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Executive Summary

- Met with Dr. Michael Collopy (UNR) to discuss the development of the Tahoe Science Consortium and associated research strategy, peer review process, and organization.
- Presented the S&R Team PowerPoint to federal land managers from Nevada, Utah, and Arizona who are planning a Mojave Desert Initiative.
- Coordinated external peer reviews for two SNPLMA Round 8 CI nominations.
- Hosted an all-agency natural resource management staff science workshop to assist with the selection of interagency goals, sub-goals, science questions, and associated tasks.

Summary of Attachments

- Team meeting agendas and minutes. The minutes for the September 26 meeting have been submitted to the S&R Team lead and are awaiting team approval. Once approved, the September 26 minutes will be posted to Grovesite and submitted with the next quarterly report.

Program Activities

Science Team Facilitation
Three team meetings were held during this quarter – on July 6, August 17, and September 26. Prior to the meetings, draft agendas were prepared for review by the team leader. Final agendas were then distributed to team members. Following the team meetings, minutes were summarized, distributed, and posted on the team website (Grovesite).

Science Steering Committee
The Science and Research Team continued to address the need for and the mission of a Science and Research Steering Committee during this quarter. Dr. Palmer traveled to Reno and met with Dr. Michael Collopy, a member of the Committee of Scientists for the Tahoe Science Consortium, to discuss the possible roles of a Research Steering Committee. Dr. Collopy provided several documents to Dr. Palmer describing the organization of the Tahoe Science Consortium, their peer review process, and a draft of the comprehensive science plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Partnerships
During this quarter the S&R Team invited Laurie Perry, team leader of the Cultural Resources Team, to their August 17 meeting. The S&R Team explained their overall science strategy and discussed the importance of identifying cultural resource science needs. Dr. Palmer will meet with the Cultural
Resources Team on October 31 to identify common interagency goals, sub-goals, and associated science questions.

In an effort titled the Mojave Desert Initiative, federal land managers from Utah, Nevada, and Arizona have been meeting to discuss common issues. Of particular concern is the increased frequency and extent of fires and their associated ecological effects. Dr. Palmer was invited to present the S&R Team PowerPoint describing our approach to the development of a science strategy for the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership at a meeting of the Mojave Desert Initiative on August 21. This group expressed an interest in coordinating their science efforts with the S&R Team.

Phase I Strategy
The S&R team was asked to conduct peer reviews of two science proposals that had been submitted for funding as SNPLMA Round 8 Conservation Initiative nominations. The titles of these proposals were “Fire History, Fire Effects, and Postfire Seeding in Southern Nevada, Phase 1: Compilation of Fire Histories and Evaluation of Past and Future Fires and Seeding Treatments” and “Spring Mountain Butterfly Life History and Autecology Studies.”

Dr. Miller coordinated two external peer reviews for each of these proposals and the S&R Team provided management reviews. All the management reviews and the two peer reviews for the fire history proposal were completed in time for the SNPLMA selection process in early August. Due to difficulties in identifying qualified scientists available for review of the butterfly proposal during the summer field season, the butterfly reviews were not completed until late September. Reviewers also provided suggestions for improving the peer review forms.

Phase II Strategy
The main focus of efforts during this quarter continued to be the development of a coordinated framework of interagency goals, sub-goals and related science questions. The team reviewed results from the 2006 Ecosystem Health Workshops to identify science questions and associated tasks for each of the goals and sub-goals identified in the previous quarter.

An all-agency natural resource management staff workshop was held on September 13 to validate, review, and prioritize the science questions associated natural resource management. Dr. Palmer and Dr. Miller coordinated the arrangements for the workshop, which was held at the Barrick Museum of Natural History on the UNLV campus. These arrangements included a keynote speaker (Rebecca Gravenmeier from USFS, Portland OR); pre-workshop packets with an agenda, dining options and parking information; and breakout group protocols. PLI staff (Carol Servino, Nicky Daamen, and Cathy Willey) assisted in documenting breakout group sessions and provided other logistic assistance. PLI sponsored breaks with hosting funds donated by the Southern Nevada Conservancy. A workshop report will be prepared during the next quarter and distributed to workshop participants.

Submitted by: Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

10/01/2007
Attachments
# AGENDA

**Science & Research Team Meeting**  
Interagency Building, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive

**Date:** July 6, 2007  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
**Attendees:** S&R Team members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
<th>Desired Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Peer Review Process – Round 8 Science proposals | Amy LaVoie  
Desired Outcome: Team will discuss process for completing peer review of two Round 8 science proposals. |
| 9:30 – 9:35 | Coordination with other SNAP Teams | Craig Palmer  
Desired Outcome: Update on planned meeting of Craig & Jennell with the Cultural Resources Team (originally scheduled for June 28). |
| 9:35 – 10:20 | All-agency natural resource management science workshop | Kent Turner & Craig Palmer  
Desired Outcome: Team will review planning for workshop scheduled for September 13 & 14. |
| 10:20 – 11:30 | Development of Science Questions Associated with SNAP Management Goals | Jennell Miller & Craig Palmer  
Desired Outcome: Review previously identified common adaptive management goals and objectives. Continue process of identifying science questions associated with these goals and objectives using science questions and topics identified in the DRI Ecosystem Health Workshops. |
| 11:30 – 12:30 | Lunch |  |  |
| 12:30 – 1:45 | Development of Science Questions Associated with SNAP Management Goals (cont’d) | Jennell Miller & Craig Palmer  
Desired Outcome: Continue process of identifying science questions. |
| 1:45 – 2:00 | Wrap-up | Kent Turner  
Desired Outcome: Confirm next meeting date (Aug. 17). Review assignments. |
Interagency Science and Research Team Meeting

July 06, 2007
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Interagency Building
Forest Service Conference Room
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas Nevada 89130

Participants

Interagency Science and Research Team:
  Kent Turner, NPS (Team Lead)
  Carrie Ronning, BLM
  Amy LaVoie, USFWS
  Randy Sharp, USFS
  Craig Palmer, UNLV PLI (Project Manager)
  Jennell Miller, UNLV PLI

Upcoming Meetings

Interagency Science and Research Team Meetings:
  July 27, 2007   e-mail out nomination review results to team members
  July 30, 2007   10 am   Conference Call (call in 9-1-866-600-8246; participant code 2034483#)
  August 17, 2007 9 am to 4 pm  Interagency Building

Science and Research Team Action Items

Please note: For organization due to the large number of action items required in the upcoming weeks, actions are listed after each discussion topic of the meeting.

Meeting Summary

1. Peer Review Process – Round 8 Science Proposals (Amy LaVoie)

   Two science strategies were submitted in Round 8. SNAP Executive Director Jennifer Haley suggested that the science team run the nominations through the peer review process for practice. The SNAP board is not requiring that these proposals be peer reviewed. The S&R Team decided to move forward with reviewing this proposals.

   The S&R Team reviewed the revised peer-review worksheet. Jennell revised the worksheet based upon Round 7 peer reviewer’s comments. Some of the ranking criteria will not apply to agency proposals (in some cases, agencies are seeking funds to develop a project). Thus, it is important to note in the cover letter to peer reviewers that agency proposals read differently than strictly science proposals, and to that they must take that into consideration when reviewing the proposals. Perhaps a peer review should occur after funding has been approved and as projects are being developed by the contracting/cooperative entity (something to consider for the future).

Action Items

- Craig will find two appropriate, qualified peer reviewers (without conflict of interest) for both proposals. Craig and Jennell will coordinate a science peer review, including payment of $250 to each reviewer.
Jennell will locate the management review worksheet (Debra Dandridge files) and distribute it to the S&R Team.

S&R Team will review the proposals using the management review worksheet. Anyone needing copies of the proposals should contact Jennifer Haley.

July 27: Team members will e-mail their completed management review worksheets and any other comments to each other; Craig will e-mail science peer review results to the S&R Team.

July 30, 10:00 am: Conference call will be held to discuss the review results and to prepare a summary of review findings for the SNAP Board. Team will decide how to deliver review findings to SNAP Board.

2. Coordination with Other SNAP Teams (Craig Palmer)
Craig and Jennell were scheduled to attend a Cultural Resources Team meeting on June 28, 2007 to introduce the SNAP Science and Research Strategy and engage the team in the same strategic process. The Cultural Resources Team canceled this meeting, and Craig and Jennell are awaiting the new meeting date. Craig and Jennell will also contact Jim Holland, NPS, to coordinate a meeting with the Recreation Team. Craig will invite Laurie Perry, Cultural Team Lead, to our August 17, 2007 meeting.

3. All Agency Natural Resource Management Science Workshop (Kent Turner and Craig Palmer)
Goal: The purpose of this workshop is to ensure that agency staff understands the purpose and significance of the interagency science strategy, and that they have the opportunity to: (1) validate the goals and sub-goals, (2) express gaps and provide additional information, and (3) rank and prioritize science questions.

- Kent will welcome participants and introduce the Science and Research Team and the SNAP Board.
- A SNAP Board member will give a brief talk about the importance of the Interagency Science and Research Strategy.
- Becky Gravenmeyer (Northwest Forest Plan) will explain the value/importance of distilling questions.
- The S&T Team will co-present the Interagency Science and Research Strategy using a modified version of the PowerPoint delivered to the SNAP Board. This talk will demonstrate how the Environmental Health Workshop work fits into the strategy.
- Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the strategy, Goal 1, and its sub-goals; they should not word smith.
- Individuals will self-select which breakout group to attend.
- Break out groups will identify whether anything is missing, validate, prioritize science questions under each sub-goal, and will be facilitated by the S&R Team members as follows:
  Sub-goal 1.1 – Carrie Ronning
  Sub-goal 1.2 – Kent Turner
  Sub-goal 1.3 – Randy Sharp
  Sub-goal 1.4 – Amy LaVoie
  If it becomes apparent that another sub-goal is required, Craig will facilitate the group.
During the meeting, the S&R Team developed a draft agenda for the September Workshop as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am</td>
<td>Sign-in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Welcome and Introductions (Kent) / SNAP Board Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:20 am</td>
<td>Science and Research Team Presentation / feedback and questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Keynote: Becky Gravenmier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:50 am</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Breakout Group Instructions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00 pm</td>
<td>Lunch (on own / facilities are available on-site)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Breakout Group Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Group Reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 pm</td>
<td>Group Discussion / Next Steps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Location update: Craig has arranged workshop space at the UNLV Barrick Museum.

Action Items:
- Each S&R Team member will invite his or her own agency staff members no later than July 15, 2007.
- Kent will confer with Jennifer Haley to select a SNAP Board Member to give opening remarks and instruct Board members on their role during the remainder of the workshop.
- Craig will arrange another meeting space for the SNAP Board to use while the breakout groups are occurring.
- Jennell will check with PLI regarding donated hosting funds to purchase coffee, tea, and water for breaks.
- Kent will arrange for two recorders for break out groups; Craig will arrange the other two.
- At August 17 meeting, Team will discuss and finalize how breakout group sessions should be facilitated.
- Pending August 17 discussion, Jennell will create a template sheet that directs how the breakout group should operate and provides space to collect information from breakout groups.
- Kent and Craig will decide on how, when, and what to instruct the breakout group recorders.
- Craig will provide daily parking passes, five for each agency to apportion among their SNAP Board (5) and agency participants.
- Craig and Jennell will prepare a workshop map that shows parking areas, meeting location, and dining facilities.

4. Development of Science Questions Associated with SNAP Management Goals (Craig Palmer and Jennell Miller)
Jennell prepared a document correlating the science questions developed pre-environmental health workshop and emphasized at the May Workshop with the Science and Research
Strategy sub-goals. Potentially, more questions could be created with or identified within information from the May workshop if desired. The team reviewed the document and requested that Jennell move specific questions to other sub-goals.

Action Items:
- Jennell will revise the above-described document to reflect the changes discussed during the meeting and e-mail the document to the S&R Team.
- Each team member will distill questions from their assigned sub-goal (see below), ensuring that the questions (1) reflect and (2) are organized according to the Top 30 Research Priorities agreed upon at the August Environmental Health Workshop. Team members should remove any redundant questions.
- Each team member will bring their amended list of questions for their respective goal (with copies for all, bring 7 copies) to the August 17, 2007 meeting.
- At the next S&R Team Meeting, the May 18 PowerPoint for the SNAP Board will be revised to fit the workshop audience.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
# AGENDA

**Science & Research Team Meeting**

**Interagency Building, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive**

**Date:** August 17, 2007  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**Attendees:** S&R Team members; Laurie Perry, Cultural Resources Team Lead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
<th>Desired Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9:00 – 11:00 | **Topic: Development of Science Questions Associated with SNAP Management Goals**  
Presenter: Carrie Ronning (Sub-goal 1.1); Kent Turner (Sub-goal 1.2); Randy Sharp (Sub-goal 1.3); Amy LaVoie (Sub-goal 1.4)  
Desired Outcome: Team members will review their assignments to distill priority science questions associated with specific sub-goals -- using science questions and topics identified in the DRI Ecosystem Health Workshops. |  

11:00 – 11:30 | **Topic: All-agency natural resource management science workshop - agenda**  
Presenter: Kent Turner & Craig Palmer  
Desired Outcome: Team will review and finalize the agenda for workshop scheduled for September 13. |  

11:30 – 12:30 | **Lunch** |  

12:30 – 2:00 | **Topic: Workshop meeting management**  
Presenter: Kent Turner & Craig Palmer  
Desired Outcome: Team will review and finalize arrangements for the workshop including assignments as facilitators, recorders, what to record, formats for reports, instructions for breakout leaders, room assignments, etc. |  

2:00 – 3:00 | **Topic: PowerPoint Presentation for Workshop**  
Presenter: Jennell Miller  
Desired Outcome: Team will prepare a PowerPoint presentation for the workshop using the May 18 SNAP Board presentation as a template. |  

3:00 – 3:30 | **Topic: Coordination with the Cultural Resources Team**  
Presenters: Kent Turner and Laurie Perry  
Desired Outcome: Team will discuss approaches for identifying cultural resource goals and associated priority science questions...as well as other coordination topics with the Cultural Resources Team leader. |  

3:30 – 4:00 | **Topic: Wrap-up**  
Presenters: Kent Turner  
Desired Outcome: Confirm next meeting date. Review assignments. |
Interagency Science and Research Team Meet

Participants

Interagency Science and Research Team:
  Kent Turner, NPS (Team Lead)
  Carrie Ronning, BLM
  Amy LaVoie, USFWS
  Randy Sharp, USFS
  Craig Palmer, UNLV PLI (Project Manager)
  Jennell Miller, UNLV PLI

Science and Research Team Action Items

▶ Jennell and Craig will create a pre-workshop packet consisting of the agenda, dining options, and parking information for the team’s review prior to distribution.
▶ Jennell and Craig will finalize the changes to the PowerPoint and the team will receive copy for review prior to the workshop.
▶ Jennell and Craig will put together a protocol for break-out group facilitation and submit to the team for review.
▶ Jennell and Craig will create an electronic worksheet for use during breakout sessions and borrow laptops and projectors.
▶ PLI will order light break food/beverage from a donated host account.
▶ September 10, 1:00 pm: Conference call will be held to finalize conference planning and to provide a list of agency participants.
▶ Team members will distribute the final pre-workshop packet to their invited participants on September 6, 2007

Meeting Summary

1. All Agency Natural Resource Management Science Workshop Logistics
   Craig provided the team with five parking permits for each agency. Members were also given University Forum Lecture brochures, which contain a map of UNLV as well as information on lectures that agency staff might be interested in. The team reviewed and finalized the agenda for the workshop, discussed logistics, and made changes to the Interagency Science and Research Strategy PowerPoint Presentation so that it would be appropriate for the workshop audience. See previous section for action items.

2. Coordination with Other SNAP Teams (Craig Palmer)
   Laurie Perry, lead of the Interagency Cultural Resources Team (CRT) attended this portion of the meeting. The S&R Team introduced themselves and invited Laurie Perry and the CRT to the September 13 workshop. Kent gave Laurie some background
information about the Interagency Science and Research Strategy, including how draft goals were developed related to agency missions. Kent also explained that the S&R Team wants to make sure the CRT has the opportunity to review Goal 2 and validate it.

Laurie will run the goals by the CRT prior to the S&R Workshop. Laurie pointed out that there was potential for CRT input in Goal 1, where historic use and pre-historic uses of fire is discussed. Laurie considered whether a Goal 4, devoted to historical and cultural resources, would be necessary. A Goal 4 might be needed for some studies, which would not be an easy fit with the other goals. However, Laurie felt that 2.1 and 2.2 sub-goals should be kept in addition to a new Goal 4. She could also see benefit of keeping the strategy as it is (and not adding a Goal 4) because the strategy is interdisciplinary in nature.

Laurie emphasized the importance of providing the CRT with a clear purpose and focus for their input to the strategy. Laurie also pointed out that clear guidance will help the CRT to provide the necessary information.

Laurie proposed that the CRT have the opportunity to add to or wordsmith the questions related to cultural and historical research. The Cultural Resources Team could “translate” the existing wording into terminology that archeologists use. Craig will be meeting with the CRT on October 31 to go over their sub-goals, questions, and any other input.

Laurie also explained that each state has a historic context. Nevada’s historic context was last completed in the 1970s – so while Nevada has a historic context in place, it’s actually out of date. A boost and reminder is needed (to the CRT and management staff) that we’re supposed to be following the historic context.

Laurie indicated that the science and research strategy will be beneficial to helping the CRT to work with the S&R team to create and complete ground breaking interdisciplinary studies.

In conclusion, Laurie decided that the cultural resource-related work should be integrated with Goal 2 sub-goals rather than creating a separate Goal 4.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm
## AGENDA

Science & Research Team Meeting  
Interagency Building, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive

**Date:** Wednesday, September 26, 2007  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. *(Please note early start time)*  
**Attendees:** S&R Team members

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 11:30</td>
<td><strong>All-agency natural resource management science workshop</strong></td>
<td>Carrie Ronning (Sub-goal 1.1); Kent Turner (Sub-goal 1.2); Randy Sharp (Sub-goal 1.3); Amy LaVoie (Sub-goal 1.4)</td>
<td>Team members will review outcomes of their sessions at the workshop. Team will finalize wording for Goal 1 subgoals, questions, and associated tasks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 – 12:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 1:00</td>
<td><strong>All-agency natural resource management science workshop (cont’d)</strong></td>
<td>Team members</td>
<td>Team will review recommendations by Becky Gravenmeier (USFS-PNW) for our science strategy. Topic of prioritization of science questions across goals and sub-goals will be discussed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 – 1:30</td>
<td><strong>Engaging science providers</strong></td>
<td>Kent Turner</td>
<td>Team will discuss options for engaging science providers from Federal research organizations, universities, and others in the implementation of our science strategy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 – 2:00</td>
<td><strong>Peer Review Process</strong></td>
<td>Jennell Miller</td>
<td>Team will discuss peer review of Round 8 Butterfly proposal. Process for peer reviews of Round 9 proposals will be determined.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 – 2:30</td>
<td><strong>Wrap-up</strong></td>
<td>Kent Turner</td>
<td>Confirm next meeting date. Review assignments. Discuss cultural resource management science workshop on October 31.</td>
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