

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
Washington

ORDER NO. 3270

SIGNATURE DATE: March 9, 2007

Subject: Adaptive Management

Sec. 1 **Purpose.** This Order provides policy guidance and procedures for implementing adaptive management.

Sec. 2 **Background.** Adaptive management (AM) has great promise as an effective means to address significant resource management challenges under conditions of uncertainty. AM has proved to be a useful approach in cases such as the Bureau of Reclamation's management of Glen Canyon Dam and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's determination of annual waterfowl harvests. New challenges, such as the Gulf of Mexico's Coast recovery from hurricane damage may greatly benefit from AM.

The Department created the intradepartmental Adaptive Management Working Group (AMWG) in 2005 to develop AM guidance, formulate an AM training program, and develop an AM Web site to assist managers and practitioners. The AMWG's work has been published in *Adaptive Management: The U.S. Department of the Interior Technical Guide*. The Technical Guide is a key component of the Department's AM training program and Web site.

As the Technical Guide points out, AM is not applicable to all resource management situations. Consideration of AM is warranted when: (a) there are consequential decisions to be made; (b) there is an opportunity to apply learning; (c) the objectives of management are clear; (d) the value of reducing uncertainty is high; (e) uncertainty can be expressed as a set of competing, testable models; and (f) an experimental design and monitoring system can be put in place with a reasonable expectation of reducing uncertainty.

Sec. 3 **Authority.** This Order is issued under the authority of 16 U.S.C. § 4602 (a) and Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended.

Sec. 4 **Policy.** *Adaptive Management: The U.S. Department of the Interior Technical Guide* serves as the technical basis for decision making in AM. Bureaus should incorporate the operational components identified in the report – the AM definition, the conditions under which AM should be considered, and the process for implementing and evaluating AM effectiveness – into pertinent internal programmatic guidance to assure the appropriate application of AM, and in so doing, reference the *Technical Guide*.

Sec. 5 **Implementation.** The Assistant Secretary – Policy, Management and Budget is responsible for implementing this Order in conjunction with other Assistant Secretaries and Bureau Heads.

Sec. 6 **Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first. In the absence of any of the foregoing actions, the provisions of this Order will terminate and be considered obsolete on February 1, 2008.

/s/ DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Secretary of the Interior

SO#3270 3/9/07

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