

SNAMP Study Area Names

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This document provides a summary of all the place names involved in the SNAMP project, including the standardized names that the UC Science Team uses to refer to their study areas, USFS names, and nearby towns. It can get confusing; the study site map is the easiest way to refer to the UCST study area names. The narrative below is followed by an outline. A map of the study sites is attached at the end.

UCST has named the northern SNAMP study area **Last Chance**, which is located in Tahoe National Forest's American River Ranger District. The treatment firesheds* are Screwauger Canyon and Peavine Creek watersheds. The reference firesheds are Grouse Creek and Deep Canyon watersheds. These watersheds were named by CalWater, an interagency watershed mapping committee which also delineated the watersheds. The treatment area shares the same boundaries as the "Last Chance Integrated Vegetation Management Project", the full name of the USFS fuels treatment project often referred to as the **Last Chance Project**. The Owl team has a larger sampling area than the rest of UCST at the northern site. Their study area is currently referred to as the **Owl Study Area**. The Water team has smaller sampling areas than the other UC science teams' sampling areas. The Water team treatment catchment is called **Bear Trap**. Bear Trap includes the upper watershed of the middle fork of Bear Trap Creek. The Water team reference catchment is called **Frazier**, and is located within an area that will receive no treatments in the treatment fireshed Grouse Creek. Last Chance, Foresthill, and Sugar Pine are also names of small or abandoned towns in or near the Last Chance study area.

UCST has named the southern SNAMP study area **Sugar Pine**, which is located in Sierra National Forest's Bass Lake Ranger District. The treatment fireshed shares the same boundaries as the **Sugar Pine Project**, a USFS fuels treatment project. The reference fireshed has been named **Nelder Grove** by UCST. It was named after the Nelder Grove Historic Area, a protected stand of old growth mixed conifers (including Giant Sequoias) that is located in the middle of the Nelder Grove reference area. The Fisher Team has a larger sampling area than the rest of the UCST at the southern site. Their study area is currently referred to as the **Fisher Study Area**. **Fish Camp Project** and **Cedar Valley Project** are names of USFS fuels treatment projects near the Sugar Pine Project. The Water team treatment catchment is **Big Sandy**, which is located within the Fish Camp Project boundaries. The Water team treatment catchment is **Speckerman**, which is located just outside the eastern edge of the Sugar Pine Project. Sugar Pine and Fish Camp are names of small towns in or near the Sugar Pine study area.

*A fireshed is a large landscape (several to many thousands of acres) delineated by fire regime, condition class, fire history, fire hazard, and potential wildland fire behavior. The area of a fireshed may share similar boundaries as a large watershed. A watershed is the area drained by a river and its tributaries.

SNAMP Study Site Names

1. **Last Chance** - northern study site
 - a. **Owl Study Area** - area not yet defined but includes Last Chance, buffer zone around Last Chance, areas in Eldorado National Forest, and may include areas in Tahoe National Forest outside of Last Chance and buffer zone.
 - b. Treatment Firesheds
 - **Grouse Creek and Deep Canyon**
 - c. Reference Firesheds
 - **Screwauger Canyon and Peavine Creek**
 - d. Water Team Catchments
 - **Bear Trap** – Water Team treatment catchment, includes headwaters portion of the Bear Trap Creek watershed
 - **Frazier** – Water Team reference catchment, includes headwaters portion of the middle fork of Frazier Creek watershed.

2. **Sugar Pine** - southern study site
 - a. **Fisher Study Area** – exact area not yet defined (depends where fishers are found) but can include any area between Merced and San Joaquin Rivers, including Sugar Pine study site and Cedar Valley Project area
 - b. Treatment Fireshed
 - **Sugar Pine Project**
 - c. Reference Firesheds
 - **Nelder Grove** – note that this area is much larger than the Nelder Grove Historic Area, which is a protected stand of old-growth mixed conifers
 - d. Water Team Catchments
 - **Big Sandy** – Water Team treatment watershed, located within Fish Camp Project area.
 - **Speckerman** – Water team reference watershed, located outside Nelder Grove reference area

USFS Names and Town Names

1. Northern site is in Tahoe National Forest
 - a. American River Ranger District
 - b. Last Chance Project – short for the USFS fuels reduction project “Last Chance Integrated Vegetation Management Project”
 - i. Includes Screwauger Canyon and Peavine Creek firesheds
 - c. Foresthill is the name of a nearby town
 - d. Sugar Pine is also the name of a small town

2. Southern site is in Sierra National Forest

- a. Bass Lake Ranger District
- b. Sugar Pine Project – the USFS fuels reduction project, same boundaries as the SNAMP Sugar Pine treatment fireshed
- c. Fish Camp Project – the USFS fuels reduction project, located to the east of Sugar Pine Project.
- d. Cedar Valley Project – the USFS fuels reduction project, located to the south of Sugar Pine Project.
- e. Fish Camp is the name of a town near the Sugar Pine Project
- f. Nelder Grove or Nelder Grove Historic Area – a protected stand of old-growth mixed conifers located near the center of the SNAMP Nelder Grove reference fireshed

BONUS QUIZ

1. What is the difference between “Last Chance” and “Last Chance Project”?

Answer: Last Chance could either be referring to a small town, or the SNAMP northern study area. Last Chance Project is how UCST refers to the USFS fuels treatment project Last Chance Integrated Vegetation Management Project.

2. Is there a Foresthill or Fish Camp study area in the SNAMP project?

Answer: Nope. They are just the names of small towns. Fish Camp Project is the name of a USFS fuels treatment project near the southern study area.

3. What are fishers famous for being able to kill and eat?

Answer: It would be logical to think fish, but fishers are not named for their fishing ability. They mainly eat small to medium sized mammals, birds, sometimes fruit, and are famous for their skill in preying on porcupines. They are like “grease lightning” in their ability to chase a porcupine up a tree and kill it by biting and scratching its face to death, then flip the porcupine over to eat. Fishers have been reintroduced as porcupine biological control in many areas in the U.S., because dense populations of porcupines can reduce timber yield. Porcupines have been extirpated from the Sierra Nevada.

4. So then why are fishers called fishers?

Answer: No one really knows. Their name might come from the French word “fichet”, which refers to the pelt of a polecat found in France and looks a lot like the fishers found in America.