

Unit 2: Building a Vulnerability Assessment

Defining Objectives and Scope

"If you don't know where you're going, Any road will get you there." --Lewis Carroll

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

VA objectives vs. conservation objectives

- VA objectives inform *the focus and scope of the assessment*
- VA can help in evaluation/identification of conservation goals and objectives

Setting goals and objectives for a VA

- What *problems* are you addressing?
- What *decisions* need to be supported?
- What do you ultimately want to *achieve*?



Tips for writing good objectives

- Be clear:
 - What you want
 - When you want it
 - How you'd know (measure success)
- Focus on fundamental objectives more than how you'll achieve them

Getting to Fundamental Objectives

WITI – Why Is That Important?

When your answer is:

- *“Just because (it is an essential area of concern)”*
- *“It’s the law”*
- *“This is important”*
- *“Inherent value”*

You have reached a fundamental objective.

My objective is to acquire downscaled climate change projections for My Fabulous National Park

- *Why is that important?*
 - *What problems are you addressing?*
 - *What decisions need to be supported?*
 - *What do you ultimately want to achieve?*

My objective is to acquire downscaled climate change projections for My Fabulous National Park

- **Why?** More exposure to climate change = more vulnerability and increased need for mgmt

My objective is to acquire downscaled climate change projections for My Fabulous National Park

— **Why?** More exposure to climate change = more vulnerability and increased need for mgmt

- **Why manage and monitor?**
- *Prevent extinction*
- *Set budgets*
- *Meet legal requirements*

The objective of my CCVA is to understand the relative vulnerability of culturally important species to climate change.

Why is that important?

- *What problems are you addressing?*
- *What decisions need to be supported?*
- *What do you ultimately want to achieve?*

I want to do a VA to inform the Air Quality Monitoring Program I'm developing for my tribe.

Why is that important?

- *What problems are you addressing?*
- *What decisions need to be supported?*
- *What do you ultimately want to achieve?*

Goals are to assess vulnerability of natural resources important to tribes in our area. We don't know how much analytical work we can fit into our timeline/budget so we want to choose a method that is realistic and practical, and produces good results.

- Develop a climate adaptation plan
- Write grants
- Work on NEPA documents
- Supporting a specific tribe vs. supporting multiple tribes throughout a region
