

Resilience Seminar Prep Discussion Questions

The meaning of "resilience" is still up for grabs. For some it's about climate change or ecosystem health. For others it's about recovering from disasters and bringing back business as usual. Everyone agrees it means thinking long-term. Discuss the following questions as a small group to work out your own ideas about this important term.

In a climate-crazed world, how can we plan for the future? by Dave Roberts

What is the difference between an optimal solution and a robust solution?

Roberts talks about the "discount rate." This means if the benefit of cleaning up pollution is \$20 million dollars but you only get that benefit 25 years from now, you apply an annual discount rate (say 5%) to that future value. This would reduce the present value of cleaning up that pollution to about \$6 million dollars. This assumes people prefer to have benefits now than in the future. What do you think about the idea discounting future benefits when making decisions in the present?

What are decisions in your life where you understand and weigh costs and benefits of different choices?

What are some personal decisions you face where there is real uncertainty and you're really just guessing about the real costs and benefits? In these situations, what would the robust decision entail?

When you think of the future what potential national problems (besides climate change) involve so much uncertainty that we should give up on finding the best solution and look for one that's robust?

The author says that in the short-term, robust solutions often cost more. Why?

Why does the author say the first step in finding a robust solution is talking to all the stakeholders involved with the problem?

Excerpt from *The Resilience Imperative* by Michael Lewis and Pat Conaty

Which of the seven principles of resilience outlined in *The Resilience Imperative* do you need understanding?

What "tipping point" scenarios can you imagine for Durango past which the character of the community would fundamentally change?

Which of the seven principles do you think Durango is strongest in? Which principle(s) would we need to strengthen to become a more resilient community?