



Public Participation

What is the impact of integrating the latest approaches to participation into an adaptive management framework?

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Objectives

- I. Facilitate stakeholder, partner, and scientist efforts to explore methods and measures for participation in adaptive management as part of workplan development. (we have done this, but need to analyze the experience and outcomes)
- II. Develop “indicators for success” for participation in USFS adaptive management planning, working with stakeholders, scientists, and partners, and by reviewing existing literature. This might include some measures of diversity, depth, trust, conflict, equity, etc.
- III. Establish case study areas and UCCE personnel positions.
- IV. Conduct research on relationships between “indicators/measures of success” and the following, and perhaps more, elements, involving social science researchers at UC campuses and in USFS using case study approach:

Tasks

- I. Develop indicators for “successful participation” based on previous research and working with stakeholders. These might include:
 - qualitative and quantitative measures of trust
 - social capital
 - personal assessments of perceived engagement in the process, levels of investment
 - behavioral intentions model
 - ability to go forward with the plan, even if everyone does not fully agree with all points
 - stakeholder and signatory criteria
- II. Develop and maintain interactive website for commenting, responses, and workflow transparency
- III. Create two five to seven-year Cooperative Extension positions located in each case study area that would include research support:
 - facilitate participatory adaptive management process
 - conduct, coordinate, and participate in research on participatory methods
 - work with researchers and stakeholders to facilitate stakeholder participation in research, monitoring, and interpretation of results
 - make sure stakeholder input and feedback is incorporated into the adaptive management process
- IV. Identify two suites of participatory methods that are clustered around two different general approaches to participation. Determine available decision space in SPLAT implementation.
- V. Test one suite in each case study area, evaluating outcomes in terms of indicators developed in Task I.

Justification

- Studies of collaborative or participatory management programs are generally individual case studies, which inevitably turn out to be unique.
- This study is innovative in that it attempts to use an experimental approach, testing different methods in two areas simultaneously.
- This study also diverges from the many studies focusing on “grassroots” collaborative management efforts, because the desire for planning and treatments is agency initiated, rather than community initiated.
- Decision space is limited by regulatory and legal requirements, as well as established plans.
- This is not an unusual situation in resource management, and needs study.

Responses to Comments (AM)

Adaptive Management Comments fell into 6 categories:

How do you define adaptive management?

- We have been refining our definition and have come up with the following statement: Adaptive management acknowledges uncertainty and the need to learn. The term “adaptive” refers to managers learning about systems as they attempt to manage them. Our adaptive management process incorporates scientist, stakeholder, and manager knowledge and ideas, as well as scientific information, in the development of hypotheses and goals, and is designed to improve information about the ecosystem over time. We seek to engage scientists, stakeholders, and managers in a long-term relationship grounded in shared learning about the ecosystem and society, and we expect objectives to change as society, environment, knowledge, and science change. Adaptive management incorporates stakeholder participation in order to get increased and broader information and make higher quality decisions. Participation takes time, and does not necessarily reduce conflict, but successful participation develops a process that builds trust.

How can we review the workplan and other documents?

- We will post documents to the website, including iterations. If you need a paper copy, we will provide it upon request.

Have you thought about using appeals to help decide on research and participation topics?

- No, we have not done that, but it is an interesting idea and we will explore it.

How long will UC be involved in the project?

- We will be involved as long as we have adequate funding, believe we can make a useful contribution, and there are opportunities for independent research and for education and outreach. Only with adequate resources can we do the job properly, including making a commitment to being involved for several years. At this point we are developing a proposal for a longer term project.

The Pacific Fisher management needs transparency and change. Will you address this?

- We are devoting considerable time to considering the feasibility of the Fisher as a subject for research in this project.

Will you be evaluating Forest Service stewardship and other projects?

- The goal of this project is to develop an adaptive management process for implementing the Sierra Plan. UC will act as a neutral third party in the process, and will explore ways to increase levels of trust and communication.

Responses to Comments (PP)

Most of the comments fell into five categories

How did you determine when to bring the public into the process?

- We believe that it is necessary to bring stakeholders and public into the process as early as possible. Our first public meeting was held within 3 months of the formal initiation of the workplan development process. Prior to that, it was necessary to better define who was to be involved in the project from our end, and to come to agreement on the science team about how to proceed with public participation and workplan development.

Why is there no socio-economic module?

- Socio-economic studies have been conducted by the Forest Service and other agencies and were not requested by the MOU. We will look into community characteristics as we research and attempt to explain the effectiveness of participatory techniques.

Will feedback from stakeholders be used in the research?

- We will make sure that all feedback is carefully considered, and if we cannot make direct use of it we will explain why.

How will you measure participatory success?

- One of the first things we proposed doing is working with stakeholders to develop measures of participation success. A variety of things have already been suggested, including "reduction in appeals to the plan", follow-through from feedback, being able to show how feedback was used or changed things, direct contact with people, developing constructive relationships with people, and developing broader understanding of the planned treatments and the tradeoffs involved in the choices that need to be made.

How will feedback from stakeholders be gathered?

- In addition to this website, we plan to use public meetings, interviews, and a variety of participatory techniques to involve as many different points of view as possible. Documents including iterations of the workplan will be posted to this website and can be mailed as paper documents upon request.

Website Examples



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Home Workplan Documents

Background

This website is for data and document sharing from the [Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project](#). In January, this site will be interactive, and you will be able to post comments here.

The Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project has been formed to develop, implement and test Adaptive Management processes through testing the efficacy of Strategically Placed Landscape Treatments (SPLATs) across four response variables, including

- public participation
- wildlife
- water
- fire/forest health

The SNAMP is made up of researchers from the University of California, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the California Resources Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The UC Science Team is working with the agencies to develop an adaptive management and monitoring program consistent with the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment. The USFS is responsible for the treatments. UC researchers will function as an independent third party, and will implement methodologies that focus on the specific response variables to

1. make predictions
2. analyze response variables and results
3. provide feedback to the USFS
4. support public interaction and participation.

Links

[SNAMP Wiki](#): Archive of project documents and files

The **Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project** is a collaborative effort by scientists at the University of California and the USDA Forest Service. This site is proudly powered by [WordPress](#)

News

Public Comment Requested

January 6th, 2006

We are currently developing our workplan, and are soliciting your feedback. If you would like to comment on the process, or on any previous presentations, please go to the workplan portion of the site.



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Home Workplan Documents

[Workplan](#) > [December 9th Stakeholder Meeting](#)

Design / Site Selection

by [John Battles](#), Wednesday, January 4th, 2006

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Adaptive Management

by [Lynn Huntsinger](#), Wednesday, January 4th, 2006

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Wildlife

by [Tom Kucera](#), Wednesday, January 4th, 2006

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Fire & Forest Health

by [Scott Stephens](#), Wednesday, January 4th, 2006

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