

Challenges in defining objectives

- Multiple, competing objectives
- Forums for identifying objectives and negotiating tradeoffs are often not well established
- Debates about objectives can be confused with debates about ecosystem dynamics
- Confusion between “means” and “ends”



Key Characteristics

- Results-oriented
- Specific – metrics and targets
- Measurable
- Realistic
- Time-specific



Some examples



- Maximize the probability of species persistence over the next 50 years



- Minimize the long-term abundance of an invasive plant, while minimizing costs



- Maximize the long-term temporal sum of harvests

Objectives: take-home messages

- Critical link between science and management
- The structure and decisions of an AM process flow directly from the objectives
- Useful objectives take time and energy
- Objectives represent the collective values of society; be mindful of imposing your own values
- Objectives will need to be re-evaluated periodically, but not too often

Adaptive Management Objectives and NEPA

Objectives

- A way of measuring success of a management action
- The **Link** between the **Purpose and Need** for action and the **Management Alternatives** being considered

An Example Deer Management Plan

- Objective Statement: ...to ensure tree regeneration sufficient to have a sustainable eastern hardwood forest...
- That objective is based on a particular metric: stocking rate
- Metric is that successful regeneration occurs when 2/3 or more of open vegetation plots being monitored contains 51 or more seedlings.
- Monitoring period is six years

Objectives in NEPA

