

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)

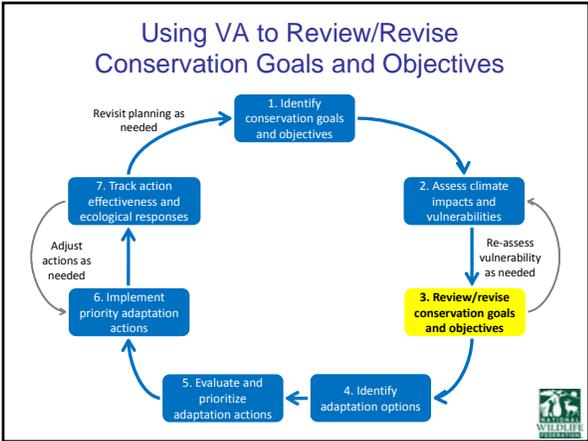
The objective of my CCVA is to understand the relative vulnerability of the species in my refuge to climate change.

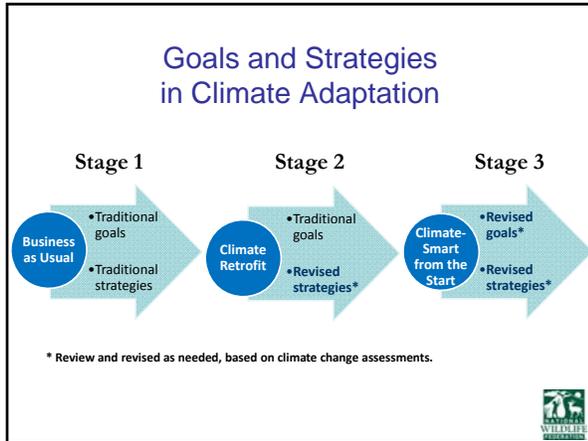
My objective in performing a vulnerability assessment is to prioritize restoration projects.

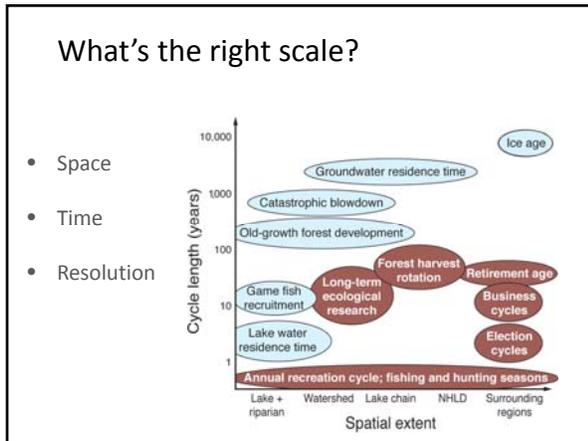
My fundamental objective is to maximize the likelihood that the Ozark hellbender will be de-listed. I will do a CCVA to minimize the risk of selecting management measures that are highly vulnerable to climate change.

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









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
