

# Introduction to Holistic Management Whole Farm/Ranch Planning



Improve Results on Your Farm or  
Ranch



# Holistic Management Whole Ranch Planning Livermore, California 2016

# Holistic Management

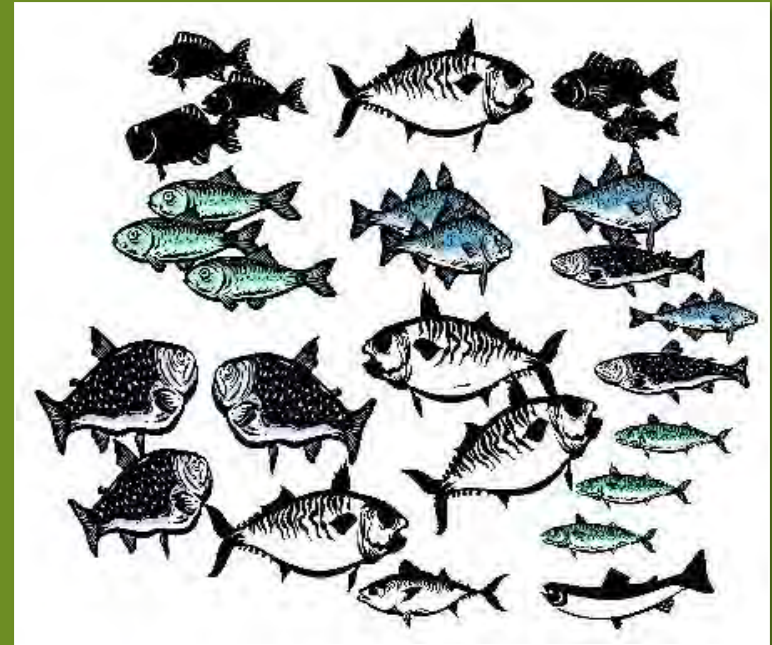
Holistic Management® decision making framework designed to:

- Help land stewards better manage resources
- Obtain sustainable environmental, economic, and social benefits
- Enable humans to deal with complexity

# Holistic Management Principles

- Nature functions in wholes
- Understand your environment
- Plan the grazing as if the plant was important
- Embrace the predator:prey relationship

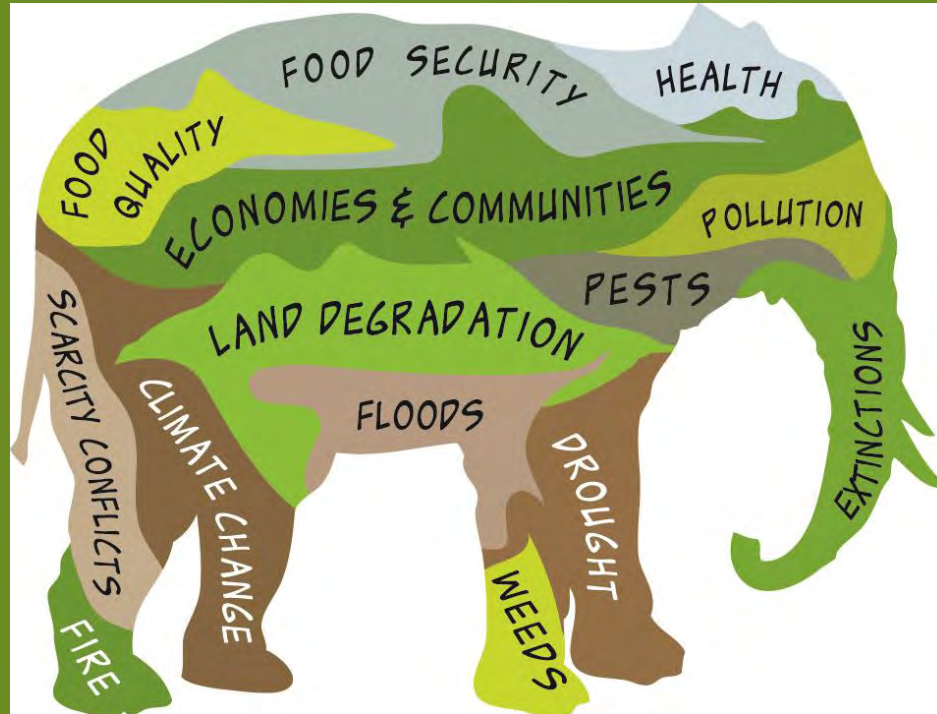
# Principle One: Nature Functions in Wholes



**“I have hitherto described this earth and  
generally the whole visible world  
as if it were merely a machine in which there  
was nothing at all to consider  
except the shapes and motions of its parts”**

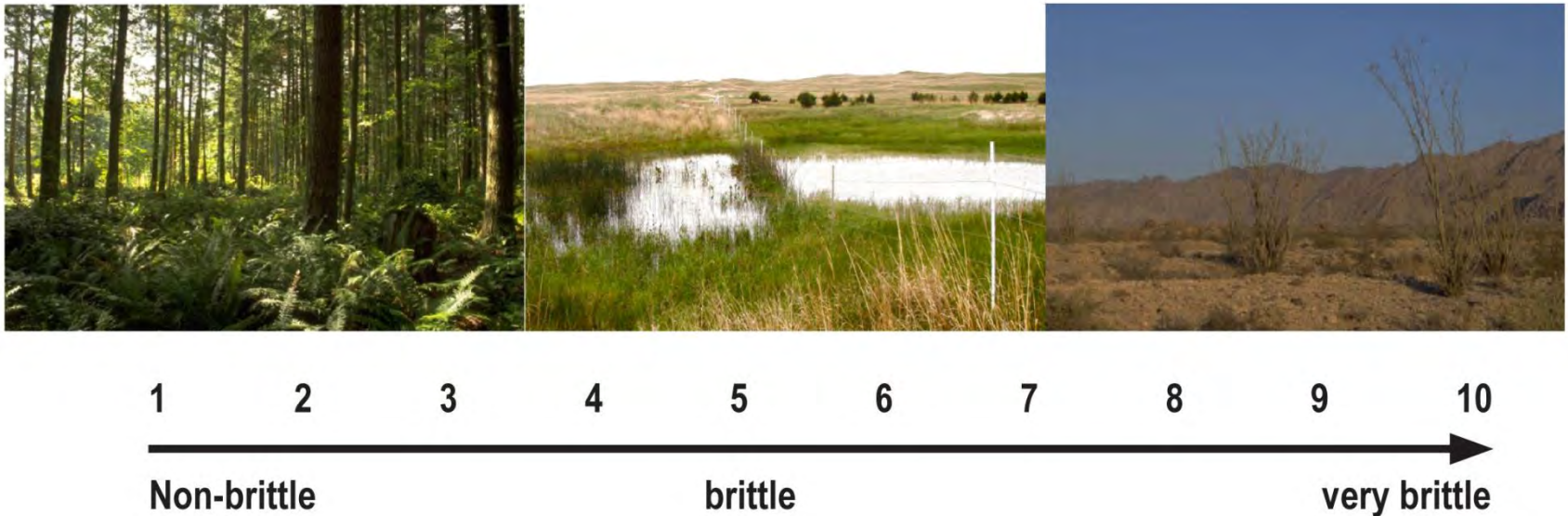
**Rene Descartes  
Principles of Philosophy, IV  
1644**





## Principle Two:

# The Brittleness Scale



**According to the brittleness scale,  
a rainforest would be a 1 and a desert would be a 10.**



# Principle Three: Plan Your Grazing As If the Grass Was Important



# Principle Four: Embrace The Predator Prey Relationship







# Holistic Management Practices

1. Define what you manage
2. State what you want
3. Aim for healthy soil
4. Consider all tools
5. Test your decisions
6. Monitor your results

# Practice One: Define What You Manage (your inventory)



*Defining management boundaries means you are better able to manage your inventory.*

# Your Management Team

**They may be best of breed,  
but are they a team?**





# Your Asset Base

- Consider resources that are:
  - Physical
  - Human
  - Financial

# Practice Two: State What You Want

## Elements of the Holistic Goal

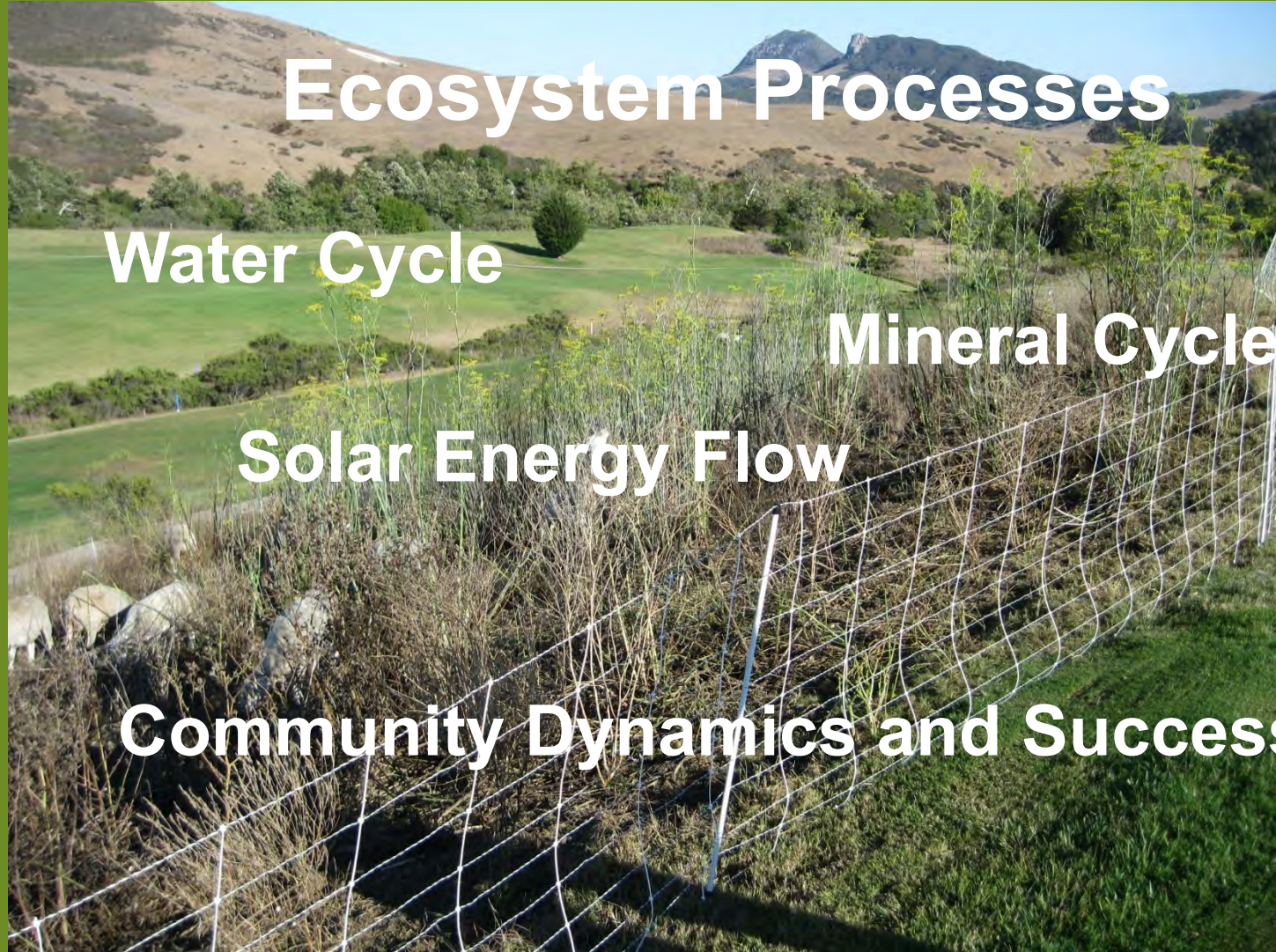
1. Quality of Life and Values
2. Behaviors and Systems
3. Visions



# Practice Three: Aim for Healthy Soil

## The Four Ecosystem Processes





# Ecosystem Processes

Water Cycle

Mineral Cycle

Solar Energy Flow

Community Dynamics and Succession







# Dawley Ranch – Before and After





# Cockatoo Creek – Before and After



# Shelterbelt Farm— Before and After



# Tools for Managing the Ecosystem

## Tools for Managing Ecosystem Processes

Human  
Creativity

Technology

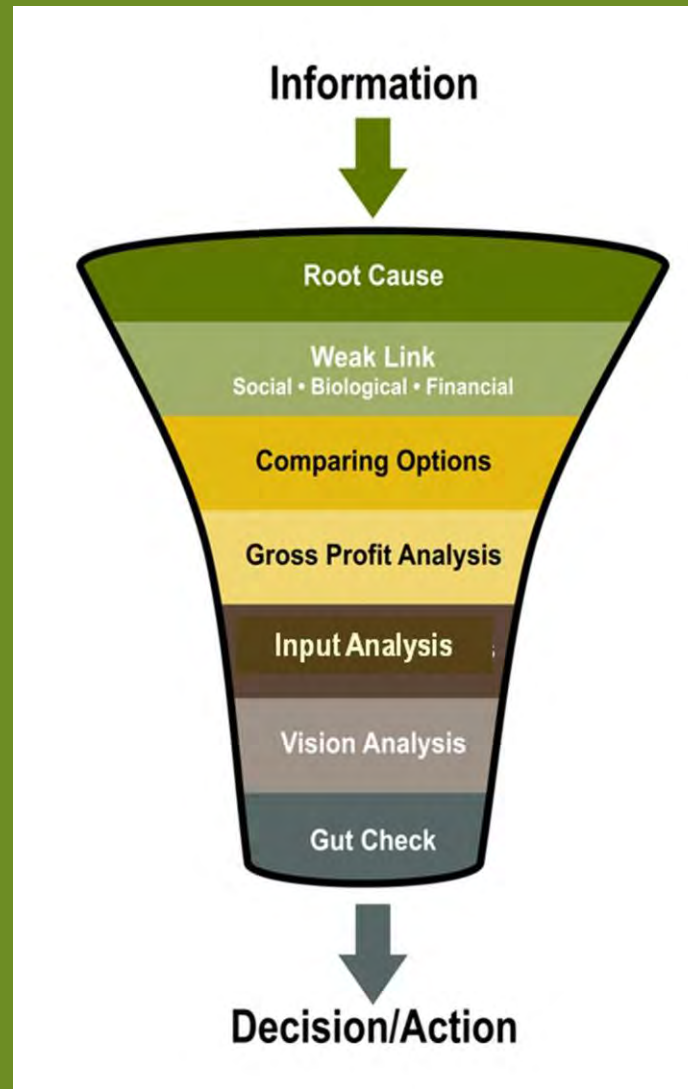
Rest

Fire

Animals and  
Living Organisms

Money and Labor

# Practice Five: Testing Your Decisions



# 1. Root Cause

*Does this action  
address the root cause  
of the problem?*



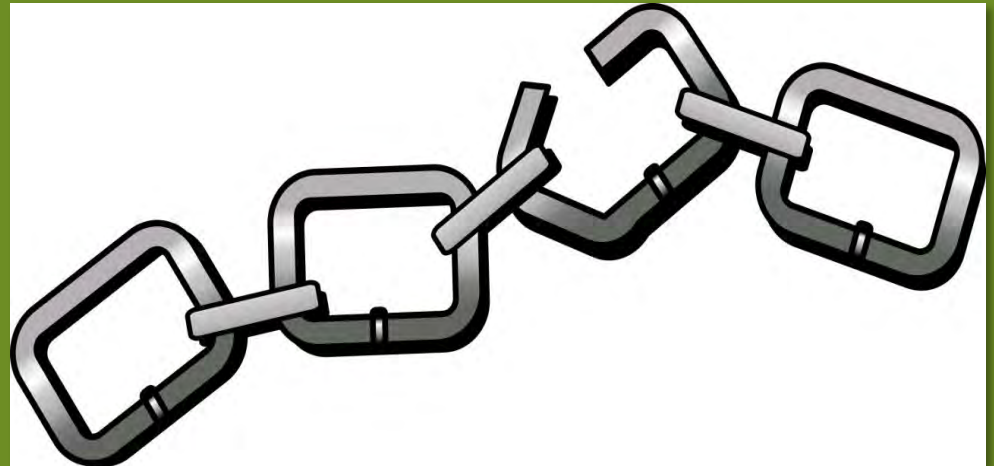
Forces you to identify the underlying issue  
Avoids addressing only symptoms.



## 2. Weak Link

Three types

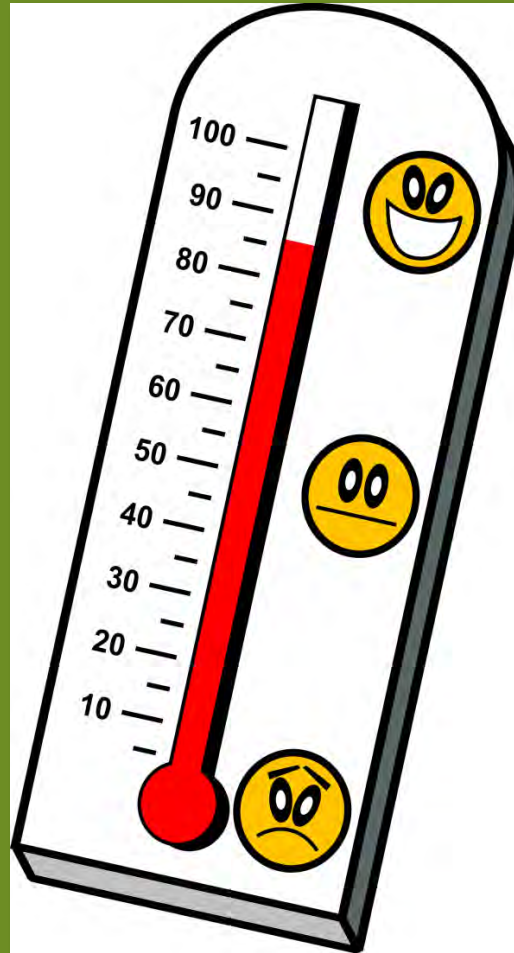
- Social
- Biological
- Financial





# Social Weak Link

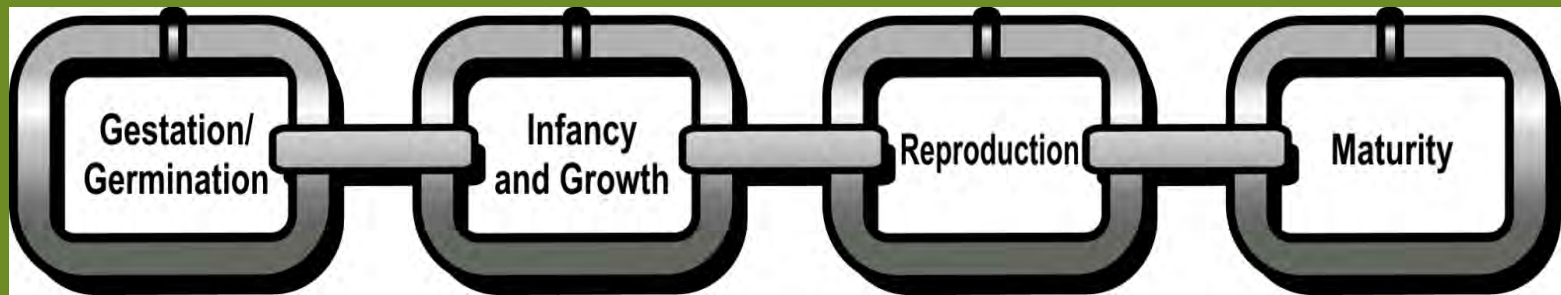
*Are there any social concerns regarding this action?*



Avoids  
misunderstandings  
or personal obstacles

# Biological Weak Link

*Does this action address the weakest point in the life cycle of this organism?*



By identifying an organism's point of greatest vulnerability, you are better able to address it.

# Financial Weak Link

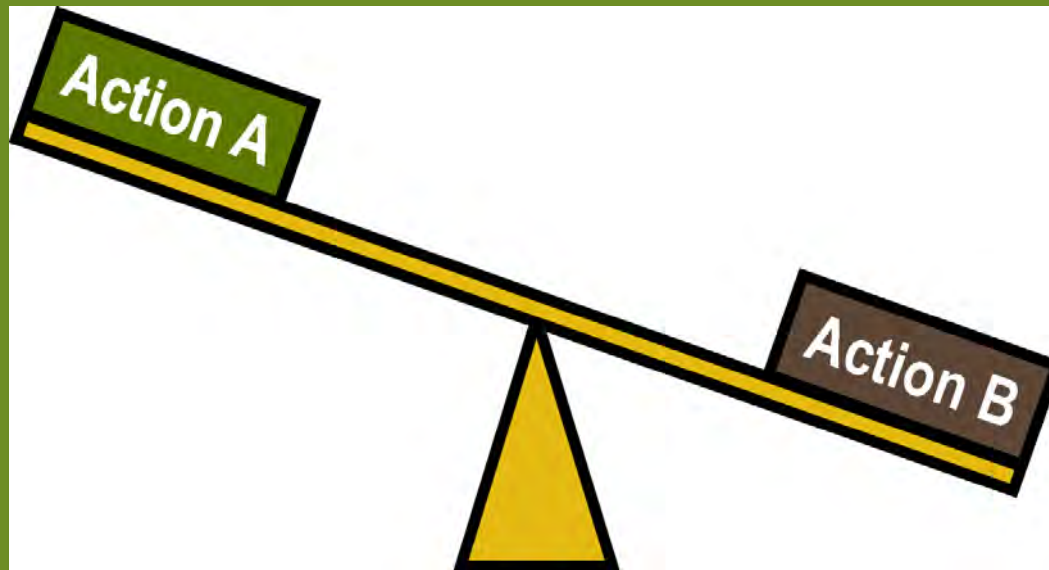
*In my enterprise, what single thing will have the greatest impact on my ability to generate income?*



By investing funds to give the greatest return, maximize ROI

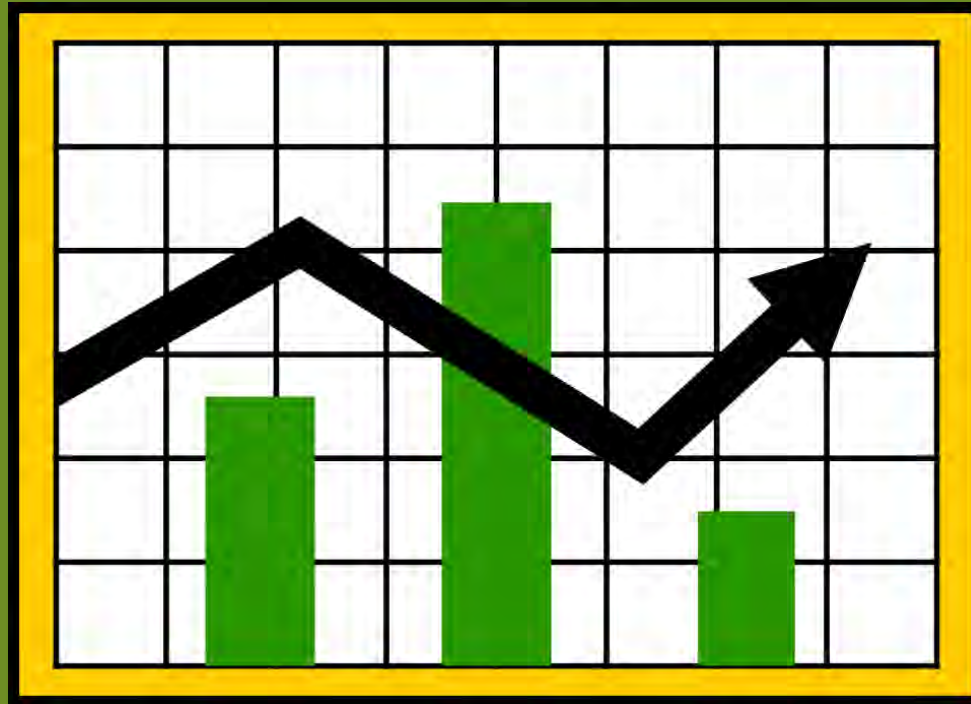
# 3. Comparing Options

Holistic Goal



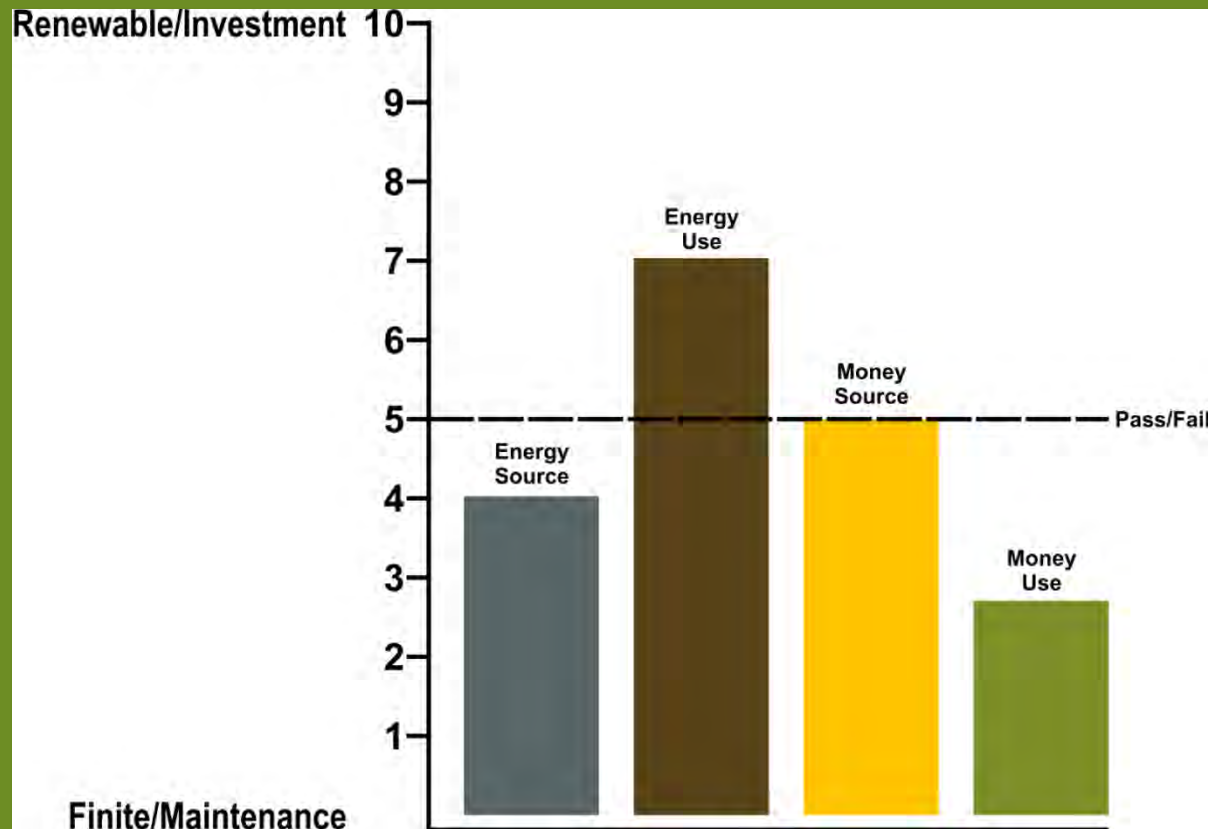
Where is the biggest bang for your buck?

# 4. Gross Profit Analysis



Which enterprise(s) contribute the most?

# 5. Input Analysis



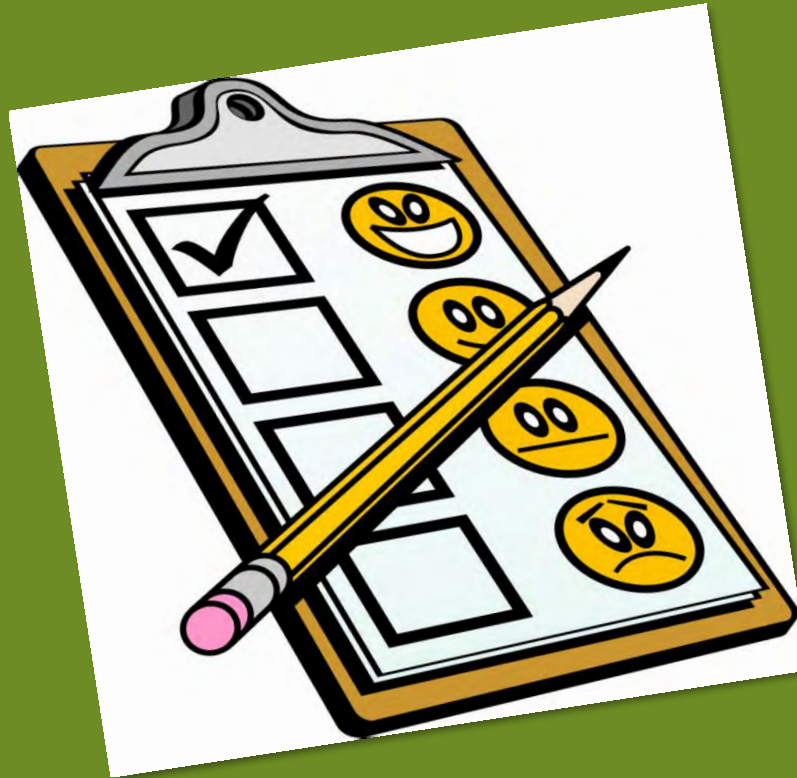


# 6. Vision Analysis

<b>Testing Question Categories</b>	Root Cause	Weak Link	Comparing Options	Gross Profit Analysis	Input Analysis	Vision Analysis	Gut Check
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Are you headed toward or  
away from your future vision in your holistic goal?

# 7. Gut Check

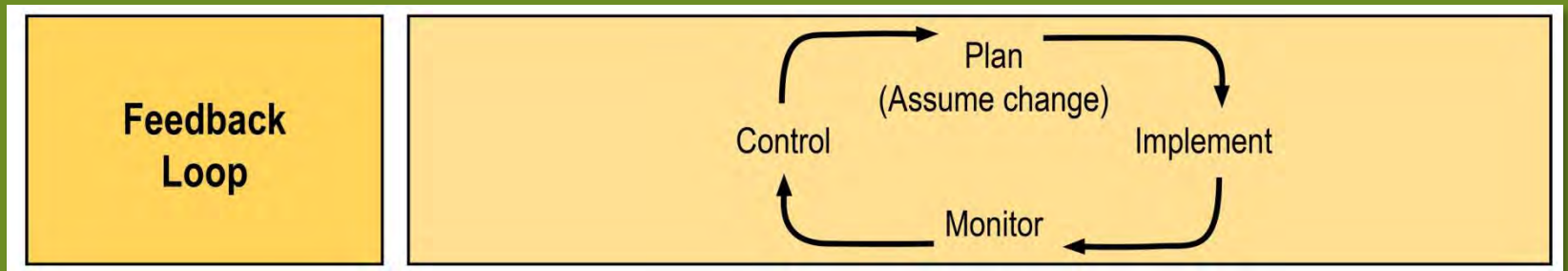


The decision *feel* right?

# Holistic Management Decision Testing Matrix

Proposed Action:	Pass	Fail	Doesn't Apply	Don't Know	Notes
Root Cause					
Weak Link — Social					
Weak Link — Biological					
Weak Link — Financial					
Comparing Options					
Gross Profit Analysis					
Input Analysis					
Vision Analysis					
Decision:					
HOLISTIC MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL					

# Monitoring Your Decision



Lets you quickly know  
if your plan goes off track.

# Holistic Management Framework

