

The doc you provided me seems like a preamble, an introductory piece. I can see why you were not thinking it would be the sole subject of an external review. Such a preamble would lead into laying out the actual analytical framework we intend to follow. Based on our conversation at the last meeting, and the doc you provided, the following is what I think we have begun to converge around as a descriptive framework:

DRAFT OUTLINE OF ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

(I still need to review our list of key policy questions to see if/where they fit here.)

1. Assess status and trend of the species in 2015 in terms of spatial distribution and range wide abundance trend, and compare to 2010.

The Service will use data on the populations provided by the states and will either be from 2013 or 2014; 2015 data will not be collected until next spring, precluding its use under current timelines.

The spatial analyses in 2010 ran one scenario, assuming 100 percent impact overlain over the birds. A potential reanalysis of the data will likely include multiple scenarios and may be at a finer scale.

2. Assess any new scientific information about how known threats may impact the species.

Has any of our understanding changed since 2010?

3. Determine whether any new threats have emerged.

If so, what is their impact and how will we analyze that?

In the process of identifying the major threats, the Service will also evaluate if any new major threats have arisen. If that evaluation indicates an additional threat may be a population level threat, we will attempt to quantify those effects.

4. Our base spatial level of analysis is PACs; our analyses will be scale-able up to populations.

We will conduct all spatial analyses to include predictions of distribution and relative abundance (when possible). These spatial predictions will always include analyses within PACs such that the relative percent population of the PAC and the percent area are included.