

# Top 40 Priorities for Science to Inform US Conservation and Management Policy

Fleishman et al. (2011)  
<https://doi.org/10.1525/bio.2011.61.4.9>

**For which topic were research priorities identified?**  
conservation and management of natural resources

**In which location was the research priority setting conducted?**  
North America - USA

**Why was it conducted at all?**  
To maximize the utility of research to decisionmaking, especially given limited financial resources, scientists must set priorities for their efforts.

**What was the objective?**  
to identify research questions in the natural and social sciences with high relevance for decisions about conservation and management of natural resources in the United States

**What was the outcome?**  
a ranking list of 40 research questions

**How long did the research prioritization take?**  
September 2009 - May 2010

**Which methods were used to identify research priorities?**  
interview; workshop

**How were the priorities for research identified exactly?**  
Step 1: interviews: with senior decision-makers and science advisers to refine scope of project and identify mechanisms for enhancing practical application of results. Step 2: workshop: to identify policy-relevant research questions, before workshop participants were asked to submit research questions online, data cleaning, resulting in 271 research questions that were provided to workshop participants, during workshop: small group discussions developed 36 priority questions and 18 possible alternates on the basis of the list of 271 retained questions, iterative process of voting and discussion resulted in 40 research questions

**Which stakeholders took part?**  
Decision-makers and their advisers in the public sector, science and policy specialists in the nongovernmental and private sectors, public and private funders of research, and academic and other researchers. Interviews: 9 current and 9 former senior decision-makers and science advisers. Workshop: 35 participants.

**How were stakeholders recruited?**  
No information provided.

**Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?**  
Stakeholders were mere participants of the research prioritization process; they were not actively involved in the process.