Stakeholder Engagement and Species Status Assessments

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Species’ Status
Engaging with the Public and Other Stakeholders (Leong et al. 2009)

Relative Decision-Making Power

Authoritative | Passive-Receptive | Inquisitive Intermediary | Transactional | Co-Managerial

Top-down Governance | Public Input Governance | Public Engagement Governance

Natural Resource Management Agency

APA NEPA

FACA NRA

Paradigm Shift
### ESA Science and Policy

**Decision Elements**

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<th>Process</th>
<th>SSA Framework</th>
<th>ESA Decision Making</th>
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<td>Who</td>
<td>Biologists and Other Scientists</td>
<td>FWS Decision Makers</td>
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<td>How</td>
<td>Scientific Analysis (Biological and environmental data)</td>
<td>Policy Analysis (Legal interpretation)</td>
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<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Viability Characterization</td>
<td>Policy Judgment</td>
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**Diagram:**

- **SCIENCE** → **POLICY** → **ESA DECISION**
- **Decision Elements Science – species risk**
- **Policy – ESA standards**

**Process:** SSA Framework

**Who:** Biologists and Other Scientists

**How:** Scientific Analysis (Biological and environmental data)

**Outcome:** Viability Characterization
Species Status Assessment informs all ESA Decisions

- Section 7 Decisions
- Section 10 Decisions
- Candidate Conservation Decisions
- 5yr Review Decisions
- Candidate Assessment Decisions
- List/Delist Decisions
- T/E or Not Warranted Decisions
- Critical Habitat Decisions
- Recovery Planning Decisions
# SSA Framework Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCALE</th>
<th>NEEDS</th>
<th>CURRENT CONDITION</th>
<th>FUTURE CONDITION</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>Life History</td>
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<td>- Life Stages</td>
<td>Breeding, Feeding, Sheltering</td>
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<td>Future Causes and Effects</td>
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<td>Specific Resource Needs (habitat)</td>
<td>Historic and Current Causes and Effects</td>
<td>Snapshot of resources and circumstances in terms of species’ needs.</td>
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<td>Populations</td>
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<td>Forecasting: Resiliency</td>
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<td>Species</td>
<td>Distribution and Diversity of Populations</td>
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<td>Redundancy Representation</td>
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</table>

- Historic and Current Causes and Effects:

  - Historic:
    - Causes:
    - Effects:
  - Current:
    - Conditions:
    - Snapshot:

- Future Causes and Effects:

  - Consider what the species will have in the future in terms of its needs.

  - Specific resource needs for the species.

  - Population parameters for the species.

  - Distribution and diversity of populations.

  - Forecasting resiliency.

  - Redundancy representation.
SSA Flips the Pyramid
Edwards Aquifer
Habitat Conservation Plan

- A stakeholder-based effort that balanced human needs with the recovery of listed species
- Edwards Aquifer – HCP permit issued 2013
BALCONES CANYONLANDS CONSERVATION PLAN
Celebrating 20 years as a leading example of balancing conservation with economic development.
Balcones Canyonlands Preserve is 30,500 acres managed in perpetuity for the conservation of eight endangered species and twenty-seven species of concern for the benefit of all of Austin.

The streamlined process created by the BCCP facilitated development on thousands of acres adding $4.5 billion in assessed value to the local tax base.
Texas hornshell  Photo by Joel Lusk, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Species’ Status

ESA Decisions
Stakeholder Engagement

• Presentations for TPWD, Texas Comptroller, other State agencies, and universities on SSA process

• Workshops and presentations for stakeholders on SSA process with SSA case studies

• Identify species where stakeholders were interested in voluntary conservation programs

• Help to identify opportunities for funded research and other expert information to be used in SSA
Central Texas Mussels SSA

• March 2, 2017, mailed letters to interested parties requesting information by May 1, 2017
• June 28-29, 2017, hosted a mussel science expert meeting to inform the SSA
• **November 14-15, 2017, hosting the Texas Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Stakeholder Summit**
• TBD, overview webinar when the SSA Report becomes available