

SNAMP

collaborative Lessons for ⁿ adaptive management

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Sierra Cascades Dialog

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itinerary

1. Brief introduction to SNAMP
(The Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project)
2. Adaptive management as an information challenge¹
(Battles)
3. Adaptive management as an implementation challenge
(Rodrigues)

¹Doremus, H. 2011. Adaptive management as an information problem. North Carolina Law Review. UC Berkeley Public Law Research Paper No. 1744426. Available online at: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1744426>. Last accessed on May 2, 2012.

What is SNAMP?

A partnership with the goal of learning how to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Sierra Nevada forests.

Who is SNAMP?

A collaboration among federal and state resource agencies.

An independent “third-party” of University researchers.

Public and private stakeholders.

Why SNAMP?

Consensus that forest are at risk.

Controversy over USFS management.

Uncertainty on how best to reduce risk.

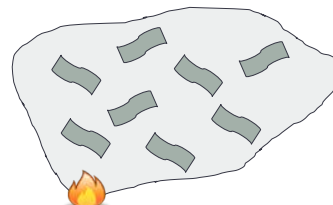
Acknowledged need to learn.



Strategically Placed Area Treatment (SPLAT)

•The spatial pattern of the treated areas is designed to reduce rates of fire spread and reduces fire intensity at the head of the fire

•30% of the landscape strategically placed in 20 – 200 acres blocks



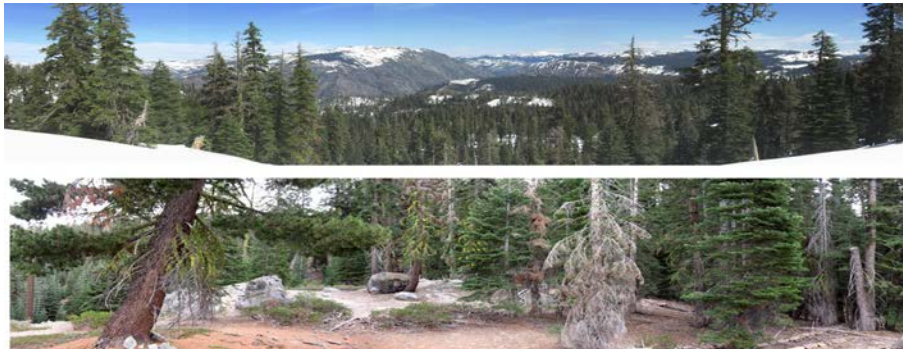
INTRO TO SNAMP

Goal of SNAMP

Ensure sustainability of Sierra Nevada forests

Means of SNAMP

Learn how to apply adaptive management



INTRO TO SNAMP

The MOU Partners

- **US Forest Service**
Region 5, Sierra and Tahoe National Forests
Pacific Southwest Research Station
- **California State Resources Agency**
Dept. Fish and Game
Dept. Water Resources
Dept. Forestry & Fire Protection
- **US Fish and Wildlife Service**



Supporting organizations

- **Sierra Nevada Conservancy**
- **Resources Law Foundation Fund**

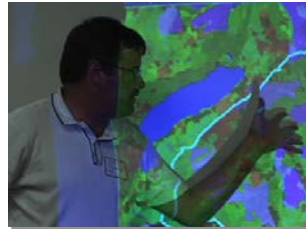


University of California Role



- Conduct innovative and relevant research in an open and transparent manner
- Provide a structured process for mutual learning throughout the adaptive management cycle

- Help develop and evaluate an adaptive management program with strong public participation.



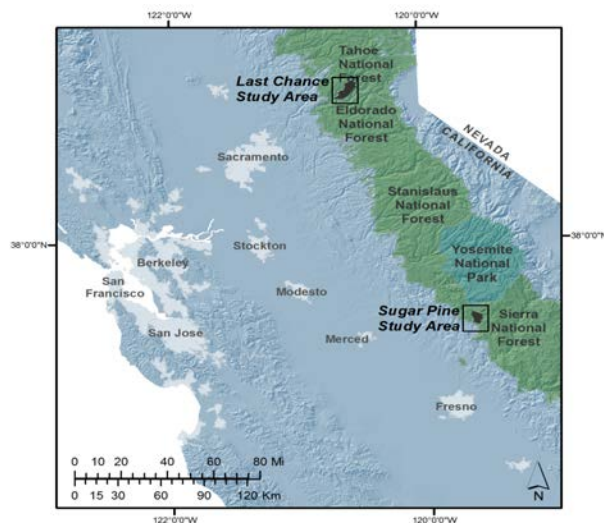
SNAMP Study Areas and Research Teams

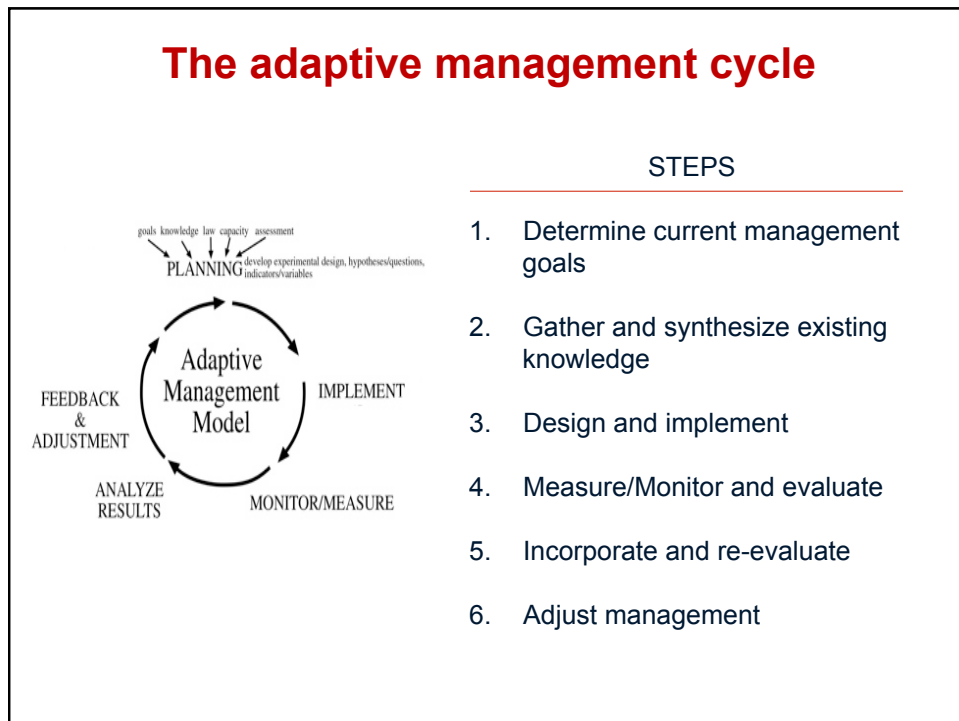
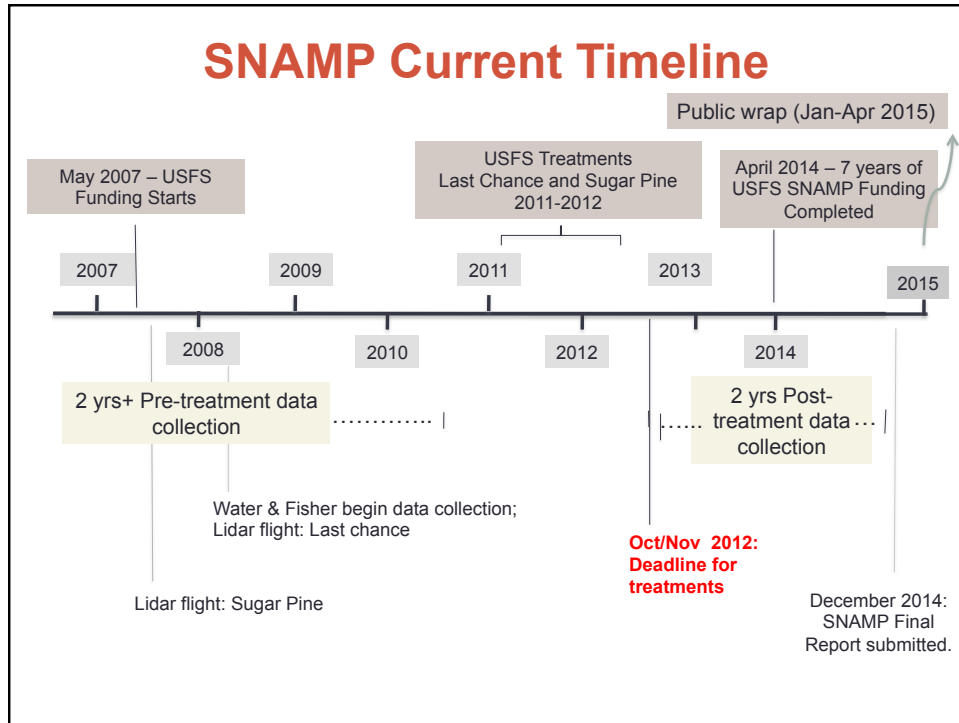
Two Study Areas:

- Tahoe National Forest
- Sierra National Forest

Six Research Teams:

1. Pacific Fisher
2. Spotted Owl
3. Fire & Forest Ecosystem Health
4. Spatial
5. Water Quality and Quantity
6. Public Participation





Adaptive management – keys to success^{1,2}

1. The existence of information gaps
2. Good prospects for learning at the appropriate time scale compared to management decisions
3. Opportunities for adjustment

¹Doremus, H. 2011.

²National Research Council. 2011. Panel to review California's Draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The National Academies Press.
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13148

Information gaps

A hypothesis was central to the 2004 Record of Decision -- Do SPLATs work?

An innovation was also introduced – the idea of managing across landscapes.

SNAMP clearly meets the “need to learn” criterion

Good prospects for learning

We spent 18 months developing a workplan to address this question.

Learning at the appropriate spatial scale with an agency negotiated timeline were (and remain) major challenges

SNAMP Approach: agency engagement; peer review; public vetting.

Unique advantages of SNAMP

1. Clear goals

The scope of SNAMP was defined by the MOU partners before engaging scientists.

2. Committed partners

Federal and state natural resource agencies, the University of California, public and private stakeholders:

ALL HAVE REMAINED ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS

Recognize the trade-offs

Information: short-term management objectives vs long-term learning

Money: resources spent on measurement/ modeling vs management actions

Effort: finality of a decision vs cycles of revision

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Process constraints to C.A.M.

- Need to build capacity in USFS to facilitate A.M.
- Need to support community leadership to facilitate when feasible



It is not feasible to have highly skilled and/or expensive facilitators for all A.M. efforts

Relationship constraints to C.A.M.

- Need to focus on areas of agreement 1st
- Avoid highly divisive or contentious treatment areas where feasible

The capacity to build understanding among the diverse perspectives of participants is essential to success.

THIS TAKES TIME and PATIENCE !



Implementing C.A.M. in the new Planning Rule

Results, Process and Relationships

- Constraints
- Public participation
- Decision making authority
- Facilitation

Some Recommendations

- District and/or Forest level ID teams could function as Integration Teams in a way that brings the public and scientists together
- Identify a lead facilitator for these teams (may be person outside USFs with facilitation skills)
- Note that this type of interaction on CAM requires a dedicated person within USFS to be responsible at District and Forest level(s)
- Support distance communication through a website with specific links to each CAM project as it goes forward



Questions to consider...

Will limitations on monitoring effect A.M. efforts?

How willing/able is the US Forest Service to use citizen monitoring?

What is the process for allowing scientists-public participants-USFS managers to interact with ID teams at the district and forest level?

What is the feedback mechanism?

How will we know if we have learned anything? How has the knowledge been used?