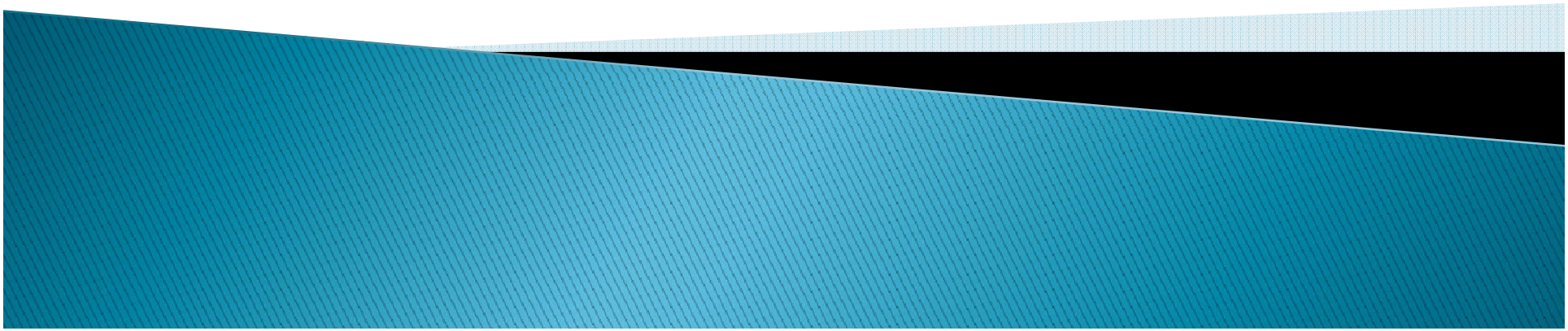
Unit 4: Building a Vulnerability Assessment

Defining Objectives and Scope



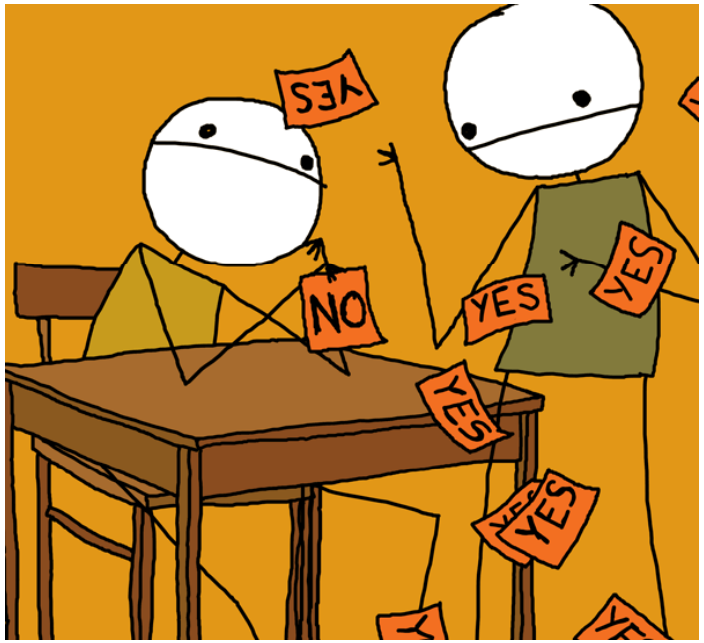
Good objectives help make sure you are solving the right problem

They are essential in order to

- **Select an appropriate VA approach**
- **Identify necessary information**
- **Make decisions during the VA process**
- **Get the VA results used**

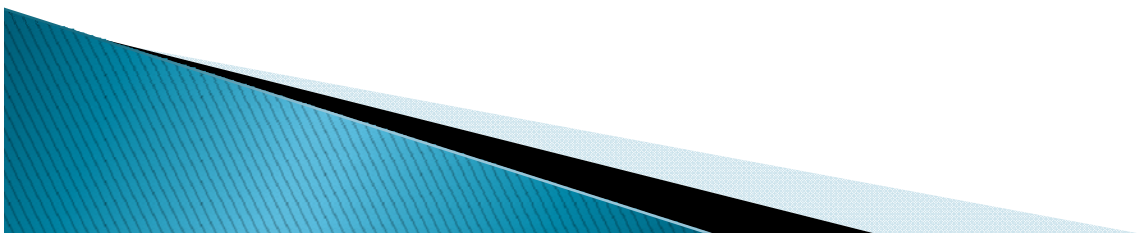
Setting Goals for a Vulnerability Assessment

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



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)



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

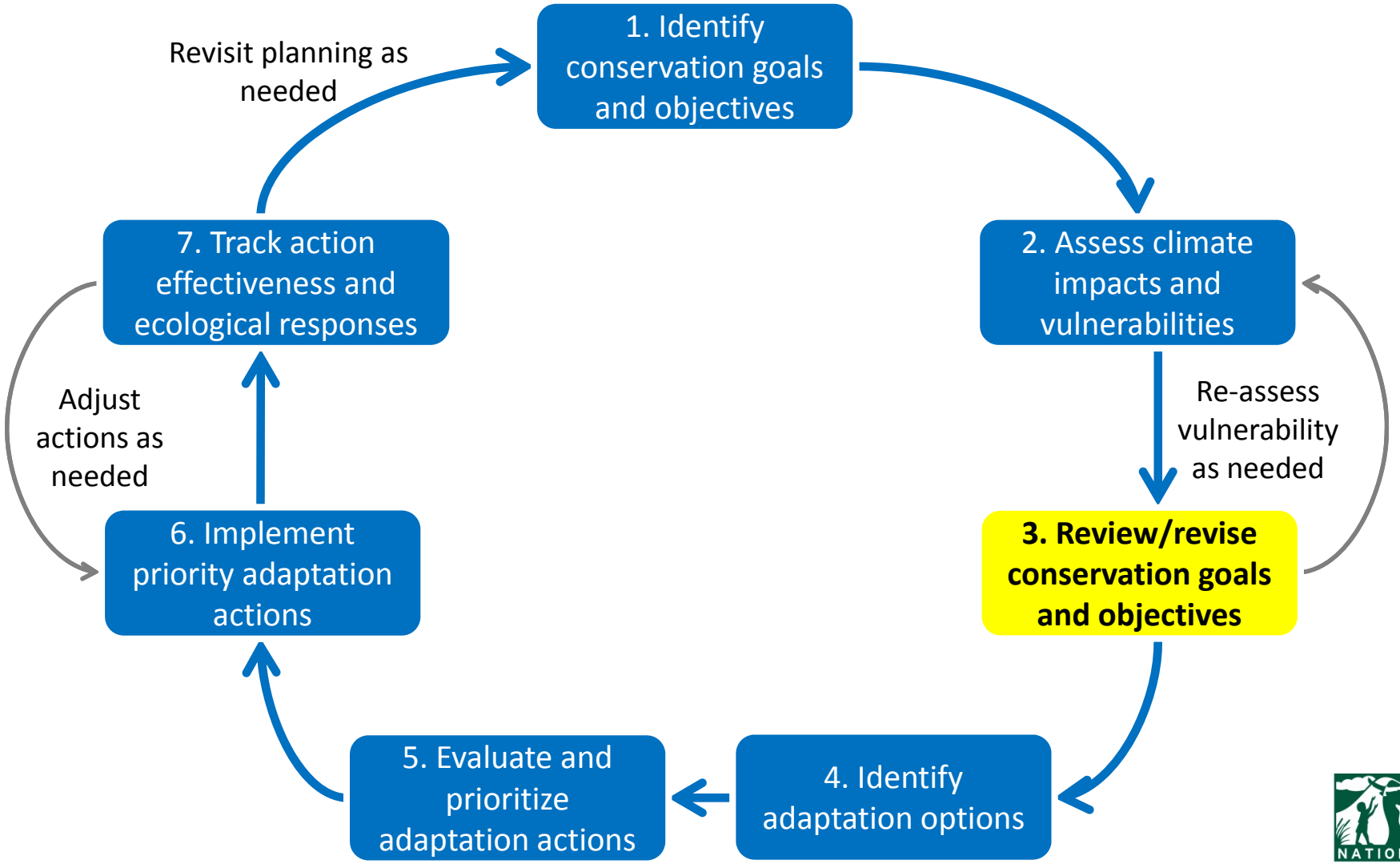
My objective in performing a vulnerability assessment is to prioritize restoration projects.

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.

Distinguishing VA Objectives from Conservation Objectives

- VA objectives are about determining focus and scope of assessment
- VA helps in evaluation and selection of appropriate conservation goals and management objectives
  - Some existing goals may no longer make sense or be feasible

Using VA to Review/Revise Conservation Goals and Objectives



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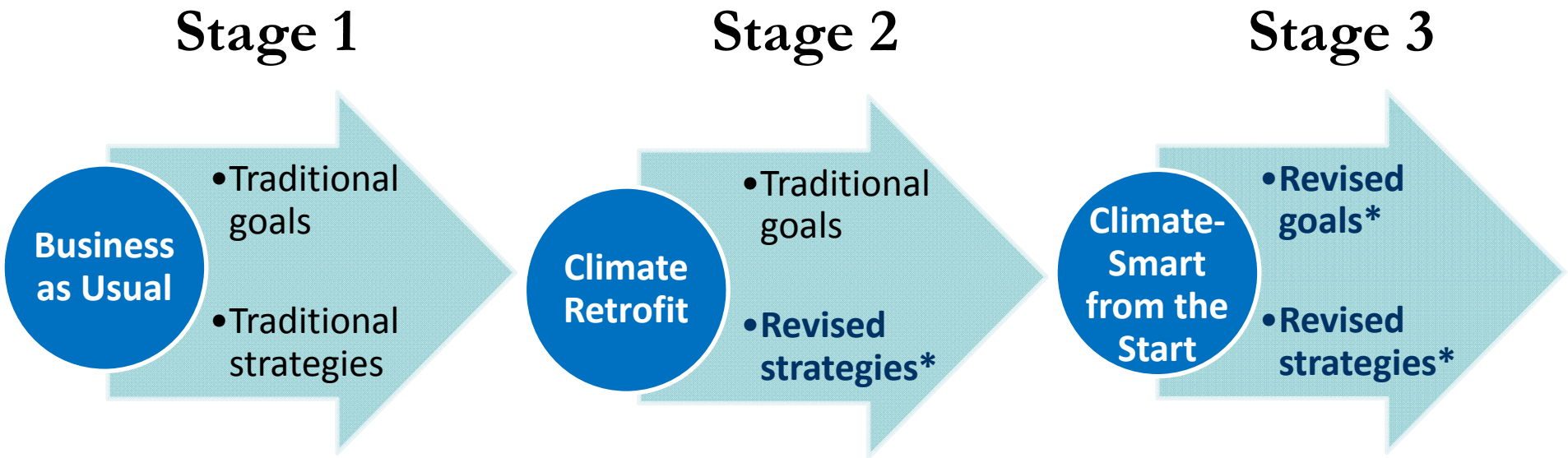
Goals and Strategies in Climate Adaptation



*** Review and revised as needed, based on climate change assessments.**

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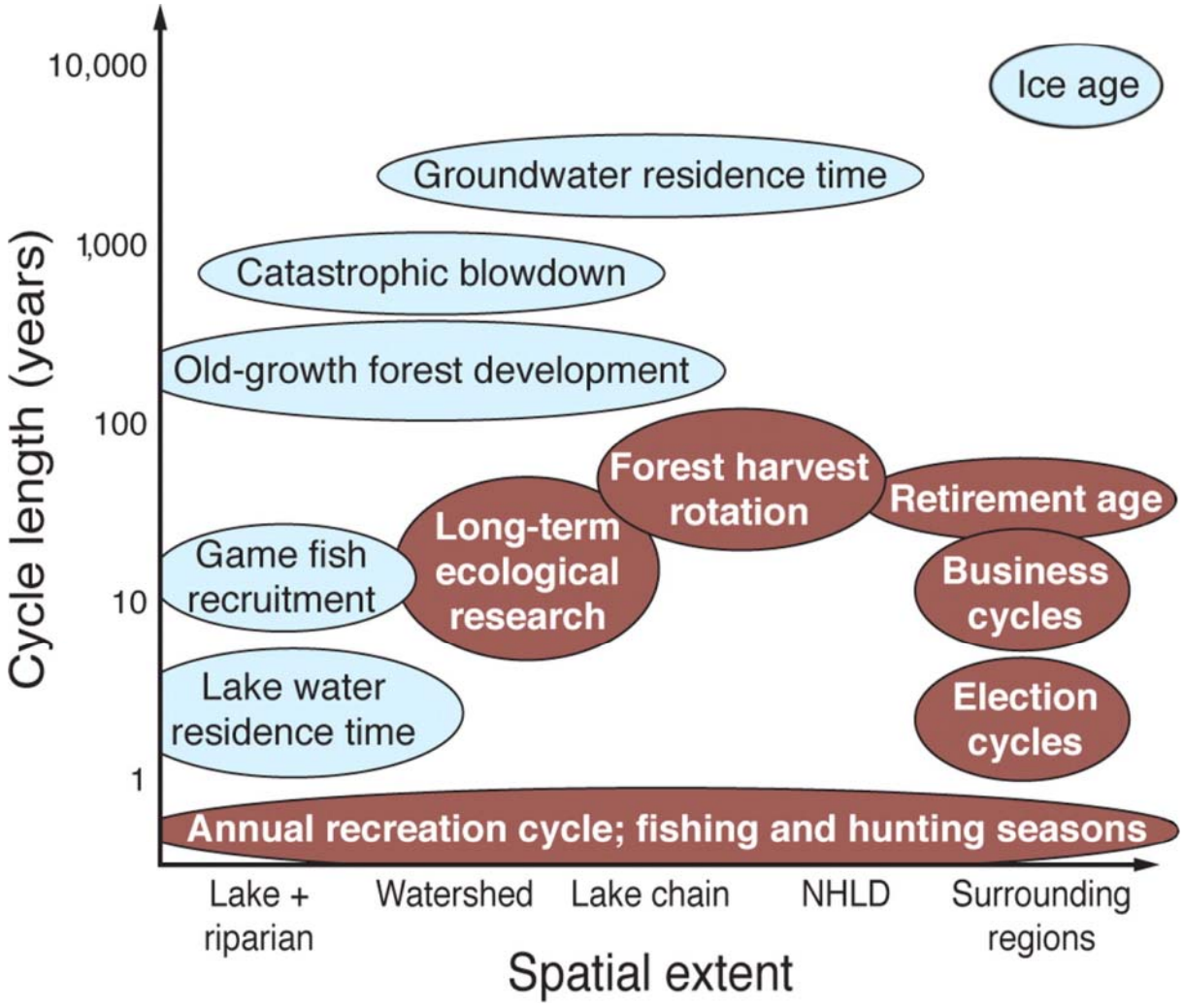
What's the right scale?

- Space
- Time
- Resolution



Source: National Geographic Society

You are asked to do a VA for wolverines to inform resource allocation decisions for Gallatin NF. Do you assess exposure at the scale of:

1. Gallatin NF
2. Gallatin NF + Yellowstone NP
3. The Rockies
4. Their entire range

You are asked to do a VA for wolverines to inform species recovery planning. Do you assess exposure at the scale of:

1. Gallatin NF
2. Gallatin NF + Yellowstone NP
3. The Rockies
4. Their entire range

You are asked to do a VA for pika to help decided whether to list them as endangered in the State of Colorado. Do you assess exposure at the scale of:

1. Gallatin NF
2. Gallatin NF + Yellowstone NP
3. The Rockies
4. Their entire range

Your assignment:

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