

DoD Natural Resources Conservation Partnerships



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Providing Support to the DoD Natural
Resources Conservation Program

Overview

- About the Natural Resources Conservation Program
- Why partnerships are important to DoD
- Cooperative conservation partnerships
 - National partnerships
 - Regional partnerships
 - Local partnerships

About the Natural Resources Conservation Program



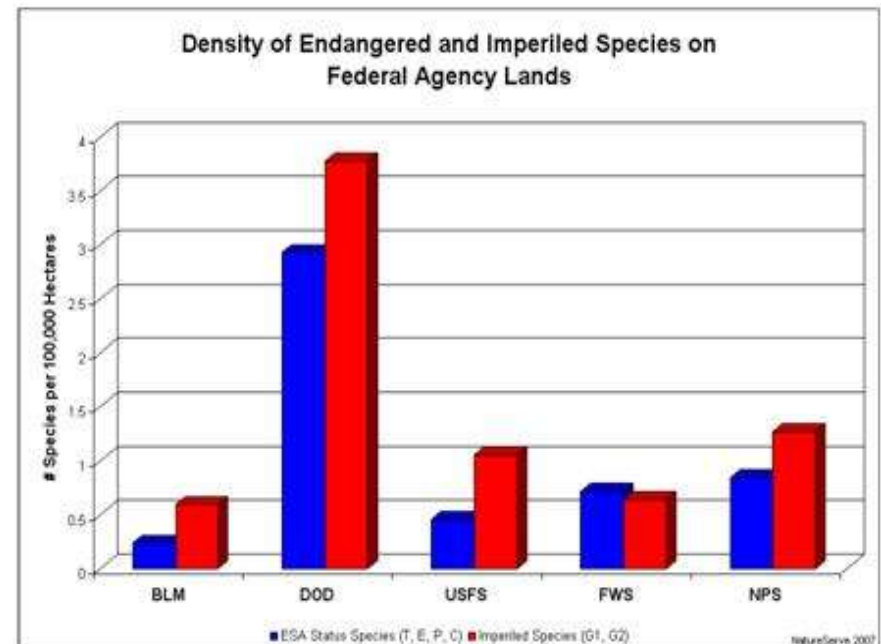
Why Natural Resources?

- Essential to military testing and training mission
- Good stewardship is a national core value
- Higher quality of life for troops and their families
- Legal/compliance drivers (e.g., ESA, MBTA, Sikes, CWA, NEPA)



DoD's Natural Resources

- ~30 million acres
- 420 federally-listed species and >520 species at-risk
 - >40 endemic species
- “Islands” of habitat diversity



Importance to the Military Mission

- Realistic training
- Increased safety
 - Land
 - Air
 - Water
- Fewer training restrictions
- Cost avoidance
- Quality of life



DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program Elements

- Mission sustainment
- Land management
- Fish and wildlife management
- Revenue programs
- Outdoor recreation



Current Initiatives

- Policy and oversight
- Strategic planning
- Tools and training
- Key front office priorities



Legacy Resource Management Program

- Protect, enhance, and conserve natural and cultural resources on DoD lands through
 - Stewardship
 - Leadership
 - Partnership
- “On the ground” resource conservation – not research and development
- Helps DoD meet its legal and mission requirements

Why Partnerships are Important to DoD



Why Partnerships?

- Encroachment
- Mission impact
- Species at-risk
- Invasive species
- Wildland fire



The Value of Partnerships to DoD

- Improve understanding of DoD mission and stewardship needs
- Place DoD lands into larger regional context
- Assist INRMP implementation
- Enhance resource sharing and cost efficiencies
- Increase management flexibility
- Demonstrate DoD's community involvement

Cooperative Conservation Partnerships

- National partnerships
- Regional partnerships
- Local partnerships



National Partnerships



“Traditional Partners”

- Department of Agriculture (1963)
- Department of Interior (1978)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1988)
- The Nature Conservancy (1988)



Vandenberg AFB

National Partnership Examples

- Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units (CESUs)
- North American Pollinator Protection Campaign
- North American Bird Conservation Initiative
- Center for Plant Conservation
- The Wildlife Society
- Pollinator Partnership
- Native Plant Conservation
- NatureServe



National Partnership Examples

- National Wildlife Federation
- Wildlife Habitat Council
- Hawaii Conservation Alliance
- Interagency TERS Research Coordination Project
- Partners in Flight (PIF)
- Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC)



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partnership

- T&E Roundtable
- Sikes Core Group
- Improved procedures for:
 - Communications
 - Partnering
 - INRMPs
 - Streamlined annual review process



Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units (CESUs)

- 17 biogeographic regions
- Collaboration among federal agencies, universities, NGOs, and other nonfederal institutional partners
- DoD actively involved in 11 CESUs
- www.CESU.org



Partners In Flight (PIF)

- Emphasize the conservation of birds not covered by existing conservation initiatives
- Steppingstones of migration
- DoD PIF Strategic Plan
- Metrics
- Coordinated Bird Monitoring Plan
- Airfield management
- www.DoDPIF.org



Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC)

- Partnership dedicated to the conservation of the herpetofauna and their habitats
- Newly emerging initiative
- MOU between EPA, USFWS, USGS, NPS, USFS, NRCS, NMFS, and BLM
- DoD PARC Strategic Plan development
 - East Coast and West Coast Workshops
- www.DoDnaturalresources.net/DoDPARC.html



Partnership Tools

- Biodiversity Outreach Toolkit
- Invasive Species Outreach Toolkit
- AEC Funding Manual
- TER-S Repository
- Mitigation Banking Manual
- SAV Restoration Handbook
- Chesapeake Bay Invasives Guide

Workshops and Training

Courses

- Sikes Act 101
- Sikes Implementation
- ESA Implementation

Workshops

- Pacific TER-S Workshop II
- Pollinators
- Climate Change Tools
- Plant Conservation
- Invasive Weeds



→ DoDWorkshops.org

Regional Partnerships



Regional Partnerships

- Ecosystem Management Initiatives
 - Mojave Desert Ecosystem Program
 - Sonoran Desert Initiative
 - Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership
 - Colorado Shortgrass Prairie
 - Puget Sound
- Weed Management Areas
 - North Carolina Sandhills
 - Gulf Coastal Plain



Sonoran Desert Initiative

- Partnership with TNC, Sonoran Institute, others
- Ecological analysis of conservation priorities
- Three implementation areas:
 - Site-based conservation planning using a biodiversity framework
 - Ecosystem monitoring and coordinated management
 - Invasive plant management



Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership

- Implementation of a set of voluntary conservation projects:
 - RCW monitoring
 - ecological assessment
- Workshops on fire management and landscape change
- Demonstrate that land management organizations with different missions can work cooperatively across borders



SERPPAS

- Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability
- 5 States: NC, SC, GA, FL, AL
- Five ongoing projects:
 - Strategic Lands Inventory
 - Sustaining the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
 - RCW Translocation
 - Gopher Tortoise Initiative
 - Marine/Coastal Initiative
 - Sharable data collection
 - Develop GIS map



Local Partnerships



Cooperative Conservation: Local Partnerships

- National Public Lands Day
- Bat Conservation International
- Ducks Unlimited
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- NAS Kingsville, TX
- NSF Carderock, MD



National Public Lands Day

- Educates Americans about critical environmental and natural resource issues
- Began in 1994, 3 federal agencies and 700 volunteers
- 51 DoD projects for 2009, 26 States
- 16 AR, 11 AF, 10 NV, 5 MC, 9 ARNG projects



NAS Kingsville, TX: Grassland Birds

Approach:

- Species inventories
- Inclusion in INRMPs

Benefits:

- Proactive management
- Facilitates cooperative partnerships
- Maintains/restores habitats
- Reduce impact of invasives



Conclusion



New Challenges

- Global climate change
- Energy issues
- Joint basing



Summary

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Questions?

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