to develop the project.
- 2006 The work plan and site locations were drafted through an open, public process, including sharing academic peer responses and public comments.
- 2007 The implementation of the UCST work plans began with baseline data collection
- 2008 The SNAMP collection of baseline data continued, while the USFS continued designing their forest fuels reduction treatment projects using standard the NEPA process(es).
- 2008 The Eldorado owl study was included in the SNAMP owl team's study area to improve study sample size.
- 2010 Both treatment contracts were sold to Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI).
- 2011 Treatments are scheduled to begin in the summer of 2011. The goal is to complete both the Last Chance and the Sugar Pine projects in one year but conditions may require a second year.
- 2012-13 Will be a year of ecosystem recovery when only wildlife and water monitoring will continue.
- 2013-14 Post treatment data collection will continue for all teams
- 2014+ Adaptive management adjustments to policy will be discussed and implemented