



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific
Southwest
Region

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File Code: 1020

Date: April 24, 2007

Dr. John Battles, Leader
SNAMP UC Science Team
UC Center for Forestry
137 Mulford Hall, #3114
University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley, California 94720-3114

Dear John:

Thanks for your letter dated March 23 in which you described the March 22 conference call among the UC Science Team for our Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project. On behalf of the MOU Partner agencies, I want to thank you for quickly forwarding your team's serious concern about the \$150,000 shortfall in the project funding for 2007.

As you know, the MOU Partners share your concern for this shortfall and we have been working to overcome it. We agree with the majority vote of your team that Option 3 – Reconfigure the Budget and Compensate With More In-Kind Support – is the best solution for this situation. We greatly appreciate your work last week to further reduce the project cost in support of Option 3. The Forest Service will help by waiving the rent for University staff on both the Bass Lake and American River ranger districts during the 2007 field season. Moreover, the MOU Partner Agencies worked very hard last week to secure agreement that a State Wildlife Grant to support the SNAMP Owl Study will be forthcoming this year. The MOU Partner Agencies are now working with Drs. Gutierrez and Saah from your team on the grant. We expect to have the grant proposal to the Department of Fish and Game this week. The Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have placed a high priority on processing the grant paperwork and we expect to have the funds to you by mid-summer 2007.

I hope you will see that our MOU Partner agencies remain strongly supportive of the SNAMP effort. We are committed to making this project a success, and we are now working to evaluate additional project efficiencies (e.g., purchase of aircraft vs. long-term lease) and ensure full funding for the 2008 field season.



Please pass along our sincere apology for any inconvenience this issue may have caused your team. Thanks for your continuing leadership and support.

Sincerely,

/s/ Beth G. Pendleton

BETH GIRON PENDLETON

Deputy Regional Forester for Natural Resources

USDA Forest Service

Pacific Southwest Region