

Adaptive Management Forum 2021

Information Sheet



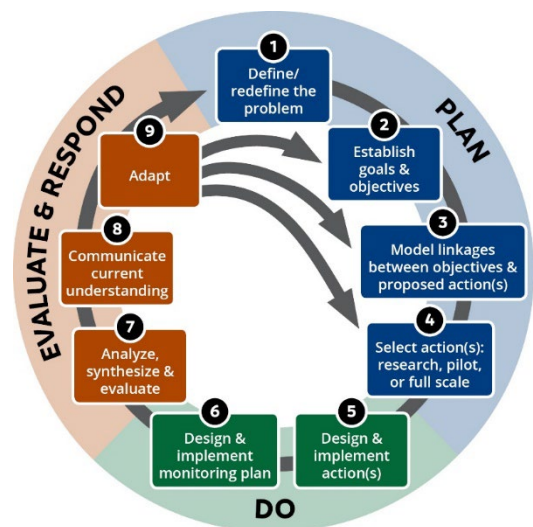
Delta
Science
Program

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

- Managing the complex Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta system requires adaptive management, especially in the face of climate change.
- Every two years the Delta Science Program convenes the Adaptive Management Forum, a venue for communication and information sharing.
- The 2021 Adaptive Management Forum brought together lessons learned from the past, insights from the present, and visions for the future of adaptive management in the San Francisco Estuary.
- The next Adaptive Management Forum will be held in 2023.

What is adaptive management?

Adaptive management is an evidence-based approach to addressing an ongoing need for decision-making in complex, high-impact situations. It enables an active learning process to advance an objective – whether it be the development of effective restoration strategies for the Delta’s ecosystem or testing the ability of a flow action to change the dominant flow direction. This three-part approach (plan, do, and evaluate and respond) guides our work at the Delta Science Program to align Delta decision-making with the best available science for the advancement of the coequal goals.



To learn more, visit the [Delta Science Program’s adaptive management web page](#).

What is the Adaptive Management Forum?

The Adaptive Management Forum brings together people at work across the estuary to exchange knowledge and experience related to adaptive management.

Target audiences for the Forum include:

- Planners, managers, funders, and decision-makers from State, federal, and collaborative agencies;
- Representatives of water districts, local government, reclamation and conservation districts, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations (NGOs), and tribes; and
- Scientists from agencies, NGOs, academia, and consulting firms.

The 2021 Adaptive Management Forum highlighted the past, present, and future of adaptive management in the Delta, featuring three days of presentations, panel discussions, and interactive workshops.

What were the goals of the 2021 Adaptive Management Forum?

The goals of the 2021 Forum were to:

- **Synthesize** lessons learned from prior ecosystem restoration and water management projects and research efforts;
- **Foster** information sharing about adaptive management;
- **Strengthen** science-management interactions by connecting decision-makers, practitioners, scientists, and other interested parties; and
- **Stimulate** dialogue around a shared vision of adaptive management.

Where can I access 2021 Adaptive Management Forum summaries and recordings?

These resources and more are available on [Maven's Notebook](#).

When will the next Adaptive Management Forum be held?

The next Adaptive Management Forum will be held in 2023. Those interested in serving on the planning committee should email adaptivemanagement@deltacouncil.ca.gov. To receive updates on this event and others, please subscribe to our [listserv](#).

2021 Adaptive Management Forum Recap

Adaptive management: Looking back at the history

In their opening plenary presentations, keynote speakers Phil Isenberg (founding chair of the Delta Stewardship Council) and Dr. Mike Healey (professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia and former member of the Delta Independent Science Board) reflected on the conceptual and legal origins of adaptive management in the Delta and its evolution over the last two decades. They conveyed that, while adaptive management is by no means new, its outcomes, ecological benefits, and legal authority as a framework for Delta management are determined by the actions and decisions being made right now.

Adaptive management: Here and now

Presentations highlighted adaptive management activities in the Bay-Delta, including approaches to adaptive management planning, successes, surprises, and lessons learned from projects, and mechanisms and tools supporting adaptive management. Interactive workshops focused on creating an adaptive management plan using tools developed by the [Interagency Adaptive Management Integration Team](#); restoration permitting challenges, with a world café-style dialogue between regulatory and resource agency staff; and projecting social and ecological outcomes of restoration actions using the GIS-based [Landscapes Scenario Planning Tool](#).

Adaptive management: Toward an uncertain future

In their closing plenary presentations, Dr. Letitia Grenier (co-director of the Resilient Landscapes Program at the San Francisco Estuary Institute), and Dr. Laurel Larsen (Delta lead scientist) addressed the needs and opportunities for adaptive management in a dramatically changing Bay-Delta system. These scientific leaders offered bold, transformative visions for science, governance, and community engagement to meet the needs of an uncertain future.