Process Framework: Steps for Achieving Expert Review

Steps in Review

The Process Framework is a Service-drafted document that outlines the steps that will be taken to complete the 2015, Greater Sage-Grouse Status Review.

As part of our commitment to a rigorous process, the Service would like to solicit input from experts to assess the soundness of our proposal

Identify Experts

The following experts have been identified as candidates to sit on the review panel based on their expertise in decision analysis as applied to endangered species decisions, their understanding of the US Endangered Species Act (ESA), or their experience in sage-grouse conservation. Potential for conflicts of interest will be evaluated. A panel of three to six will be selected from among the candidates so that the collective experience within the panel represents the desired expertise.

Potential Reviewers

Name	Expertise	Agency or Company	Email	Phone
Robin Gregory	Decision analysis	Decision Research	robin.gregory@ires.ubc.ca	250-539-5701
Jim Nichols	Decision analysis	USGS	jnichols@usgs.gov	301-497-5660
Mike Conroy	Decision analysis	University of Georgia	mconroy@uga.edu	706.542.1167
Mike Runge	Decision analysis	USGS	mrunge@usgs.gov	301-497-5748
Jean Cochrane	Decision analysis	FWS (retired)/Private consultant	jcochrane@boreal.org	
Teresa Woods				
Greg Breese	Decision analysis	FWS	greg_breese@fws.gov	302-653-9424
Steve Knick	Sage grouse conservation and	USGS	steve_knick@usgs.gov	208-426-5210

Name	Expertise	Agency or Company	Email	Phone
	ecology			
Dave Naugle	Sage grouse conservation and ecology	University of Montana	david.naugle@umontana.edu	406-243-5364
San Stiver	Sage grouse conservation and ecology	WAFWA	stiver@cableone.net	928.443.5158
Michael Schroeder	Sage grouse conservation and ecology	Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife	michael.schroeder@dfw.wa.gov	360-920-2515

Schedule and operation

A Review Panel Coordinator will oversee and facilitate the review. The review panel will meet first during a preparatory conference call. Then the options for completing the review are:

- A two day workshop will be convened where the panel will complete the review;
- The panel members will work independently and submit written comments directly to the coordinator for compilation.

The operation of the panel will be guided by expectations of fair and reasonable behavior.

Prepare Experts

Preparatory material will be provided to the review panel members on the GSG listing decision process, schedule, panel operation, and terms of reference to guide the review. Background material will include a description of the decision process framework and, only as deemed relevant to the current listing decision, additional material on the ESA or on previous greater sage-grouse listing decisions or conservation will be provided.

Terms of Reference

The review of the overall process framework will follow these terms of reference:

1. Evaluate the framework for its adherence to principles and practices of decision analysis, including but not limited to:
    a. Does the framework represent a clear rationale for decision making?
    b. Will the framework result in a transparent decision process?

2. Evaluate the framework for its use of best available science including but not limited to:

   a. Does the framework allow for the full use of best available science on greater sage-grouse ecology and conservation?
   b. Is it clear and explicit how best available science will be used to make the decision?

3. To the extent the review panel has expertise on these topics; evaluate the framework for its consistency with other guiding principles.
   a. Does the framework provide for effective communication with Federal, State, and Tribal partners of the FWS?
   b. Does the framework organize the decision process and supporting information to make efficient use of Service capacity?
   c. Will the framework result in a legally defensible decision?

4. Evaluate the framework for …
5. Prepare a peer review panel terms of reference and advisory report summarizing the panel's evaluation of the framework addressing each term of reference. Develop a list of tasks to be completed following the workshop. Complete and submit the report within 1 week of workshop conclusion.

Contact Experts

We contact candidate reviewers to find a time when they are available to meet (either in person or through the phone).

Schedule Meeting or Call

Based on availability of experts and the internal time constraints, we will schedule a call to discuss the framework.

Pre-Work

We will provide the experts with preparatory material (see above) including the Draft Process Framework, Terms of Reference, and relevant supporting material for review prior to the preparatory conference call.