

Step 6 Identify Species Requiring Special Attention



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Learning Objectives

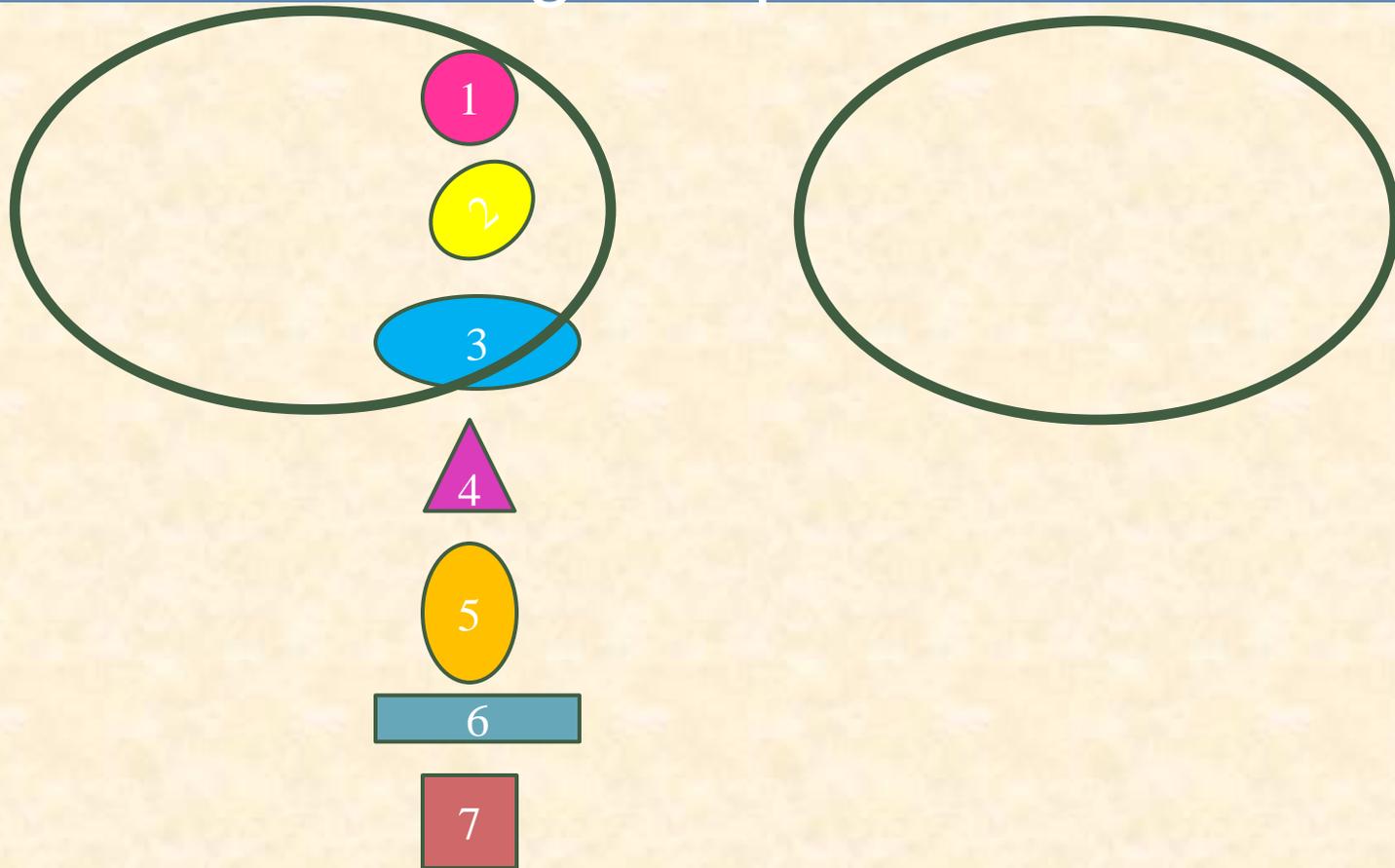
- *Discuss handling of USFWS priority species not represented by surrogate species*



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There may be priority species with management needs that will not be met by conservation of the selected surrogate species



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Identify Species Requiring Special Attention

- Those that have unique habitat needs
- Experience unique threats
 - Collection for trade
 - Over harvest
 - Disease
- Legal action



Identify Species Requiring Special Attention: Example



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Documentation

- Why the species can not be represented by a surrogate species
- Assumptions
- Biological Models
- Scientific information used



Questions?



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Step 7

Identify Population Objectives



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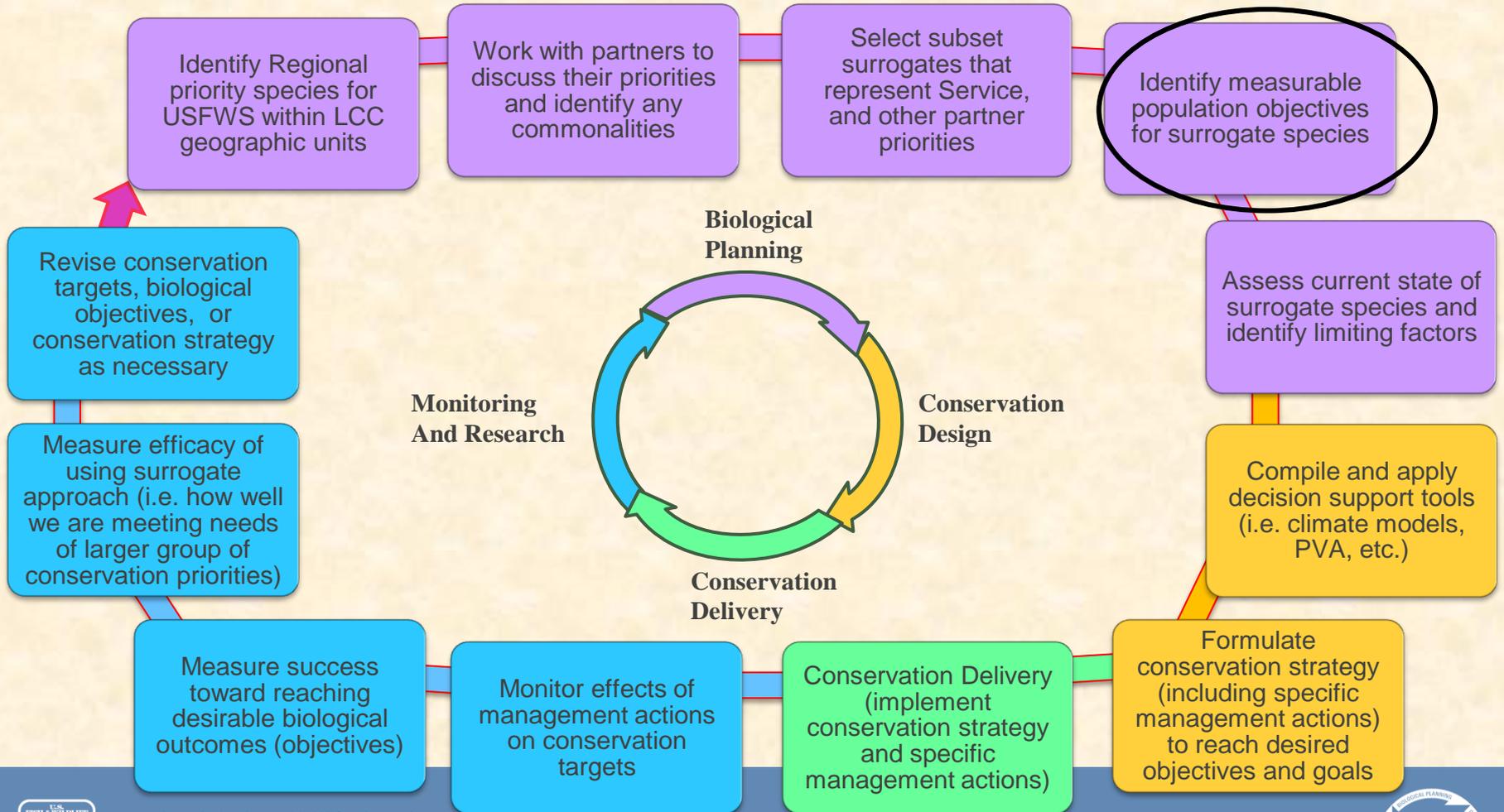


Learning objectives

- *Describe what is meant by population objectives.*
- *Describe characteristics of population objectives.*
- *Identify existing resources of population objectives.*



Identify Population Objectives



Identify Population Objectives

“A population objective represents a measurable expression of a desired biological outcome.”

(USFWS and USGS 2006)



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Population Objectives

Describe the desired state of the population:



- Abundance
 - Ex: 7,400 kites
- Trend
 - Ex: 10% annual increase
- Vital Rates
 - Ex: 2 fledglings/pair/year
- Population index
 - Ex: 62 active territories



Population Objectives

Purpose: To Link Conservation Actions to Measurable Biological Outcomes



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Population Objectives

Population objectives describe the desired state of a population and are:

- Expressed as abundance, trend, vital rates, demographic variable, or other measurable indices of population status, based on the best biological information;
- used to compare the current state of the population against future conditions;
- metrics to assess and improve the performance of our management actions;
- indices that can relate back to an estimate of current population compared to habitat base (i.e., carrying capacity) and estimates of habitat deficits indicating how much is needed to support desired future populations; and
- scale-dependent.



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Potential Sources of Existing Population Objectives

Conservation Target/Species Groups	Existing Guidance with Goals and Objectives
Migratory birds	Goals and objectives from continental plans for waterfowl, land birds, water birds and shorebirds; Joint Venture or Bird Conservation Region implementation plans
Species of Greatest Conservation Need	State Wildlife Action Plans
Marine mammals	Individual species conservation plans or recovery plans (e.g. Pacific walrus, sea otters, Florida manatee)
Fish and aquatic resources	Management plans by stocks or sites; National Fish Habitat Action Plan partnerships
Threatened and endangered species	Recovery plans, Spotlight Species Action Plans, 5-Year Reviews
Game species	State management plans
Ecological services and other more traditional conservation targets (species, habitat types)	Other partner strategic planning documents and implementation plans.

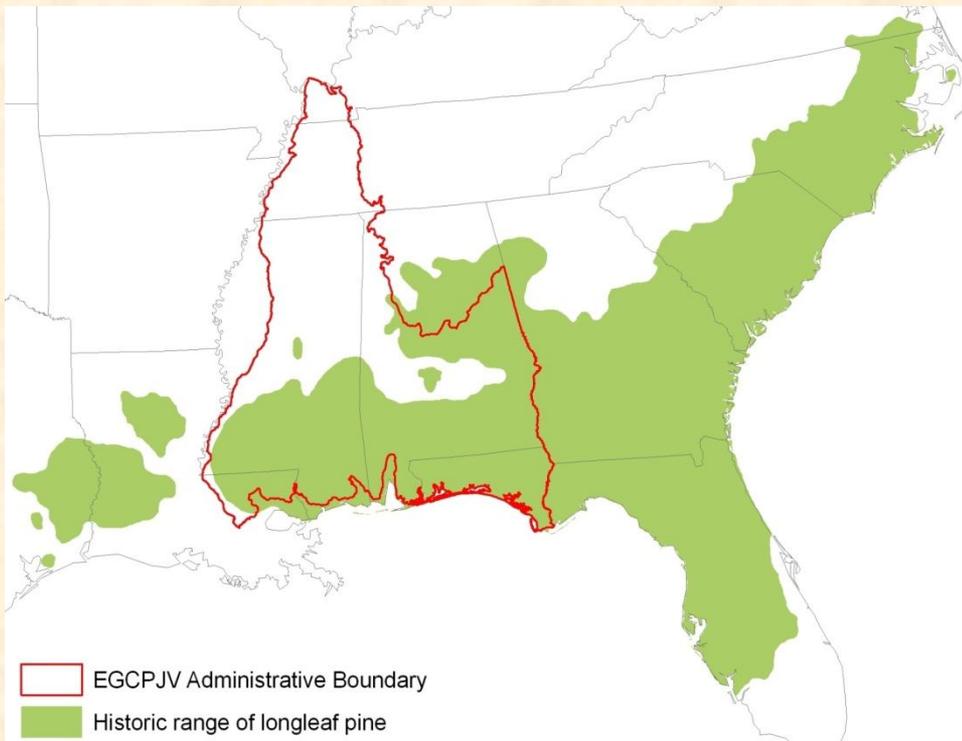


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Use of Surrogate Species East Gulf Coastal Plain

Open Pine Decision Support Tool



EGCP Surrogates in Open Pine

Red-cockaded Woodpecker

Southeastern American Kestrel

Bachman's Sparrow

Brown-headed Nuthatch

Northern Bobwhite

Henslow's Sparrow



What if No Population Objectives Exist?

- Regions and programs will work collaboratively with key partners willing to develop population objectives.
- Species-habitat models can be developed to predict potential carrying capacity of the landscape to support populations; thereby informing the development of population objectives.
- These types of assessments should consider past, present, and future conditions as well as population levels desired by the public.



Challenges

Population objectives need to consider:

- The ability of current and alternative landscapes to support species.
- Past, present and future conditions that will be able to support fish and wildlife populations.
- Processes to link population objectives across spatial scales (e.g., across LCCs, FWS Regions, range-wide objectives).



Questions?



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