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This issue of Water Resources Impact and the upcoming AWRA 2006 Summer Specialty Conference on “Adaptive Management of Water Resources” are intended to help build a broader, common understanding of the critical issues, criteria, and processes required in order to develop effective, efficient, and scientifically credible adaptive management programs that meet the needs of water users, water managers, and policy and decision makers.

**FEATURE ARTICLES**

5 Adaptive Management: What’s It All About?  
*Jack Ward Thomas (jwth@forestry.umt.edu)*  
Adaptive management is quite the rage today in the realm of renewable natural resources management. However, while adaptive management is simple in concept it is becoming increasingly difficult to implement in a timely fashion. This is especially true in the face of newly emerging science and court decisions, continually changing administrative and congressional directions, and ever changing public opinion and economic realities.

8 Adaptive Management: Roots of the Reform  
*Steve S. Light (light006@umn.edu)*  
This article explores the influence that C.S. Holling and others had on the origins of adaptive management theory and its application to natural resource management. Of particular interest is the early recognition of changes needed to enable better communication between science and policy to derive the temporal and fiscal benefits of “learning by doing.”

11 Genesis and Anatomy of Water Resources Adaptive Management: Components, Approaches, Benefits  
*John C. Tracy (tracy@uidaho.edu)*  
Adaptive management has become the latest buzzword in addressing the management of large and complex environmental systems. A brief overview is provided on where the ideas and terms came from, and what components are needed to claim that you have an adaptive management process.

*Thomas St. Clair (thomas.stclair@saj02.usace.army.mil)*  
*Elmar G. Kurzbach, Jeff Trulick, Greg Knecht, & James E. Boone*  
Adaptive management has the potential to transform the regulatory permitting process of water resource project in the United States by allowing permits to be issued even when uncertainty and controversy prevail. This article describes circumstances when use of adaptive management may be warranted in the permitting process and articulates potential benefits.

18 Use of Environmental Management Systems to Operate Sustainable Water Resource Adaptive Management  
*Mathew McMillen (mathew.mcmillen@faa.gov) & Mark F. Colosimo*  
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process can be used to initiate adaptive management actions but lacks a mechanism to ensure monitoring and corrective action. Environmental Management Systems offer processes complementary to NEPA that can provide monitoring and corrective action for implementing adaptive management actions at the watershed level.

21 The Future of Water Resources Adaptive Management: Challenges and Overcoming Them  
*Donald F. Boesch (boesch@ca.umces.edu)*  
*Patricia N. Manley, & Theodore S. Melis*  
Adaptive management is being applied in major efforts to restore ecosystems ranging from the Colorado River to the Everglades, where it is generally regarded as not yet successful. Based on the authors’ experiences, six common challenges are identified and means to overcome them are recommended.

24 Use of Water Markets to Operate Sustainable Water Resources: Benefits and Challenges  
*Marc O. Ribaudo (mribaudo@ers.usda.gov) & Mark F. Colosimo*  
An adaptive management approach can reduce uncertainties about the relationships between management and water resources that hinder effective management. However, adaptive management also introduces a dynamic element to policy that could result in unintended consequences in terms of economic efficiency and environmental quality.
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**JULY 2006**
SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES
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**SEPTEMBER 2006**
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**JANUARY 2007**
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All of the topics listed above are subject to change. For information concerning submitting an article to be included in the above issues, contact the designated Associate Editor or the Editor-In-Chief N. Earl Spangenberg at (espangen@uwsp.edu).