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SLIDES: Pinedale Anticline Project Area: The Adaptive Management Process

Prill Mecham

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Citation Information

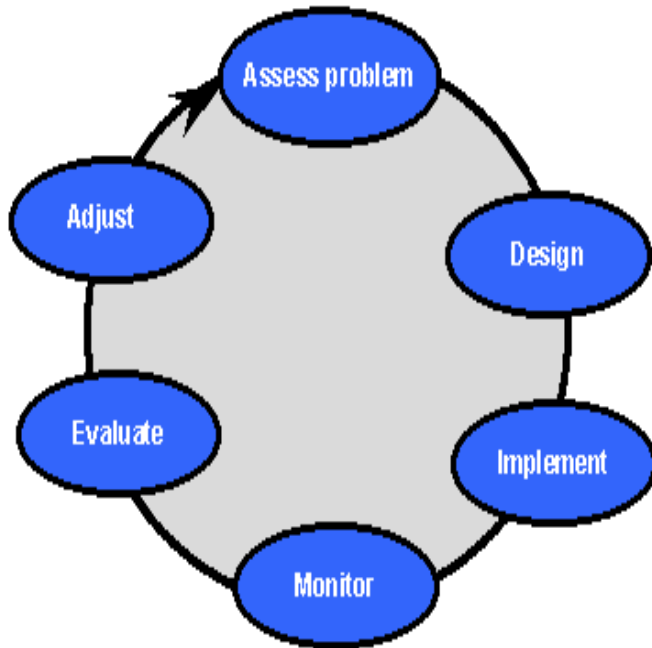
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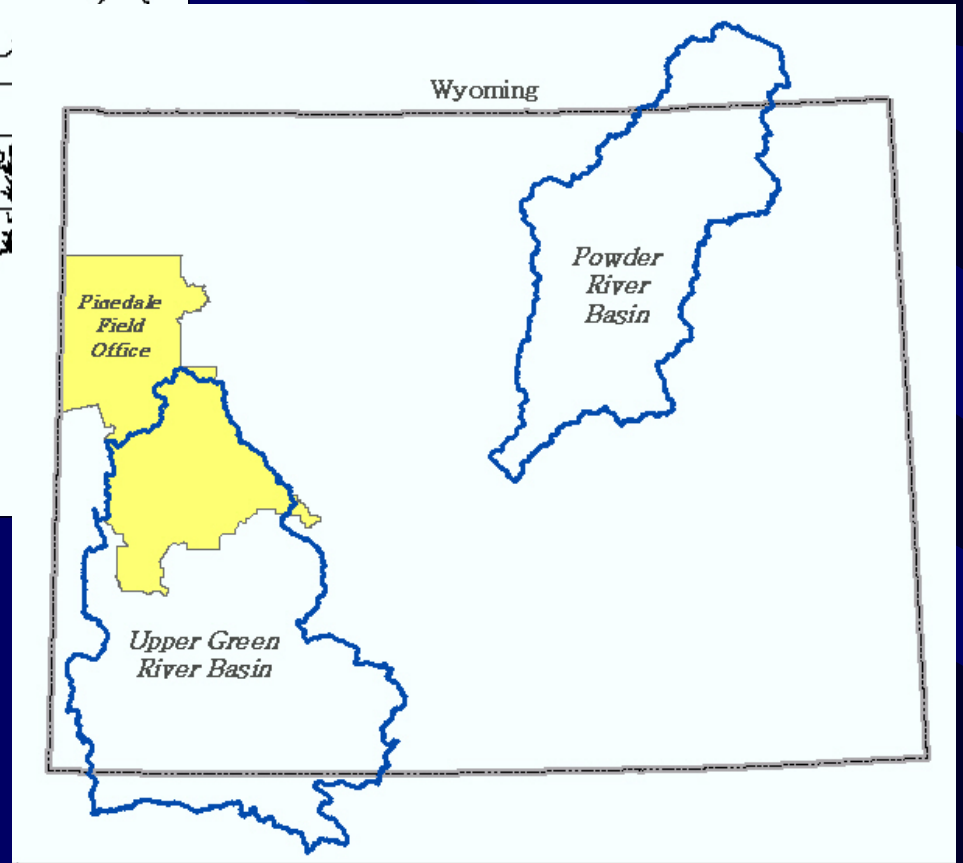
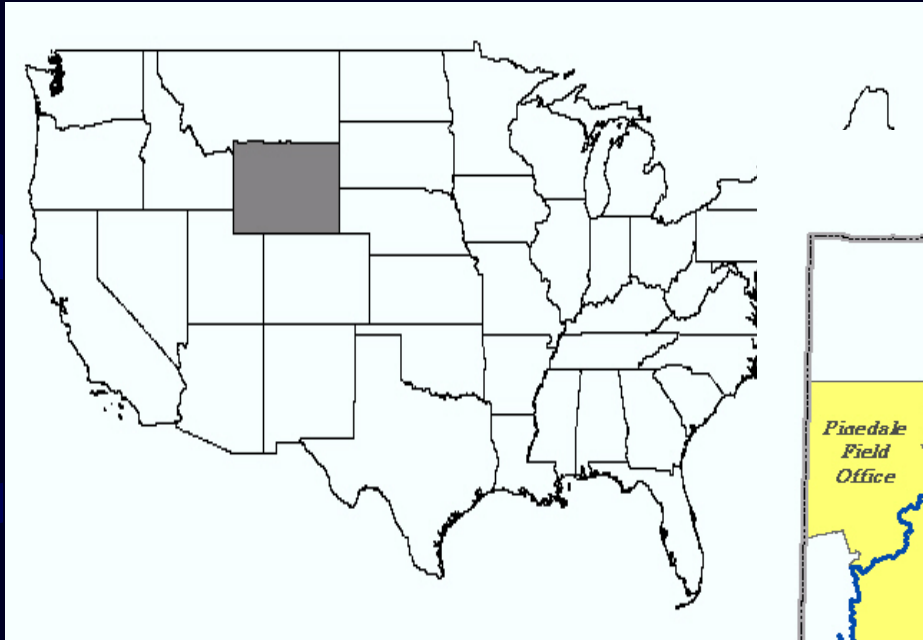
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Pinedale Anticline Project Area

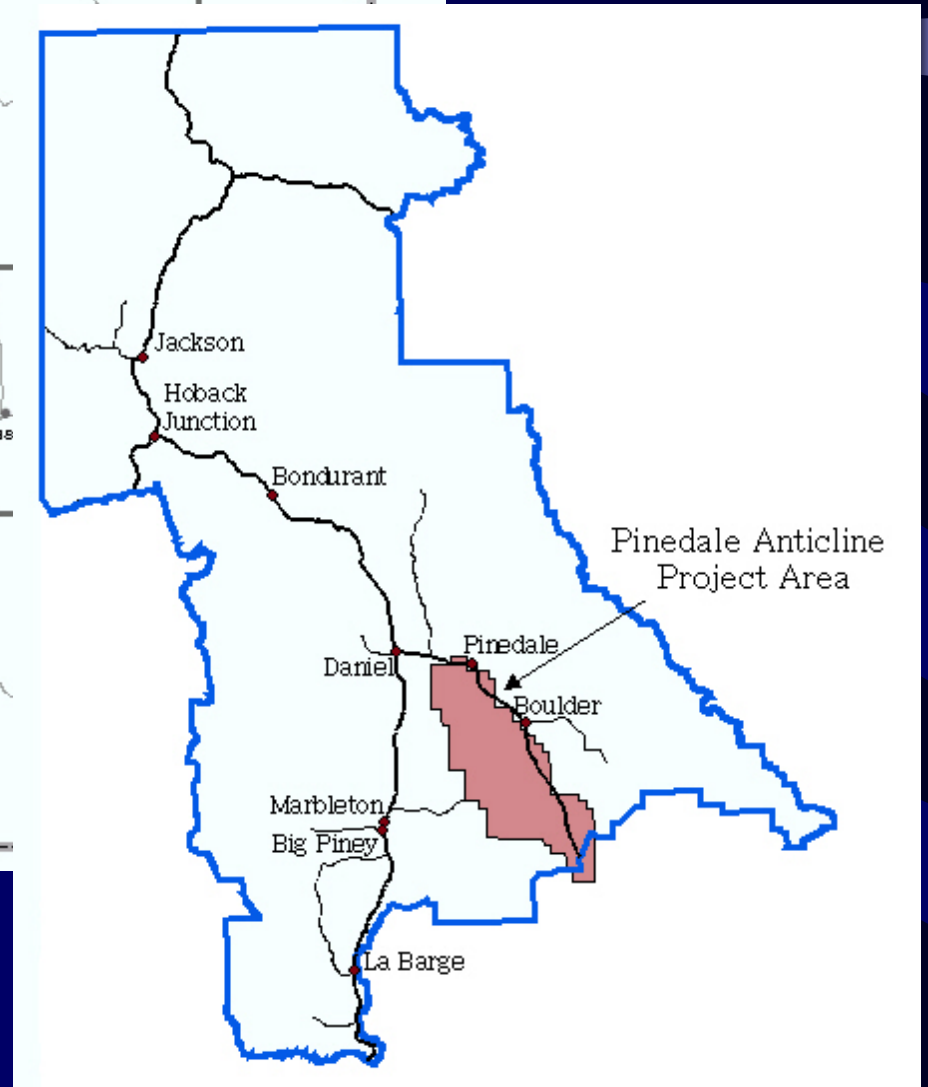
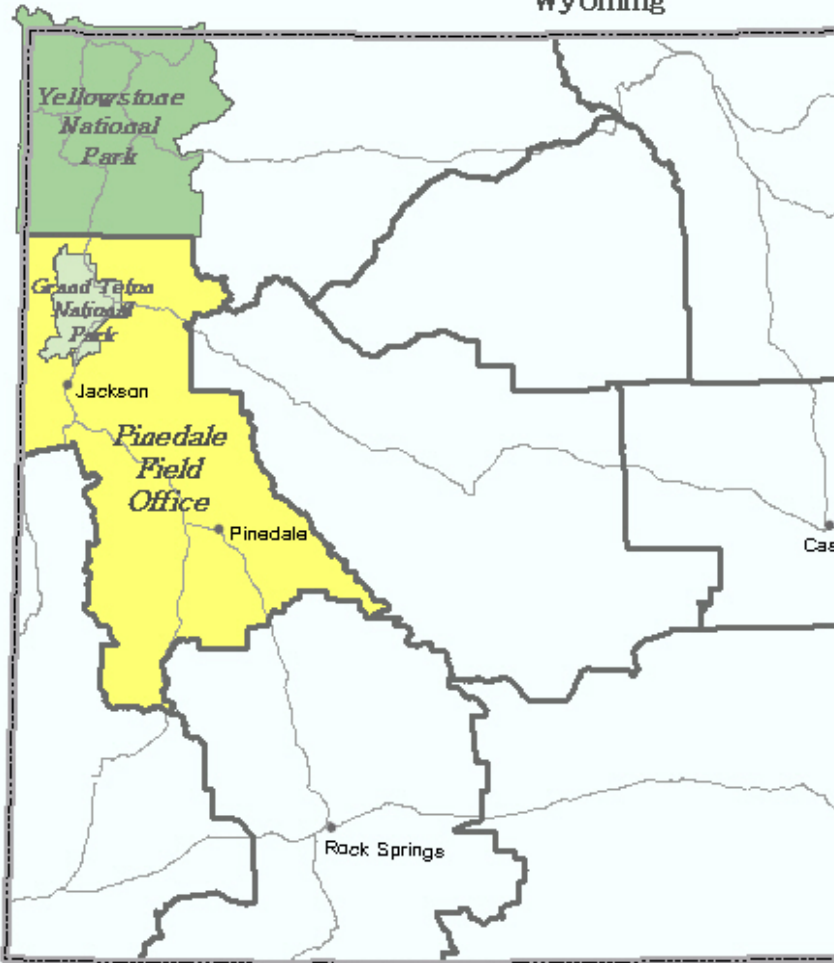
The Adaptive Management Process

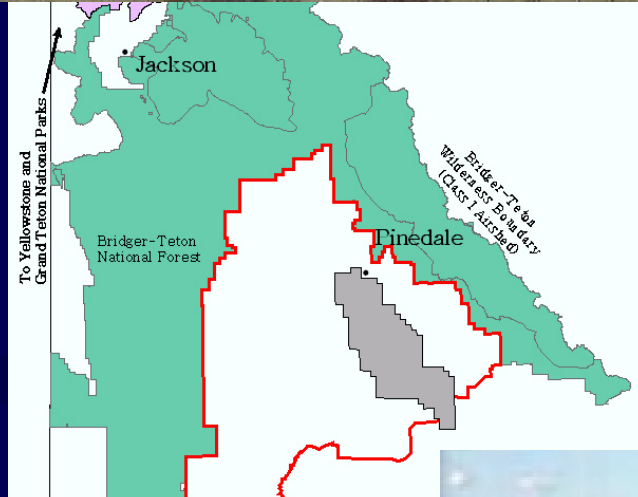


The Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Field



Wyoming

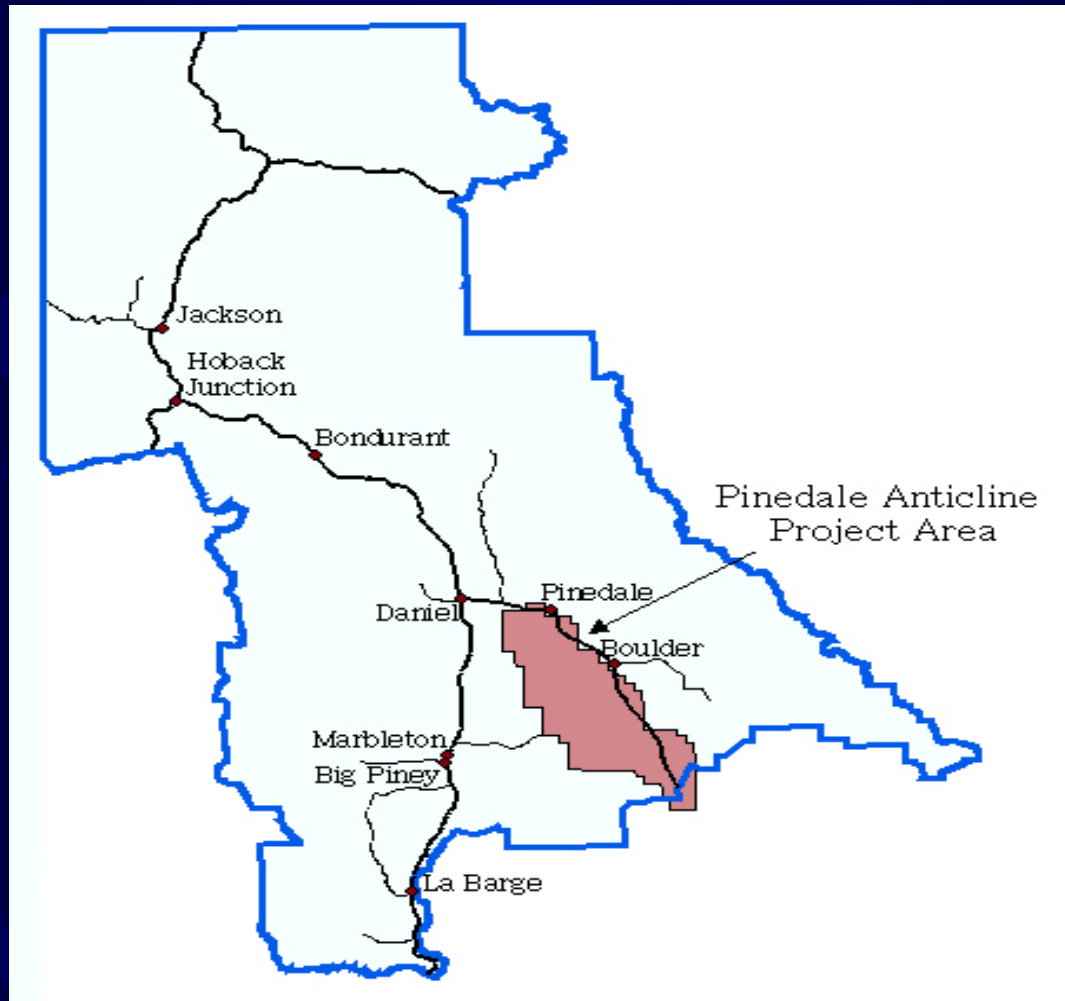




Main street, Pinedale, WY – Gateway to Grand Teton and Yellowstone Parks



The Pinedale Anticline Natural Gas Field (PAPA) – Area Overview



The Mesa



PAPA — Need for Adaptive Management

- Significant new issues arise
- New management guidance developed
- Data gaps filled
- Management Rx modifications needed
- New mitigating technology developed

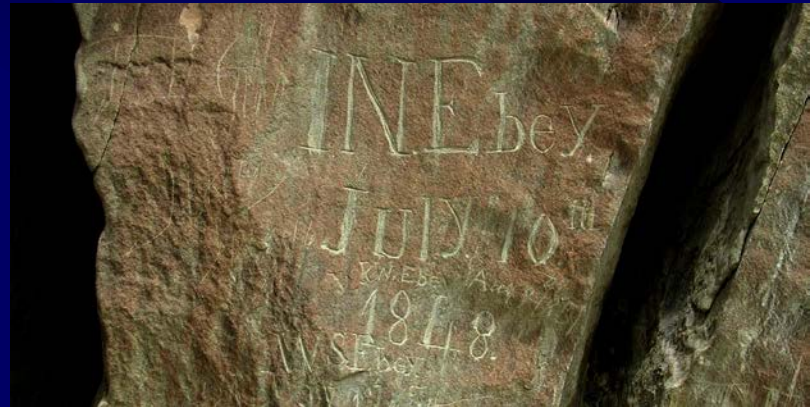
PAPA Issues — Big Game Habitat



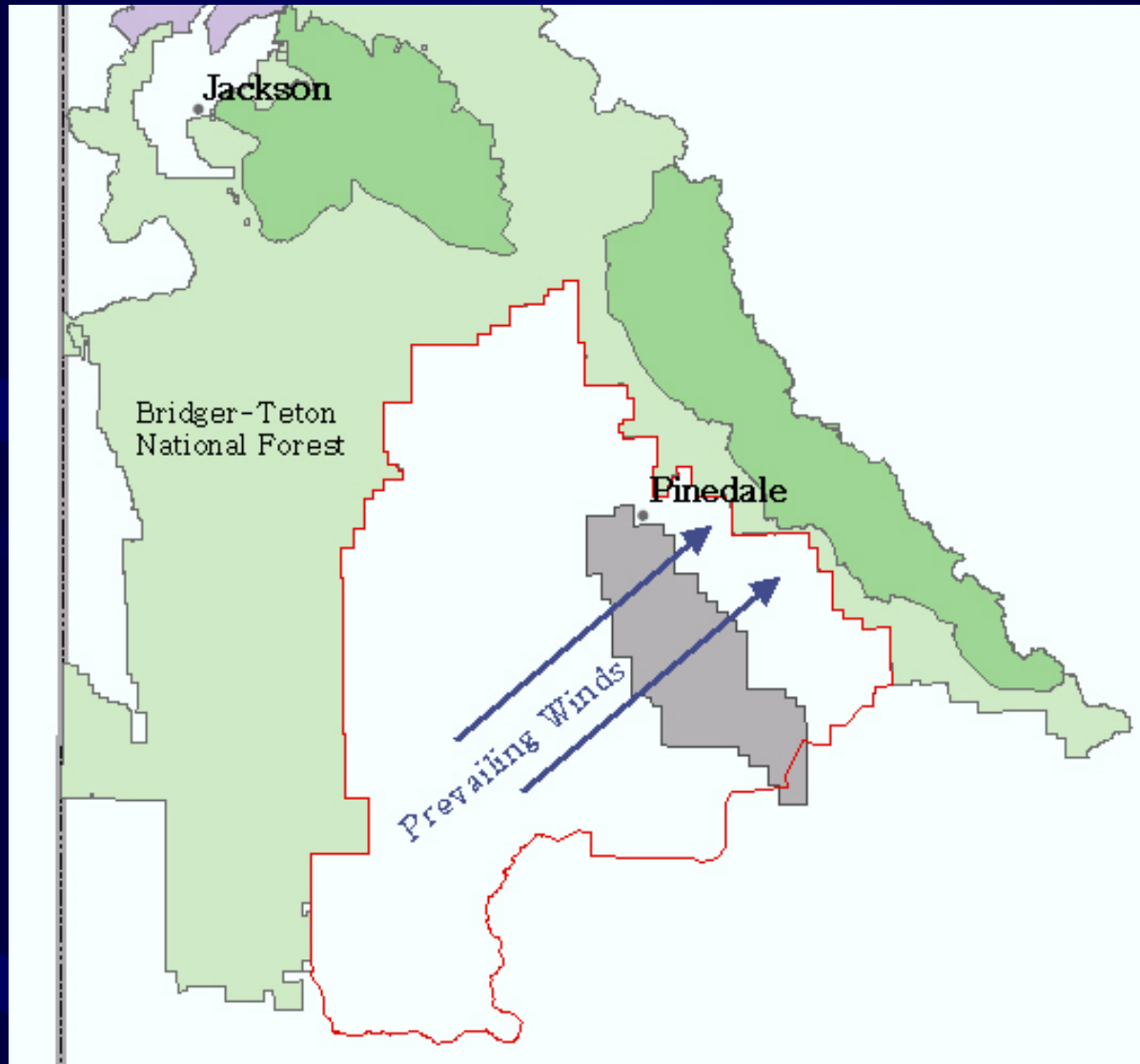
PAPA Issues — Sage-grouse Habitat



PAPA Issues — Historic Trail/Cultural



PAPA Issues — Air Quality





PAPA — Proposed Action Uncertainties

- Subsurface geology, therefore
- Field development (how much, where)

PAPA — Proposed Action Uncertainties

- Feasibility of new technologies and their effectiveness as surface mitigation
 - Directional drilling
 - Centralized production facilities
 - Reconfiguration of drilling pads (smaller pads, more acres reclaimed in production phase)

PAPA – Adaptive Management...

- A critically-important tool for feeding monitoring results and changing conditions back into the annual management process

PAPA — Public Acceptance

- And, last but not least, the BLM needed to gain some acceptance for the project from incensed local residents and users who value the area for its pristine scenic vistas, world-class wildlife habitat, and solitude.

PAPA – The Solution(s)

- So, how to cope with
 - Multiple resources significantly impacted
 - Data gaps
 - Uncertainty about modeling accuracy
 - Uncertainty in proposed action

and

- Gain some public acceptance of this very unpopular gas field development?

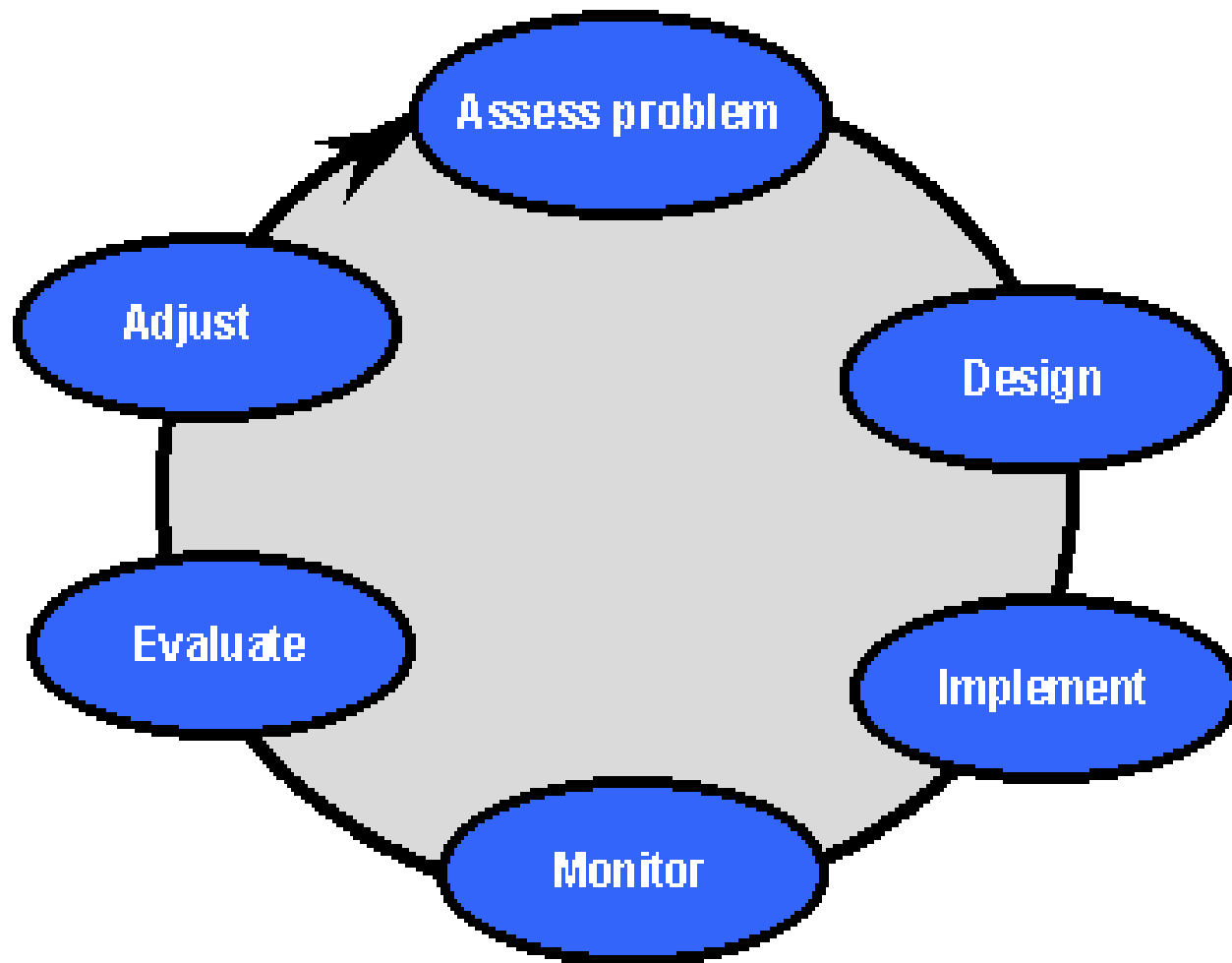
PAPA – The Solution(s)

- Authorize a level of impacts, not a number of wells
- Develop & analyze a 3-D alternatives matrix
- Provide extensive public involvement throughout the NEPA process and during Decision implementation

PAPA — The Solution(s)

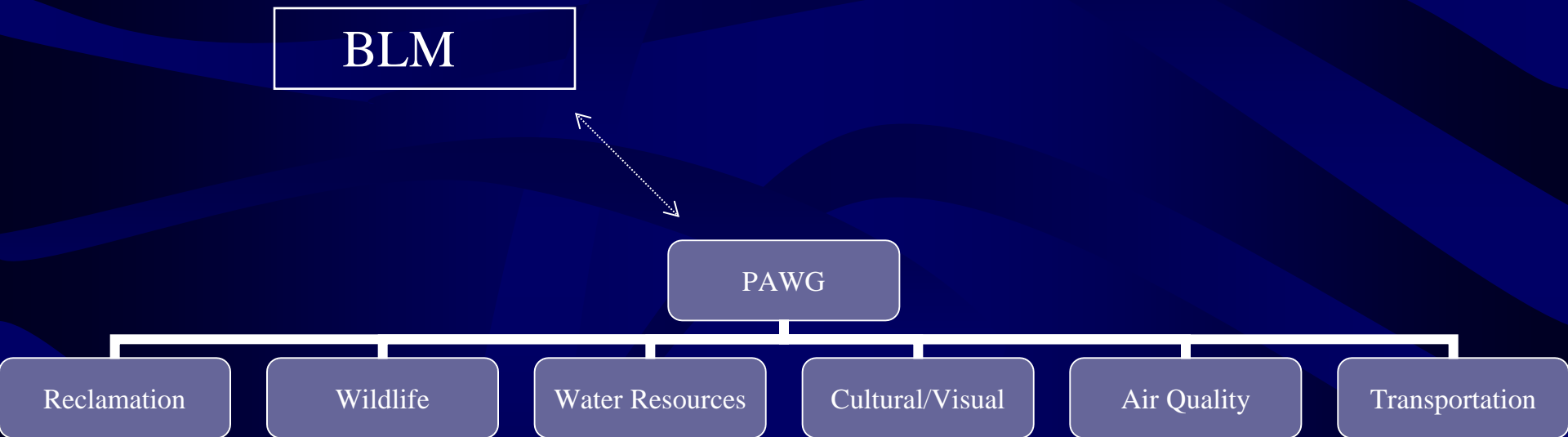
- Implement **adaptive management** throughout field development, and include the public in that process

PAPA - The Adaptive Management Process



PAPA - The Adaptive Management Process

The Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG)



Working Group/Task Group Adaptive Management “Model”



BLM Adaptive Management Decision “Model”

Modify lease stips or not,
modify APD COAs or not
(more or less restrictive),
modify monitoring program,
or, no modifications from
previous year – charge
Working Group and BLM

Receive monitoring data,
drilling plans, and
Working Group
recommendations

Evaluate

PAPA - The Adaptive Management Process

- The adaptive management process was **stopped cold** early in 2001... by a lawsuit

PAPA — Adaptive Management Lawsuit

- BLM does not have the authority to implement adaptive management because it has not gone through the **rule-making** process

PAPA — Adaptive Management Lawsuit

- Inclusion of non-government members on Working Group/Task Groups is violation of **Federal Advisory Committees Act (FACA)**

PAPA — Adaptive Management Lawsuit

- **FACA** —
 - Enacted 1972
 - Prevent special interest control of Federal government decisions
 - Amended 1995 - State, local, Tribal governments exempt

PAPA — Post-lawsuit Challenges

- After nearly three years, no FACA-chartered committee in place – so adaptive management not taking place

PAPA Adaptive Management

Lessons Learned

- The synergy of a diverse group focused on the common goal of resource needs
 - produces professional, effective monitoring/research protocols
 - produces innovative, effective implementation and funding partnerships

PAPA Adaptive Management

Lessons Learned

- The synergy of a diverse group focused on the common goal of resource needs generates
 - Mutual trust
 - Mutual learning
 - Mutual respect
 - Civil discourse

PAPA Adaptive Management

Lessons Learned

- The synergy of diverse group focused on common goal of resource needs builds
 - A sense of community
 - Long-term working relationships

PAPA Adaptive Management

Lessons Learned

- MOST IMPORTANTLY, the synergy of a diverse group focused on the common goal of resource needs
 - Makes BLM's management efforts easier because of common understandings and shared ownership in public resource decisions

Implementing AM in a Multiple-Use Agency

- Adaptive management is a vital tool for BLM resource managers and should be incorporated into BLM's standard business procedure
- Through the NEPA process

Implementing AM in a Multiple-Use Agency – The Challenges

- Addressing rule-making issue
- Addressing FACA issue
- Addressing data formatting issue
- Committing more \$\$ to monitoring efforts
- Encouraging new courses in college and university resource management curricula
- Needing political will to implement in face of proponent objections
- RODs become living documents