Process Framework

Greater Sage-Grouse 2015 Status Review

Introduction

This document describes the Service's approach to a status assessment for the greater sage-grouse. We are guided by our process objectives and foundational elements. We further wish to articulate the role for policy and decision making in this process.

Process Objectives:

Our guiding principles for this evaluation include:

- Transparency
- Best Available Science
- Legal Defensibility
- Provide a clear rationale for decision making
- Effective communications with Federal, State, and Tribal partners
- Use Service capacity efficiently

Comment [MG1]: We don't' really explain how the information below achieves these goals - do we need to?

Foundational Elements

In addition to the guiding principles, the Service will rely on a number of foundational elements for the status assessment as we move forward. Those elements include:

- **2010 Finding:** consideration of the 2010 finding,
- **Bi-State Proposed Rule:** consistency with for the status review for the bi-state population of sage grouse (as well as similar species such as prairie chicken)
- ~~**consistency with the** **Conservation Objectives Team (COT) Report:** consistency with this report, and~~
- **Conservation Actions:** consideration of conservation activities~~, and consistency with policy approaches utilized in the proposed rule forfor the status review for the bi-state population of sage grouse (, as well as similar species such as (i.e., prairie chicken)~~.

~~the Conservation Objectives Team (COT) report, the 2010 finding for the greater sage grouse, and any relevant policies or guidelines or other policy considerations, including DPS, SPR, and foreseeable future. The Service will rely on these foundational elements to determine how the Service might evaluate conservation actions, as well as how these items relate to the definitions of threatened or endangered.~~ Policy and Analytical Structures

The Service will rely on these foundational elements to determine how the Service might evaluate conservation actions, as well as how these items relate to the definitions of threatened or endangered. A strong scientific approach will be necessary to understand the depth of information available for this species. The analyses employed will provide valuable information to support the decision makers.

Comment [MG2]: We mention this in this introductory text, but don't discuss further below. Do we want to get into these issues in the framework, or delete from here? Maybe just a general discussion about the need to consider specific application of listing policies?