

# **Adapting Project Design to Local Conditions**

**Learning on the Fly in an Interagency Collaborative Effort**

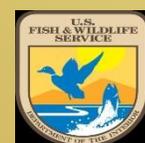
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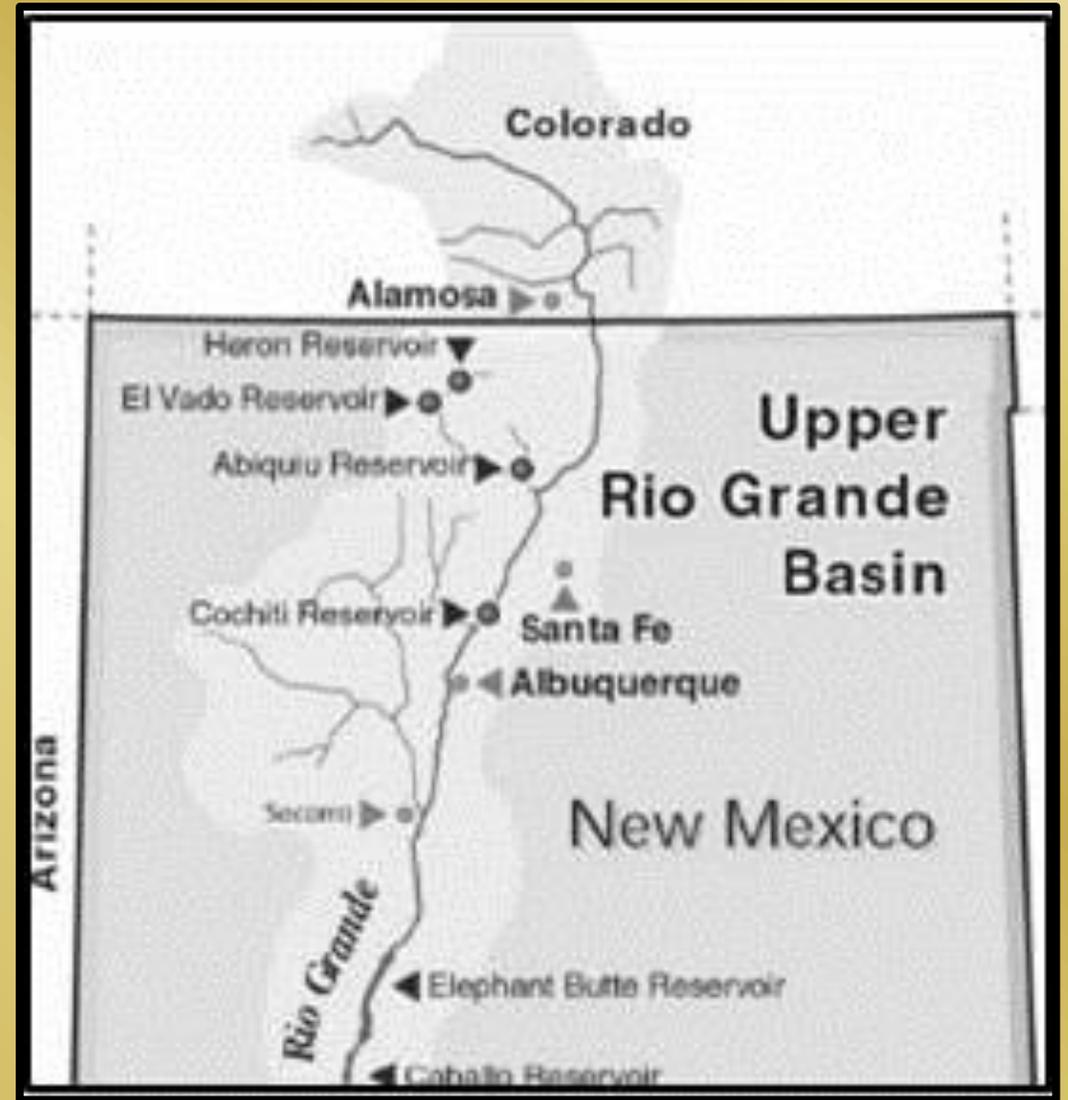
# HUMAN DIMENSIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE Pilot Project

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATIVE



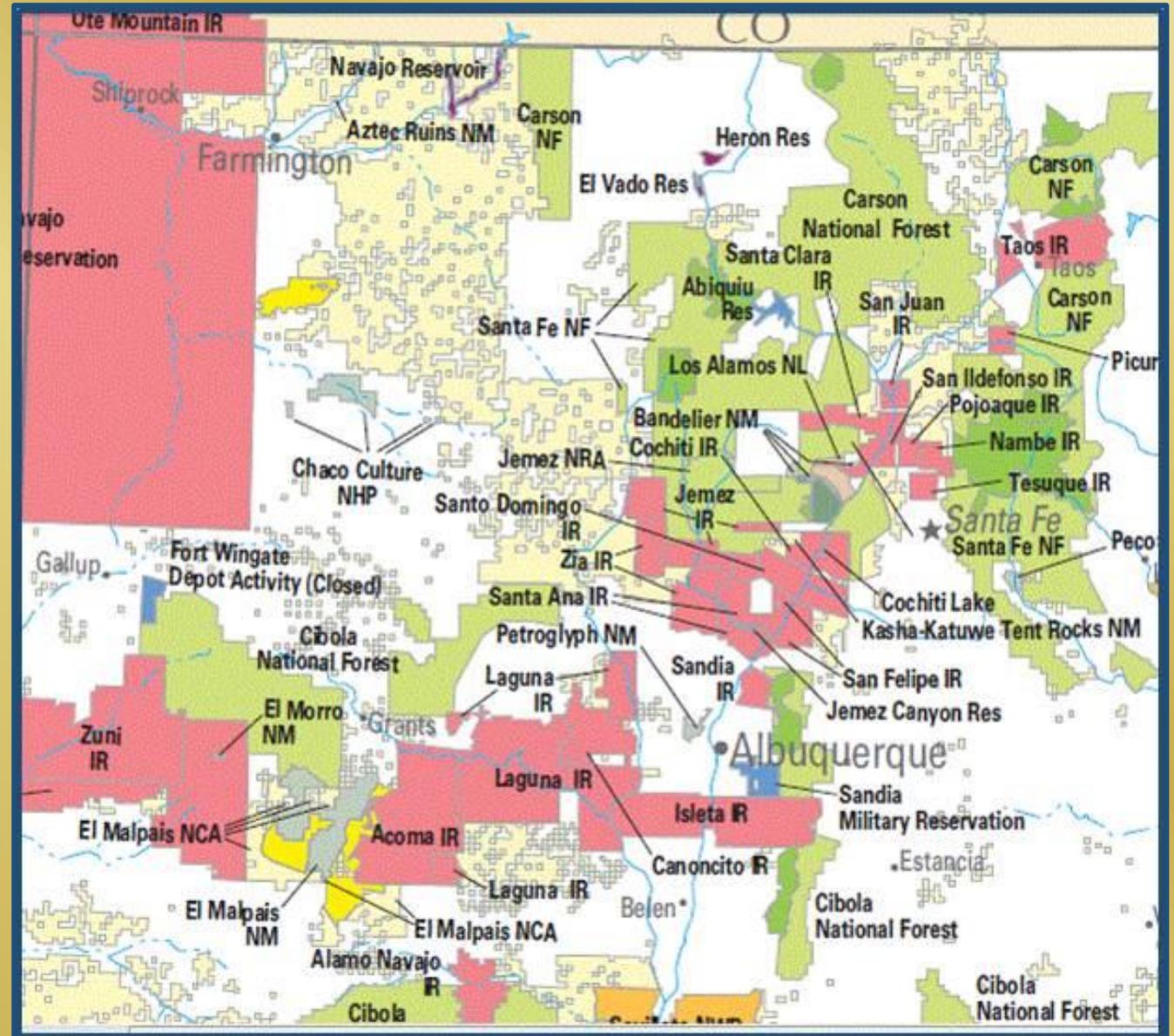
## HDCC Pilot Project General Study Area

- Northern New Mexico
- Southern Colorado



# Modern Land Status

## Northern New Mexico



# Human Dimensions of Climate Change Project: Initial Approach

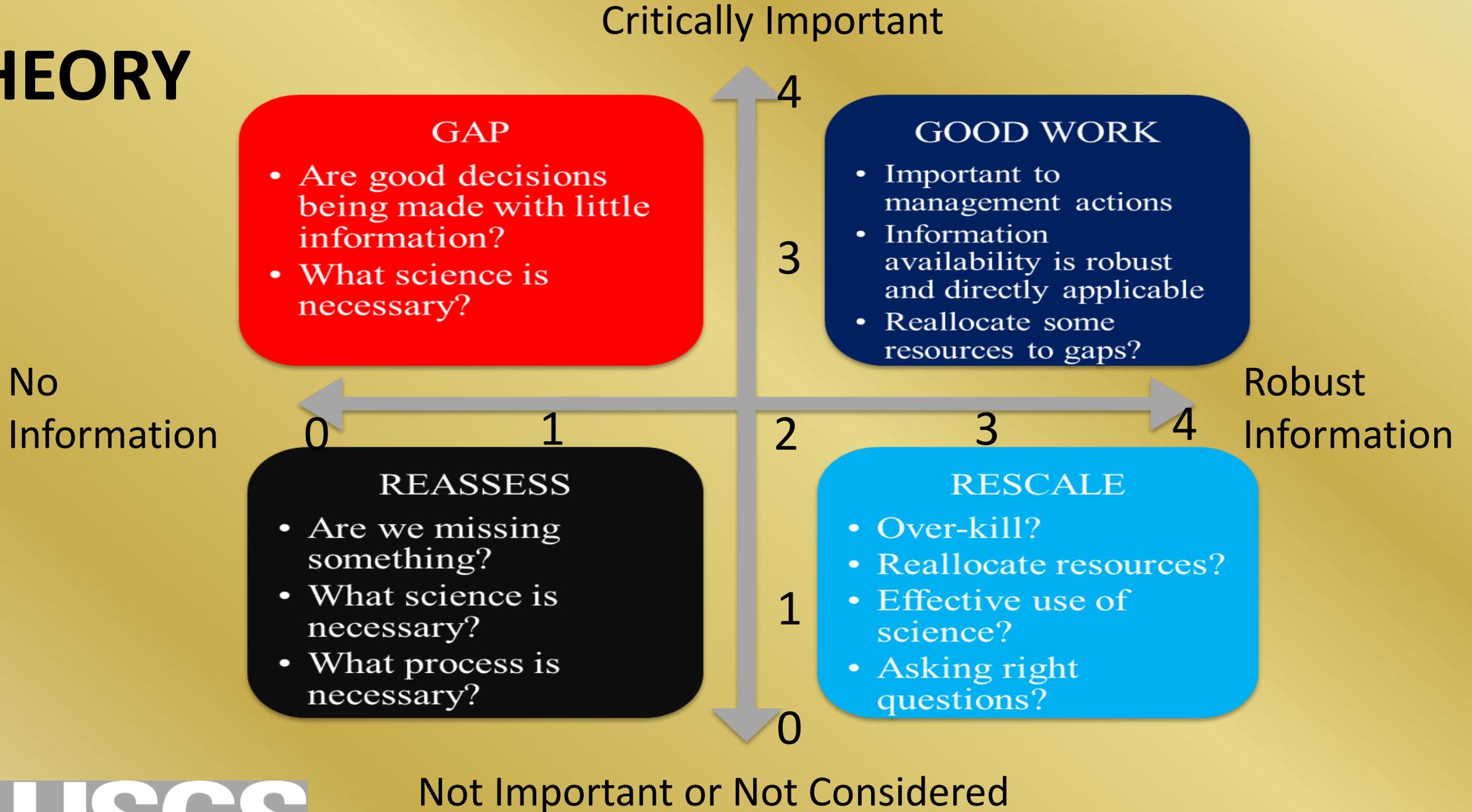
## GOALS

- Obtain local perspectives
- Use local knowledge
- Determine what information people need
- Develop a “bottom-up” approach

## METHODS

- Facilitated general workshops
- Open discussion and workgroups

# THEORY



## First Workshop:

Albuquerque: April 14  
Federal Land Managers

Results:

- Confusion about goals of workshop
- Multitude of approaches to the general topic of climate change
- Lack of actionable direction to address climate change
- Incorrect basic assumptions by design team
- Priorities driving pilot design did not match those of participants



# REALITY



# Panic Induces Overnight Changes:

No longer assume participants:

- Had identified human dimension problems.
- Were actively addressing climate change issues.
- Had operational policies in place to address climate change issues.

Changes in Methods:

- More facilitated discussion.
- More focused questions and follow-ups.
- Greater emphasis on human dimension issues and less on information quantity and quality.



## Second Workshop:

Taos: April 15

Federal, State, Tribal Land  
Managers

Results:

- Participants realize human dimension issues are not being addressed.
- Recognition of conflicting mandates.
- Increasing RATE of environmental change.
- Lack of operational policy that defines climate change issues.



# Adaptations: Insights from workshops

- Do not assume that there is much familiarity with existing climate change policies.
- Start with natural resource quality and quantity issues;
- Re-focus the project on local perspectives and issues;
- Re-tool the approach to start with general human dimension questions;
- Move to more focused group settings and individual interviews.



## Next Steps: Local Community Views and Perspectives

- Recognize that long time residents of the study area will be even less familiar with climate change information and policies;
- Engage local people as facilitators, interpreters, and data collection assistants;
- Design more focused efforts and continue to learn about the perspectives and concerns of local communities;
- Communicate the messages about conflicting mandates and rate of change to decision makers.



# Points for the Partnership

- Be aware of differing perceptions
- Look outside the partnership for reality checks
- Understand differing priorities
- Cultural differences (whether between communities or agencies) shape perception

