

Fundamentals of Decision Analysis  
In Conjunction with 2020 Joint Meeting  
Washington Chapter-The Wildlife Society, Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology  
Northwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

DoubleTree Hotel  
Spokane, Washington  
Tuesday, 28 April 2010  
8:00am – 5:00pm

Objectives: Wildlife management is, at its core, a decision-making exercise. The field of decision analysis offers a vast set of tools for framing, structuring, solving, implementing, and revisiting decisions, as well as for understanding the frailties of humans and institutions as decision makers. This workshop will outline the fundamentals of decision analysis, with an emphasis on participatory discussion and hands-on exercises. The course will build skills that will help participants to (1) be effective advocates for structured decision processes, (2) be productive participants in structured processes, (3) design structured processes to inform their own decisions, (4) develop skills necessary to lead individual or small-group decision processes, or (5) most effectively interact with decision-making agencies as researchers or advocates.

Topics: Through lecture, discussion, and in-class exercises, the course will cover:

- The perils of unstructured decision making
- Structuring decisions through the PrOACT sequence
- The role of fundamental objectives and how to identify them
- Creative development of decision alternatives
- The role of science in forecasting consequences of decisions
- Classes of decisions and methods for solving them
- Multi-criteria decision analysis
- Uncertainty, risk, and the value of information
- Sequential decisions and adaptive management

Applicable to: Agency biologists and decision makers, students, faculty, researchers, and advocates engaged in wildlife management.

Prior Preparation: No prior preparation is required.

Leader: Dr. Sarah Converse, Associate Professor and Unit Leader, Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, University of Washington. Dr. Converse is a co-founder of Department of Interior Structured Decision-Making Community of Practice and has led >25 short courses and workshops in decision analysis over her career.

Class Size: Limited to 30 registrants

Cost: \$25 for established professionals; \$10 for students, early career professionals (<5 years since most recent degree), and retired.

To Register: Select this workshop during Joint Meeting registration process online.