

This evaluation is informed in large part by:

- a. Current status and trend of the species, and
- b. The degree to which we predict the PACs will persist, with the greatest weight in our evaluation being given to those areas with the highest densities of birds.

Policy considerations at this stage include: how far out are our predictions reliable (i.e., what is the foreseeable future)

- a. If the species is not Threatened or Endangered rangewide, we will assess whether any distinct population segment meets the definition of threatened or endangered as well as applying our understanding of Significant Portion of the range.

*See additional paper regarding Distinct Population Segment (DPS) evaluation.*

Throughout this process, we will employ experts from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to assist with the decision analyses.

The Decision Analysis group is comprised of experts from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (Sarah Converse and Dave Smith) and USFWS (Steve Abele). The role of this ~~e-decision analyses analysis~~ (DA) group ~~from USGS (Sarah and Dave) and FWS (Steve)~~ is to advise the USFWS on approaches for structuring the major management decisions: in particular, determination of listable entity and status. The methods the team will employ that are well established within management decision science. The goal of a structured decision-making process is to frame decision processes that are deliberative and transparent. This team will work with the decision makers to establish a decision framework. ~~- will,~~ assist in developing population models to predict extinction risk, ~~will~~ facilitate workshops to elicit expert judgments for modeling risk, and ~~will~~ facilitate workshops with the decision makers to elicit risk tolerance leading to a final decision status determination. The DA group will fulfill their role by functioning as ~~non-voting~~ members of the Core Team ~~(alternative wording "by meeting regularly with the Core Team")~~ and working with modeling experts within the Core Team (Kevin Doherty) to develop appropriate analyses. As the needs for expert elicitation are clarified, the DA group will ~~operate independently to~~ organize workshops in consultation with other members of the Core Team.