

Conservation Goal Setting

Refer to score sheets for exercise methods. Randy Dettmers facilitated the discussion. We scored answers to a question: What is the most appropriate goal for CERW conservation in 40 years?

Conservation goal for MBM is an administrative process.

An objective to arrest decline only stops negative, but it doesn't address what we need to do to increase the population

Stopping the decline will allow the bird more time to adjust

What is the societal goal?

Stopping the decline is a monumental achievement

In 40 years, the entire miss valley will be very different. If we succeed in aforestation we will be able to turn this thing around. Goals are rarely met.

Timeline goal setting--Bottom out as soon as possible and begin recovery.

A low estimate would be 100,000, if we stabilized at the end of 40 years. In 20 years we would reduce to 170,000 birds if we incrementally slow the decline

The group engaged in a discussion about this not being solely a biological question. Sociological considerations are also important

- public perception might be extreme to PIF
- who is our audience and who do we sell this goal to anyone?.

Who is this goal for?

A simple way to think of this is to step the goal down to habitat. Can we grow habitat to match the goal.

Securing habitat for 170,000 individuals would be a big achievement and is perhaps reasonable.

What is a goal? Sensitive to what is possible. The primary purpose of a goal is to offer visionary statement and inspire. The best we can do is arrest the decline is not very inspiring. Within the partnership context we have a wide array of partners, some are not interested in CERW, but have interests in the same scarce resources as CERW. PIF's goal is to keep common birds common.

What about an interest based goal. It will be in the best interest of people to keep this species off the ESA list. For some of these partners, arresting the decline would meet their needs/interests.

The main thing is to contribute to a positive outcome.