

time, we do not believe that bird numbers or habitat acres are the appropriate predictors of the overall species status and its likely persistence into the future.

Implementation of the guiding principles will be accomplished with the use of an analytical framework. The analytical framework will involve varying levels of analysis depending on the relative importance to species persistence of the factor being evaluated as well as its relative importance to the conservation status of the species. For example, the Service anticipates a much more in depth level of analysis for the small number of threats described above and any other threats determined to be the most important to the status of the species.

The Service anticipates deploying a number of analytical methods including spatially explicit models, expert elicitations on specific subjects, internal decision analysis frameworks as well as other methods that may arise in the process. The spatially explicit modelling will focus on current and future changes to threats and conservation actions, using the COT spatial geography and population data to project various outcomes, as measured by abundance and distribution. The Service anticipates that this will be the highest level of effort and will be used on those threats that have been identified as the most important drivers for the conservation of the species (long-term persistence). These include at a minimum include; invasive species and fire; energy development and associated infrastructure (including oil, 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.

The remaining threats from the COT report, 2010 finding and any other information provided will be evaluated and assessed within the framework of impacts to species, populations, PACs and individuals in the species report.

3 things that need to be added:

Qualitative analysis – how will that work, how will it fit in

Range of outcomes to decision-makers to allow for debate and analysis of likely scenarios

Decision workshop and synthesis of this debate