The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service developed the species status assessment framework to provide science in support of listing, recategorization, and recovery decisions. The intent of the framework is to apply a rigorous, repeatable scientific assessment of a species' conservation status. The Service began applying SSAs in 2012 and formally adopted the process in 2016. The fundamental guideposts for the SSA process are the concepts of resiliency (the ability of a population to persist in the face of environmental variation), redundancy (the ability of populations to withstand catastrophes) and representation (adaptive capacity). These three concepts together are known as the 3Rs. In 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service launched the Branch of Species Status Assessment Support (BSSS), which included experts in spatial and population modeling, decision support, expert elicitation, genetics, and application of the framework to provide rigorous and consistent support across USFWS. As part of the branch’s initial work on SSAs, we reviewed approximately 180 previously written SSAs to evaluate the overall effectiveness of SSAs in providing a clear synthesis of species status in relation to established criteria. I will discuss our preliminary efforts and results to identify several areas where SSAs have consistently met the best practices for producing SSAs, as well as areas where new guidance, or better communication and training is needed to improve the consistency, clarity, and utility of SSA reports. In addition, I will present views on addressing uncertainty, development of future scenarios and determining an appropriate future timeframe over which to assess a species status.