

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 VA

- ▶ What *problems* are you addressing?
- ▶ What *decisions* need to be supported?



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

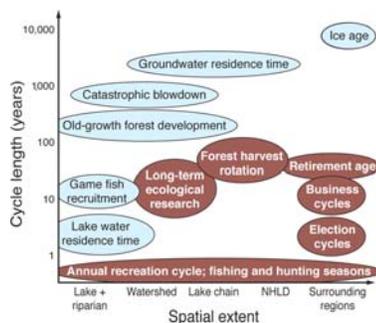
The objective of my CCVA is to understand the relative vulnerability of the species in my refuge to climate change.

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.

What's the right scale?

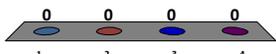
- Space
- Time
- Resolution





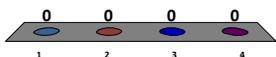
You are asked to do a VA for wolverines to inform resource allocation decisions for Gallatin NF. Do you assess exposure at the scale of:

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



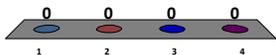
You are asked to do a VA for wolverines to inform species recovery planning. Do you assess exposure at the scale of:

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**
