9-30-2008


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Executive Summary

- The major focus this quarter has been on completing a draft of the SNAP Science and Research Strategy and distributing it for internal and external review.

Summary of Attachments

- Team meeting agendas and notes.
- Peer Review Invitation.

Program Activities

Interagency Science and Research Team Facilitation

Two regular team meetings were held during this quarter on 7/28/2008 and 8/22/2008. Online meetings using www.gotomeeting.com for video conferencing were also held on 8/18/2008, 9/15/2008, and 9/22/2008 to work toward completion of the SNAP Science and Research Strategy document. Prior to regular meetings, a draft agenda was prepared for review by the team lead. The final agenda was then distributed to team members. Following the 8/22/2008 meeting, a summary was prepared and distributed to members and posted to the team’s Grovesite (www.grovesite.com) page. Note that all other meetings held this quarter were held for joint work on strategy chapters or team presentations jointly by the team. Changes and additions were made directly to the files prepared by Drs. Jennell Miller and Craig Palmer rather than captured in notes.

Partnerships

Craig Palmer (Principal Investigator) attended the Clark County 2008 Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) project progress report symposium on Aug 14 and 15, 2008. Reports were given for 22 science projects funded through the MSHCP program, primarily on federal lands.
SNAP Science and Research Strategy

This quarter, the major focus of Drs. Miller and Palmer has been to complete a draft of the SNAP Science and Research Strategy and distribute it for peer review. The 134-page document contains 11 chapters, which are briefly summarized below.

Chapter 1  *Introduction*

Provides a description of the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership including its vision, mission and geographic scope. It also provides an overview of the strategy.

Chapter 2  *Organization and Responsibilities*

Discusses the roles and responsibilities of the individuals and groups who share in administering and implementing the SNAP Science and Research Strategy.

Chapter 3  *Adaptive Management Strategy*

Explains the role of science in adaptive management, describes a process for the synthesis of science findings, and suggests a process for incorporating new knowledge in planning and decision-making.

Chapter 4  *SNAP Science Needs and Priorities*

States SNAP Science and Research Strategy goals, sub-goals, science questions, and priority questions for science and research activities.

Chapter 5  *Developing and Updating SNAP Science and Research Needs Assessment*

Details the process for prioritizing SNAP needs relevant to the SNAP Science and Research Strategy. Prioritization occurs annually and results in a Needs Assessment document.

Chapter 6  *Current Research Activities Supporting SNAP Science Needs*

Summarizes the current science activities of SNAP teams. It also discusses the capabilities of participating land management agencies, and of external organizations including federal research organizations, universities, institutes, and private research firms.

Chapter 7  *Outreach Strategy*

Provides an outreach plan to inform external research organizations about the SNAP Science and Research Strategy. It also encourages their participation in meeting priority science needs.

Chapter 8  *Quality Assurance*

Details the SNAP quality assurance program plan, which includes a process for standardizing data collection protocols over time. A key quality assurance component of the SNAP Science and Research Strategy is its review process.

Chapter 9  *Science Coordination and Information Sharing*

Focuses on facilitating science activities through data and information management. Included are mechanisms to increase the exchange of data and information, reduce the duplication of
efforts, and encourage science and monitoring efforts both within SNAP agencies and with other entities in the Mojave Desert region.

Chapter 10 *Funding Needs and Sources*

Discusses funding needs for components of the SNAP Science and Research Strategy and reviews potential sources of funding for SNAP science and research projects.

Chapter 11 *Continual Improvement*

Describes a process for identifying emerging science needs, conducting periodic synthesis of science findings, and carrying out revision of the SNAP Science and Research Strategy.

A *pdf* file compiling all of the draft chapters of the SNAP Science and Research Strategy is available on GroveSite ([http://grovesite.com/page.asp?pid=295007](http://grovesite.com/page.asp?pid=295007)). Also on the GroveSite page are files for each of the individual chapters. The “notes” section next to each file documents chapter leads and activities associated with the development of each chapter that occurred this quarter. Technical editing was provided by Patricia Cruz (UNLV Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies). General copy editing and proof-reading was provided by Wilisha Daniels (UNLV Public Lands Institute) and other PLI staff.

*External Peer Reviewers*

The following individuals have agreed to conduct an external peer review of the SNAP Science and Research Strategy by 10/15/2008:

- Dan Bright  
  U.S. Geological Survey, Henderson, NV

- John Hamill  
  U.S. Geological Survey, Flagstaff, AZ

- Frank H. McCormick  
  US Forest Service, Boise, ID

- Steve Ambrose  
  US Forest Service, Ft. Collins, CO

- Barry Mulder  
  Retired, USFWS, Portland, OR

They have been asked to provide a frank assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the overall strategy and to address the following questions:

1. Does the strategy represent a clear and concise approach?
2. Does the strategy include all the components needed for an effective strategy?
3. Are there any particular elements that need to be strengthened?
4. Do you have any suggestions for improving any of the chapters?
5. Do you have any recommendations for us based on your experience/lessons learned with regional interagency science initiatives?

**Internal Peer Reviewers**

The following internal agency experts have been invited to review and comment on the SNAP Science and Research Strategy.

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

- William K. Dickinson  
  Lake Mead NRA Superintendent, Boulder City, NV

- Angela Evenden  
  Research Coordinator, Reno, NV

- Jennifer Haley  
  Lake Mead NRA Interim Interpretation Chief/former SNAP Executive Director, Boulder City, NV

- Jim Holland  
  Lake Mead NRA Planner, Boulder City, NV

- Kathy Jope  
  Pacific West Region Program Lead for Natural Resources, Seattle WA

- Rosie Pepito  
  Lake Mead NRA Cultural Resources Chief, Boulder City, NV

- Gary Warshefski  
  Lake Mead NRA Deputy Superintendent, Boulder City, NV

- Other Lake Mead NRA staff

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

- Nora Devoe  
  Western Region Science Coordinator, Reno, NV

- Patrick Gubbins  
  Nevada State Office Branch Chief Non-Renewable Resources, Carson City, NV

- Angie Lara  
  Las Vegas Field Office Associate District Manager/Acting Las Vegas Field Manager, Las Vegas, NV

- Gayle Marrs-Smith  
  Conservation Transfer Area and Gold Butte Project Manager, Las Vegas NV

- Patrick Putnam
Pahrump Field Manager, Las Vegas, NV

- Mary Jo Rugwell
  Las Vegas District Manager, Las Vegas, NV

- Joe M. Tague
  Nevada State Office Branch Chief Renewable Resources

- Bob Taylor
  Red Rock and Sloan Field Manager, Las Vegas, NV

- Steve Tryon
  Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Manager, Las Vegas, NV

- Robert Wandel
  Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Project Manager

- Other Las Vegas Field Office staff

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

- William LeVere
  Intermountain Region Director of Bio-Physical Resources, Ogden, UT

- Stephanie Phillips
  Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Deputy Forest Supervisor, Las Vegas, NV

- Clinton McCarthy
  Custer National Forest Wildlife Biologist, Ogden, UT

- Danielle K Chi
  Intermountain Region Wildlife Program Leader, Ogden, UT

- Lee Jacobson
  Intermountain Region TES Program Leader, Ogden, UT

- Daniel Duffield
  Intermountain Region Fisheries Program Leader, Ogden, UT

- Cynthia Tait
  Intermountain Region, Ogden, UT

- Rick G. Hopson
  Hydrologist

- Jeff Bruggink
  Soil Scientist
• Other Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest staff

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

• Diane Elam
  Regional Recovery Coordinator for Region 8, Sacramento, CA

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

• Laurie Perry
  Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado Regional Office Archaeologist, Boulder City, NV

During the upcoming quarter, efforts will be focused on reviewing and interpreting the review comments.

Submitted by:  
Margaret N. Rees,  
Principal Investigator  
October 1, 2008  
Date
Attachments
AGENDA
Science & Research Team Meeting
USGS, Las Vegas Field Station
160 N Stephanie, Henderson, NV 89074

**Dates:** Monday, July 28, 2008  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**Attendees:** S&R Team members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Desired Outcome</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 9:00 – 10:00 | **Topic: Process for annual prioritization of research needs**  
Presenter: Jennell Miller  
Desired Outcome: Team will review graphic & text for a process that can be used in the annual prioritization and solicitation of research projects (see Chapter 5). |
| 10:00 – 10:45 | **Topic: Review of remainder of Chapter 5**  
Presenter: Jennell Miller  
Desired Outcome: Team will provide comments to Jennell on remainder of Chapter 5 (Solicitation, Review and Selection of Science Projects). |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | **Break** |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | **Topic: Cultural Team Research Priorities**  
Presenter: Kent Turner  
Desired Outcome: Team will review and finalize research questions from the Cultural Resources Team. |
| 12:00 – 1:00 | **Lunch** |
| 1:00 – 2:00 | **Topic: Education Research Priorities**  
Presenter: Jennell Miller  
Desired Outcome: Team will review and finalize research questions from for the Conservation Education subgoal 2.5. |
| 2:00 – 3:00 | **Topic: Review of remaining chapters**  
Presenter: Kent Turner  
Desired Outcome: Team will provide comments to Jennell on remaining chapters of the science strategy and review newly submitted chapters. |
| 3:00 – 3:15 | **Break** |
| 3:15 – 3:45 | **Topic: Preparing for SNAP Board Meeting**  
Presenter: Kent Turner  
Desired Outcome: Team will discuss steps to prepare for the upcoming SNAP Board Meeting on August 22. Steps include the preparation of a letter with FY09 research priorities and a PowerPoint presentation. Peer review of key chapters prior to the meeting will be discussed. |
| 3:45 – 4:00 | **Topic: Wrap-up**  
Presenter: Kent Turner  
Desired Outcome: Assignments and timelines will be reviewed |
# AGENDA
## Science & Research Team Meeting
Interagency Building, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive

**Date:** Friday, August 22, 2008  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**Attendees:** S&R Team members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<th>Desired Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 9:30</td>
<td><strong>Topic: SNAP Board Presentation</strong></td>
<td>Jennell Miller</td>
<td>Team will review and finalize PowerPoint presentation for the Board.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 – 10:00</td>
<td><strong>Topic: Review of Chapters 4 &amp; 5</strong></td>
<td>Kent Turner</td>
<td>Team will review Chapters 4 &amp; 5 of the science strategy. Team will finalize list of priority species for Chapter 4.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 – 10:15</td>
<td><strong>Break. Move to SNAP Board meeting room (BLM Field Manager's Conference Room)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15 – 11:30</td>
<td><strong>Topic: SNAP Board Presentation - Draft Science and Research Strategy</strong></td>
<td>Kent Turner</td>
<td>Board receives an update on the overall progress and timeline on the strategy. Board provides a decision (or process for decision) on chapter 4 of the strategy (overall goals) and chapter 5 of the strategy (science program implementation/process).</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30 – 12:30</td>
<td><strong>Lunch</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 – 1:00</td>
<td><strong>Topic: Review of meeting with SNAP Board</strong></td>
<td>Kent Turner</td>
<td>Team will discuss comments of SNAP Board and any implications to chapters in the science strategy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 – 2:15</td>
<td><strong>Topic: Review of remaining chapters</strong></td>
<td>Kent Turner</td>
<td>Team will provide comments to Jennell on remaining chapters of the science strategy beginning with Chapter 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 – 2:30</td>
<td><strong>Break. Move to SNAP Board meeting room (BLM Field Manager's Conference Room)</strong></td>
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<td>2:30-3:30*</td>
<td><strong>Topic: MSHCP Permit Amendment Follow Up Discussion</strong></td>
<td>Janet Bair (FWS), Assistant Field Supervisor</td>
<td>Board receives update on FWS regulatory permitting processes and timelines. Board provides feedback on how the agencies fit in, and what they want out of the permit process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 – 4:00</td>
<td><strong>Topic: Wrap-up</strong></td>
<td>Kent Turner</td>
<td>Assignments and timelines will be reviewed</td>
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</tbody>
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Meeting Summary

August 22, 2008
9:00 am to 4:00 pm
Interagency Building
Conference Room A
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Interagency Science and Research Team Meeting

Participants

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

Upcoming Meetings

Interagency Science and Research Team Meetings:
September 15 | 1pm to 4pm | Conference Call: 866-600-6246
Leader Code: 264 8514#
Participant Code: 203 4483
Web: https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/428309655

October 17 | 9am to 4pm | TBD Purpose: to discuss peer review results.

Science and Research Team Action Items
Please note: Actions are listed after each discussion topic of the meeting.

Meeting Summary

1. Presentation to the SNAP Board
   The PowerPoint presentation developed for the SNAP Board was reviewed, finalized, and delivered and the
   SNAP Board. Board members and guests were given copies of Chapter 4: SNAP Science and Research Needs and
   Priorities. In addition to Chapter 4, the presentation also focused on Chapter 3: Developing and updating the
   SNAP Science Research Needs Assessment and the concept of Adaptive Management, which is discussed in
   Chapter 3. Following the presentation, considerable discussion resulted in the following action items:

   ▶ Members of the SNAP Board agreed to review and either provide input or approve Chapter 4 by their
     next meeting date.
   ▶ To Chapter 4, the S&R Team will add a section providing tie-in between global climate change and
     impacts to ecosystems. Strategy Goals, sub-goals, etc. will not be re-worded.
   ▶ Regarding species, a section will be added to Chapter 5 describing the process for annual selection of
     species of concern. The complete species table will be included as an appendix to Chapter 4. Amy will
     distinguish between "endemics" and "species of management concern" within the table and retain
     bighorn sheep, but remove mule deer.
2. Review of Remaining Chapters
The S&R Team discussed and provided comments on the remaining chapters of the SNAP Science and Research Strategy to result in the following action items:

- Overall: Carrie will identify a staff member to do a cover-to-cover read through of the strategy and Jennell will ask Peg and other PLI staff to review. S&R Team members need to provide Jennell and Craig with final comments and sign-off on all draft chapters.
- Chapter 2: Jennell needs to ensure table of duties and text match (completed).
- Chapter 4: Subject of discussion with SNAP Board (see above).
- Chapter 5: Jennell is working on revising Chapter 5 with Kent’s suggestions. Carrie will work with Craig to write a section on the development of an annual Implementation and Monitoring Plan. A template for staff submissions related to the plan needs to be developed as an appendix to Chapter 5.
- Chapter 6: Jennell is working to incorporate Kent’s edits.
- Chapter 7: Jennell will update and send a new version to Randy (completed).
- Chapter 8: Craig will meet with Carrie (9/3/2008).
- Chapter 10: Jennell to include a statement that part of the outreach process should include informing external entities about agency funding processes.
- Chapter 11: Craig will meet with Randy in Reno (9/4/2008).
- Craig and Jennell will finalize arrangements with external peer reviewers; the deadline to receive reviews from agency staff and external peer reviewers is October 15, 2008 (12 noon).

3. MSHCP Permit Amendment Follow Up Discussion
The S&R Team attended a presentation to the SNAP Board by Janet Bair (FWS), Assistant Field Supervisor.

- Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.
Dear [Name],

Thank you for agreeing to review the Science and Research Strategy for the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership.

In order for us to be able to keep the time taken for review to a minimum, you are kindly requested to return your comments to Jennell Miller (jennell.miller@unlv.edu) by noon on Wednesday, October 15. (PDF or Word Document preferred)

We would appreciate your comments on the following:

1. Does the strategy represent a clear and concise approach?
2. Does the strategy include all the components needed for an effective strategy?
3. Are there any particular elements that need to be strengthened?
4. Do you have any suggestions for improving any of the chapters?
5. Do you have any recommendations for us based on your experience/lessons learned with regional interagency science initiatives?

We appreciate your willingness to provide us with a frank assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the overall strategy. Thank you so much for your contribution to this strategy through your review.

Please access the strategy at: http://www.box.net/shared/re141ol47m or see attached.

Sincerely,

The Interagency Science and Research Team
Southern Nevada Agency Partnership