



# Public Participation

## Research Objective

Conduct strategic facilitation for stakeholders, MOU partners, science team, and Forest Service as part of an integrated participatory adaptive management approach for vegetation management on USFS Sierra Nevada forests, and evaluate the processes and outcomes of stakeholder and MOU partner participation in research, Forest Service and Science Team adaptation in response to research results and stakeholder input, and UC function in a third party role.

## Methods

- We have revised our methods and approach.
- UC Cooperative Extension personnel will strategically facilitate Forest Service, Science Team, MOU partner, and stakeholder interactions related to the use of information and project adaptation, documenting key agreements, and tracking the development and use of information generated from participatory processes and scientific research, including workplan development and updates from District personnel on treatment proposals and implementation. A crucial focus is the development and documentation of boundaries, constraints, and triggers that emerge throughout and shape the adaptive management process, and feedback from stakeholders about the factors affecting their participation in the project.
- An interactive discussion board has been developed to facilitate interaction among stakeholders, scientists, and USFS: <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu>. We will add the capability to comment not just on documents or processes, but to comment based on locations specific to the project. The website facilitates national as well as local participation, and provides ongoing documentation of research development.
- We will document how participation practices "adapt" over time as more is learned about and from stakeholders, the Science Team, and Forest Service participants. Approaches include pre-scoping of stakeholder groups and development of local histories of stakeholder experience with science-based management initiatives. To the extent possible, we will document methods used by the Forest Service and scientists to engage stakeholders, and stakeholder response and engagement, as well as the use of stakeholder-generated information. We will determine institutional, structural, and other barriers to the flow and use of information, as well as techniques and factors that enhance information flow and constructive relationships.
- At all points we will document agreements, information use and adaptation, and the role of the science team as a "neutral" third party.

## Questions

- *How does the Forest Service use and incorporate scientific and stakeholder information and input?*
- *How does the UCST work with stakeholders and Forest Service, and use stakeholder and Forest Service information and input?*
- *How are stakeholders engaged with the Forest Service and Science Team as part of the integrated Adaptive Management process?*
- *Did the UC role as a "neutral third party" contribute to the Adaptive Management process and stakeholder engagement?*

## Immediate next steps for implementation

- Funds to hire two UC Cooperative Extension personnel to conduct the strategic facilitation and outreach processes that need to be implemented immediately, including pre-scoping. Now that study sites have been identified, we need to initiate local workshops, and work with District personnel to define responsibilities and opportunities in the area of participation. Our existing personnel cannot do this with available resources.
- We need a post-doctoral position at UC Berkeley to integrate the research components of this effort. This position will be for a policy-oriented social scientist with experience in participatory processes. Now that study sites have been identified, we need this position to research and document the characteristics of each community, the local history of engagement with forest management, and to help document the adaptive management strategic facilitation process and Forest Service participatory processes. Without this position we are unable to function as part of the adaptive management process.
- Continued funding for the SNAMP interactive website (<http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu>). We will continue to refine and improve the use of this tool for interaction with stakeholders and team members, and plan to add capability for users to comment on location-specific topics.

## Strategic Facilitation will draw on these principles:

- Stakeholders should be involved as early as possible in the research process and the research program should be developed drawing on stakeholder knowledge, ideas, and viewpoints.
- A spectrum of people, including those not usually at the table, should be involved.
- A transparent process should be maintained, and the potential for stakeholder input carefully communicated.
- Competing interests should be recognized and acknowledged.
- Tradeoffs should be identified, and stakeholders should understand the consequences of different decisions.
- The information needs of participants should be established early. Scientific information should be provided in ways that enable stakeholder participation and build understanding by presenting a balanced view of options and the basis for decisions.
- The adaptive management framework should encourage scientists, managers, partners, and stakeholders to work together and should provide flexibility for doing so.
- Feedback to scientists and managers should be provided. If feedback is not used, an explanation should be provided.

## Participatory Processes Team

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