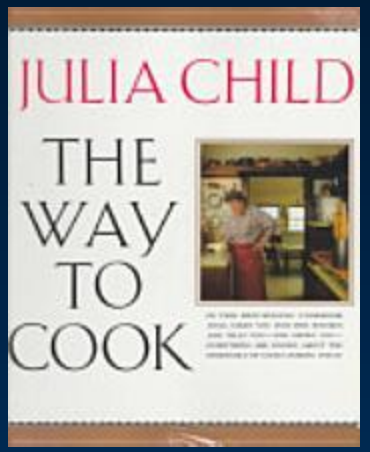
Key Characteristics of Climate-Smart Conservation

Patty Glick
National Wildlife Federation

Climate Smart Conservation "The Way to Cook"



- Developing criteria and guidance on "climate-smart" conservation
- Interagency/cross-sectoral workgroup
- Not a cookbook with recipes
  - Rather, "the way to cook"

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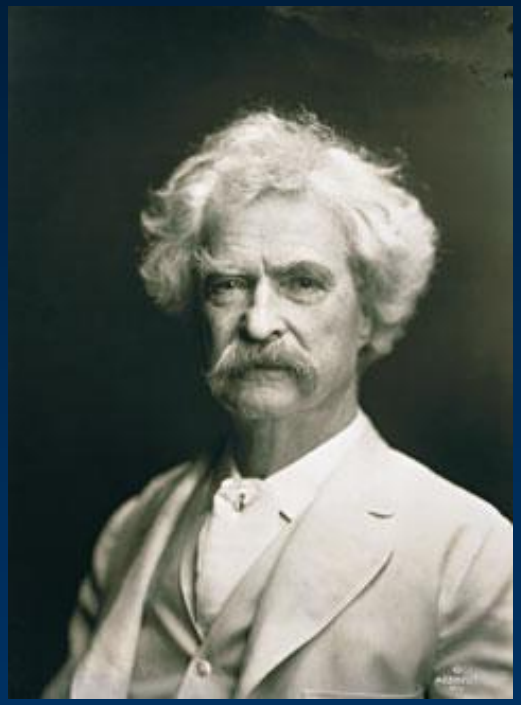
Key Characteristics of Climate-Smart Conservation

- A “Cliff’s Notes” version for good adaptation
- Builds on, doesn’t replace existing best practice in conservation
- But, in the face of climate change…



Good Conservation Isn’t Good Enough

Actions Linked to Climate Impacts

- Show your work!
- Vulnerability assessment can provide this linkage
- Climate lens important even if you continue doing the same thing

Forward-Looking Goals

- Be explicit about goals
- Look forward, but consider historical variability
- Buying time may still have a place

Broader Landscape Context

- Shifting patterns will require broader geographic perspective
- Most actions are local
  - But should have landscape context
- Geographic and institutional boundaries

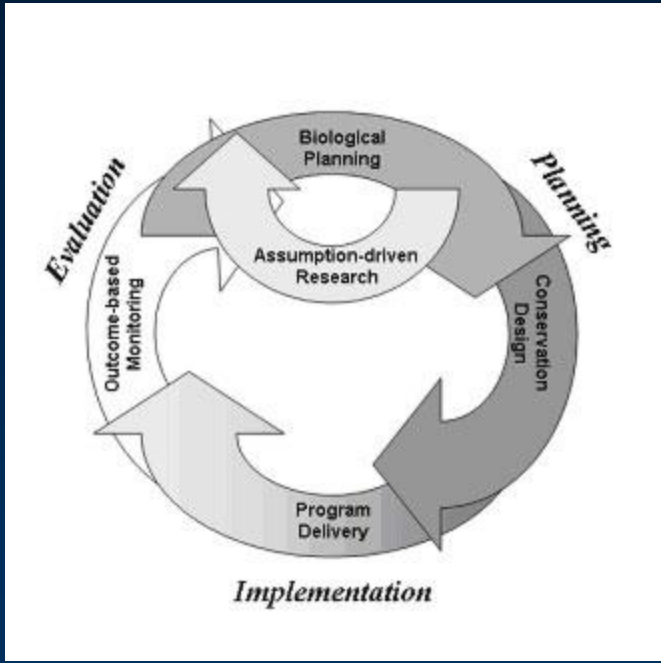
Wyoming fossil palm

Robust in an Uncertain Future

- We will be surprised!
  - Climate shifts
  - Ecological response
  - Human response
- Look for solutions that work across multiple possible futures
  - But some strategies will be scenario-specific

Agile and Informed Management

- Transparency is key
- Continuous and dynamic learning
  - to deal with surprises and uncertainty
- Adaptive management one, but not only approach



FWS Strategic Habitat Conservation framework

Minimizes Carbon Footprint

- Don’t contribute to underlying global warming problem
- Minimize energy use
  - No air conditioners for polar bears!
- Supports ecosystem ability to cycle and sequester carbon/ methane

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Climate Influence on Project Success

- Two types of projects
  - Designed specifically to address climate impacts
  - Existing projects in need of climate "retrofit"
- Consider vulnerability of projects to climate impacts
- Avoid clearly compromised investments
  - Unless part of a considered transition strategy

Degrading wetlands, coastal LA

Safeguards People and Wildlife

- Co-benefits to people important politically, financially, ethically
- Focus on non-structural approaches to reduce human vulnerabilities that also have wildlife benefit

Avoids Maladaptation

- Pressures will be great to use engineering fixes, especially to reduce human vulnerability
- In addressing one impact, consider potential consequences on other resources
- Evaluating trade-offs will be increasingly important

Grand Coulee Dam

Los Angeles River

Your Mission --
To Guard Against

Back-off man. I'm a scientist .
– Dr. Peter Venkman