



Species Status Assessment (SSA) for Whitebark Pine:

An Analytical Approach for Informing
Decisions and Activities Under the
Endangered Species Act

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Previous Federal Actions in U.S.

- 1991–Petition to list
- 1994–90-day finding...not substantial
- 2008–Petition to list
- 2010–90-day finding...substantial
- 2011–12-month Warranted but Precluded
- 2015–CNOR LPN 2 to LPN 8
- 2016–No Change



Update

National Listing Workplan

Proposed Listing Determination for Whitebark pine FY 2019

- Propose whitebark pine for listing as T or E
- OR
- Provide notice of a not warranted finding (remove as candidate)

https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/listing_workplan.html



Listing Process

12-month finding: A 5 Factor Analysis required under ESA

- **Five factor analysis focuses on threats.**
- **Decision document published in FR**

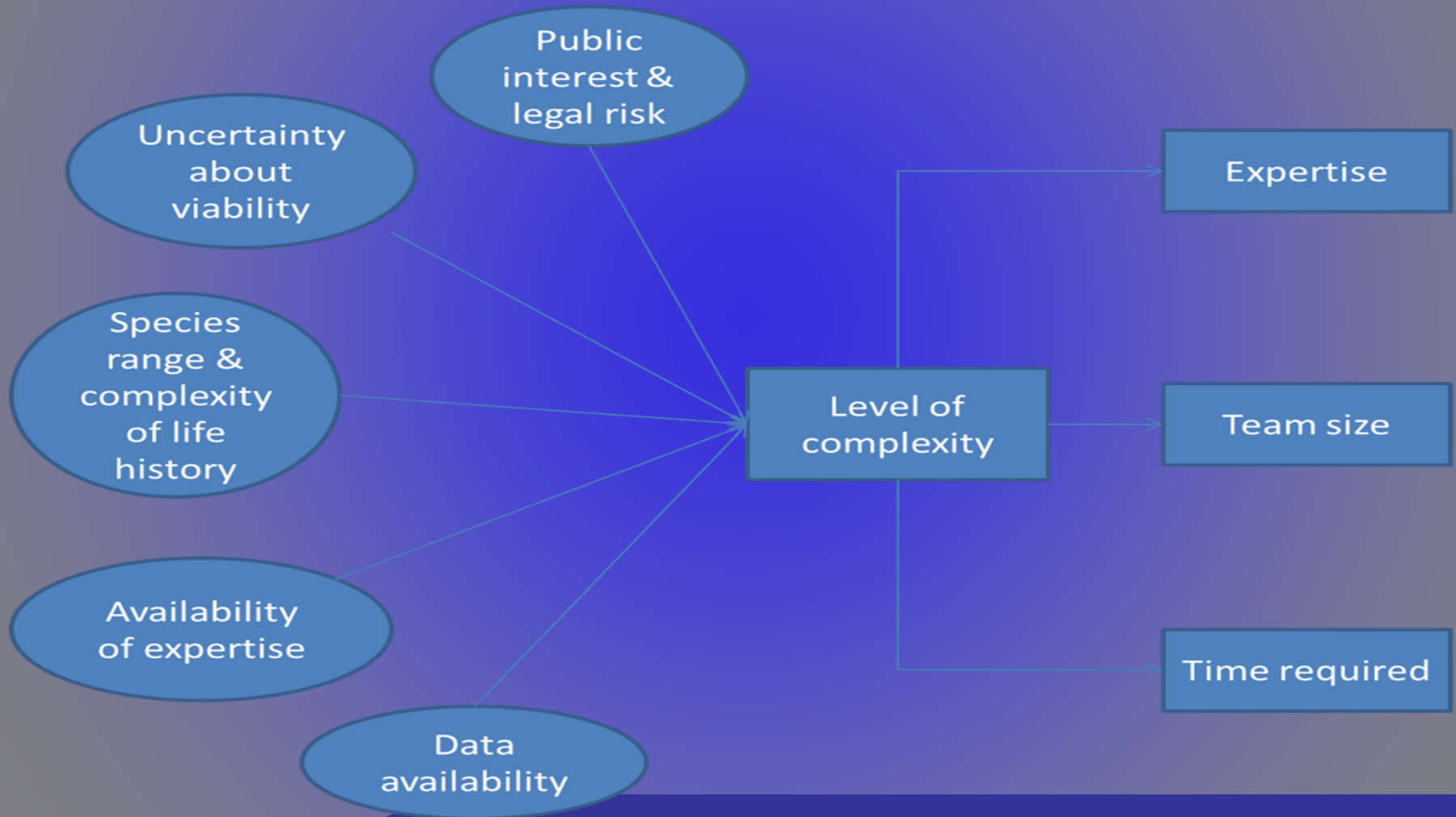


SSA

- SSA focus is on species
- SSA is central document that can be used for all purposes under the ESA
- Analytical approach that characterizes species viability, and what drives viability up or down.
- Threats are considered relative to species viability
- Beginning SSA for whitebark pine now.



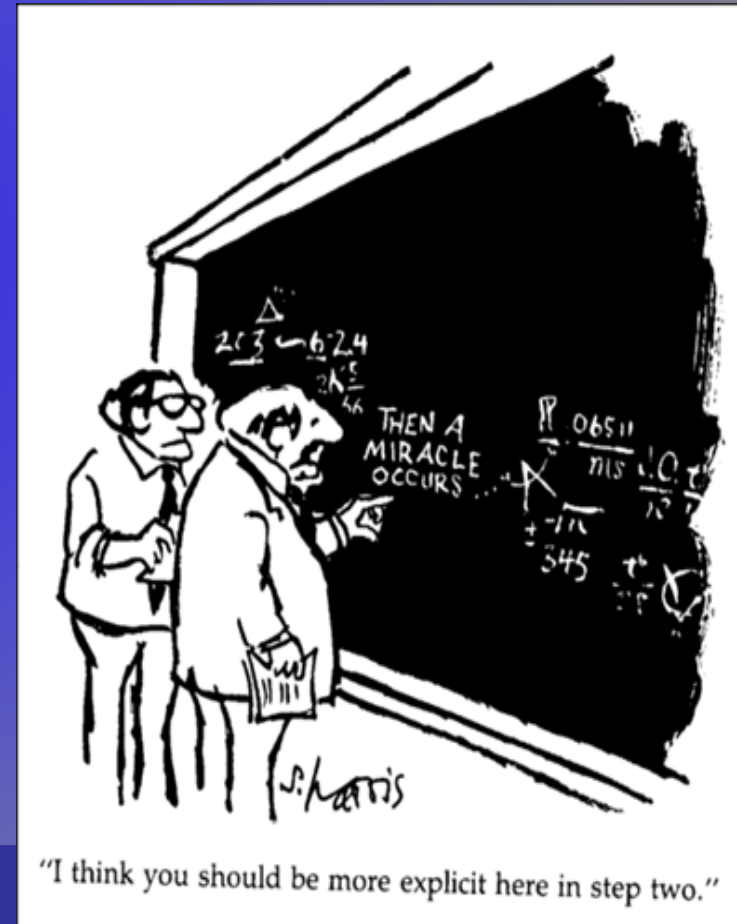
Scalable and Adaptable





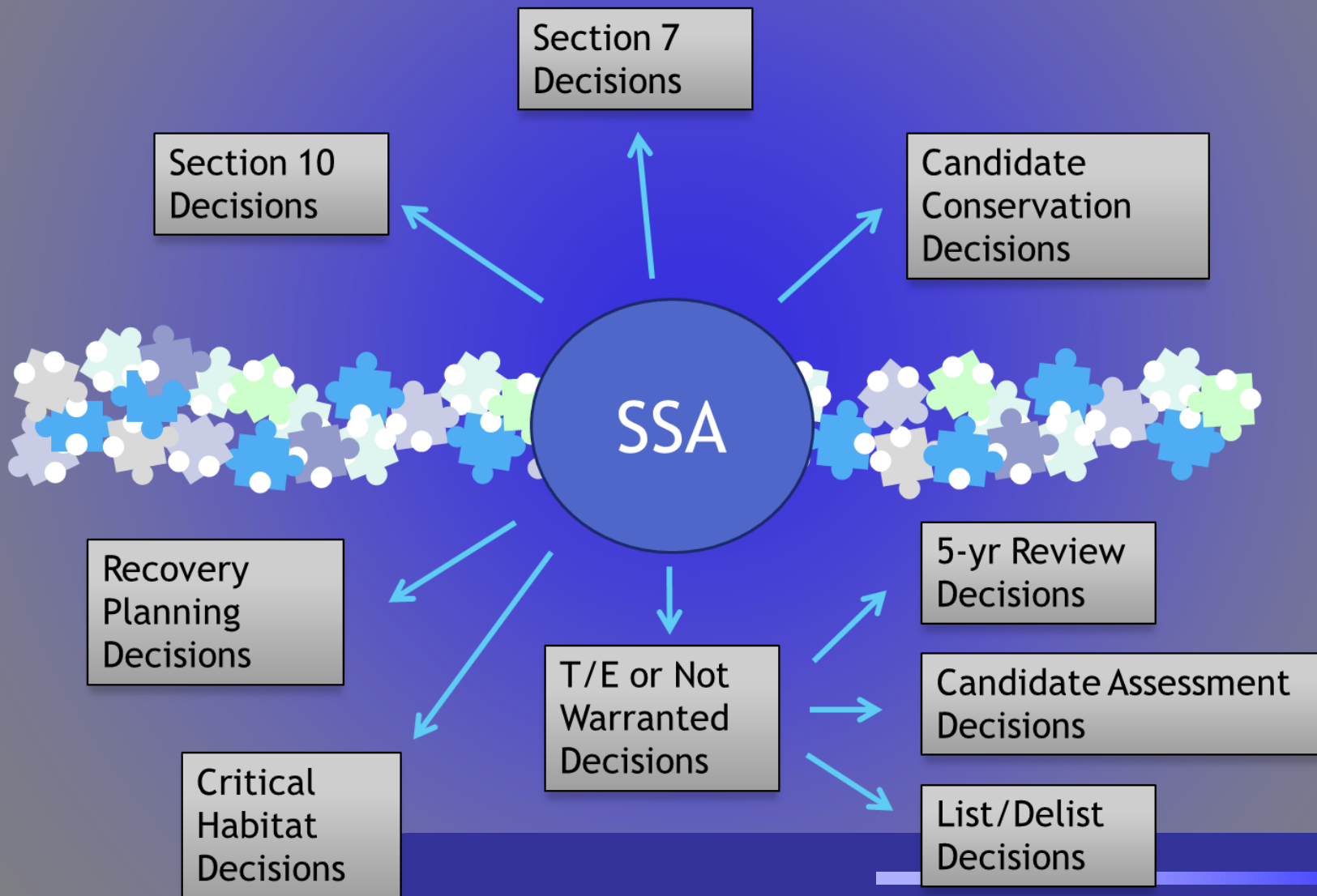
SSA approach

- Is NOT a decision document
- It is all about the SCIENCE
- Consistent
- Collaborative
- Defensible
- Transparent
- Finding will be based on SSA



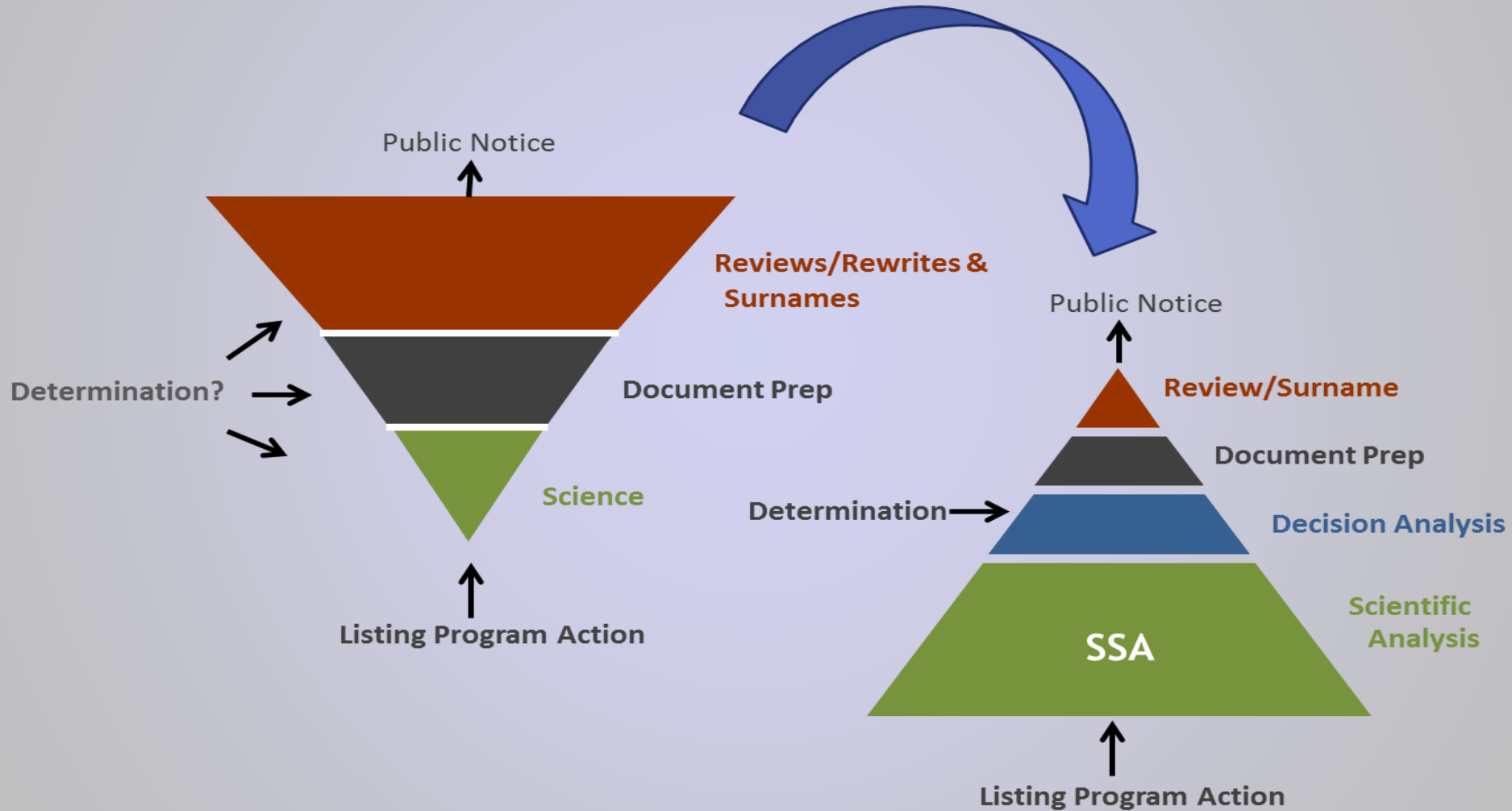


SSA informs all ESA Decisions





SSA Flips the Pyramid





Species' Needs

Taxonomy

Life history

Habitat

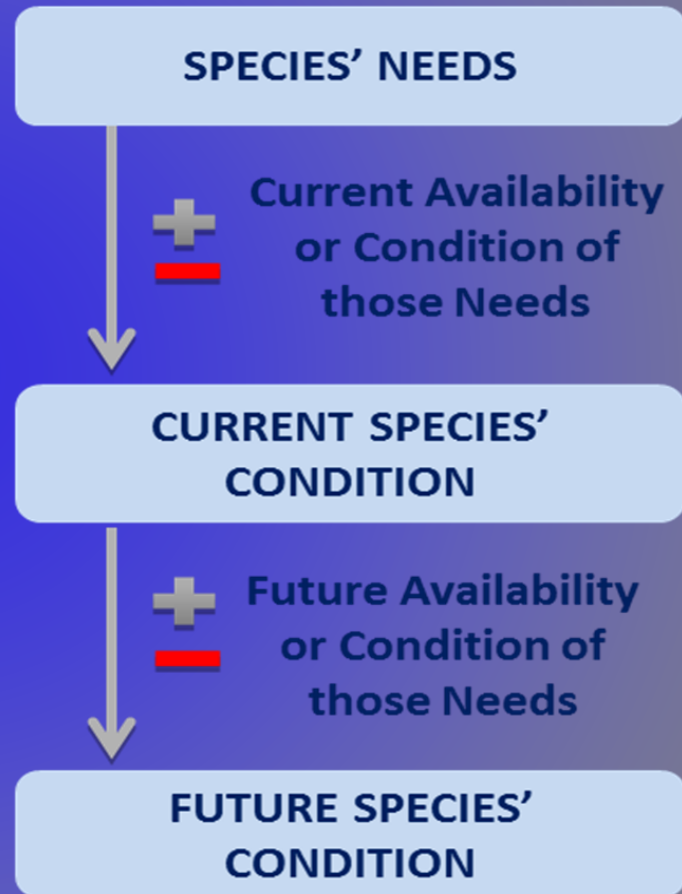
Ecological Needs at

- Individual level
- Population level
- Species level



SSA

- Describes species needs
- Describes species current conditions
- Provides scenarios for potential future conditions
- Provides no regulatory interpretation of data – “simple” science document





Collaboration

- We will engage experts and stakeholders as appropriate.
- Scientific experts and stakeholders not asked to represent any particular agency position or provide group consensus, will participate by sharing their individual professional opinions to help us better understand the ecology of whitebark pine.



SSA

- **Species Status Assessment (SSA) is a transparent and explicit analysis based solely on the best available science.**
- **SSA completed before any policies are applied or decisions are made, which *provides greater flexibility for us to engage with our partners* and solicit peer review.**



Future Condition

Scenario Development

- **Possible futures:** what may happen?
- **Probable futures:** what is most likely to happen?
- **Preferable futures:** what would we prefer to happen?



Future Condition

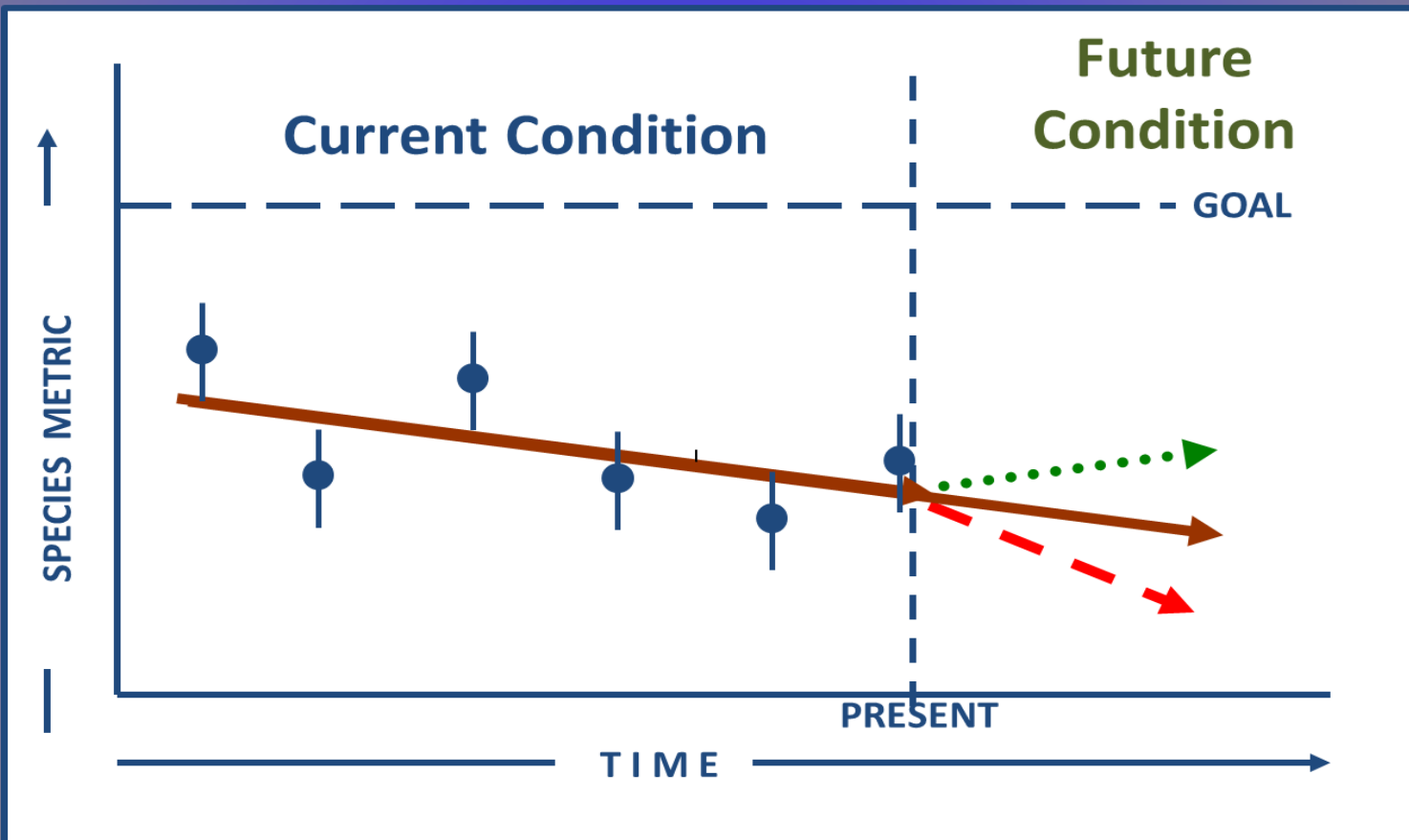
Components

- Stressors, including climate change
- Conservation efforts

Species' response



Future Condition: Scenario Planning





SSA

Telling the Story of Whitebark

- Formal data call
- Informal data call
- Collaboration
- Opportunity for expert participation



Path Forward

Project Plan next 2 months

- Detailed Schedule
- Team members
- Outreach to experts and stakeholders



Contact us!

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