

# Sierra Cascades Dialog #6 on Adaptive Management, May 2012

## Graphic Wall Charts Transcribed

Adaptive Management in Forest Planning Tools and Techniques

Welcome

Purpose

- Increase and deepen our understanding and concerns
- Explore adaptive management
- Adaptive management for each region
- The collaborative model
- A respectful dialog
- A planning framework

Insights! Expertise!

Public Lands Management

- Rural counties
- Forest Leadership
- Forest service
- Forest service staff
- Industry
- Fire safety
- Environmental/conservation
- County government
- Land managers
- Recreation
- Private land owner
- Urban communities
- Scientists
- Water agency
- State government

Ron Pugh

Context:

- Meaningful Oppty. For participation publicly
- Landscape scale looking across boundaries
- Consistency in plans, planning framework
- Assessment and development in integrative management
- Improve managing by monitoring

Change!

- Weather
- Natural disturbances
- Human uses
- Demographics in pop
- New information/assessments
- Research
- Politics

Research updated

Monitoring: continues feedback mechanism

Constraints

- Time, people, money and our ability to work with one another
- Look at the variable scale-is it appropriate ecologically?
- Use existing information updates

Planned Revision - A mutual understanding

Assessment:

- Need for change
- Different alternatives
- Environmental effects
- Interaction (bi-erial)
- Trends
- Questions on resources/issues
- Appropriate boundaries
- Body of information
- Filtering of info

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Adaptive Management in Forest Planning

Questions

Craig Thomas: Sierra Force Legacy

Q: With data and research what do we do with this for a successful outcome?

Connect the imaginary loops:

Monitor, assess, revise - Sharing with scientists, monitoring report in a collaborative report

Q: Structure of how we do it? Have a conversation.

Q: How are you going to trim down all the information for the forest plan transparency and scale?

Conversations/being at the table, help inform...

Q: Organizational structure...culture? Admitting uncertainty and how we manage; are you looking at the stakeholder base?

This is key.

"We will operate differently..."

"...no more pre-decision secrecy..."

People involvement at every step; we're in a slow-turning boat.

Q: Monitoring/social acceptance (is limited on what we do out in the forest...) Where will the connection be made?

Look at: eco systems services balancing...

Context, public understanding

Q: What is the region doing from regional scale down to the forest? (Monitoring) Framework and structure?

We intend to do a bio-regional assessment-

Broader level issues...we'll address these...

Q: What is the cost associated with monitoring? How will you determine the correct monitoring priorities? Subsequent action? Cost?

Congress controls cost

Look at where we are spending on current monitoring

Who does the monitoring? NGOs? County governments?

Q: The larger bigger picture-what are we learning here?

Public education or does this adoptive management feed into forest service internally  
Larger scale information, group learning

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The Adoptive Model Management

John Battles, Kim Rodriguez

Sierra/Nevada, Adoptive/Management, Project/Model = S.N.A.M.P. – US Forest

Started with planned treatment on wildlife

We learned:

- “There’s an information challenge...”
- “We care about the resources...with (heart?)”
- Partnership and collaboration with science team and the public
- Acknowledged our uncertainty; knew the forests were at risk
- Improvement-leveraged protection...that drew consensus
- Research/innovative, transparent research (U.C. cooperative)

Fisher: Adopt with strong public support

- Six research teams: fire, spotted owl, water quality, public on multiple platforms, space
- Learning cycle: Assessment and learning, feedback and adjustment, implement, re-assess

Effectiveness

1. Know information gaps
2. Prospects for learning at the appropriate scale (size)
3. Opportunities for adjustments

Have a clear question...hypothesis, innovation

You have to have a plan...

- Spatial scale
- Time
- Approach, engage the agencies, managers
- Let the public VET the plan...

Have clear goals

- Fire and Forest Health

Committed partners

- State natural resource agencies
- Universities, etc.
- Collaborative framework

Long-term learning

- Share information
- Short term ranges
- Evaluate on a case-by-case process
- “Money”, effort, “limitations”

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Kim Rodriguez on: Educating the Public

“This is a unique process integrating the public...”

Adaptive management can’t be done everywhere:

- Takes labor
- Takes will and commitment
- Building capacity

- Cost, energy

Remember: in building relationships look at optys for agreement first...

Build understanding among diverse groups

Takes time and patience

1. Be clear on what you are about:

- Results
- Process
- Relationships

What do you want to know?

How can I explain this to you?

2. Commit to public engagement

Thoughtful strategic outreach

3. Be honest and up-front in decision making, structure the process

- Define consensus
- What's the fall-back structure...

Critical facilitation

4. Have inter-disciplinary approach

Integration team approach: i.e. regional, forest service, local

5. Commitment

6. Long-term memory

7. Identify key people at the multiple level

8. Distance support

Questions to consider

A clear definition and adapted at what scale?

- Mutual learning
- Define how the monitoring can be done...citizen monitoring
- Tools, assessment on private and public land

Clarify the science for the public

Avoid the endless loop

Clear measurable outcomes

Mutual learning

Know legal constraints

Immediate transfer of information!

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Q: What was the budget?

- Fire forest - \$100,000
- Fisher/owl - \$800,000
- Wildlife - \$800,000
- Water - \$300,000
- Public - \$125,000
- Average year: \$1.7 million

Q: Closed loops – what is this idea?

- Clearly track impact
- What impact its had...

Close the loop...so what?

Adapt into documentation on what was learned...

What difference it made...

Q: How is the forest service defining scope and scale?

Q: Monitoring model-can it happen for forest service? Arrangement for funding? For ecosystem services and partnerships?

- Forest restoration
- Public utilities
- Water agencies
- Looking for ways to fund
- Are we meeting our desired objectives...

Q: Monitoring contracts for snap, its university research driven

Q: What is necessary for adaptive management model?

- Clear goals
- Data gaps
- Research
- Think strategically upfront...
  - Time, energy, effort: know...where you are on the scale...it helps determine expectations

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Adaptive Management Program for the Sierra Cascades

What are your insights to have a robust adaptive management process?

- More operation from the agency with forest boundaries opened up...other forests included...
  - Local monitoring with clear protocols for citizenry
- Public input on a focused item
- Utilize knowledge gleaned such as this forum broaden this out...
  - Multitude of outreach methods grab attention early
- Engaging this citizenry of the forest users-hunters, researchers, cattle men, all interested people
  - Gateway for all
  - Data quality
  - Trends hypothesis
  - Over-arching goals, special attention to the quality of the observers in citizenry monitoring
- Challenges in wide-range of information and constituents...
- Finding the right technology
- Clear base-line date to find where we're going
- Clear definitions: study plan, when and how changes will be made
- How do we do it on a grand scale?
  - Forest inter-disciplinary meetings opened up to public
- Sincere commitment adaptive management as a core component of the organization
  - Public involvement in interpretive part...
- Don't limit public participation, collaborative management could be in data collection...
- Data base on local levels-a clearing house
- Use social media
- Forest service has a web link on a specific planned action item
- Have a P.P.I.Q. (Pesky person involvement quotient)

- Forest service an inward-looking discussion on how to accomplish a realistic monitoring program
- Focus on consensus mine the differences and the trade-offs, tools that answer difference perspectives
- Data base on local levels-a clearing house
- Forest service dramatically changes its way of doing things
  - Present to board of supervisors
  - Develop shared understanding
  - Screen for making decisions on ecological and other kinds of environmental impact
  - Stewardship vacations like Earthwatch
- What's the scope...what will the plan include?
  - Get information on citizen feedback back to the public; purpose of need reflected back

Becky Heath: Thank you for your commitment and passion to the great resource of the forest.