



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# National Conservation Training Center

## *Training Announcement*

### USFWS/USGS Structured Decision Making Workshop *ALC3159*

#### Goal

The goal of these workshops is to develop applications of structured decision making for real, applied FWS problems that are local in scope and in the process increase capacity in structured decision making expertise within the FWS and USGS. The current array of examples mostly consists of large-scale, contentious problems, and falsely conveys the ideas that structured decision making is only for the big problems. Rapid prototyping techniques are used during the workshops to demonstrate that structured decision techniques are equally applicable to the everyday decisions made at the field office level, and to provide experiential learning opportunities to increase expertise of FWS and USGS staff.

#### Participation

Prior to each workshop, potential case studies representing a variety of FWS natural resource conservation decisions will be identified for rapid prototyping. Teams of individuals presenting case studies which have broad application and are likely to be tractable will be asked to provide a proposal no later than 4 months prior to each workshop. Proposals will include information on the decision problem to be addressed, potential team members, and desired outcomes of the workshop. Selection of proposals for each workshop will be made by a selection panel composed of FWS and USGS scientists and chaired by the workshop coordinators.



#### Structure

Each case study will have a structured decision making “coach” and “apprentice coach” assigned to work with the team prior, during, and following the workshop. The apprentice coach will learn structuring methods by working in tandem with the structured decision making coach to direct the team’s work and to develop expertise. During the workshop, coaches will both mentor the apprentices and provide advice to the team coordinator and team to focus the question, and to insure that the problem is likely to be tractable. Team coordinators, apprentices, and team, with guidance from the consultant, will lead exercises to deconstruct and analyze the decision, developing whatever approaches appear appropriate. Team coordinators will document their case studies by the end of the workshop in a short summary, following a standard template. Case studies from this workshop will be posted online at a NCTC website. Apprentices participating in one or more workshops will have gained the expertise to provide mentoring and training to other practitioners and to act as coaches in future workshops.

#### Date

June 2-6, 2014

#### Location

NCTC, Shepherdstown, WV

#### Who Should Attend

These workshops are designed to provide participants with “practice” in applying skills in developing an initial structured approach (or rapid prototype) for addressing natural resources decisions in real-life situations. Participants in the workshops include individuals who will be participating in a variety of roles including those of apprentice, coordinator, subject matter expert, technical expert, and/or observer, depending on their personal skills and goals of each team. Since the workshops are geared towards experiential learning they will combine mentoring in problem definition, building influence diagrams, model development, and optimization. Apprentice coaches should be familiar with and have some experience with structured decision making and have completed “ALC 3149-Principles of Modeling for Conservation Planning and Analysis”, “ALC3171-Structured Decision Making” courses, or have equivalent experience. Team coordinators should have an intimate knowledge of the problem to be addressed

#### Length

4.5 days

#### Tuition

There is no tuition for participants.

#### To Register

Registration is by invitation only. Instructions will follow once proposals have been selected.

#### Availability

Workshops are offered multiple times per year.

#### Contact for Registration Questions

Jill DelVecchio, at 304/876-7424 or [Jill\\_DelVecchio@fws.gov](mailto:Jill_DelVecchio@fws.gov)

#### Contact for Content Questions

Christy Coghlan, at 304/876-7438 or [Christy\\_Coghlan@fws.gov](mailto:Christy_Coghlan@fws.gov)