Raison d'Être: SDM to the Rescue

Assembled by our expertise round hills of doubt
By precedence course of action anchored down
Still vaguely wanting to be free of sediment rout
To reason well we come to Shepherdstown.

But yikes! we translocate, remove, assign, reseed
Like darters lured by means of budget variance
We hang waiting for a 15-year event to weed
Eluded by the fundamentals of our chance.

Fear not! for we have guides who stand in disbelief
Or push back in their chairs with wrinkled brow
Or pace, wave arm, and point to some relief
Or grasp their chins, say yeah… and wonder how.

Fear not! we crunch our numbers playing proto-seers
Down rabbit holes of allocation tiers
Pull out the cotton from between our ears
And then restock our thoughts behind the weirs.

Fear not! refine, revisit, let our models wail
So high above the banks of regulated flow
That muscles clamp and rabbits drop their tails
'Til 'midst the patchwork Bayesian arrow show

We reach among the riffles and pluck from the drear
A honed decision, transparént and clear.

— Tom Will
10 Feb 2012