



**COLUMBIA BASIN  
FISH AND WILDLIFE  
AUTHORITY**

## **Wildlife Program Amendments**

***CBFWA Members Meeting – Sept. 18-19***



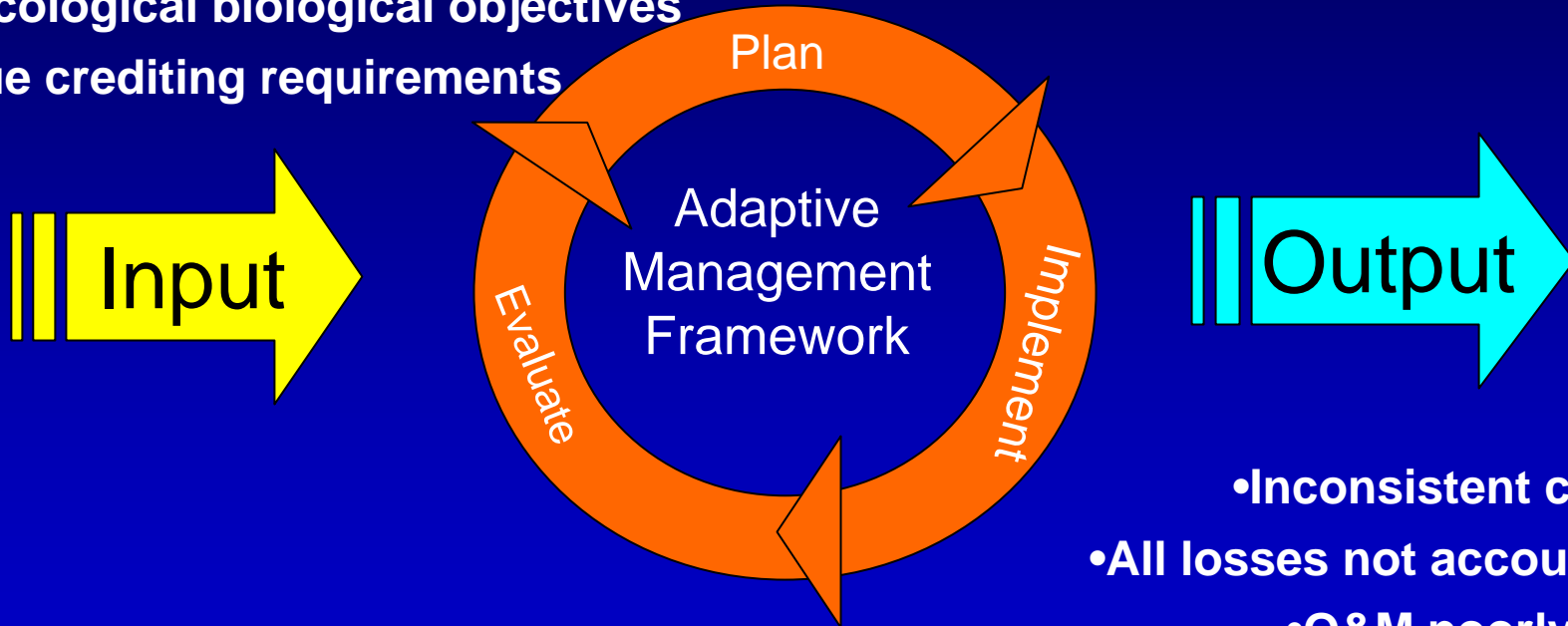
# Priority Wildlife Amendment Issues

- Paradigm Shift – HEP to Ecological Function
- Crediting
- Operations and Maintenance
- Monitoring and Evaluation



# Current Situation

- Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) measured wildlife losses
- Only construction/inundation losses (Table 11-4)
- Impacts summarized as habitat units (HUs)
- No ecological biological objectives
- Vague crediting requirements

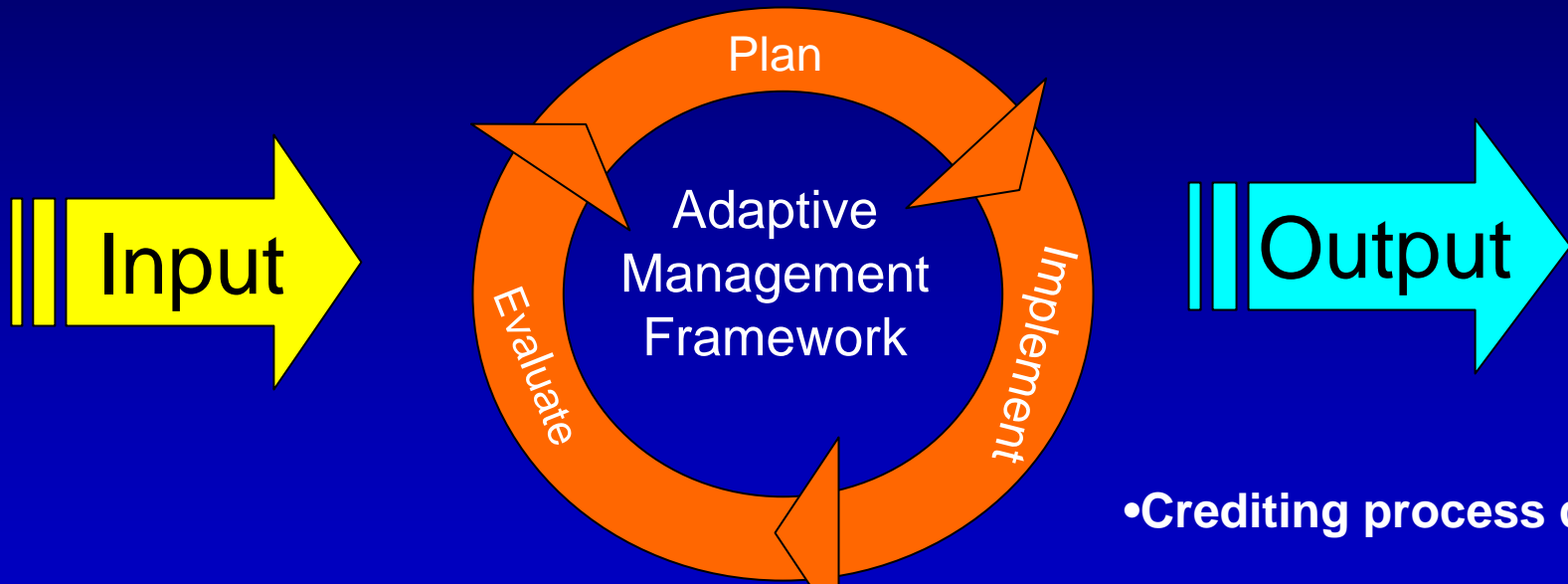


- Inconsistent crediting
- All losses not accounted for
- O&M poorly funded
- M&E largely limited to HEP Assessments



# CBFWA Vision

- Program implementation linked to SBP/management priorities
- Defined BPA crediting; protection, restoration, operations
- Stable base funding (O&M, M&E)



- Crediting process clarified
- Operational losses assessed and offset
- Consistent credit of HUs offsetting lost HUs
- Mitigation supports management priorities
- Monitoring sufficient to determine program effectiveness

# Using Local Level Linkages

Existing Condition

Desired Condition



Gap

C.I  
Ops

Limiting  
Factors

Ecological  
Function

Monitoring

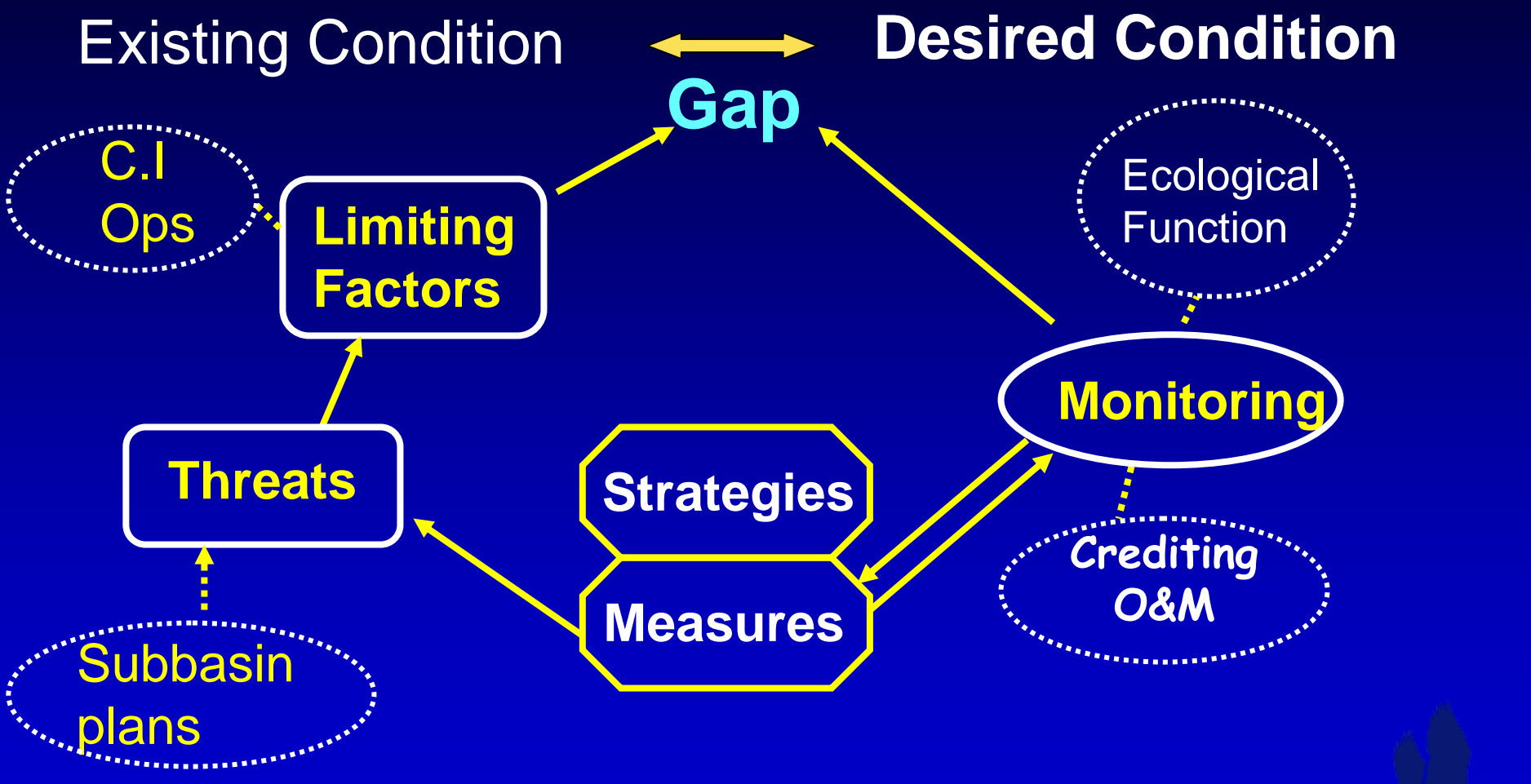
Threats

Strategies

Measures

Crediting  
O&M

Subbasin  
plans



# Wildlife M&E – Recommendations

- M&E based on ecological objectives of management plans
- M&E needs to be adequate to:
  - Track trends in ecological functions and restoration effectiveness
  - Complement larger scale efforts
  - Focus on status/trend and effectiveness
  - Use reference sites to define habitat/ecological objectives
- Transition from HEP to new ecologically-based paradigm

# Crediting - Recommendations

- Incorporate crediting ledger into the program and establish regional oversight committee to track the crediting ledger
- Address disagreements on protection credits
- Address crediting ratio (2:1)
- Condition crediting on adoption of long-term O&M agreements established in management plans



# Crediting - Recommendations

- Develop ecosystem-based framework for measuring operational losses and credits
- Resolve in-lieu/match fund issues
- Resolve crediting of secondary impacts





# O&M - Requirements

Managers need adequate, stable O&M budget to maintain baseline conditions and the flexibility to adapt to changing needs on the landscape



# O&M Recommendations

BPA should develop a funding mechanism, outside existing prioritization process, to assure:

Long-term, stable funding to manage and maintain ecological functions at mitigation sites

Shift maintenance and enhancement discussion to effective management of ecological functions

Provide flexibility to address known and unforeseen external threats (e.g. invasives, wildfires, etc)

