

Learning and Process

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Group

What makes SDM process better than the alternative?

- Recovery Plan out of date
 - Loss of habitat from wildfires, insects
 - Primary habitat eliminated
 - More knowledge on squirrel biology
- Recovery Team in gridlock
 - Three years without success
 - Current process was mired in irresolvable debates
 - Recovery Team was no longer meeting

What makes SDM process better than the alternative?

- Need a structured transparent means to assist the Recovery Team in moving forward

Our Process

- Original problem statement became our goal, however we spent our efforts on developing the process that the Recovery Team could use to develop recovery criteria instead developing the decision making process
 - Original: Define or develop transparent decision making process
 - Instead: Learned, experienced and tested a process that could be used by the Recovery Team

Effectiveness

- We learned the SDM process and we are confident that the process could be used to develop recovery criteria
- We had concerns and discussions about how to present the concept to the Recovery Team and the Decision Makers
- We discussed a strategy of how to approach the stakeholders with the process
- We found that a simple spreadsheet was able to meet our needs vs other options such as a spatial (GIS) program

Wrong Turns and Recovery

- Issue of defining problem statement
 - Process or model?
 - Clarified on last day
- Bogged down on model development on day two
 - Third day worked through model step by step
- Assistance needed with legal requirements of Recovery Criteria
 - Mary presented her experience with another species
 - Pulled us back to the five listing factors

Wrong Turns and Recovery

- First prototype solved wrong criteria (delisting not downlisting)
 - Not critical because the process was the same, still tested the model
- Modeling process was hard to follow by some
 - Final day simplified modeling process from beginning to illustrate technique

Things that worked

- Smart Choices reading material before class
- Having a consultant/expert who know the process and how to get to the end product
- Daily recap and insight discussions helped to keep group on track
- Cross-talk with other groups
- Concentrated week long effort
- Time available to reflect on class

Difficulties

- Language and terms
- Lack of modeling experience
- Inability to recruit Recovery Team members to participate (time and money)

Values Gained

- Team believed that SDM process is a valuable tool for this problem and decision making at all levels