



What is Best Available Science?

- State regulations guide what constitutes “Best Available Science” (WAC 365-195-900 through 925)
- In general, BAS must be produced through a valid scientific process that results in reliable information. Characteristics of scientific process vary depending on the nature of the science and include:
 - Peer review best but other literature through best professional judgment acceptable
 - Standard and appropriate methods
 - Information placed in proper context
 - Assumptions, analytical techniques, and conclusions well referenced with citations to relevant and credible literature and other pertinent information
 - When feasible, counties should consult with a qualified scientific expert or team.
 - Submission of CV if you wish your comments to be considered an expert opinion.



Range of Best Available Science

Best Available Science Characteristics						
Scientific Sources:	Peer Review	Methods	Logical Conclusions and Reasonable Inferences	Quantitative Analysis	Context	References
Research	X	X	X	X	X	X
Monitoring		X	X	Y	X	X
Inventory		X	X	Y	X	X
Survey		X	X	Y	X	X
Modeling	X	X	X	X	X	X
Assessment		X	X		X	X
Synthesis	X	X	X		X	X
Expert Opinion			X		X	X (CV)

X = characteristic must be present

Y = characteristic strengthens study but is not essential to validity