

Risk, Rigour and Demonstration: How Science Can Address Policy Needs

Grassland Carbon Workshop

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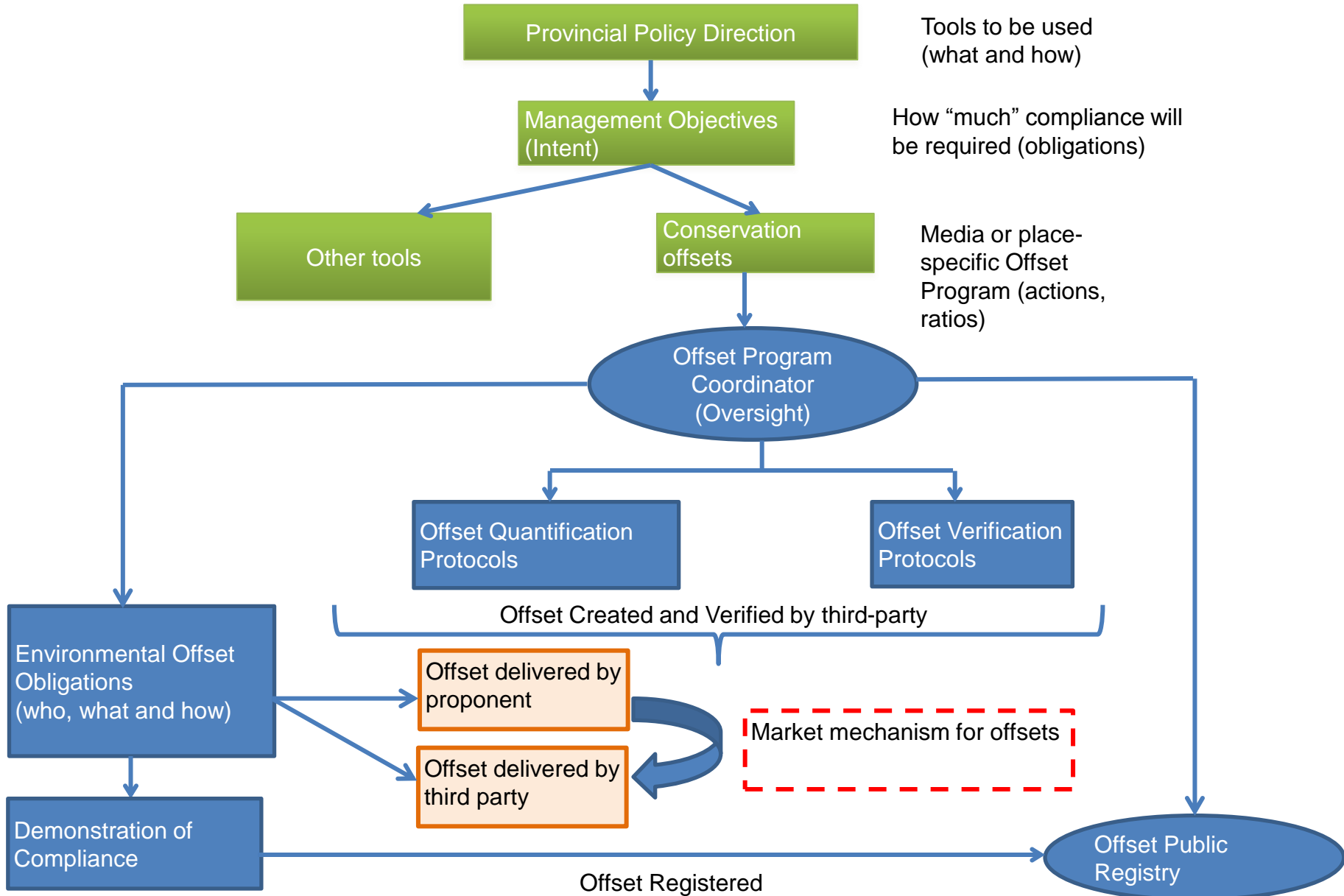
Policy Context

- Need for additional tools/approaches to address resource management issues
 - Conservation offset: measureable outcomes that result from actions designed to counteract significant impacts
 - Land Use Framework and Alberta Land Stewardship Act expanded the potential use of offset and intent to cover different media
 - Carbon management - *Climate Change and Emission Management Act* and Regulations - predates the Framework but provides a useful regulatory architecture for conservation offset

Policy Need

- Link to policy objectives
- Meet regulatory quality
 - Verifiable
 - Sufficiently measurable
 - audit and record keeping

Regulatory Architecture



Principles

- Integration – offset are aligned with resource management objectives
- Transparency – public reporting of oversight and accountability
- Place based – offsets reflect management outcomes and priorities
- Continuous improvement – regular review and update of the framework
- Cost effective – offset provide cost effective opportunities towards meeting objective
- Stackable – offset may be designed to meet multiple objectives

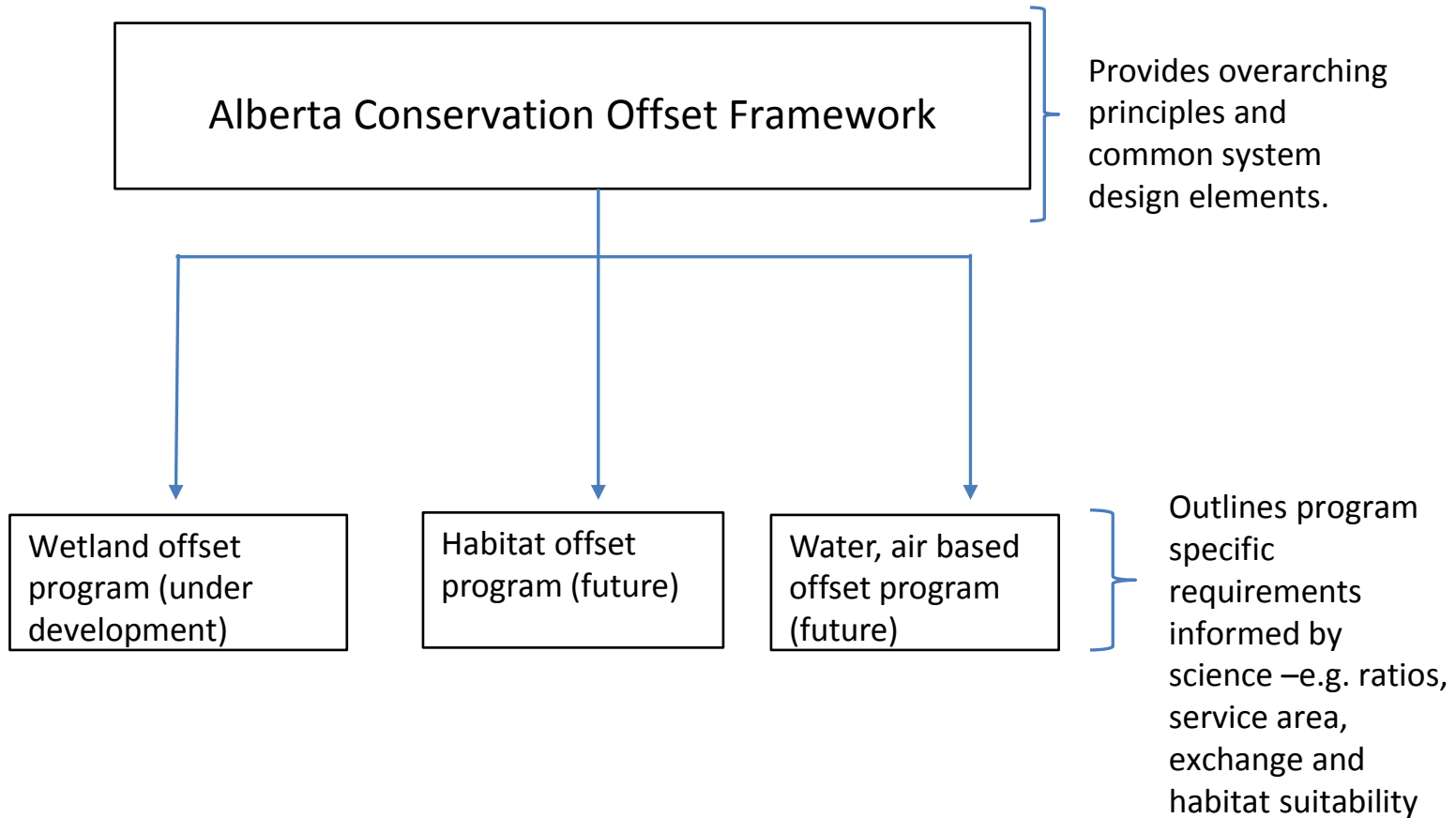
Offset Design Characteristics

- **Impact** – What is the impact to be offset
- **Baseline and Eligible Actions (Additionality)** – What type of actions count as offset
- **Equivalency**– relationship between the impact and offset
- **Offset Service Area**- defines the geographic scale over which impacts and offsets are accounted
- **Temporal Scale and Duration** – when and for how long an offset is required
- **Monitoring** – tracking of offset success and program monitoring

Common elements – Wetland offset example

Program Element	Wetland Offset Program
<i>Policy Direction</i>	Wetland Policy <u>Outcome</u> : Minimize wetland loss or degradation. <u>Approach</u> : An impact to permanently occurring wetland requires an authorization and a replacement.
<i>Management Objective</i>	Value based ratios define replacement requirements – 8:1 for impact to A value wetland, 1:1 for D value wetland
<i>Specification of obligation</i>	Attached to specific authorization that generated the impact.
<i>Demonstration of obligation compliance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an offset • Pay in lieu – payments are collected into a Fund administered by ESRD.
<i>Offset Program Coordinator</i>	ESRD to oversee this program.
<i>Offset protocols</i>	Under development
<i>Offset Public Registry</i>	Options being assessed

Conservation Offset Path



Thank youQuestions?

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