



A Newsletter from the SNAMP Public Participation Science Team - Volume 1, Number 1



Background

Millions of acres of Sierra Nevada forest are endangered by wildfire. The USDA National Forest Service's 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment calls for managing the forest using the best information available to protect forests and homes. Vegetation management treatments called strategically placed land area treatments (or SPLATs) are planned or being conducted in several places in the Sierra Nevada where fire risk is high.

What are SPLATs?

SPLATs, or "strategically placed land area treatments", are a forest management approach based on the theory that disconnected fuel treatment patches (e.g. forest thinning) that overlap in the direction of head-fire spread reduce the overall rate and intensity of fire, benefiting the entire landscape.

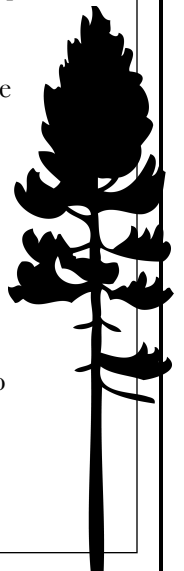
the SIERRA NEVADA Adaptive Management Project newsletter

Welcome to our first SNAMP newsletter! In these quarterly letters to the public, we will highlight recent project progress. In this first edition, we will highlight the SNAMP Project, the University Science Team and our Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management study sites. For more information, please visit our project website at: <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu>.

THE SNAMP PROJECT

It is important to know how vegetation treatments to prevent wildfire will affect fire risk, wildlife, forest health, and water. A team of university scientists has agreed to act as an independent third party, monitoring the effects of vegetation management treatments implemented by the Forest Service in two areas in the Sierra Nevada. Results will be used to improve forest management in the future.

The SNAMP project involves resources agencies, the public, and the University Science Team. Each group has differing but interrelated roles and responsibilities. The Forest Service will be planning and implementing the treatments: while the University Science Team will be independently monitoring and studying the effects of the projects on four important categories: wildlife (specifically the Pacific fisher and spotted owl), fire and forest health, water quality and quantity, and public participation. The public will be invited to provide feedback on the entire process.



SNAMP Science Teams: People and Roles

The science teams are made up of researchers from the University of California Berkeley, the University of California Merced, University of California Cooperative Extension, and the University of Minnesota. The science teams study fire and forest health, wildlife (focusing on fisher and spotted owl), water, and public participation. All science teams are supported by spatial analysis and GIS.

Minnesota is the Program Manager for the owl research.

WATER

Water team members will be monitoring water quality and quantity across treatment and control catchments prior to, and after, treatments. Dr. Roger Bales and Dr. Martha Conklin at UC Merced lead the water research/monitoring activities. They are investigating impacts of strategic fuel treatments in SNAMP study areas on water quantity and quality. They are joined by Sarah Martin, a Ph.D. Student at UC Merced, and Matt Meadows, staff hydrologist.

SNAMP PROJECT INTEGRATION

Dr. John J. Battles at UC Berkeley leads the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (Dr. Battles also serves on the Fire and Forest Ecosystem Health Team). Ann Huber, M.S., is the Academic Coordinator assisting Dr. Battles to foster, develop, and coordinate internal SNAMP Science Team research activities. She is based at UC Berkeley.

Resources office in Davis. Dr. Maggi Kelly at UC Berkeley lead team efforts in public participation through media, internet discussion, and WebGIS (Dr. Kelly is also on the Spatial Team). Anne Lombardo is our Program Representative in the southern site. She helps implement public outreach activities at the field site level in the southern site. She is with UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and her office is in Oakhurst (see more about Anne on Page 3). Dr. Adriana Sulak, a Post-Doc researcher at UC Berkeley concentrates on SNAMP program analysis and public participation research at field sites. Ken'ichi Ueda, a M.S. Student at UC Berkeley, builds and maintains the internet discussion and WebGIS.

FIRE & FOREST HEALTH

The Fire and Forest Health Team will investigate effects of strategic fuel treatments on fire behavior, tree morbidity and mortality, and forest health. Dr. Scott Stephens and Dr. John Battles at UC Berkeley lead the research/monitoring activities. Gary Roller, M.S. is the project manager for the team, and Post-Docs Dr. Brandon Collins and Dr. Adrian Das at UC Berkeley are also a part of the team.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Public Participation team will monitor the Forest Service Public participation processes, working to increase stakeholder involvement in the project through regular open meetings and reporting, an interactive website to facilitate stakeholder contact with project scientists, and joint monitoring programs. Dr. Lynn Huntsinger at UC Berkeley is the lead investigator for the Public Participation Team. She is leading the overall program analysis of UC in third party role. Kimberly Rodrigues from UC Cooperative Extension leads team efforts in public participation and strategic facilitation. She is with the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural

WILDLIFE

The wildlife team focuses on two species: the Pacific Fisher (*Martes pennanti*), and the California Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*). Both groups will be monitoring their target species through the life of the SNAMP project. Dr. Reginald Barrett at UC Berkeley leads the California Fisher Team. He will lead research and monitoring activities to investigate the status of CA fisher populations in the southern site. Dr. Rick Sweitzer, affiliated with UC Berkeley, is project manager for the Fisher research. Dr. Rocky J. Gutiérrez at the University of Minnesota is the lead investigator for the Spotted Owl research and monitoring activities. Dr. Doug Tempel at the University of

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Dr. Maggi Kelly from UC Berkeley, and Dr. Qinghua Guo from UC Merced lead this team, which also includes Marek Jakubowski, Ph.D. Student at UC Berkeley. They have responsibility for supporting all other teams' GIS, remote sensing and spatial analysis needs.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES

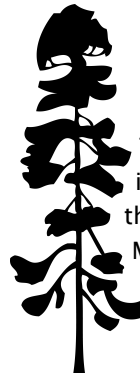
Upcoming newsletters will highlight news from these teams.

THE SNAMP STUDY SITES

In choosing our study sites, the Science Team looked for sites where the Forest Service was actively planning forest treatments in the near-future. We also wanted sites that meet a range of scientific criteria (including providing habitat for wildlife species and the potential for recruiting large tree structure) and are representative of a typical Sierran landscape. The thinning and forest management treatments on these sites will be implemented by the Forest Service according to the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan, and we will monitor them. In each study area we have designated control and treatment areas. More maps are available at our website.

Northern Site

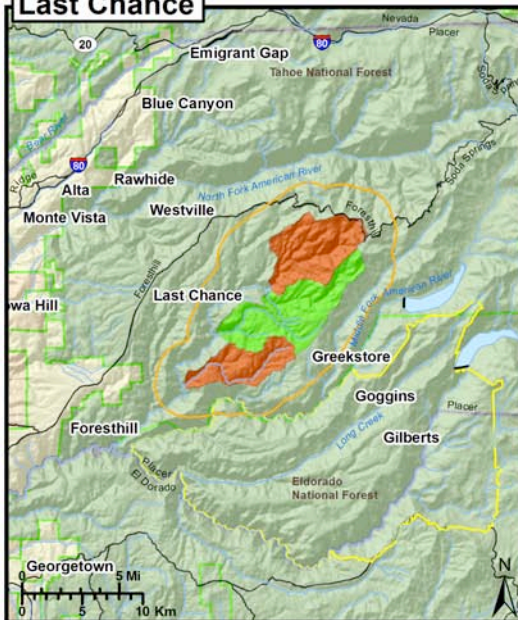
The Northern Site is the Last Chance site in the Tahoe National Forest. The Tahoe NF, located in Placer County in the north-central Sierra Nevada, supports Sierra Nevada mixed conifer forest communities and a range of wildlife including the California Spotted Owl.



Southern Site

The southern site is the Sugar Pine site, located in the Sierra National Forest on the western slope of the central Sierra Nevada, almost completely in Madera County. The forests here are also mixed conifer. The southern site provides habitat for the Pacific Fisher.

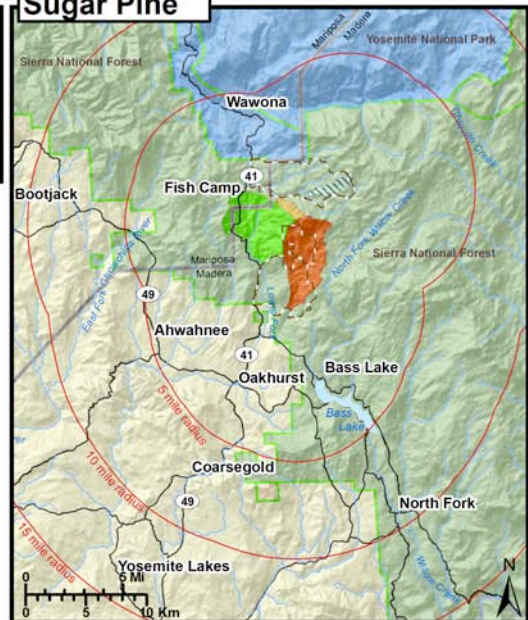
Last Chance



- Study Area Sites**
- Water: Treatment
 - Water: Control
 - Treatment
 - Control
 - Fisher Study Area*
 - Spotted Owl Study Area
 - Spotted Owl - El Dorado
 - Other Projects
- Federal Lands**
- Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - County borders
 - Highways, Major roads

*Note: Fisher Study Area is composed of 5, 10, 15, and 20 mi buffers.

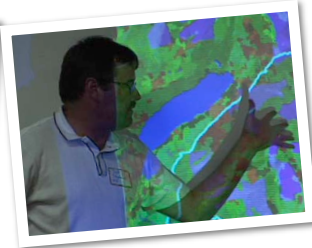
Sugar Pine



Welcome! New SNAMP Staff

Anne Lombardo has joined the Public Participation team and is working directly with SNAMP in the southern site. She is based in Oakhurst, and her role is to work at the community level, developing local opportunities for public participation and fostering communication. She will help keep the public informed in regards to the scientific study and landscape level work being done in the forest for this adaptive management study. She will assist the project by remaining transparent to the public, keeping them abreast of what is going on and seeking their input as we proceed.

Who to Contact: For more information about SNAMP, you can see: <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu> or contact Anne Lombardo from UC Division of Agriculture at amlombardo@ucdavis.edu.



SNAMP PHOTO ALBUM



WE'RE BUILDING A SNAMP PHOTO ALBUM

You can see our photo album at <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu/photos/>. Share your photos with us! Send digital photography (with explanation) to Maggi Kelly snampst@yahoo.com.

Forests in the northern site...

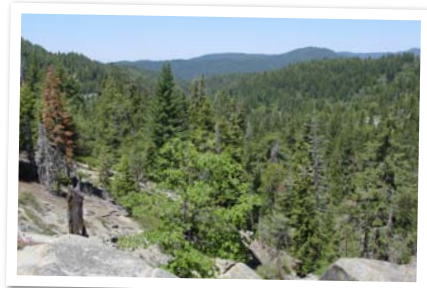


High school student in the field with the water science team in the southern site.

Field research crew in the northern site.

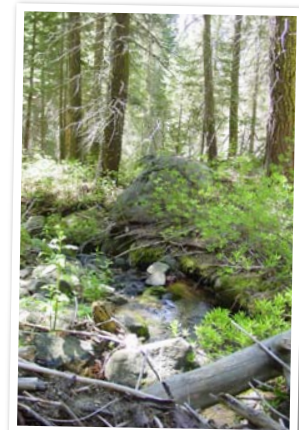


...and the southern site.



Overlooking the southern site.

Stream in the southern site.



More photos, maps, workplans, and other SNAMP information can be found at: <http://snamp.cnr.berkeley.edu>.