

**American Water Resources Association
2009 SUMMER SPECIALTY CONFERENCE
Adaptive Management of Water Resources II
June 29 – July 1, 2009
Snowbird, UT**

Monday, June 29

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Session 5: Panel - Adaptive Management in Practice: Policy, Law, and Stakeholder Involvement

Panelist Participants:

Mike Mayer, The Louis Berger Group, Inc., Kansas City, MO
Greg Arthaund, USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC

Session 5 is the second in a track of four sessions (Sessions 1, 5, 9 and 13) addressing adaptive management and its use, applications, and the institutional framework. These sessions will provide a practical framework and approach to learning-based management of natural resources, whereby learning occurs through the process of management itself and management strategy is adjusted through time based on what is learned. Sessions 1, 5, 9 and 13 described below include panel discussions, technical presentations, and place-based examples of the adaptive management of aquatic resources.

Policy, law, and stakeholder involvement are key factors in connecting science and decision making. The combination of the three factors represents an institutional framework that needs to be considered in developing and implementing adaptive management decision processes.

This session addresses the importance of explicitly considering the institutional framework within the context of adaptive management. Adaptive management requires an open decision making process, in which stakeholders are directly engaged. Objectives, assumptions, and other elements within the decision process need to be explicit and amenable to analysis and debate. In addition, statutory authorities such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) apply directly to adaptive management and need to be considered within the decision process. Understanding the institutional framework and the relationship between policy, law, and stakeholders is critical to the adaptive management process.

The presentations in this session build directly on the discussion from the previous panel on "An Adaptive Management Overview: Defining, Using, and Recognizing Success."