

Defining Objectives and Scope

*“If you don’t know where you’re going,
Any road will get you there.”* --Lewis Carroll

Good objectives help make sure you are solving the right problem

They are essential in order to

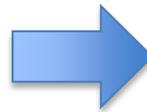
- **Select an appropriate VA approach**
- **Identify necessary information**
- **Make decisions during the VA process**
- **Get the VA results used**

- A note on definitions

Broader **What Do We Hope to Accomplish and Why?** *More specific*

Agree
climate-
informed
goals

Goals
Overarching vision
for the
conservation effort;
the *why*

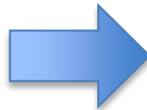


Objectives
More specific
outcomes in support
of goals;
the *what*

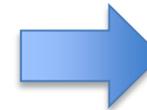
Broader **How Can We Accomplish This?** *More specific*

Identify
broad range
of options

**General
Strategies**



**Possible
Options**



**Specific
Actions**

Which Actions Should We Carry Out?

Evaluate,
compare, and
select actions

Which best
achieve
conservation
goals?

Which meet
climate-
smart
criteria?

How practical/
feasible are
they?

VA objectives vs. conservation objectives

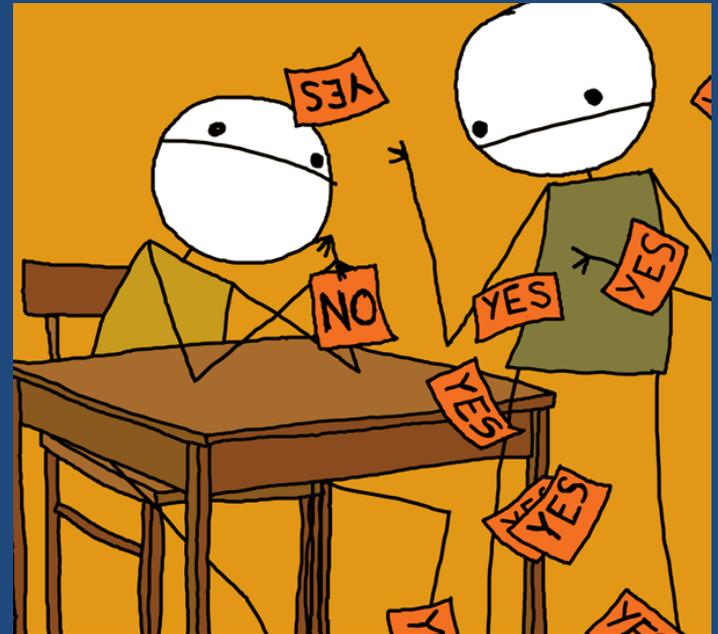
- VA objectives inform *the focus and scope of the assessment*
- VA can help in evaluation/identification of conservation goals and objectives

Steps to Good Objectives

1. Articulate concerns and wishes
2. Convert concerns to objectives
3. Structure objectives
4. Create measurable attributes for each objective
5. Repeat as needed

Concerns and wishes

- What *problems* are you addressing?
- What *decisions* need to be supported?
- What do you ultimately want to *achieve*?



Tips for writing good objectives

- Avoid ambiguity
 - What you want
 - When you want it
- Make them measurable
- Focus on fundamental objectives more than how you'll achieve them

Getting to Fundamental Objectives

WITI – Why Is That Important?

When your answer is:

- *“Just because (it is an essential area of concern)”*
- *“It’s the law”*
- *“This is important”*
- *“Inherent value”*

You have reached a fundamental objective.

My objective is to acquire downscaled data on exposure for Alaskan NP

- *Why?*

My objective is to acquire downscaled data on exposure for Alaskan NP

- **Why? More exposure = more vulnerability and increased need for mgmt**
 - *Why manage and monitor?*

My objective is to acquire downscaled data on exposure for Alaskan NP

– Why? More exposure = more species response and increased need for mgmt

- *Why manage and monitor?*

– **Because NPS is obliged to “conserve the scenery...and the wild life therein” (NPS Organic Act)**

- **FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVE**

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.