Planning for Environmental Change

Facilitators

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Collectively advance our ability to plan for environmental change by testing a new decision-making framework





How do we best make management decisions in the face of a changing landscape?

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R



RESIST

Some changes can be resisted. Managers will work to maintain ecosystem processes, function, and composition without experiencing dramatic, threshold-crossing changes.

ACCEPT

Many changes can be accepted, perhaps because they cannot feasibly be resisted or because they are acceptable to-or even desirable by-society. Managers will work to ease the transition.

DIRECT

A few changes can be directed toward a different state, either because resistance is unrealistic or there is an opportunity to direct the change to a more desirable future state. Managers will face a new frontier in overseeing this process.

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How do we <u>as managers/planners</u>

best make management decisions in the face of a changing landscape?

Envision your own situation:

What is the problem (i.e., change) you are working to manage/plan?











Rebounding bald eagle populations in response to habitat improvements





No Farms No Food

Natural prairie regeneration due to improved land use decisions











No Farms No Food

Oyster reef restoration to combat water quality degradation.













NO ACTION, NO THREAT









Outcomes are achieved <u>regardless of my</u> investment



Outcomes are achieved <u>regardless of my</u> investment

Outcomes are achieved because of my investment

The manager's conundrum:



Action



The manager's conundrum:







The manager's conundrum:



Approaching Environmental Change



What is the size of my threat? i.e. – what is my management goal?





Approaching Environmental Change



What is my "applicability" dependent on?



Applicability

What is the size of my threat? i.e. – what is my management goal?



No Farms No Food

Approaching Environmental Change



What is the size of my threat? i.e. – what is my management goal? What is my "applicability" dependent on?



What is the size of my adaptive capacity? i.e. – what is in my manager's toolbox?





We must consider the intersection of two things:

The size of my threat

The size of my adaptive capacity







Farmland protection as an example:

Adaptive capacity is not fixed







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1 ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Will the change be bad?

- If no: can the change be made better?
- If yes: can the change be stopped?

No, No = Accept (no action required; Idle) No, Yes = Direct (any action required; Direct) Yes, No = Adapt (discern if action has value; Futile) Yes, Yes = Resist (ongoing action required; Stable)

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What capacities do I have at my fingertips?

- Economic resources
- Human resources
- Knowledge
- Infrastructure
- Institutions
- Etc.

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Is the scope of my adaptive capacities (#2) equal to or greater than the scope of my environmental change (#1)?

- If yes: Great! Go get 'em!
- If no:

Are my efforts worthwhile despite having relatively low adaptive capacity?

- If yes: where do I need to increase my adaptive capacity, and how do I do that?
- If no: re-tool or re-allocate. I.e., where can I utilize my adaptive capacities instead?



Breakout Groups:

Test this framework using your own challenges

Is this useful? Where does this shine? How can this be improved? Is this new? Where does this break down? What is it missing?

SHARE YOUR NOTES

https://tinyurl.com/AFTChange

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GROUP FEEDBACK

Can you use this framework in your own settings?

What worked for you?

What didn't work for you?

Other feedback?





Thank You

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