

CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

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Abstract: Under the premise of change, we need to re-think our approaches to conservation management. Strategies of dealing with change have been discussed and elaborated by many; Millar et al. (2007) spoke of flexible approaches that combine adaptation and mitigation strategies and using a mixture of resistance, resilience, and response options. Stephens et al. (2010) goes further and suggests we should consider realignment strategies that could move systems into different conditions than occurred in the past. Cole et al. (2010) discussed management strategies for responding to climate change and suggested to start by articulating forward-looking goals that help define when and how to intervene in a system. The steps they describe including identifying indicators, setting baselines of acceptable variation, assessing vulnerabilities, establishing monitoring programs, and identifying appropriate adaptive responses. This talk will focus on linking these steps of decision making to new strategies and will show how the decision-making process, which is also a learning process, can help us re-define our objectives to meet our uncertain future.