SNAMP Quarterly Meeting – Q4 2011

Notes

Date & Time: Thursday, January 12, 2012, 1:00 – 2:00 pm
Location: Conference call
Participants: **UCST**: John Battles, Peter Hopkinson, Kimberly Rodrigues, Zachariah Peery, Richard Sweitzer, Rocky Gutierrez, Roger Bales, Scott Stephens, Susie Kocher, Hannah Volpi
MOUP: Chris Fischer (USFS), Dan Jiron (USFS), Frank Gehrke (DWR), Kalie Crews (USFS), Patricia Flebbe (USFS), Tray Biasiolli (USFS), Jeremiah Karuzas (USFWS), Victor Lyon (USFS), Tom Quinn (USFS), Russ Henly (CAL FIRE)

Meeting purpose: Provide direct communication between UCST and MOU Partners on a quarterly basis, as committed

Desired outcomes:
- Shared understanding of state and federal funding for 2012; seek feedback from MOUP regarding UCST initial decisions regarding future of SNAMP; and identify next steps.
- Report progress of UC Science Team
- Set day and time for 2012 quarterly meetings

1) Budget: Current status of overall SNAMP budget

a) Recent good news! The Forest Service has restored 15% cut ($214,000) to full funding level of $1.4 million for 2012

- some of restored funding will help support Spatial & Water teams, if FS permits

b) More recent good news! DWR is funding SNAMP at $150,000 for 2012

- also direct aid funding for UC Merced grad student Sarah Martin of Water team
- DWR funding is bond $: comes with restrictions, auditing: money must go to water quantity, erosion, and flood-related research

At these levels of funding, UCST has decided that it will be possible to continue core SNAMP research program at both Sugar Pine and Last Chance. SNAMP will go forward under the following assumptions:

- treatments will be completed by fall 2012
- research completed by end of 2013 (year 7)
- final public report submitted by end of 2014 (year 8)
- some changes to workplans will be necessary, but core elements of SNAMP will go forward, including integration between teams
- there will be fewer spatial products, and water research will have to be refined (decisions about quality vs quantity research)

c) Potential sources of additional funding for 2012:

1) Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

- focused on fisher research
- RLFF concerned about SNAMP's future, but with good funding news, these concerns may be allayed

2) Joint Fire Sciences Program proposal (Zach Perry is lead PI on the proposal)

- funding for additional Fisher & Owl analyses
- currently under review by JFSP

2) Timeline-related changes to UCST activities

a) UCST will revise plans based on new budget, revise workplans, timeline

b) Treatment completion is a key issue:

-- Eldorado Demography Study is crucial for Owl team analyses

- ******Patricia Flebbe announced USFS will continue to support Eldorado Demography Study for 2012 field season with same level of funding as previous years**** ;** funding will start in March so that field crew hiring can proceed.

-- 3-4 treatments currently in Eldorado

-- Big Grizzly area covers 12 owl territories (50% of overall treatment territories), 5 yr. treatment contract

-- Completion date unknown

c) Scheduling lidar flights is another important timeline consideration

-- Patricia Flebbe announced that the Forest Service is looking into sharing costs of lidar for SNAMP with other agency needs, particularly for the southern site

-- Qinghau Guo is in discussion with Carlos Ramirez of Region 5 Remote Sensing Lab

-- Considerations: which lidar product, what company flies, economies of scale but no research compromised, cost sharing arrangement

d) UCST concerned about continuation of funding in 2013 (and 2014 for analysis and writing)

-- will UCST have to revisit all of these funding-related issues again next year?

(unknown funding amount, timeline, site choice)

- the State cannot answer that question; there will still be the usual constraints as new fiscal year comes (also true for the Forest Service)

-- any RLFF funding will be contingent on both 2012 and 2013 field seasons being completed; will UCB consider a funding contract contingent on completion of both years?

3) Report from District Rangers

a) Update on Last Chance from Chris Fischer:

-- Operations have stopped for the season

-- Completed 730 acres: thinning, small tree removal

- methods: hand, mechanical, burning
- completed about 65% of total acres
- ahead of schedule, 2 yr time frame

-- Potential for biomass to go to biomass plant?

- Hopeful, waiting for funding, early stages, working with Placer County

b) Update on Sugar Pine from Chris Fischer and John Battles on behalf of Dave Martin:

--Operations have stopped for the season

-- Not as complete as Last Chance but confident on getting everything done

-- Logistical challenges: focused on tree areas, but have completed areas constrained by wildlife

4) Future meetings

a) Proposed February meeting to discuss single site option with public no longer necessary

b) March 8 is an already scheduled PPT Integration Meeting in Davis – we could use this meeting to announce funding news to public:

-- Discuss workplans; what is staying the same, changing; progress, treatment completion

-- Present and ask for feedback on design, how SNAMP ends, integration

-- March 8 date has been okayed by District Rangers and UCST PIs

-****** Because meeting emphasis will change, may need a larger room than Davis******

c) ** Announce funding news to public before March 8

-- First via email; send to everyone who attended Annual meeting in October

-- then draft SNAMP newsletter – special issue; posted on website and sent to mailing list **

d) Future discussions – Dan Jiron suggested that we need to think about long-term view (post-SNAMP) – where is forest management headed? new models for funding? ways to collaborate? Kim Rodrigues agreed that we need to consider how research projects will continue beyond end of SNAMP

5) UCST research updates

- Brief summary of work completed and new research findings since last reported in the Annual Report in October

- For full Research updates, please see http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/documents/420/

7) Set day and time for 2012 quarterly meetings

- Suggestion: 2nd Thursdays again; i.e. April 12, July 12, 2012, January 10, 2013 from 1:00- 4:00 PM; date for 2012 Annual meeting to be decided

- Scheduling postponed because Mike Chapel not on call; Peter Hopkinson will confirm dates and times with Mike Chapel soon