

Participatory Processes

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Participatory process in Adaptive Management:

Adaptive management incorporates stakeholder participation in order to get increased and broader information and make higher quality decisions. Participation takes time, and does not necessarily reduce conflict, but successful participation develops a process that builds trust.

Participatory Processes:

Goals: Create meaningful engagement to build mutual understanding, learning, and trust.

- ❖ involve stakeholders early in the process
- ❖ involve spectrum of people, including those not usually at the table
- ❖ develop high quality information drawing on stakeholder knowledge and ideas
- ❖ maintain transparent process
- ❖ provide a framework that recognizes and acknowledges competing interests
- ❖ identify tradeoffs
- ❖ integrate science and management
- ❖ provide ecological information in ways that enable stakeholder participation
- ❖ provide a process for feedback to scientists and managers.

Some basic principles of participatory processes module:

- ❖ The earlier participation takes place the better
- ❖ Feedback has to be used, there must be the flexibility for meaningful input
- ❖ Real participation takes time, does not necessarily reduce conflict
- ❖ Need to build trust, relationships
- ❖ The workplan itself, for all modules, needs to be "adaptive"

Steps in Adaptive Management / Monitoring: (How we think AM/M works)

1. Determine current management goals.
2. Gather and synthesize existing knowledge to develop working models that guides initial predictions of management outcomes.
3. Design and implement management in accordance with principles of experimentation.
4. Monitor and evaluate the results of the management action.
5. Incorporate what is learned into the working model; re-evaluate options.
6. Adjust management as indicated by results evaluation and re-assessment of project goals.

- In the case of the Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project, our larger-scale goals have been decided by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan itself. However, each project initiative will have local and multifaceted goals that can be considered in the development of management prescriptions. Our working premise is that we need stakeholder participation and feedback during each phase of this adaptive management program, and we are committed to a transparent decision-making process.

Methods:

- ❖ web-based interface for capturing feedback, and allowing interaction with mapped data (webGIS)
- ❖ public meetings like this one
- ❖ surveys, telephone or written
- ❖ techniques like cognitive mapping, etc. that involve a certain set of people in an intensive process that helps them develop working relationships
- ❖ participate in meetings of existing groups
- ❖ smaller groups like focus groups, invited meetings
- key informant interviews
- ❖ having continued UC participation with someone working in each area
- ❖ others?

Questions for Discussion:

How do we know when we have succeeded?

How do we measure success