

Workshop at 31st AWMS conference: Principles of wildlife management

The Australasian Wildlife Management Society (AWMS) has several aims. The first aim is to identify appropriate wildlife management principles and practices. As a step towards such identification we are organising a workshop on principles at the 2018 AWMS conference. Here we outline the ideas, with further details and registrations on the AWMS conference website.

Several years ago we started reviewing the topic of principles of applied ecology. This includes wildlife management. After reviewing an extensive literature we have proposed 22 prescriptive and 3 empirical principles. Prescriptive principles are guidelines for developing and reviewing management plans. Empirical principles are general patterns in the management. The 25 principles were described in a paper (Hone, Drake & Krebs 2015 *Environmental Reviews* volume 23, pages 170-176). The principles all focus on aspects of management. That is, the how, when, where and why of efforts to achieve particular aims.

One empirical principle is the effort-outcomes relationships, which focuses on what outcomes occur for a range of levels of management effort, including no effort. The background theory and empirical evidence were reviewed in a paper (Hone, Drake & Krebs 2017 *BioScience* volume 67, pages 845-852). The effort-outcomes relationship is implicit in all wildlife management, however is rarely explicit, i.e., rarely shown for all to see. The relationship is fundamental to evaluating and justifying management activities.

The 25 principles have now been used to evaluate a range of on-ground management activities. Programs ranging from local control of feral pigs in a south-east Australian national park, to managing red kangaroos in South Australia, to managing mallards in North America were evaluated using the 25 principles. The paper will be published soon (Hone, Drake & Krebs in press *Wildlife Research*). The programs demonstrate many of the principles, such as Evidence, and Uncertainty, however a few, such as Effort-outcomes and Evolution, were not demonstrated.

At the 31st AWMS conference in Hobart on 3rd December 2018, a workshop will examine the principles of wildlife management and give participants an opportunity to learn about and apply the principles. Participants will be given an overview of the principles, then shown how they have been used to evaluate current wildlife management. Subsequently, participants will be assisted in using the principles to evaluate a wildlife program of their choice or to develop a new wildlife program. For further details see the conference page on the AWMS website or contact Jim Hone (jim.hone@canberra.edu.au) for copies of the background papers. The free workshop will be held on Monday 3rd, the day before the conference begins.