

## Prioritizing Research Funding: A Draft Framework for Soliciting and Selecting Science Support Program (SSP) Proposals in Region 5

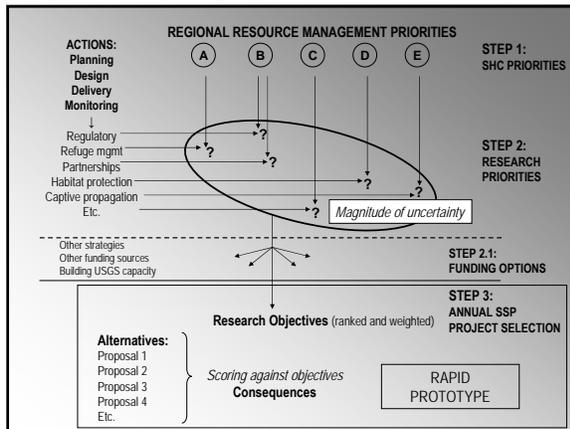
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## Problem Statement

**Develop a transparent and proactive process for identifying research needs, soliciting research proposals, and selecting proposals for funding. There are three steps to this process:**

1. Identify Regional Management Priorities
2. Identify Research Priorities and solicit RFP
3. Select Proposals for Funding



## Re-allocate All SSP Funding

- To Law Enforcement for use in upgrading special agent vehicles



50 cal machine gun



20 mm auto cannon

$$0.2 \left( \frac{\text{Priority Weight}}{10} \right) + 0.4 \left( \frac{\text{Effort}}{4} \right) + 0.01 \left( \frac{\text{National}}{99\%} \right) + 0.1 \left( \frac{\text{Data}}{0-3} \right)$$

## Step 1: Identifying Regional Priorities

**Problem** - Develop a list of regional Service priority species

**Objectives** – The following will be considered in the development of this list:

- Ecological significance (species status, urgency)
- Management significance (urgency, litigation pressure)
- Legal mandates
- Cost effectiveness/feasibility
- Partner and public interest

## Step 1 – Cont.

**Output**

- A list of Regional Priority Species (RPS), grouped by ecoregional themes, and with stated regional management objectives.

## Step 2A – Research Needs

Problem:

- Identify and rank research information needs

Objectives:

Information needs MUST:

- Fall within regional management priorities (RPS) established in Step 1
- Answer a management question, that is, address how the management objective can be achieved
- Follow the SHC process (that is, are framed within a process of biological planning, design, delivery, and monitoring)

## Step 2A - Methods for Ranking:

Review each information need and evaluate whether the need will:

- Meet multiple priorities
- Answer questions with higher degrees of uncertainty
- Address short-term needs
- Address multiple strategies for management
- Be relevant to a significant *portion* of the range of the species
- Tackle a higher cost management action (cost effective)
- Result in management actions for which the infrastructure for delivery exists

## Step 2A – Cont.

Outputs:

- List of ranked research needs

## Step 2B - Additional filters

Problem:

- Determine the subset of ranked research needs that are appropriate for SSP funding (larger list may be addressed using other funding sources)

Output – RFP

## Step 3 – Objectives

- Proposal addresses high research priority (score derived in Step 2A)
- The proposal meets the research needs identified in the RFP.
- The proposal includes funding from other sources (i.e. partnerships)
- The proposal is technically sound, feasible, and has a high likelihood of success.

Portfolios	Score	1st yr	2nd yr	Within budget ?	100K left on table next year?
1,4	151	200	400	Yes	Yes
1,2,3	143	187	225	Yes	Yes
1,2	120	140	140	Yes	Yes
1,3	90	97	135	Yes	Yes
4	84	150	350	Yes	Yes
2,3	76	137	175	Yes	Yes
1	67	50	50	Yes	Yes
2	53	90	90	Yes	Yes
3	23	47	85	Yes	Yes
3,4	107	197	435	Yes	No
1,2,3,4	227	337	575	No	No
1,2,4	204	290	490	No	No
1,3,4	174	247	485	No	No
2,3,4	160	287	525	No	No
2,4	137	240	440	No	No

## Next Steps

- Test and refine prototype.
- Develop weights for ranking criteria for step 2A.
- Solicit a targeted data call and use the data received to further refine the process.
- Refine the system for soliciting ranking, and funding research proposals