

Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project Key Agreements

Reviewed and Reaffirmed Key Agreements from Meeting of Sept. 9, 2005 with all partners:

1. KEY RESEARCH OBJECTIVE: "The development, implementation, and testing of Adaptive Management processes through testing the efficacy of Strategically Placed Landscape Treatments (SPLAT's) across all four response variables, including public participation, wildlife, water, fire/forest health."

2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION MODEL:

- A. USFS is responsible for the treatments. This included implementation of 1) the SPLATs and 2) current public participation activities (first column).
- B. There will be 4 major response variables, 1) Public participation, 2) water, 3) wildlife, and 4) fire/forest health (second column). These four response variables will be refined and focused with input from researchers, agencies' staff, and the public.
- C. The UC researchers will function as an independent third party. They will then implement methodologies that focus on the specific response variables to 1) make predictions, 2) analyze response variables and results, 3) provide feedback to the Treatments implementers, and 4) support public interaction and participation.

5. KEY AGREEMENTS FROM THE UC RESEARCHER MORNING SESSION. During the morning session there were a number of key agreements that were identified for presentation at the joint UC-Agencies afternoon session (1:00-5:00 pm).

1. Agreement that all research decisions (both external and internal) will be open. Furthermore, we identified three audiences involved with the project: staff from participating agencies, public stakeholders & academic researchers involved with the project.
2. Agreement that Adaptive Management would need to be defined (vs. resource management) and proposed that Walters' definition for adaptive management be used for guidance.
3. Agreement that the public participation in agency initiatives to engage the public will be considered one of the project response variables (others include fire/forest health, wildlife, and water).
4. Agreement that the UC researchers will not be the implementers of treatments or existing public participation process, rather they can be seen as providing the analytical tool that can be used by the agencies in their implementation of adaptive management.
5. Agreement that the UC research team will also engage the public in appropriate research, monitoring, and educational activities both to inform and to learn from the public.

6. Agreement that the planning phase (Sept 05-Feb 06) will have multiple deliverables beyond the large proposal. These deliverables will be detailed in the Dec 05 working draft.

5. KEY AGREEMENTS FROM THE JOINT AFTERNOON SESSION.

1. Agreement that there will be a decrease in the use of jargon by the team and that the public participation team will determine appropriate use of jargon, i.e., different audiences, different nomenclature.
2. Agreement to identify multiple deliverables that might be of primary importance outside of immediate project.
3. Agreement to support dialog (open, truthful, two-way communication) with the public not just one-way education.
4. Agreement to develop a shared research question.
5. Agreement to a shared commitment to participate in the project.