Adaptive Assessment: Models and Methods for Collaborative Resilience Assessment

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Abstract

The social, spatial, and temporal complexities of fire management challenges often overwhelm current conservation strategies and institutions, many of which remain mired in outmoded theories, concepts, and standards of practice (Pyne 2004). These challenges are not categorically unique; forestry professionals confront similar complexities when dealing with the challenges posed by insects, disease, urbanization, and climate change (Keen and Mahanty, 2006). Complexity is further compounded by socio-economic heterogeneity in wildfire-prone communities in the Wilderness Urban Interface (WUI).

In order to successfully build adaptive capacity, WUI communities must account for this complexity as they seek to both understand their current capacities and to create collective future goals. The collaborative framework, in its discursive and adaptive nature, may offer some possibility here. Drawing broadly from the literature, we present a number of exemplary cases of collaborative assessment – emphasizing context-driven, adaptable processes while also highlighting emergent themes and seeking to ground them in applicability to our work with WUI communities through the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network.

References


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