Figure 3: Sample decision key design

Step 1: Are there wetlands in the area of influence of the project?

A. Are there marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, open water ponds, or other wetlands or poorly drained areas on or near the project site?
B. Are there streams or rivers on or near the project site that flow into marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, open water ponds, or other wetlands or poorly drained areas?

yes

Step 2: Consider whether the wetland performs the following functions:

A. Habitat functions

1. **Does the wetland provide important migratory bird habitat?**
   - **I don't know** → Opens information on how you can find out.
   - **Yes** → Opens information on benchmarks for migratory birds. (allows you to select benchmarks based on additional criteria like region, type of protected area, etc.) → **Step 3: Consider the applicability of the following benchmarks to your proposal:** "A wetland should be considered of national importance if it regularly supports 10,000 waterfowl." Source: Criteria for IBAs. Level of protection required… Mitigation recommendations… → **Step 4: Continue on to next question in Step 2.**
   - **No** → Takes user to next question in Step 2.
2. Does the wetland provide habitat for species that are designated at risk by relevant authorities?
   - I don't know
   - Yes
   - No
3. Does the wetland support animal or plant species that are regionally unique or in unusual abundance? What features of the wetland are responsible?
   - I don't know
   - Yes
   - No
4. Does the wetland support species endemic to the region?
   - I don't know
   - Yes
   - No
5. Does the wetland provide important habitat(s) for other birds, mammals…