

## Unit 4: Building a Vulnerability Assessment

### Defining Objectives and Scope

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“If you don’t know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.” – Yogi Berra

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### What Do We Mean by “Goals”?

Conservation/VA Goals = *Why*  
(e.g., Recovery of an endangered species; maintain biological diversity)

Conservation/VA Objectives = *What*  
e.g., Restore populations to a sustainable number, protect X acres of critical

Conservation/VA Targets = *What*  
(e.g., A particular species population or habitat type in a give area)

Conservation/VA Strategies = *How*  
(e.g., Promote connectivity; reduce existing Stressors/ for VA, conduct modeling)

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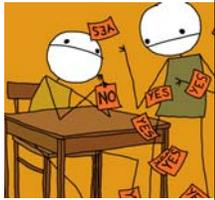
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### Setting Goals for a Vulnerability Assessment

- ▶ What *problems* are you addressing?
- ▶ What *decisions* need to be supported?
- ▶ Who is *making* those decisions?



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### Tips for writing good objectives

- ▶ Avoid ambiguity
  - What you want
  - When you want it
- ▶ Make them measurable
- ▶ Focus on fundamental objectives, not how you'll achieve them (i.e., strategies/tactics)

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The objective of my CCVA is to understand the relative vulnerability of the species in my refuge to climate change.

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My objective in performing a vulnerability assessment is to prioritize restoration projects.

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My fundamental objective is to maximize the likelihood that the Ozark hellbender will be de-listed. I will do a CCVA to minimize the risk of selecting management measures that are highly vulnerable to climate change.

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**Your assignment:**

- ▶ Get into your VA groups
- ▶ Discuss questions 1a and 1b; write out your answer
- ▶ Share your answers with another VA group

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