

# Mitigation, Adaptation, Resilience: The Evolving Role of Climate Change in Restoration



Matt Goldman, P.E.  
Weston Solutions, Inc.



# What I'd Like to Cover Today



- The climate change – ecosystem restoration link
- How the language describing that link is evolving
- Why that is important
- Suggestions for how that knowledge moving forward



# Link Between Climate Change and Ecosystem Restoration

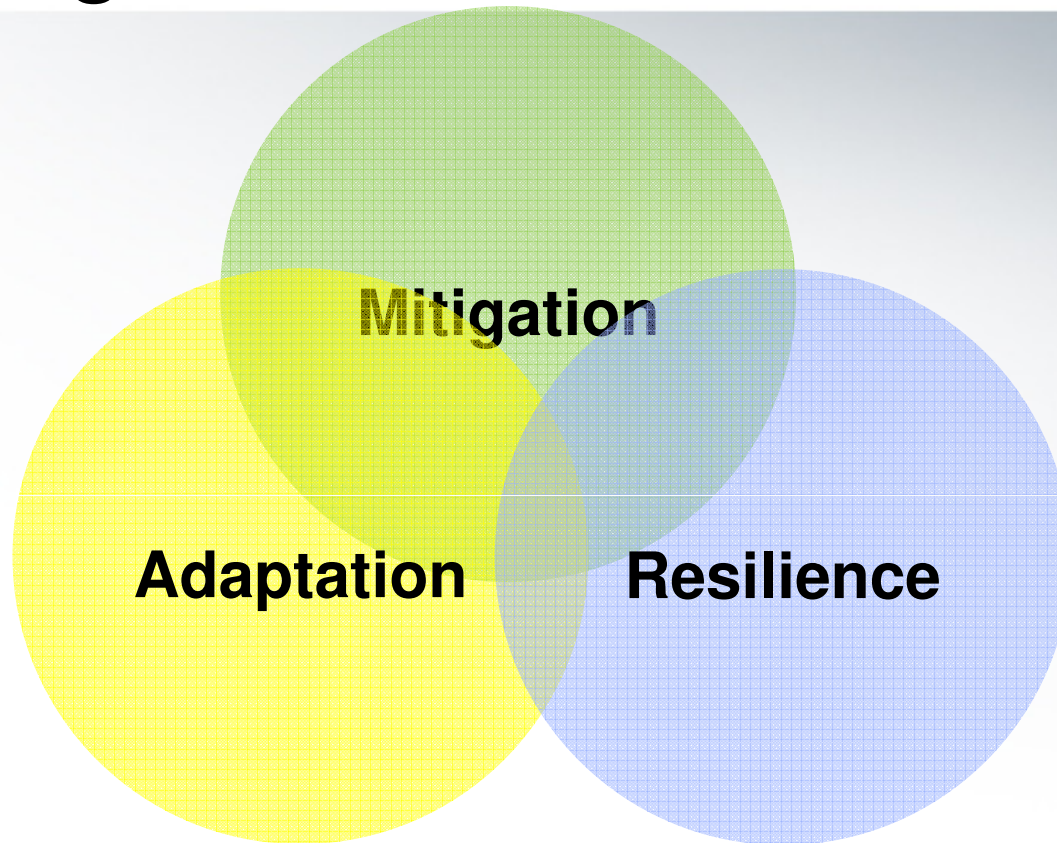


- Well established scientifically
- Understood in other countries
  - General public
  - Politicians

*Successful implementation can be dependent on how the message is perceived*



# Dialogue About This Link Keeps Evolving



*Which link is emphasized as a driver for restoration depends upon time and place*

# Some Language Used Regarding the Restoration- Mitigation Link



***“SER strongly urges local, regional, and national***

***“The core of the Forest Service response to climate change will center around adaptation (actions that reduce the vulnerability of species and ecosystems to the effects of a changing climate) and mitigation (activities that directly reduce or offset the greenhouse gas emissions that lead to climate change).”***

US Forest Service, 2010

Society for Ecological Restoration International, August 2007



# Moving on to the Restoration-Adaptation Link



**“Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification. “**

Convention on Biological Diversity, 2010



Convention on  
Biological Diversity

# And the Restoration-Resilience Link



- “One of the most important ways in which we can
- “ This input has led the Task Force to narrow its focus to the following priority areas:**
- **Enhance Community Resilience**
  - **Restore and Conserve Habitat**
    - **Restore Water Quality**
  - **Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources”**

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, 2011

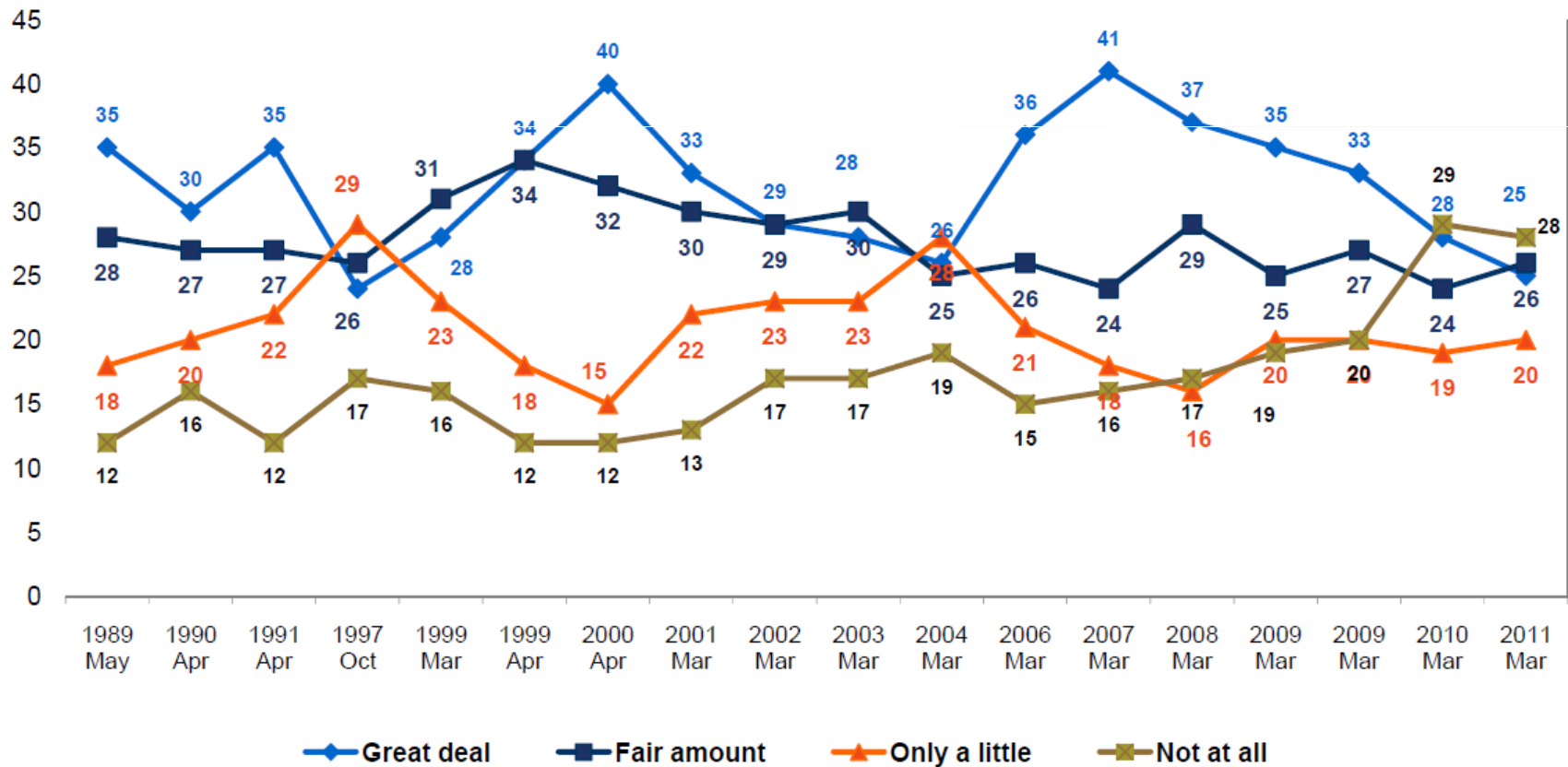


# Why Does This Language Continue to Evolve?



## Public Perceptions of Global Warming

(% of US adults, who evaluated "concern")



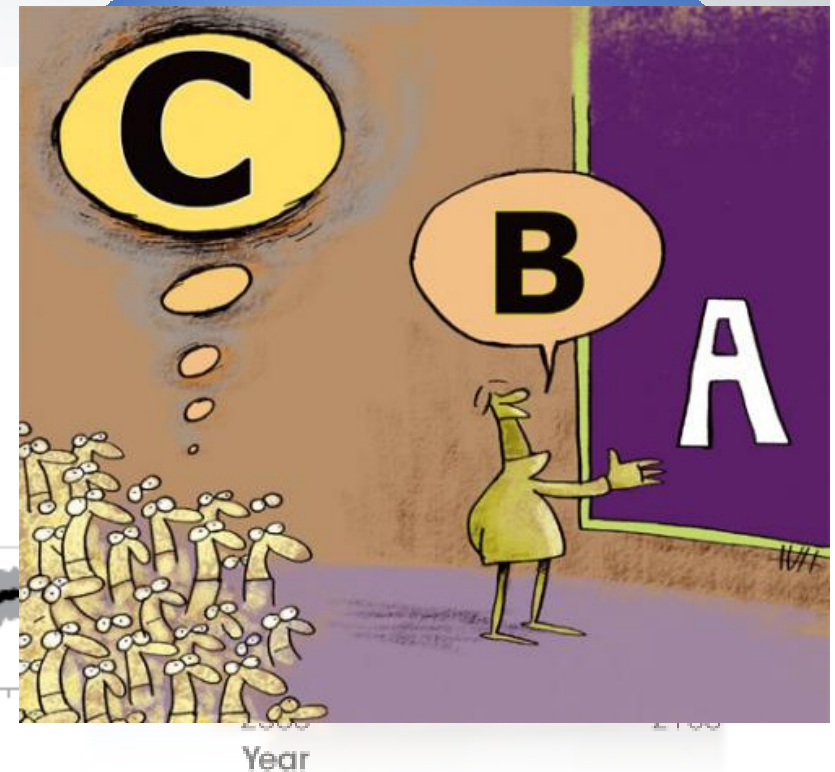




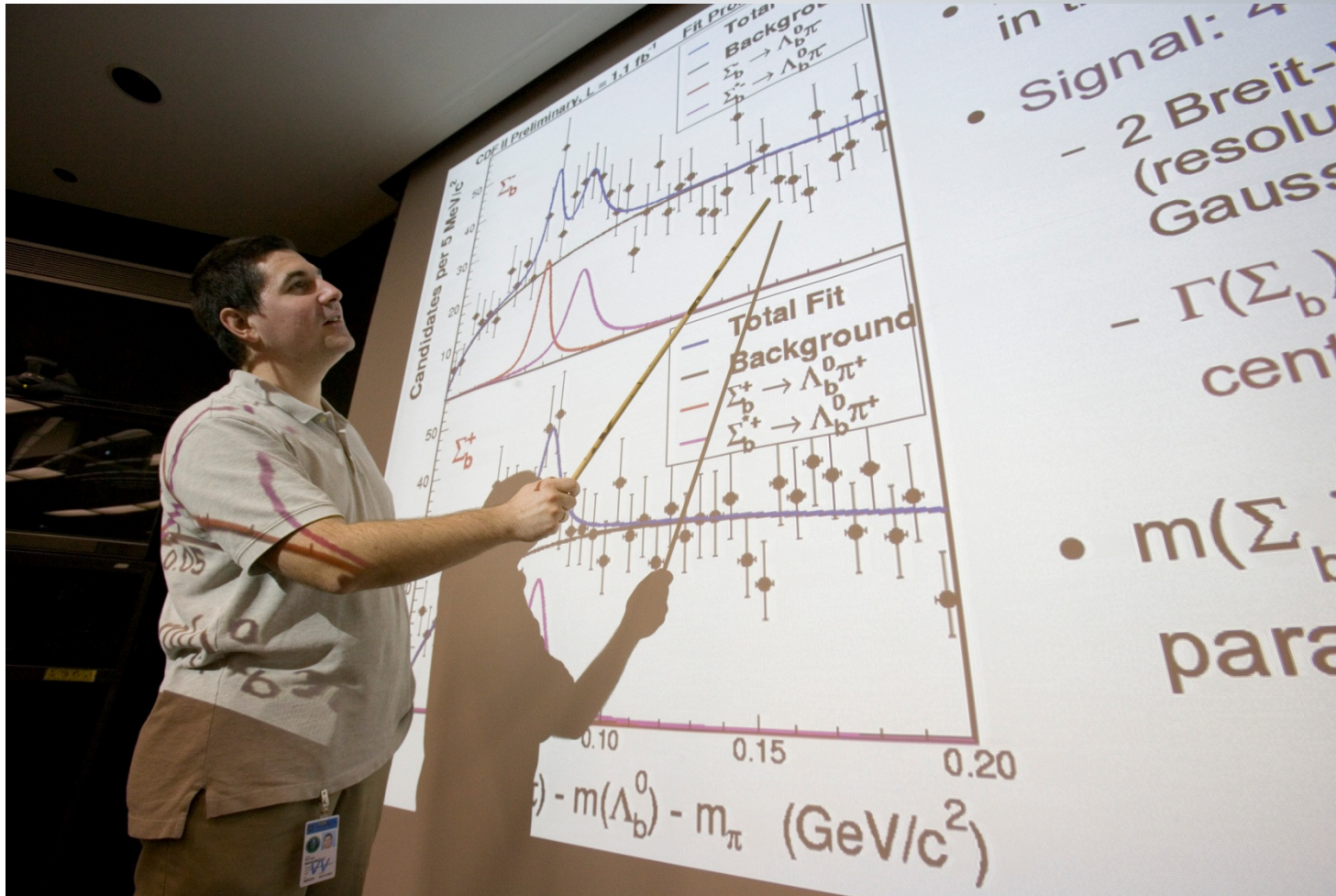
# Why Is This Important?

- Climate change is not going away
  - Enhance understanding of link to ecosystem restoration
- Funding decisions affected by public understanding of scientific understanding
- Language makes a difference
  - Some language more charged than others
  - The wrong words can kill a project
  - The right words are dependent upon audience

Global Surface Warming (°C)



# Suggestions for Moving Forward



- Don't let you know the way
- NATIVE FORESTS RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS



Matt Goldman, P.E.  
Sustainability Director  
Weston Solutions, Inc.  
617.484.1837

[Matt.Goldman@westonsolutions.com](mailto:Matt.Goldman@westonsolutions.com)

