



## **University Science and a Third Party Role in Participatory Adaptive Management**

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Adaptive management is now the goal of many resource management programs across the US. Nevertheless, there are a variety of definitions of adaptive management and a variety of ways of implementing it. The Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) is one permutation of adaptive management that is uniquely structured to incorporate a university as a neutral third party into the process. The role of the University of California Science Team within SNAMP is to study the implementation and effects of the controversial 2004 Sierra-wide mandated US Forest Service fuels treatment strategy (Strategically Placed Landscape Area Treatments) on fire behavior, forest ecology, water, wildlife, and public participation. The use of the university as a third party researching all these components of US Forest Service treatment projects before, during, and after implementation is a novel addition to adaptive management and is hoped to improve communication between the public and the Forest Service and facilitate public participation. This paper will discuss the basic structure of SNAMP and share preliminary results from the first few years of university participation in and observation of the process.

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