

~~gas, and extractable minerals), and habitat conversion due to tilled agriculture. This will allow the Service to look at risk to the highest concentrations of birds in the most important landscapes and begin to put anticipated biological outcomes into the context of the policy framework relative to the definitions of threatened and endangered.~~

Policy and Decisions Framework

~~(or some other word that works better than framework)~~ The Service anticipates the analytical framework will present a number of scenarios or variations of implementation to bound uncertainty to give a range of biological outcomes in the form of various abundances and distributions. The final decision analysis will be assess the likelihood of various scenarios and the resultant biological outcomes and, using the scientific information as a basis, apply our policy understanding of the definitions of threatened and endangered at the range-wide scale, potential DPS scale (if appropriate), and at any SPR scale (if appropriate).

Comment [MG8]: Should we say something about how everything above will be used by the decision makers – I think this is a big part of the process that people are struggling with, and the more we can illustrate it the better.

Comment [KNorman9]: Pulled from Mike T. original document.

Policy White Papers

As we work through the status review, we will complete explicit white papers to clearly explain how different policies will be evaluated. The Service anticipates that multiple areas will require such papers including: policy framework and application of the

- Distinct Population Segment (DPS),
- Significant Portion of the Range (SPR),
- Foreseeable future, and possibly
- Other Endangered Species Act policies.

Decision Workshop

Specific analytical tools will provide a series of biological outcomes. The results of any expert elicitation workshops the Service conducts as well as internal decision analysis products developed will be brought together with the decision-making cadre to evaluate potential outcomes and risk analysis and to subsequently apply the definition of threatened or endangered in order to formulate a recommendation to the Director of the Service regarding the status of the species.

Part of this decision-making process will incorporate the concepts of effectiveness of actions (regulatory and non-regulatory), the certainty of effectiveness of actions (both regulatory and non-regulatory), against the probability of long-term persistence. This will by the nature of the decision include and assessment of any short-term negative impacts that may continue to be ongoing and the future application of conservation actions and regulatory measure to secure the long-term persistence.

All of this information will be evaluated with the assistance of structured decision making facilitators at a multiple day workshop.