

NAWMP Revision [Workshop I Scope]

Draft Purpose Statement (Aug 2009)

The purpose of the Plan is to sustain abundant waterfowl populations while preserving the traditions of wildfowling and achieving broad benefits to biodiversity, ecosystem processes and the people of North America. Plan goals will be accomplished by partnerships that conserve habitats and sustain populations, guided by sound science.

NAWMP Revision [Workshop I Goals]

To begin a process of engagement with waterfowl managers concerning the practical aspects of fulfilling “A Vision for Integrated Waterfowl Management”

To provide stakeholders (and/or their proxies) an opportunity to express their beliefs about the appropriate objectives of waterfowl management, and how they might best be pursued from a large-scale, strategic perspective

To provide feedback that will be useful to the Plan Committee as they develop the scope and nature of the pending Plan Revision

SDM Glossary

(Source: CSP3171: Introduction to structure decision making, National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV [http://training.fws.gov/EC/Resources/Decision_Analysis/dec_08/glossary.pdf])

Actions/Alternatives - Different management actions that are available. This element requires explicit articulation of the alternatives available to the decision maker. The range of permissible options is often constrained by legal or political considerations, but structured assessment may lead to creative new alternatives.

Fundamental Objective - One of the ultimate goals of the decision. An objective that we care about for its own sake, or which is an end in itself.

Means Objective - An objective that is not sought for its own sake, but as a means of achieving a more fundamental objective.

Measurable Attribute - A metric used to assess achievement of an objective.

Objectives - An explicit statement of a desired outcome, typically expressed in subject-verb-object sentence structure. Objectives (even those that are stated in scientific terms) are always a reflection of values, so setting objectives falls in the realm of policy and should be informed by legal and regulatory mandates as well as stakeholder viewpoints. A number of methods for stakeholder elicitation and conflict resolution are appropriate for clarifying objectives.

Structured Decision Making (SDM) - is an approach to decomposing and analyzing decisions to identify solutions that achieve the desired objectives, in a manner that is explicit and transparent. Based in decision theory and risk analysis, SDM is a concept that encompasses a very broad set of methods, not a prescription for a rigid approach for problem solving. SDM provides clear roles for stakeholders and scientists when working on problems at the interface of science and policy. Key SDM concepts include making decisions based on clearly articulated fundamental objectives, dealing explicitly with uncertainty, and responding transparently to legal mandates and public preferences or values in decision making; thus, SDM integrates science and policy explicitly.
