



Meeting Summary
UCST/MOUP Joint Meeting
January 11, 2007

Morning Session between Public Participation Team (PPT) and District Staff
Sacramento, CA

SHARED UNDERSTANDINGS regarding the PPT interface with the NEPA Process:

- 1) The NEPA process has already begun on both the Bass Lake and American River USFS Ranger Districts.
 - i. The USFS Ranger districts requested outreach assistance in (1) the scoping, (2) preliminary output of plan, and (3) the final decision part of the process.
- 2) The PPT will focus on how the scientists interact with stakeholders and how stakeholders are engaged in research and monitoring. The PPT and Forest Service will share information regarding who stakeholders are and how to make contact. The PPT will, to the extent possible within federal policy, timing and funding constraints, examine methods used by the USFS to engage stakeholders, as well as the stakeholder's responses and engagement. Ultimately, the PPT will analyze how information is generated from scientific and other sources, interpreted, and used in the AM process.
- 3) The USFS is requesting help from the PPT to improve their public outreach process and the level of detail received from the outreach responses. This includes the public scoping process, as well as the USFS preliminary and final decisions. Specifically, they are looking for a more effective way to get documents out to the community and to get better results and information back from the community. This project presents a great opportunity to address the lack of on-the-ground participation by regional and national stakeholders.
- 4) The PPT consists of three integrated parts: Program Analysis, Strategic Facilitation, and a linked internet discussion board and webGIS system. The SNAMP discussion board is up and running at snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu; the ability to add comments tied to location will be developed soon. The interactive website GIS may play an important role in future USFS outreach.
- 5) The PPT wants to be careful about raising expectations with the public. The PPT can inform, but cannot control the outcomes.
- 6) We have not yet defined how the PPT will interface directly with the Forests. A working group will address this issue the first of February.
- 7) During the workplan development, the UCST has been developing and modeling the process that may start to build a framework for the USFS to begin using regarding public outreach.

- 8) Due to US Office of Budget and Management constraints, the PPT research team must direct efforts away from techniques that rely on personal interviews, focus groups, and questionnaire surveys.
- 9) Collaboration and outreach within the teams and to multiple publics takes a commitment of time and effort that requires personnel augmentation as soon as possible, and that has not been feasible due to funding constraints. In particular, outreach to local level stakeholders has not been possible.
- 10) We need to acknowledge that there has been no outreach to under-represented cultural groups. The PPT would like to have contacts for cultural groups, and also capture the aspects of existing government-to-government relationships with tribes, specifically.

KEY AGREEMENTS:

- 1) Getting UCCE staff on board is a high priority, especially since we are facing a six-month hiring timeframe. These will be outreach positions, not research positions, consisting of seven years full-time employment with UCCE.
- 2) A working group will meet the fifth of February to figure out how to align SNAMP with the work that is programmed at the USFS.

ACTION ITEMS:

- 1) For the February working group on integration of PPT and USFS Ranger Districts, Kim will bring job descriptions for UCCE folks. District folks will bring draft PP plans/descriptions.
- 2) Dave will bring his timeline for NEPA, list of stakeholders, PP plan/description to the Feb. 5th meeting.