

What Is Adaptive Management?

Adaptive management (AM) is a shift in management strategy, emphasizing the use of a structured framework to standardize and learn from individual efforts across a region. AM is an effective strategy for tackling invasive *Phragmites* because it creates an objective decision-making process while simultaneously resolving uncertainties regarding the effectiveness of various management actions.

Key ingredients for success include institutional support and the following six components:

When To Use Adaptive Management

Consequential decisions need to be made

Phragmites continues to spread throughout the Great Lakes basin, making intervention necessary

1.

Management objectives are clear

The core of AM seeks to optimize how to achieve stakeholder objective(s)

3.

Uncertainty can be expressed as a set of competing, testable models

We can hypothesize how *Phragmites* will respond to different management actions

5.

There is an opportunity to apply learning

Phragmites requires repeated treatments, so we can learn how it responds to different actions

2.

The value of reducing uncertainty is high

Understanding how *Phragmites* responds to different management actions will lead to more efficient decision making and resource allocation

4.

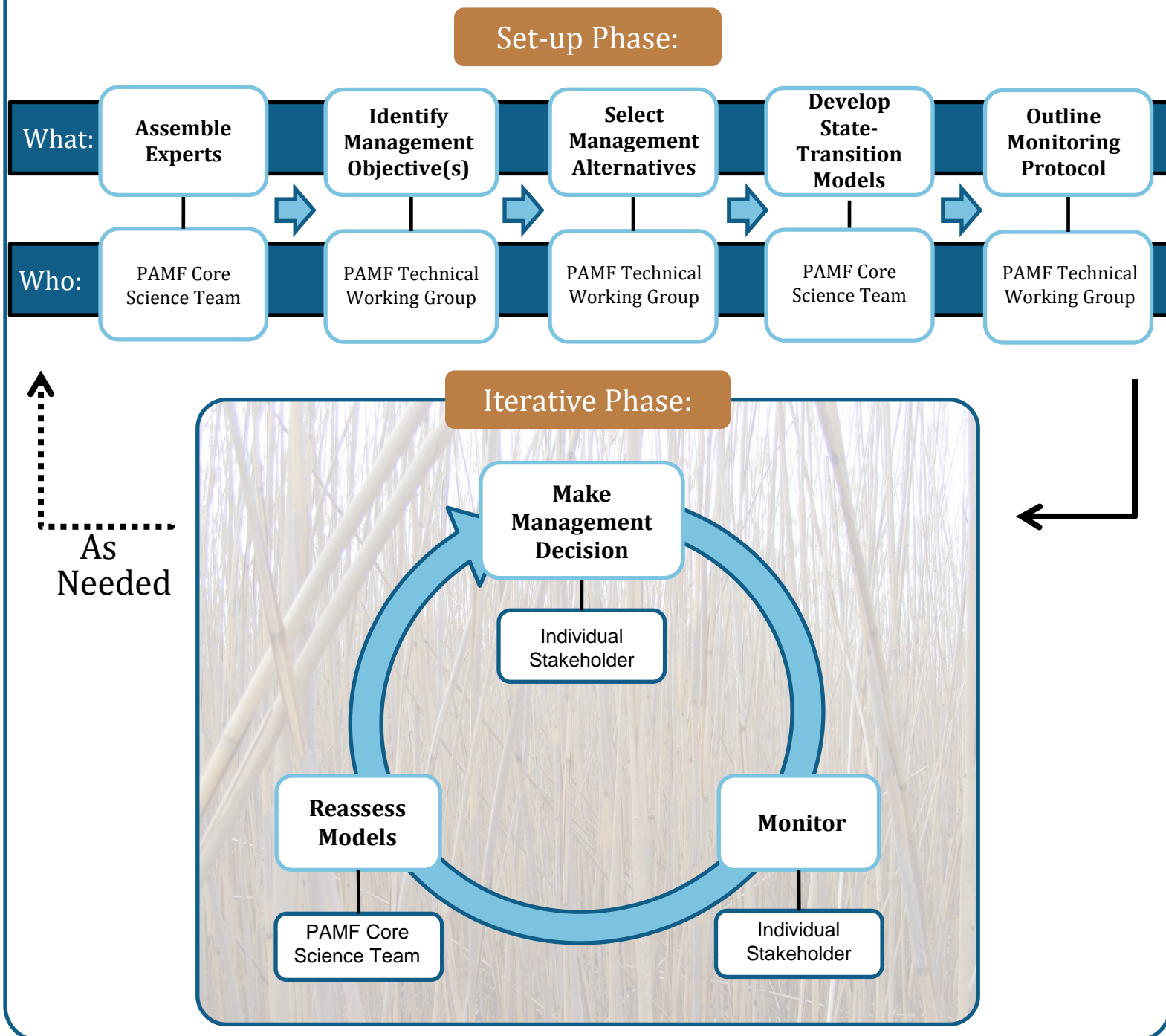
A monitoring system can be put in place with a reasonable expectation of reducing uncertainty

Phragmites can be monitored after each management action and results will be used to update models

6.

Phragmites Adaptive Management Framework (PAMF)

Adaptive Management is described in two phases. Facilitated by a Core Science Team (Great Lakes Commission, USGS, University of Georgia), the PAMF Set-up Phase is completed by resource managers within the Great Lakes basin. The Set-up Phase occurs once during framework development and then as needed going forward. The Iterative Phase is driven by manager-based decisions and data and occurs once each year. The PAMF Technical Working Group includes experts from a variety of agencies throughout the region and plays a critical role in long-term implementation of the strategy.



More details on the Adaptive Management process can be found at:

Williams, B.K., R.C. Szaro, and C.D. Shapiro. 2009. Adaptive Management: The U.S. Department of the Interior Technical Guide: Adaptive Management Working Group, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.