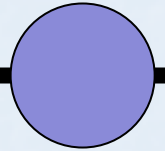


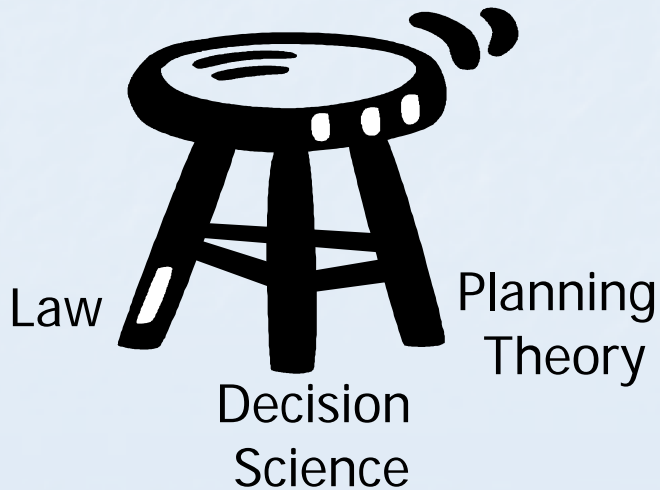
Federal Interagency Task Force on Visitor Capacity on Public Lands and Waters




Glenn E. Haas, Ph.D
User Capacity Symposium
Yosemite National Park
February 6, 2008

"What you see depends on where you sit".

Visitor
Capacity





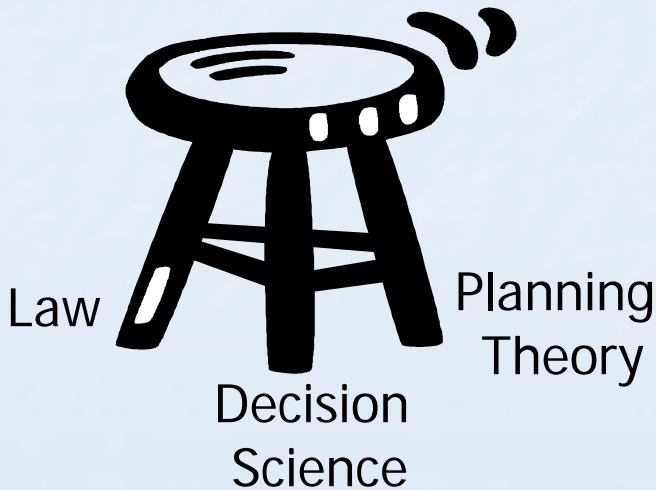
Visitor Capacity

- 1978 NPRA
- Socially acceptable
- Public understands

"What you see depends on where you sit".

Number

Visitor
Capacity



Number

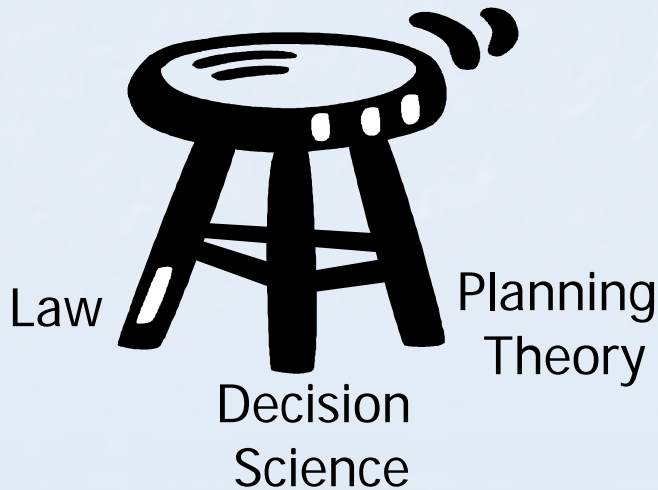
- A whole number or range
- Capacity is the supply, or prescribed number, of appropriate visitor opportunities that will be accommodated in an area.

"What you see depends on where you sit".

Number

Legal
Mandate

Visitor
Capacity





Legal Mandate

- NPRA, WSR, NFMA, FLPMA
- Capacity will be addressed in agency plans
- Capacity is a number

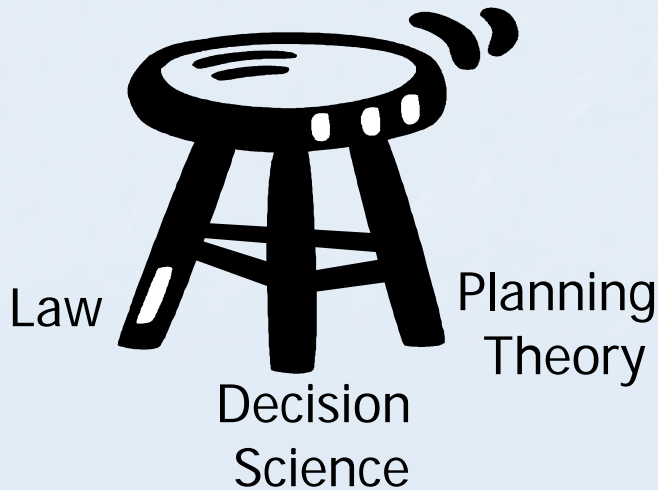
"What you see depends on where you sit".

Number

Legal
Mandate

Decision

Visitor
Capacity





Decision

- Responsible official
- Sound professional judgment
- Principled, reasoned, trackable, transparent, and reasonable
- Proactive (ripe)

"What you see depends on where you sit".

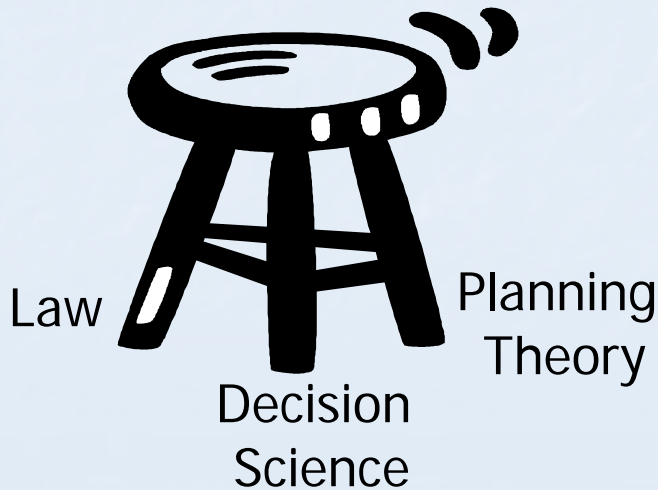
Number

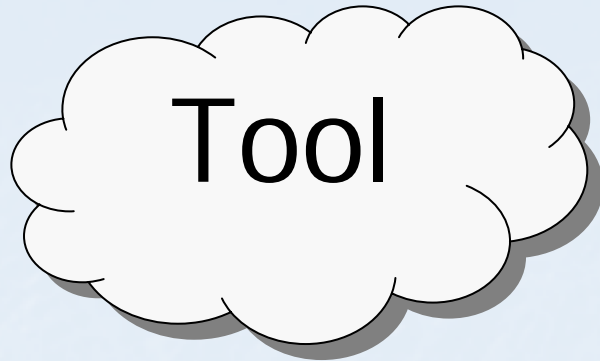
Legal
Mandate

Decision

Tool

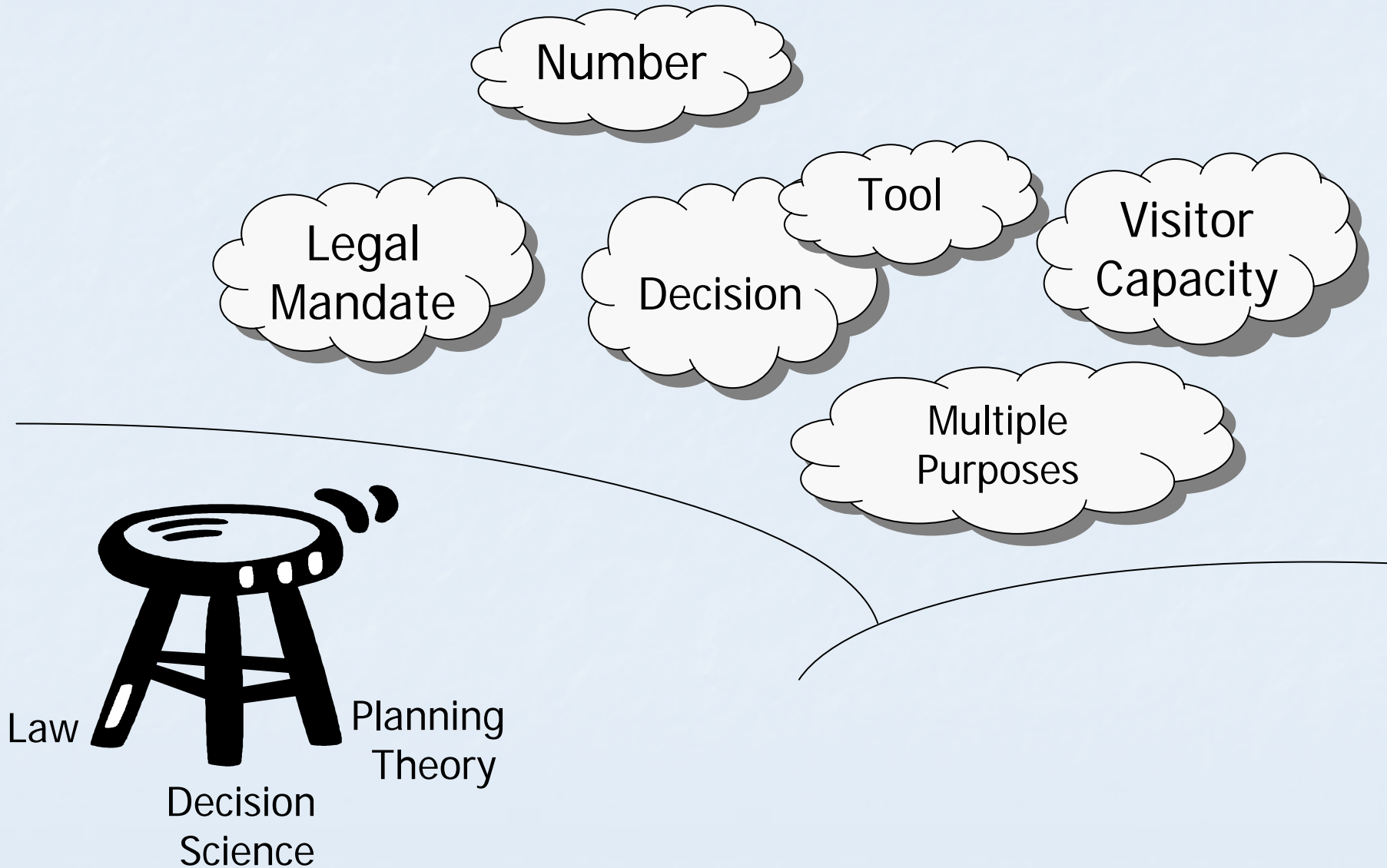
Visitor
Capacity





- Capacity is a fundamental natural resource management tool
- Visitor capacities are widespread

"What you see depends on where you sit".

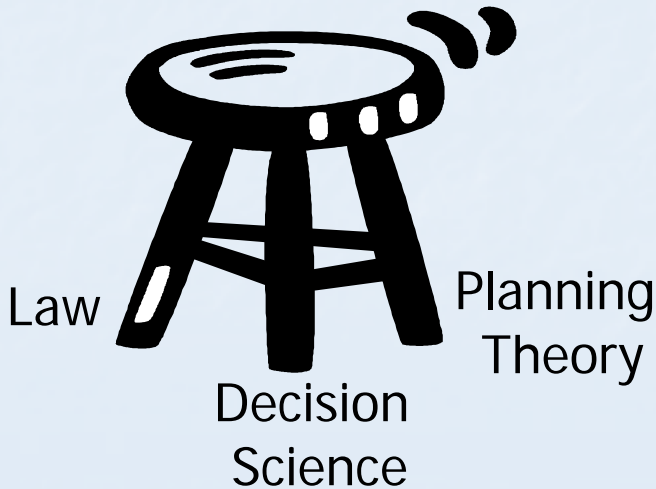
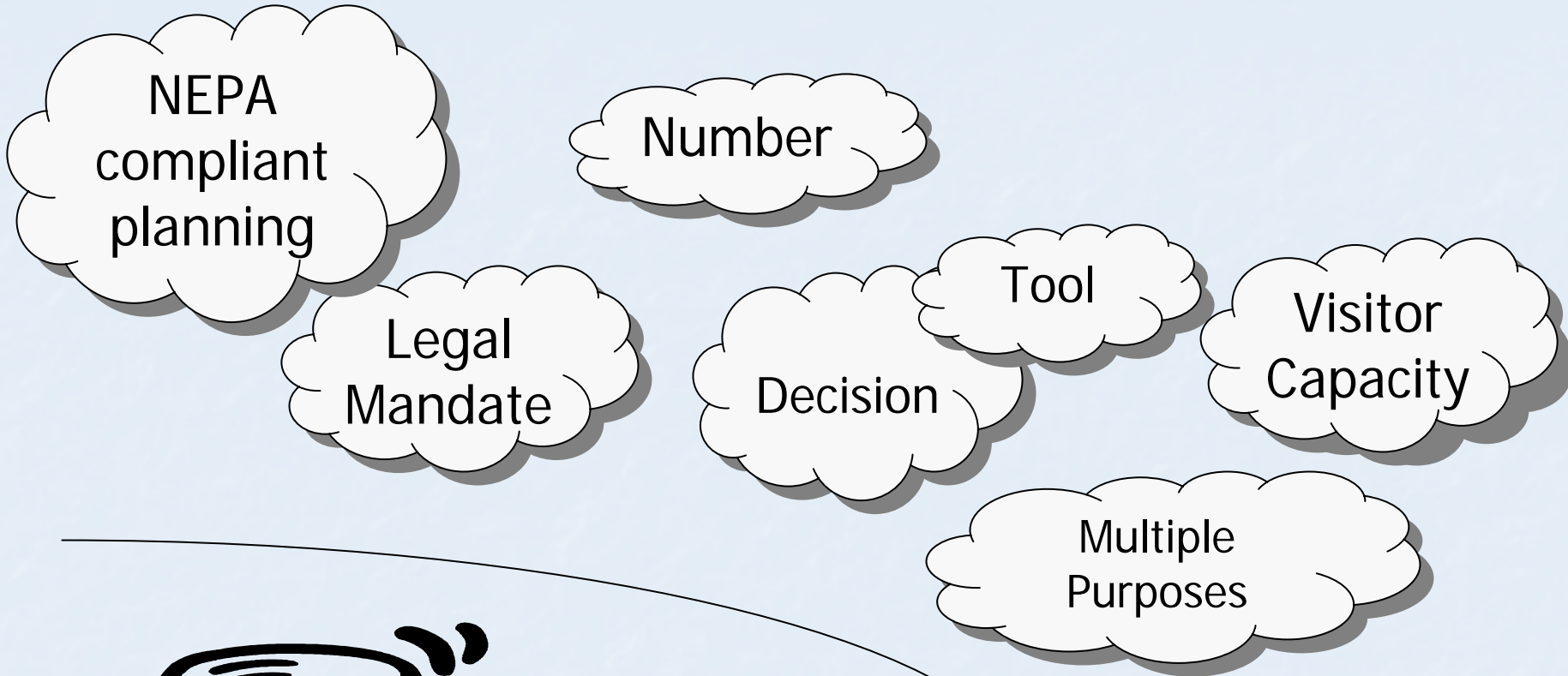




Multiple Purposes

- Demand/supply analysis
- Predictability for businesses and communities
- Clarify and contrast management alternatives (choices)
- Trigger for additional resources or actions
- Integrity of park-dependent experiences
- Risk management tool
- Time-ticketing and reservation systems

"What you see depends on where you sit".



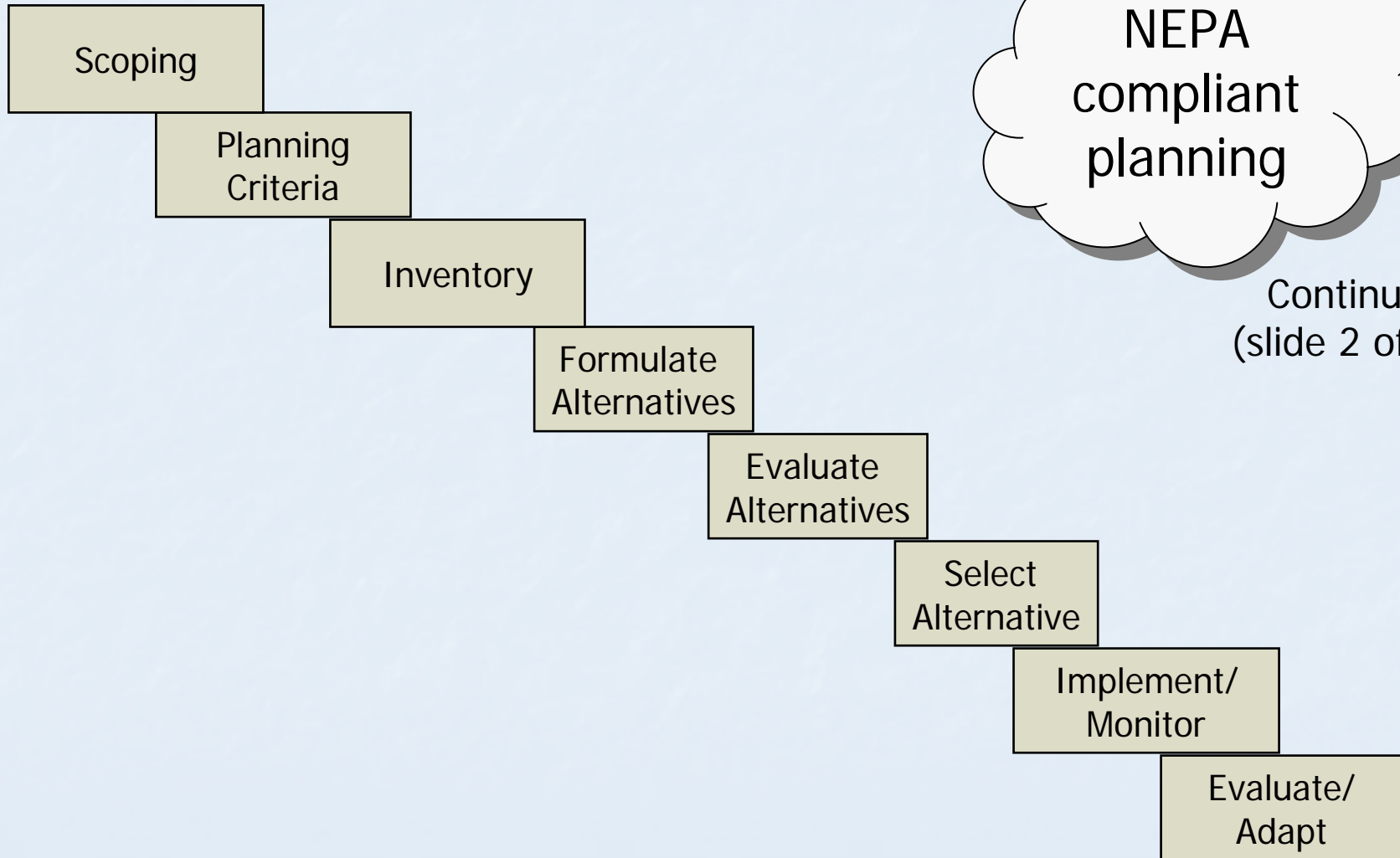


NEPA compliant planning

Slide 1 of 5

- The Magna Carta of environmental planning
- Purpose: better decisions
- Best time for decision making
- Integrated and comprehensive analysis
- Agency plans are subject to NEPA

Planning Process



NEPA
compliant
planning

Continued
(slide 2 of 5)...

NEPA
compliant
planning

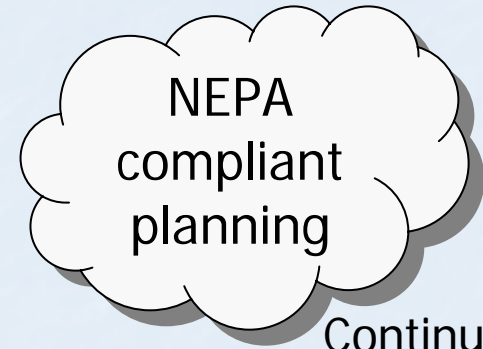
Continued (slide 3 of 5)...

Formulating Alternatives

| | A | B | C | D |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Management Objectives | | | | |
| Desired Conditions | | | | |
| Management Actions | | | | |
| Capacities | | | | |
| Economic Effect | | | | |
| Budgetary Costs | | | | |
| Other Descriptors | | | | |

Example Inputs into Capacity Decisions

- Management objectives and standards
- Desired future conditions
- Intended park-dependent experiences
- Resource conditions and capability
- Management capability and infrastructure
- Best available science
- Public values
- Regional substitutes
- Recreation demand and trends
- Economic effects
- Foreseeable changes
- Potential consequences and risk



Continued
(slide 4 of 5)...

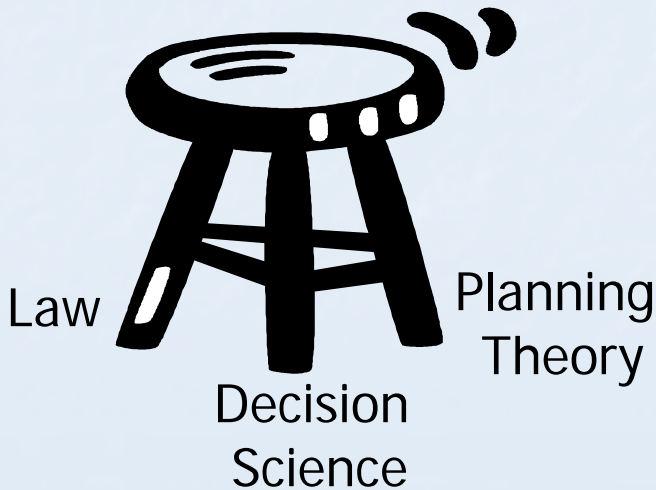
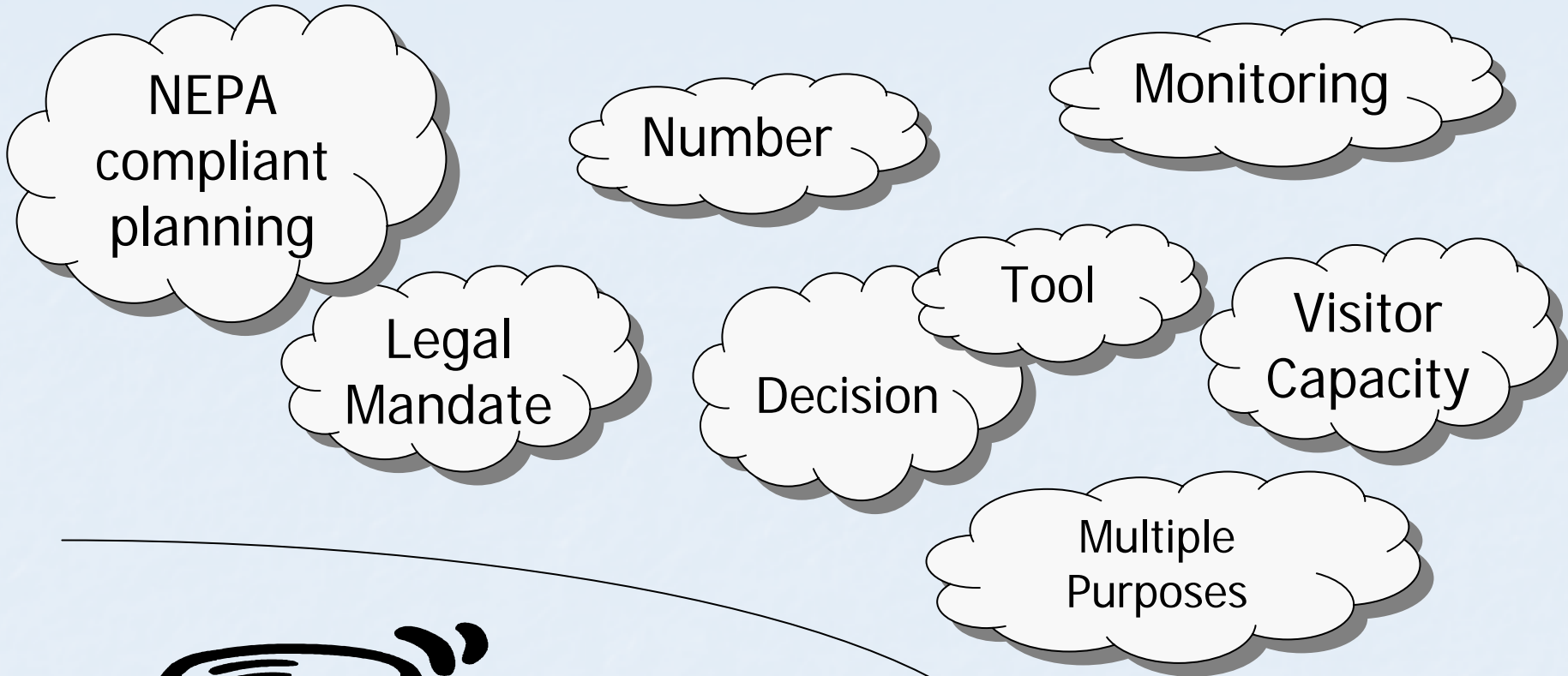


NEPA
compliant
planning

Continued (slide 5 of 5)...

- Capacity decisions benefit from NEPA
- Capacity decisions do not require
 - A special planning process
 - A special study or analysis
 - A special monitoring program
 - A separate and isolated decision

"What you see depends on where you sit".



Monitoring

Slide 1 of 2

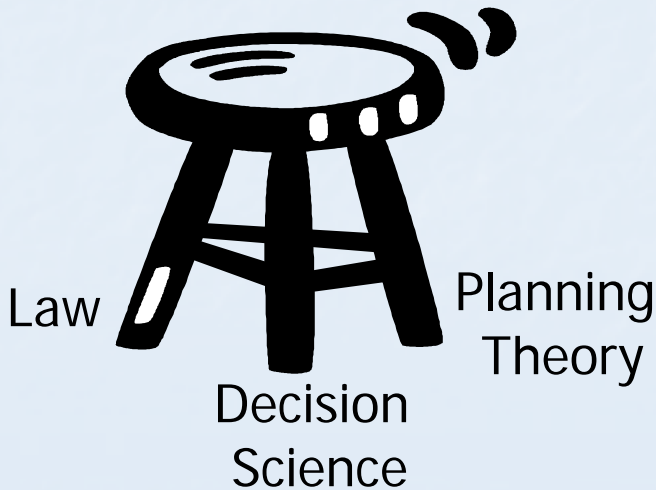
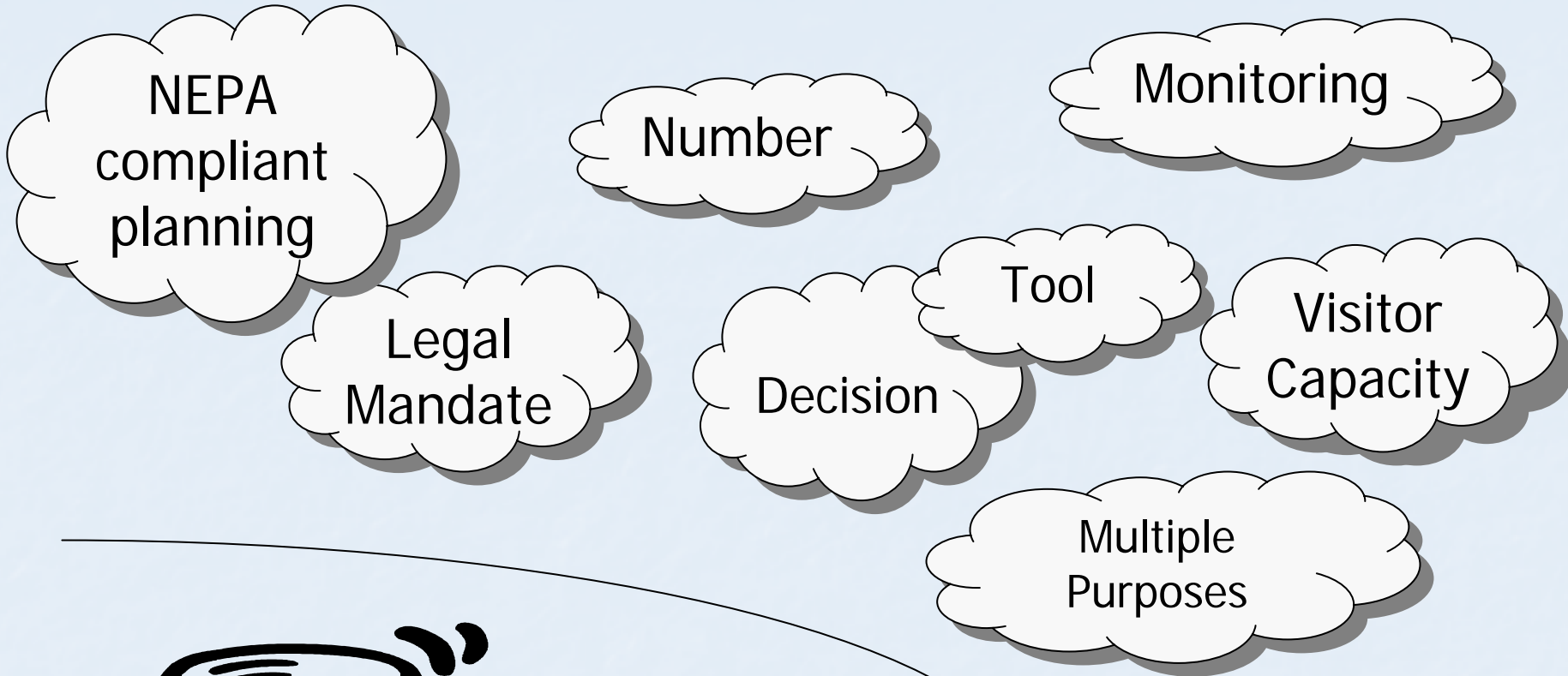
- Principle #11: *A visitor capacity needs to be adaptive to new science, information, uses, technology, trends, conditions, and other circumstances of importance.*
- Principle #12: *The effectiveness of a visitor capacity depends on an adequate program of monitoring that is commensurate with the level of potential consequences, risk, and uncertainty.*

Monitoring

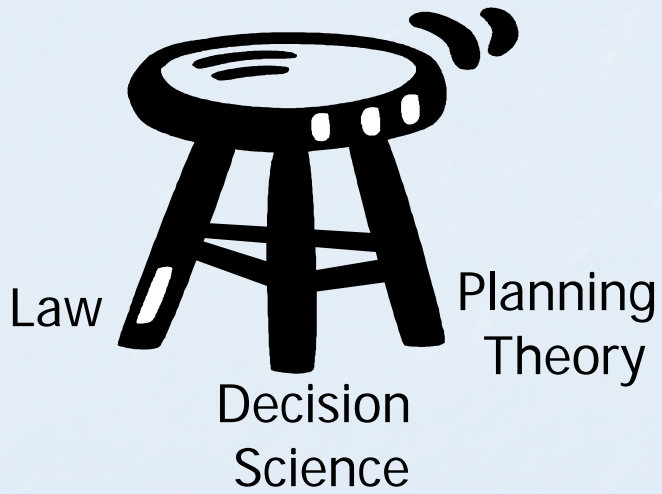
Continued (slide 2 of 2)...

- Monitoring will help make better visitor capacity decisions
- Monitoring does not:
 - Determine capacity
 - Replace a legally-sufficient public planning process

"What you see depends on where you sit".



In Summary...



Thank you