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Adaptive Management Principles

1. In addition to identifying potential activities, it is necessary to prioritize and justify them in regards to ecological thresholds and importance to restoring the ecosystem. Some things are really good science but their immediate value to the manager and others may be limited. Developing an independent process for prioritizing and implementing can go a long ways to avoiding study gridlock.
2. Adaptive management programs must be developed with an experimental basis in mind. Changing just to change will not cut it. have specific hypotheses to test and apply.
3. The hypotheses should be defined in both short-term and long-term perspective. What is important and what is just fine-tuning?
4. Who are the decision-makers and in what form do they need the results?
5. Have the results peer reviewed by outside sources to ensure that biases (real or perceived) don't drive the program.
6. Set specific time limits for each section to help keep the participants on a focused effort.

Kevin - I am going to give this **definition of Adaptive Management** some more thought in respect to the comments that you forwarded me. Just to get the ball rolling though, the definition that I have used in my publications and articles takes into account a couple of key points;

1. Adaptive Management is only words on paper until it is applied. Many people today are using it as the new mantra for resource management. Unfortunately in what I have seen lately is the traditional power brokers have picked it up as a shield by which they can avoid making necessary changes for the environment. To them everything is adaptive management. In retrospect, Adaptive Management grew out of the scientific world where we realized that we needed to do something for the species/habitats even if we did not have all the information to make a definitive conclusion. Therefore Adaptive management was basically a way to move forward management and research wise while learning.
2. Adaptive Management must be looked at in both short-and long-term perspectives. You must have long-term objectives of what or where you want your resources to get to (i.e. delisting, habitat restoration, biological integrity, etc). The short-term steps to get there is the "learning as you go" process. This is short-term Adaptive Management. People sometimes get too hung up on the process and forget why we initiated the effort in the first place.
3. In a document that has been submitted to "Environmental Management" for publication, we have defined Adaptive Management simplistically as "a technique for coupling science and management so that each responds to the needs and information of the other. Neither undertaking is consistently subordinated, rather each has areas of high priority. Scientific research is focused on those areas of greatest importance to managers, while management activities are planned and monitored as a series of ongoing experiments". I know that is long and I will work to break it down some more. The key issue is "learning by doing".