2nd NCER APRIL 2007
Introduction to Adaptive Management for Natural Resource Practitioners[1]

Kansas City, Missouri – April 23-28, 2007

PRE-CONFERENCE TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
Offered by Collaborative Adaptive Management Network (CAMNet)

Monday, April 2007 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Because participation is limited to 50 attendees, registration must be completed by April 13, 2007
No cost for registration

Instructors
Kent Loftin (SynInt, Inc.) and Tom St. Clair (PBS&J)

Objective: To introduce principles of adaptive management (AM) to natural resource practitioners from diverse backgrounds including planning, engineering design, environmental monitoring and assessment, and evaluation of land and water programs and projects. Special attention will be paid to AM in the management of water resource programs/projects associated with high levels of uncertainty and/or conflict, particularly scenarios where NEPA and protected species are involved.

Background: The concept of AM has developed over the past 20+ years and can be defined as "*a collaborative process whereby multiple stakeholders use adaptive management to learn and develop a shared understanding about, and establish goals, objectives, and management policies for, an ecosystem.*" AM is not "the way we have always been doing things." AM moves from traditional "rule following behavior" where resource management policies and actions are both prescriptive and static, to an innovative science and performance-based approach of achieving desired outcomes. AM emphasizes adjustments to management actions and policies based on new scientific and socioeconomic information which is designed to improve management by learning from the ecosystems being affected. The implementation of AM serves to minimize disputes and enhance the likelihood of sustainable solutions with the application of AM to natural resource management.

Topics: This course presents the tools, methods, and ideas associated with the use of AM particularly those designed to be of immediate value to natural resource practitioners. The course will be taught using a combination of a brief lecture and practical group exercises designed to provide participants with "hands-on" experience in developing a mock AM program. Topics to be discussed include: experimental design, monitoring and evaluation, collaboration, and consensus building with stakeholders and environmental organizations.

Workshop Benefits: At the conclusion of the workshop, attendees will have: (1) a fundamental understanding of what AM is and is not, and (2) a familiarity of potential pitfalls and barriers to implementation of AM. Attendees with be introduced to a network of practitioners (CAMNet) who can provide consultation subsequent to the NCER Conference. Participants will be provided a list of contacts that are available to provide assistance in the development and implementation of AM programs. Finally, participants will also be provided with information about when and where additional training and certification in AM is available.

Number of Students: The number of students will be limited to 50. Students will be enrolled in the order in which their registration is received.

[1] Offered by CAMNet in conjunction with PBS&J and SynInt, Inc.