



US Army Corps  
of Engineers.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# National Conservation Training Center

## *Training Announcement*

### Introduction to Systems Thinking

ALC3907

#### Course Description

Why do so many organizational strategies fail? Why do so many others fail to produce lasting results? Why do many institutions suffer from periodic crises, fluctuating productivity, and declining morale? Why do many social and government programs fail to achieve their desired objectives, while other programs create results counter to their goals?

To address these questions, in this online course the basic concepts of systems thinking will be introduced. In general, systems thinking is a school of thought that focuses on recognizing the *interconnections* among the parts of a whole entity (the system) and synthesizing the interconnections into *a unified view of the system*. This video provides an introduction to some of basic concepts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rDxOyJxgJeA>.



#### Objectives

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Define a problem, a system and hypothesize the behavior responsible for the problem.
- Identify the physical, organizational, decision-making structures within systems.
- Identify critical variables in a system and their relationships to other variables.
- Identify and define stocks and flows.
- Draw and interpret causal loop and stock and flow diagrams.

#### Dates

January 27, 2016 – March 2, 2016

#### Location

Online, webinar format

#### Who Should Attend

Resource managers, conservation practitioners and decision analysts who work with complex issues that are environmental or organizational in nature.

#### Length

A 90 minute webinar will be held every Wednesday from 2:00 – 3:30 pm Eastern.

#### College Credit

1 semester hour

#### Tuition & Textbooks

Tuition for FWS, NPS, and BLM is prepaid. USACE participants may request a tuition waiver. For participants from other agencies and organizations, the tuition charge is \$200.

#### To Register

Register online at: <http://1.usa.gov/1M9x3aj> using DOI Learn, the Department of the Interior's Learning Management System.

#### Contact

For registration questions:  
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*“From a very early age, we are taught to break apart problems, to fragment the world. This apparently makes complex tasks and subjects more manageable, but we pay a hidden, enormous price.”*

*– Peter M. Senge*