



# CERP Adaptive Management Program - Evaluating Options and Resolving Competing Objectives

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# Competing Objectives Defined for This Presentation

- Competing objectives occur when a proposed management action designed to improve environmental conditions for one component of the ecosystem is recognized to potentially have detrimental consequences to another component of the ecosystem
- Each competing objective may be viewed as having considerable merit; however, societal values and funding constraints influence decision-making
- Resolving conflicts should be science-based, but is value-driven

# Addressing Competing Objectives is Part of Feedback to Decision Making Process (Activity 8)

- Collaborative problem-solving is a structured process for articulating different interests and perspectives and developing strategies to meet multiple needs
- Role of science:
  - Present new information, reduce uncertainty and predict probable outcomes
  - Support resolution of competing objectives by framing them as testable hypotheses
- A collaborative approach can help link scientific knowledge with the social, political, and economic knowledge needed to develop integrated solutions to competing objectives
- Role of decision makers is to incorporate all available scientific information into decision making



# Examples of CERP Competing Objectives



# Path Forward – Resolving Competing Objectives for CERP

- Acknowledge that competing objectives exist within CERP
- Recognize role of adaptive management in supporting resolution of competing objectives
- Compile a list of competing objectives for CERP
- Establish a collaborative process for resolving competing objectives
- Develop decision-support tools to compare potential outcomes, values, risk and uncertainty