

Draft Problem Statement and Discussion

Agenda Item #5: Decision and Discussion 1: Shared Problem Statement Development (what is the problem? why are we here today?) (40 minutes, 10:30-11:10am)

- a. Let's draft a problem statement. We can use what we have already drafted and build out from there through a discussion.
- b. Questions to think about: Does the rough draft work? Does this reflect your thoughts? What aspects do you agree with? What alternative language might you suggest?
- c. Problem statements typically include the following elements: decision maker (who?), trigger (why?), action (what?), constraints (legal, financial, political?), frequency and timing (when?), scope (how broad or complicated?), and class/type of decision problem (prediction, multiple objectives, portfolio, risk, information, dynamic) (from: Runge et al. 2015)
 - i. Prediction: impediment is ability to predict achievement of uncertainty
 - ii. Multiple objective problem: impediment is how to trade-off competing objectives
 - iii. Portfolio problem: impediment is having to search among a very large selection of alternatives
 - iv. Risk problem: must make decisions in the face of uncertainty
 - v. Information problem: impediment is determining value of reducing uncertainty before decision making
 - vi. Dynamic problem: impediment is balancing short-term costs with long-term benefits (from: Runge et al. 2015)
- d. Rough draft to work from: "The Commission is tasked with making a decision about the recreational spring bear hunt, including whether or not there will be a recreational spring bear hunt policy based on the following options: (1) yes – status quo, (2) no, or (3) yes with revised conditions. There is disagreement regarding spring bear hunt as it relates to public opinion, science, management, and conservation. This decision will have many impacts, including on hunters, local communities, and bears themselves. This is a complex decision that includes much disagreement and division. The Commission has agreed to work towards a decision by the end of 2022."