

ORGANIZATION OF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT EFFORTS: TRADEOFFS FOR DECISION MAKERS

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ABSTRACT

Adaptive management is being widely implemented to manage natural resources in the United States. Projects utilizing adaptive management include large-scale aquatic ecosystem restoration projects and water resources infrastructure (e.g., dams). These efforts are characterized by distinct governance structures that have found varying degrees of success in balancing among human and environmental water needs. This presentation discusses several case studies in ongoing adaptive management efforts in the United States, with a focus on the governance structure and organizational principles for each effort. Our findings show that in practice, the concept of adaptive management is employed in a number of different ways. It analyzes some of the main differences among recent efforts, and notes strengths and weaknesses of various models of adaptive management. It concludes by offering choices for those organizing adaptive management efforts in the future, including government officials.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: Adaptive Management, Governance