



December 4, 2012

The University of California Science Team (UCST) remains committed to meeting the goals of SNAMP as described in the February 2005 Memorandum of Understanding among the federal and state resource agencies (MOU; <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/static/documents/wp-uploads/MOU-SNAMP-Feb2005.pdf>). A key element of the MOU was the charge to consider forest management impacts on multiple resources. Despite constraints imposed by timing and funding, we continue to conduct a multimetric assessment of the impact of strategically placed land area treatments on fire behavior, forest health, sensitive wildlife species, water quality, and water quantity, with participation and input from all interested stakeholders.

The UCST is actively seeking a qualified and properly certified wildlife biologist to lead the trapping portion of the fisher team's workplan, while Dr. Rick Sweitzer concentrates on analysis and summary of the existing data, preparation of appropriate peer reviewed publications to support the SNAMP assessment (due in 2014), and future fisher monitoring. The focused trapping effort will prioritize animals in the Fisher project's key watersheds in order to support the transition from the SNAMP Fisher project (field work slated to end in December 2013) to the Sugar Pine fisher project (field work to begin January 2014; not part of SNAMP).

The UCST has received additional cost share support from the UC Berkeley College of Natural Resources to mitigate the impact from the ongoing administrative review of the SNAMP Fisher project.

It should be noted that the University of California has waived all indirect charges associated with the entire SNAMP effort since the beginning of the project. To date, UC's contribution totals over \$2.4M; we cite this as strong evidence of UC's commitment to this important project. In addition, we also emphasize that the entire UCST remains committed to the third party neutral science objectives set forth in this project and as evidenced by our Neutrality statement (http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/static/documents/2010/10/28/SNAMP_Statement_Neutrality_20101021.pdf).

As the science results are analyzed and summarized, they will be presented in a format that allows the managers and decision-makers, as well as the interested public, to review the range of alternatives based on these findings.

The UCST is committed to discussing the format and content of the final report with the MOU Partners and the public in order to provide results that are relevant, timely, and readily applicable as the agencies pursue collaborative adaptive management. The UCST effort in this regard should lead to a stronger ability to close the adaptive management loop by the U.S. Forest Service after SNAMP ends.