



COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, POLICY & MANAGEMENT
137 MULFORD HALL #3114
BERKELEY, CA 94720-3114

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720
(510) 643-7430
FAX (510) 643-5438

July 22, 2011

John Battles, Lead P.I.
Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP)
130 Mulford Hall
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-3114

Dear John:

As we discussed yesterday, I hereby resign as co-principal investigator for the SNAMP Fisher study as of August 1, 2011. This difficult decision deserves some explanation.

You will recall that at the outset of the SNAMP effort I told you that based on my long experience working on such projects, the funding for SNAMP would likely decline over time regardless of our proposal. You requested I provide a fisher budget proposal at the outset that would be the absolute minimum required to answer the adaptive management questions regarding fisher with reasonable confidence. I also made it clear at the outset that I would have to resign from SNAMP if this minimal funding was not forthcoming. You provided the requested funding the first year. Since then you have provided a decreasing proportion of the agreed upon funding. The deficit is now about \$600,000.

I agreed to take on the SNAMP fisher study because the project provided an important opportunity to further our knowledge of this management indicator species. We desperately need to understand to what extent forest management practices affect the long-term viability of fisher in the southern Sierra. The SNAMP fisher study was carefully designed (and peer reviewed) to provide least-cost, reliable answers to this question, particularly the effect of fuel treatments (forest thinning) on fisher density, reproduction, survival and dispersal.

Unfortunately, despite my annual requests, you have continued to cut the SNAMP fisher budget each year. We are at a point now where it is clear to me that, after careful review of the workscope and available funds, it will be impossible to complete the fisher study in a way that allows for publishing the answers to the original adaptive management questions in a reputable, peer-reviewed, scientific journal.

It is professionally unethical for me to continue with a project that I am convinced cannot succeed, since doing so implies to the public that there is some hope of success. An engineer should not take on the job of building a bridge that he knows cannot be completed. Because you have not provided the necessary funds and are not willing to modify the objectives of the SNAMP fisher study, you leave me no choice but to resign from my involvement as a PI.

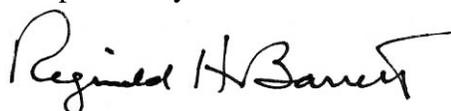
There are several matters that I should bring up at this point. Dr. Rick Sweitzer, my co-principal investigator, may or may not be willing to continue as the sole PI for the fisher study. He has done a truly outstanding job as project leader. Given proper funding I know he can accomplish outstanding research. However, as he is also a senior wildlife scientist, he has the same ethical considerations as I. If Dr. Sweitzer does agree to continue I recommend you work closely with him to revise the study objectives to reflect what is reasonably possible with the substantially reduced budget provided.

There is also the matter of exactly who will supervise whom among the SNAMP fisher team. I am leaving this matter for you and Dr. Sweitzer to work out.

There is also the matter of any agreements regarding the use of SNAMP data before publication. I reserve the right to work with Dr. Sweitzer on analysis, write-up and co-authorship of data gathered prior to my resignation at the discretion of Dr. Sweitzer. Of course there would be no cost to SNAMP of any such involvement by myself. I will not make public any data gathered to this point not already publicly available. I will no longer be held to any other agreements made during my SNAMP involvement. You are welcome to make this letter public.

Finally, I will remain a professor in ESPM and a member of the California Agricultural Experiment Station, readily available for consultation with anyone regarding topics within my area of expertise as a certified wildlife biologist.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reginald H. Barrett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'R'.

Reginald H. Barrett
Goertz Professor of Wildlife Management