

DRAFT Approach to Update, Prioritize, & Sequence Near-Term Actions

DRAFT May 6, 2015

For creation of the 2014 Action Agenda, PSP provided a guidance document called *Guidance for Structuring, Selecting and Prioritizing Near-Term Actions for Improved Ecosystem Outcomes for 2016* (Anderson et al., 2014). This document still stands as the framework or advice for developing strategic NTAs.

With the announcement of the new funding model, EPA and PSP have stated that they will require two products from LIOs for the 2016 Action Agenda:

1. A 5-year Strategic Recovery Plan
2. A 2-year Implementation Plan

At the May 5 LIO Coordinators' meeting, PSP presented a draft timeline for creation of these products with the following deadlines:

- Initial 5-Year Strategic Recovery Plans developed by mid-August, for Strategic Initiative Transition Team¹ review mid-August to mid-September. These initial plans should document the LIO's current strategy. Deliverables:
 - Results Chains
 - Short narrative
 - Communication schematic depicting the plan's approach
- 2-Year Implementation Plan (NTAs) developed by October, for Strategic Initiative Transition Team review through November. Deliverables for each NTA, in the form of a pre-proposal:
 - Description
 - Expected outcomes
 - Owners
 - Estimated cost
 - Location
 - Possibly other items

The Strategic Initiative Transition Teams will endorse certain of our pre-proposals based on their review, which will consider consistency with our 5-Year Strategic Recovery Plan, technical feasibility, owner capacity, and other criteria. The LIO will develop full proposals for those endorsed NTAs that will allow funding decisions to be made.

The table below attempts to line up the instructions in Anderson et al. (2014) with the deliverables identified on May 5, and proposes a South Central approach to creating these products so that our NTAs may be funded.

¹ PSP will create Strategic Initiative Transition Teams to review regional and local strategic priorities as well as NTAs. They are transitional because EPA will not select the new Strategic Initiative Leads until 2016; the Leads will be responsible for creating the permanent teams. However, PSP needs these groups set up now to help develop content for the 2016 Action Agenda. Hence, these are the transitional teams.

Anderson et al. (2014) Guidance	2016 AA Product	Proposed South Central Approach
<p>Step 1: Identify the ecosystem outcomes you will address in 2016.</p> <p><i>NTAs (developed or refined in step 3) must explicitly address desired ecosystem objectives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Select 5-7 ecosystem outcomes that reflect LIO and/or PSP priorities and strategic initiatives. <input type="checkbox"/> Use quantitative, measurable measures of ecosystem condition to define the desired performance or progress on the ecosystem objectives. 	<p>5-Year Strategic Recovery Plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss draft ecosystem outcomes at June 10 workshop. EPA/PSP recommends choosing 4-6 Vital Signs. Focus on the three Strategic Initiatives. 2. Adopt final ecosystem outcomes at July 2 Caucus Group meeting 3. If desired, where quantitative measures of ecosystem condition or status exist (such as in salmon recovery plans), use those. <p>EXTRA CREDIT: Add a workshop to develop new quantitative measures of ecosystem condition.</p>
<p>Step 2: Determine where an action is necessary to achieve ecosystem outcomes.</p> <p><i>NTAs (developed or refined in step 3) must explicitly target one or more aspects of the system to achieve desired ecosystem objectives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify key stressors or threats to the ecosystem and their sources (i.e., pressures) <input type="checkbox"/> Prioritize pressures based on their impact on the ecosystem objectives and your ability to affect them <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a suite of strategies for reducing these key pressures <input type="checkbox"/> Identify a suite of steps (if, then statements – also called results chains or logic models) that describe how these strategies achieve ecosystem objectives <input type="checkbox"/> Identify additional (and potentially competing) ecosystem or non-ecosystem objectives that may be affected by each of these strategies. 	<p>5-Year Strategic Recovery Plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss draft pressures prioritization approach on May 13. 2. Ask for additional pressures review by June 1. 3. Discuss revised draft results at June 10 workshop. 4. Discuss and adopt final pressures prioritization at July 2 Caucus Group meeting. 5. Discuss and adopt final approach to prioritizing NTAs at July 2 Caucus Group meeting. 6. Hold a workshop on July 8 to develop simple results chains that explain how the LIO will contribute to the achievement of our chosen PSP Vital Sign recovery targets. May need to invite additional subject-matter experts to assist. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use existing NTAs and information from subject-matter experts as a jumping-off point to inform strategy development. b. Align with Strategic Initiative sub-strategies and tie them to PSP’s results chains c. Identify volunteers who will review narratives (Laura to draft) based on the results chains. 7. Hold a workshop on August 12 to finish developing results chains and review the narratives. Approve the final results for submission to PSP as 5-Year Strategic Recovery Plan.

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<p>Step 3: Develop a range of proposed NTAs that enact components of key strategies and move towards ecosystem objectives.</p> <p><i>Proposed NTAs should reflect different approaches for implementing the above strategies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a portfolio of proposed NTAs that reflects a diversity of strategies to achieve outcomes and objectives <input type="checkbox"/> Identify performance measures for each proposed NTA that track its impact on ecological, economic, political social and human health objectives. 	<p>2-Year Implementation Plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the workshop on August 12, agree upon the format and contents of a request for NTA pre-proposals. Distribute the call for pre-proposals on August 13 and ask for pre-proposals by September 18. 2. At the September 9 Caucus Group meeting, work to develop NTAs for LIO ownership. Consider turning this into a longer meeting (12:30-4:30?) 3. Schedule an additional workshop in late September to continue working on NTAs for LIO ownership, if needed.
<p>Step 4: Evaluate, prioritize, and select potential NTA's</p> <p><i>Selecting NTA's requires rigorous, transparent evaluation of trade-offs in uncertainty, cost, and impact on objectives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Specify the likely magnitude of impact of an NTA on the desired ecosystem component. <input type="checkbox"/> Estimate the uncertainty of the impact of the NTA to an ecosystem component. <input type="checkbox"/> Specify the likely magnitude of impact of each NTA on economic, social, and human health performance measures <input type="checkbox"/> Estimate the uncertainty of the impact of each NTA on these non-ecosystem performance measures <input type="checkbox"/> Use a prioritization approach to select NTAs that balance achieving desired ecosystem outcomes, while minimizing impacts to non-ecosystem objectives and uncertainty. 	<p>2-Year Implementation Plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. At October 14 workshop, review and create draft prioritization of the NTAs. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ideally, prioritize NTAs within each Strategic Initiative (habitat, stormwater, shellfish) or within each 5-Year Strategic Recovery Plan results chain, rather than across initiatives or results chains. b. Consider criteria such as the magnitude of impact on the ecosystem, magnitude of impact on human well-being, urgency, and cost-effectiveness 5. At November 6 Caucus Group meeting, discuss and adopt final set of prioritized NTAs.

Risks/Major Uncertainties:

1. August 12 is an important decision-making workshop – and many LIO members are likely to be on vacation.
2. I have not built in time to respond to comments from Strategic Initiative Transition Team technical review.
3. We should think about how to structure the RFP for NTAs so that we get a smaller number of high quality NTAs.
4. This schedule uses all of our available meeting time for group planning work; it doesn't provide time to meet with the Coordinating Group or other work group to develop draft products for full Caucus Group review.