

What Do Water Managers Want?

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- **CYA**
- **WTF**
- **TMI**
- **KISS**

CYA: Cover Your Assessment

- Water managers are a diverse group that take a wide range of actions
 - Issue a permit
 - Build a retention basin
 - Choose a crop
 - Set a rate
 - Craft a program
 - Offer an incentive
 - Adjust a reservoir release
 - Drill a well
 - Acquire a supply
 - Decommission a dam
 - Comply with a regulation
 - ...

CYA: Cover Your Assessment

- The level of “assessment” also varies widely
 - Past experience
 - Professional judgement
 - Formal analysis, modeling, etc.
 - Stakeholder process
 - 3rd Party analysis
 - ...

CYA: Cover Your Assessment

- Water managers are often seeking ways to improve the confidence in their decisions and recommendations
- Increasingly, water managers are being asked “Did you consider climate change?”
 - Rarely considered in isolation

CYA: Cover Your Assessment

- Incorporating climate science into a water manager's *existing* assessment framework is ideal

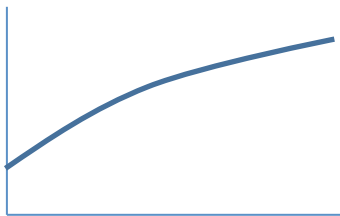
WTF: Ways To Frame

Issue framing is an often underappreciated component of decisionmaking

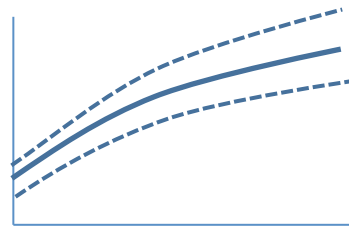
- Climate issues present particular challenges
 - Time-scale
 - Complexity
 - Uncertainty
 - Polarization

WTF: Ways To Frame

- Water managers need techniques and vocabulary to convey the context, results and uncertainty of climate science



Best Guess



Most Probable



Likely Scenario



Most Robust

WTF: Ways To Frame

- When possible, connect climate science to things water managers already care about
 - Risk, uncertainty, variability, and co-benefits

TMI: Train My Intuition

- Policy and decisionmaking occurs all the time, in ways that may not be recognized as such
 - Numerous, fact specific issues
 - Often resolved by small number of people
- Data and analysis are often secondary to influence, passion, organizational culture and informed intuition

TMI: Train My Intuition

- The opportunity is for knowledge of climate science to be embodied in *individuals*
- Find receptive individuals, and feed them a steady diet¹ of sector-relevant summary products, key insights, and cool stuff

¹ A garden hose, not a fire hose!

KISS: Keep It Simple, Seasholes

- The interface between water managers and elected officials is particularly tricky
- Expecting elected officials to understand complex issues deeply may not be reasonable
 - Busy people with competing responsibilities
 - Decisionmaking is often a leap-of-faith
 - Decisions are hard; empathy helps

KISS: Keep It Simple, Seasholes

- Simplifying an issues is not the same thing as “dumbing down”
 - Water managers must *distill* issues to the elements that are relevant and essential
- The challenge is to remember the objective:
To have a decision made

KISS: Keep It Simple, Seasholes

- Water managers want climate scientists to understand the importance of the operational, legal, political, cultural and financial constraints they face

Questions?