



Current Threatened, Endangered and At-Risk Species Issues



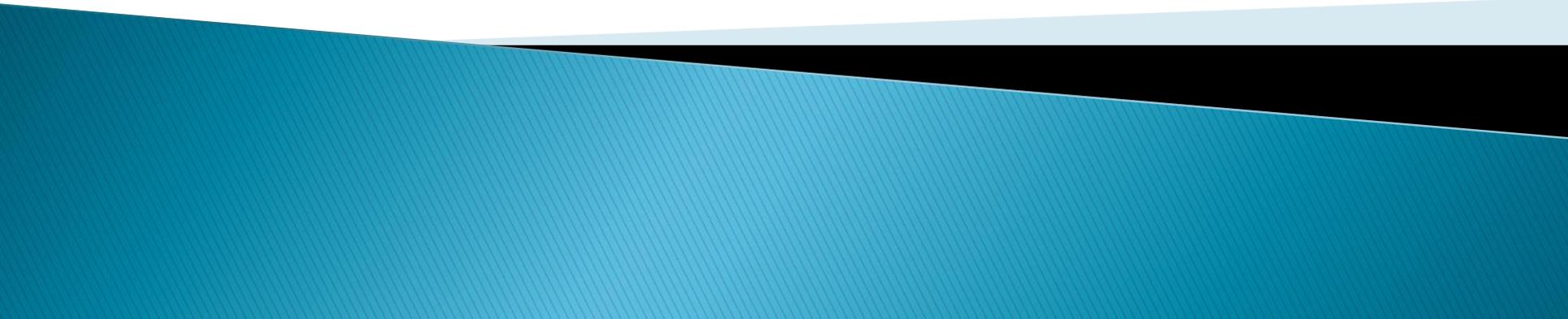
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Discussion Topics

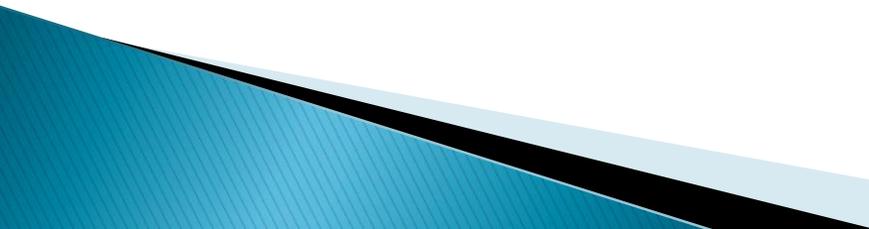


- ▶ Background
- ▶ National and Regional TER-S Workshops
- ▶ Actions on Specific Species
- ▶ Candidate Species Designations
- ▶ Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Background



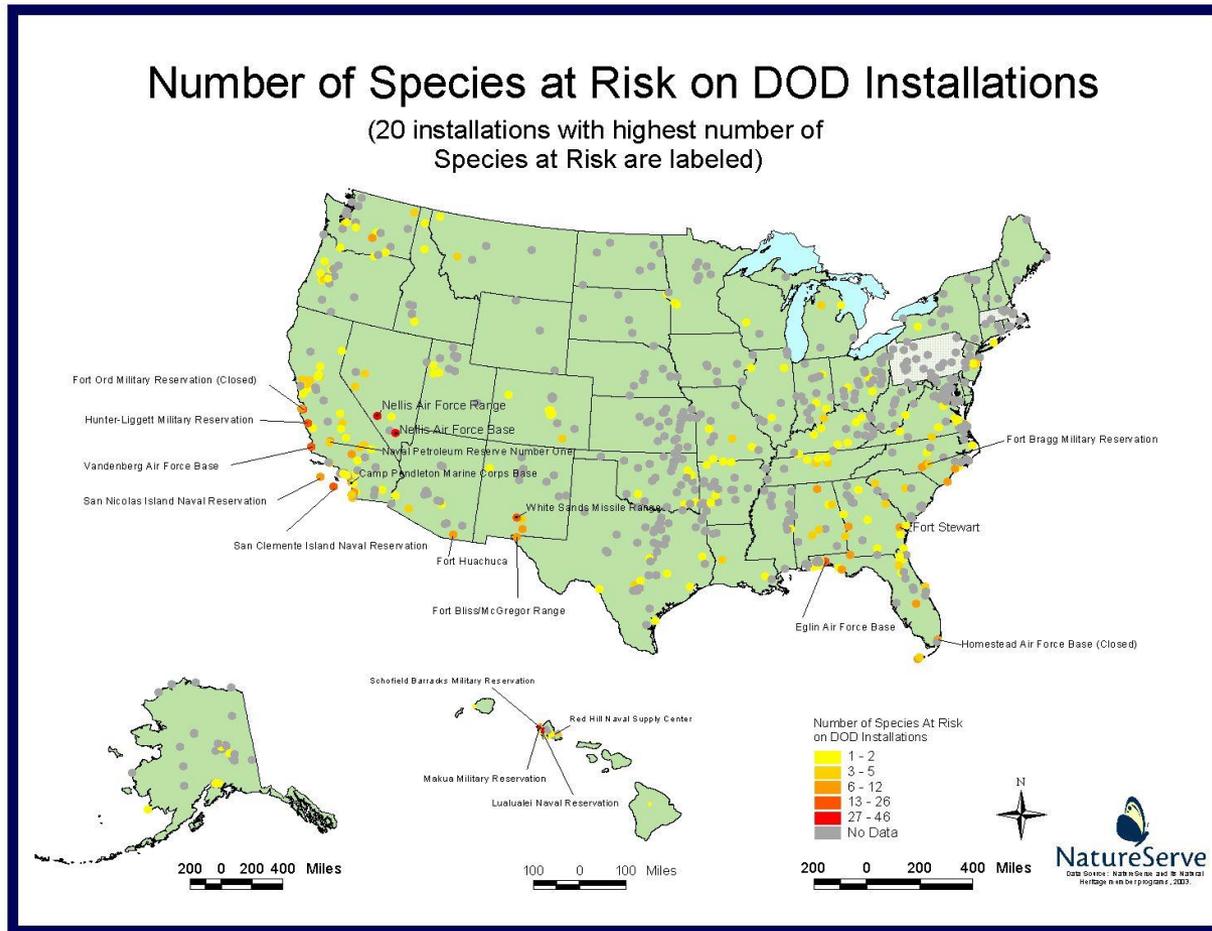
TER-S on DoD Lands

- ▶ ~425 Listed and ~520 At-Risk Species on DoD Lands
 - ▶ ~250 installations have at least one listed species
 - ▶ Forest Service and DoD lands both harbor about 37% of federally-listed species
 - ▶ ~75 species at-risk are endemic to DoD lands
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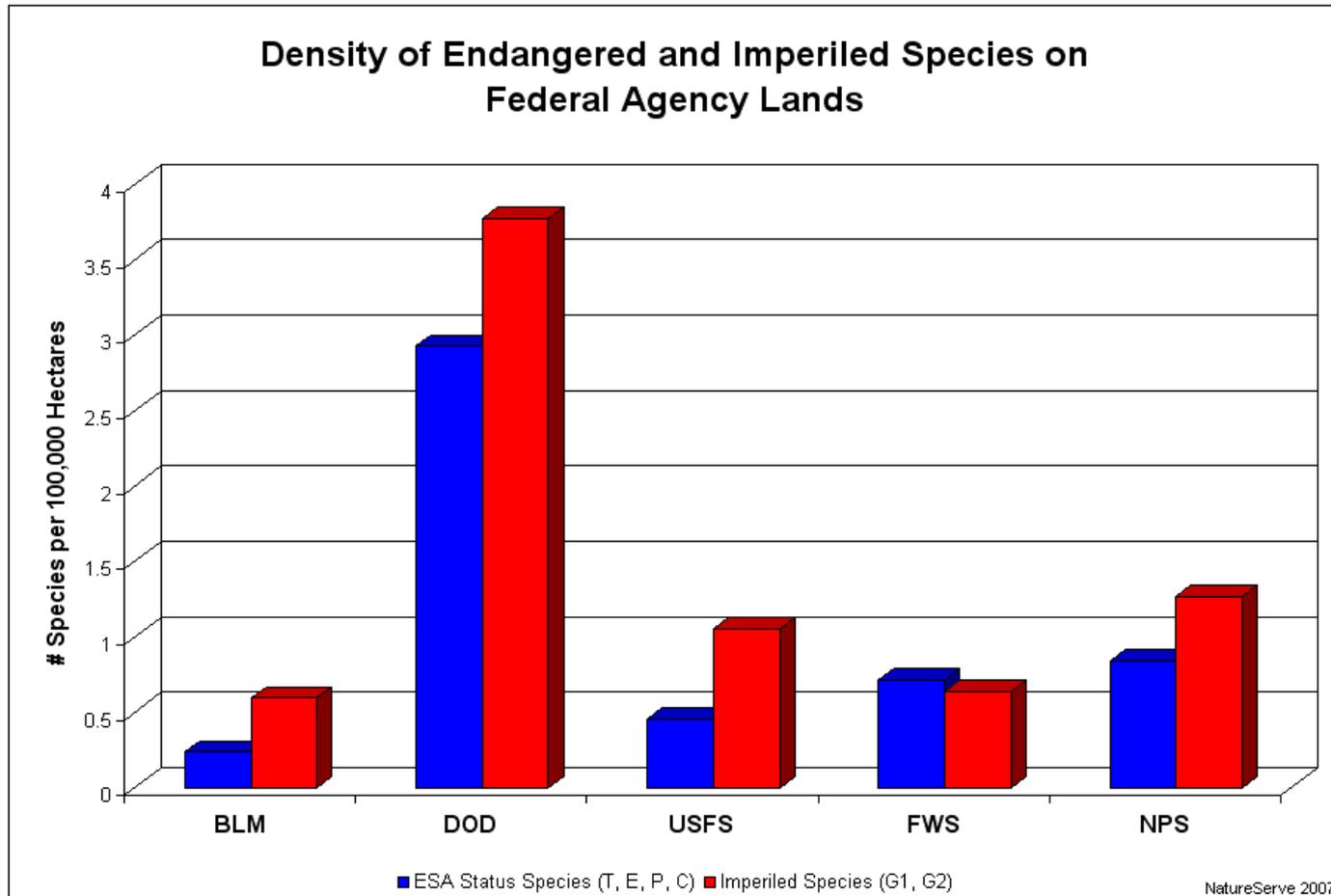
DoD Hot Spots

Number of Species at Risk on DOD Installations

(20 installations with highest number of Species at Risk are labeled)



Density of Listed and Imperiled Species



Top 15 Military Installations

<u>BRANCH</u>	<u>INSTALLATION NAME</u>	<u># with ESA Status</u>
Army	Makua Military Reservation (HI)	53
Army	Schofield Barracks Military Reservation (HI)	51
Army	Kawailoa Training Range (HI)	37
Navy	Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (HI)	28
Army	Pohakuloa Training Area (HI)	18
Marine Corps	Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base (CA)	17
Navy	PMRF Barking Sands (HI)	16
Army	Fort Lewis Military Reservation (WA)	12
Navy	San Clemente Island Naval Reservation (CA)	12
Army	Fort Huachuca (AZ)	12
Navy	NAS Key West (FL)	12
Air Force	Eglin Air Force Base (FL)	10
Air Force	Vandenberg Air Force Base (CA)	10
Air Force	Avon Park Air Force Bombing Range (FL)	10
Navy	NAS Whidbey Island (WA)	10

Top Ten Listed Species

[BY DOD EXPENDITURES, FY 1991-2011]

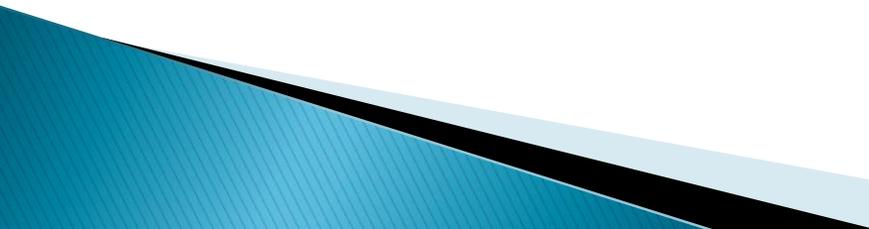
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	\$144.7M
Desert Tortoise	\$100.9M
SCI Loggerhead Shrike	\$31.9M
Mexican Spotted Owl	\$21.8M
Black-capped Vireo	\$19.2M
Bald Eagle@	\$18.7M
Golden-cheeked Warbler	\$17.2M
California Least Tern	\$15.9M
Western Snowy Plover	\$14.9M
Indiana Bat – NEW TO TOP TEN	\$13.3M

@ Delisted

Total DoD T&E Expenditures

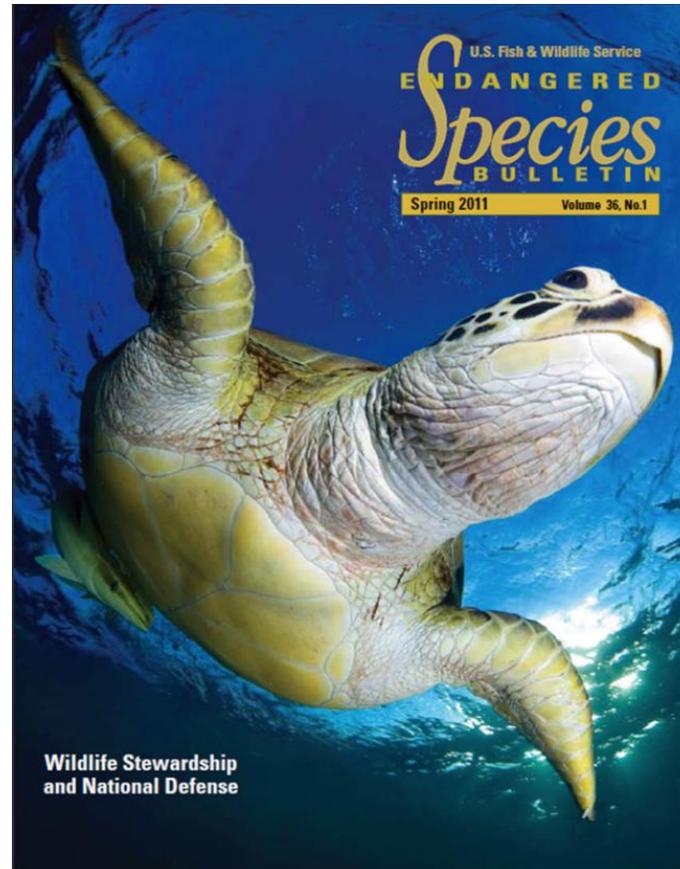
FY 1991–2011 (in \$000)

All Species	\$839,466
Birds	\$379,681
Reptiles	\$128,175
Plants	\$109,291
Mammals	\$79,281
Fish	\$26,097
Amphibians	\$14,760
Insects	\$14,530
Crustaceans	\$13,132





DoD-focused ESB



ESB Articles



- ▶ Why We Care About Endangered Species
- ▶ National Public Lands Day
- ▶ Cooperative Conservation on the Puget Sound Prairies
- ▶ Banking Seeds for the Future
- ▶ Connecting Landscapes for Biodiversity
- ▶ Partnerships from Hawaii to North Carolina
- ▶ Do Frogs Still Get Their Kicks on Route 66?
- ▶ From Sea to Shining Sea

More ESB Articles



- ▶ Automated Biodiversity Monitoring
- ▶ Developing a Strategic Plan for Herpetofauna on Military Lands
- ▶ The Proof of Sea-level Rise is in the Plover
- ▶ DoD Joins the Battle to Save Bats
- ▶ Restoring the Pallid Sturgeon
- ▶ Weapons Testing and Endangered Fish Coexist in Florida
- ▶ Defending Mussel Populations on Military Lands

TER-S Workshops

- ▶ National and Regional TER-S Workshops
 - *National – June 2005
 - *Hawaii/Pacific – June 2006
 - *Southeast – February 2007
 - *Southwest – October 2007
 - #Pacific follow-up – Feb 2010



Final reports available on <http://www.serdp.org/tesworkshop>

- Jointly funded by the Legacy and SERDP programs
- # Funded by the DoD Legacy program

Legacy Projects from Pacific Islands TER-S Workshop

- ▶ Removal of Invasive Fire-prone Grass to Increase Training Lands in the Pacific {07-362}
- ▶ Hawaii Cooperative Conservation Project {07-383}
- ▶ Predator-proof Fencing for Invasive Species Control in Hawaii {07-339}
- ▶ Ten-Year Resurvey of Biodiversity of Marine Communities and Introduced Species in Oahu {07-343}
- ▶ Intensive Plant Conservation Training {07-364}
- ▶ Full-scale Range Ignition Probability Tool {09-374}

SERDP Projects from Pacific Islands TER-S Workshop

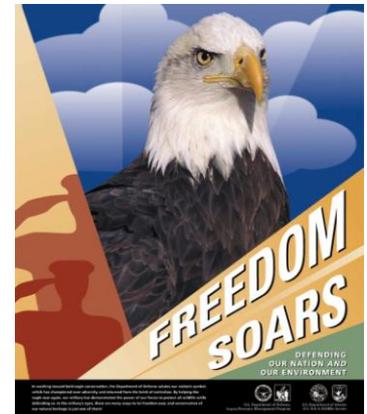
- ▶ Understanding the Role of Typhoons, Fire and Climate on Tropical Dry Forests {SI-1644}
 - ▶ Potential for Restoration to Break the Grass/Fire Cycle in Dryland HI Ecosystems {SI-1645}
 - ▶ Genetic Methods for Assessing Aquatic Conditions and Recruitment of Native Stream Fish (SI-1646)
- 

Legacy Projects from Pacific Workshop II

- ▶ Assessing the Presence and Distribution of 20 Hawaiian Yellow-faced Bees (11-104)
 - ▶ Improved Wildfire Prediction Using Remote Sensing Technology on Military Grasslands in Hawaii (11-112)
 - ▶ Developing Coastal Wetland Restoration Techniques to Enhance Coastal Habitats at Ahua Reef (11-320)
- 

Actions on Specific Species

- Bald and golden eagles
- Gopher tortoise
- Desert tortoise
- Red-cockaded woodpecker
- Indiana and gray bats



Bald and Golden Eagles

- ▶ Removed from ESA – August 8, 2007
- ▶ FWS Management Guidelines
 - Regulatory definition of “disturb”
 - Ways to avoid/minimize disturbance
- ▶ DoD Guidance Memo – August 30, 2007
- ▶ Monitoring – USFWS recommends 20-year plan
- ▶ Final Permit Rules – published September 11, 2009
- ▶ Eagle Working Group Recommendations
 - Identify installations that have eagles
 - Compile a list of military activities that may take eagles
 - Develop guidelines for potential take
 - FWS and DoD PIF will draft general guidelines for incidental take, including of eagles
- ▶ Powerline mortality a concern
- ▶ Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) still applies



Gopher Tortoise

- ▶ FWS petitioned to list Eastern population – January 2006
- ▶ GT Candidate Conservation Agreement
 - Finalized: October 2008
 - Annual reporting on actions taken
 - Designed to leverage knowledge and funding
 - Voluntary and flexible
 - GT Team established
- ▶ Current status
 - Candidate in FL, GA, SC
 - Warranted but precluded
 - October 26, 2011 Federal Register
- ▶ Listing highly likely



Desert Tortoise

- ▶ Threatened -- except AZ south and east of Colorado River, and Mexico
- ▶ GAO 2002 Study – Research Strategy and Long-term Monitoring Needed for Mojave DT Recovery Program
- ▶ FWS, Region 8 – Issued Revised Recovery Plan for Mojave Population
 - May 6, 2011
 - Five priority recovery actions identified
 - Conserve intact desert tortoise habitat – Recommends that solar project facilities be sited outside Desert Wildlife Management Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
 - Secure lands/habitat for conservation – Recommends conserving sensitive areas that would connect functional habitat or improve management capability of surrounding areas
 - Connect functional habitat – Recommends connecting blocks of desert tortoise habitat
 - Track changes in the quantity and quality of desert tortoise habitat – Recommends quantifying the loss or restoration of habitat as it relates to potential energy and other projects.
 - Determine the importance of corridors and physical barriers to desert tortoise distribution and gene flow – This action, in part, would determine the effects of corridors and barriers like energy development
- ▶ FWS completed 5-year status review – announced 25 May 2011
 - No status change



Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

- ▶ Legacy and REPI funded two RCW translocation biologists
- ▶ Four States providing funding in FY 2009
- ▶ Goal: expedite the expansion of small, at-risk populations (<30 groups)
- ▶ Ongoing translocation project
 - FY 2008 - 40 birds
 - FY 2009 - 45 birds
 - FY 2010 - 63 birds
 - FY 2011 - 40 birds
 - 50% overall success rate
- ▶ DoD, AL, GA and FL provide funds



Bats and White-nose Syndrome (WNS)



Indiana Bat

- ▶ Draft Recovery Plan – April 16, 2007
- ▶ Priority Research Needs Identified
 - Immediate need: Habitat Restoration and Maintenance guidelines for summer habitat

Gray Bat

- ▶ Purchase complete for Pearson's Cave, a key hibernaculum
- ▶ DoD funded purchase of infrared monitoring equipment and training of field personnel
- ▶ These proactive measures towards potential downlisting/delisting overcome by WNS impact

DoD Policy on Management of White Nose Syndrome in Bats

- ▶ Signed November 16, 2011
 - ▶ Encourages the Military Services to develop guidance to address WNS at their installations. Guidance should:
 - Integrate USFWS recommendations from the *National Plan*
 - Coordinate with other agencies on WNS reporting and the management of caves, mines, and other affected sites
 - Exchange up-to-date information with the USFWS and state fish and wildlife agencies through annual INRMP reviews.
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Candidate Species and ANPR

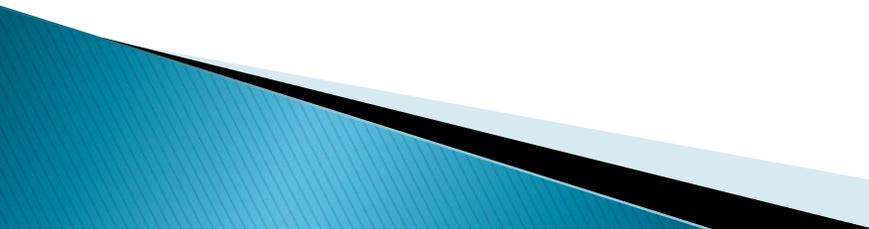
Candidate Species Designations

BACKGROUND

- ▶ Center for Biological Diversity and Wild Earth Guardians filed suit with USFWS on 757 species
- ▶ Judge approved settlement September 10, 2011
- ▶ USFWS agreed to:
 - A 6-year schedule for final listing decisions on 251 species on the candidate list
 - Developing initial findings on 506 other species
- ▶ Formal data call to DoD Components
 - Key species
 - Level of concern
 - Information available

LEVEL OF CONCERN

DEFINITIONS

- ▶ Red – Significant potential to impact military readiness. Listing/critical habitat designation (CHD) would make at least some mission areas NOT mission capable.
 - ▶ Orange – Moderate potential to impact military readiness. Listing/CHD would make at least some mission areas only partially mission capable. The range is partially mission capable.
 - ▶ Yellow – Minimal potential to impact military readiness. Listing/CHD could make at least some mission areas only partially mission capable in the future
 - ▶ Pale Yellow (Air Force) – Watch List
 - ▶ White (Blank) – No known impact on military
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LEVEL OF CONCERN

SUMMARY RESULTS

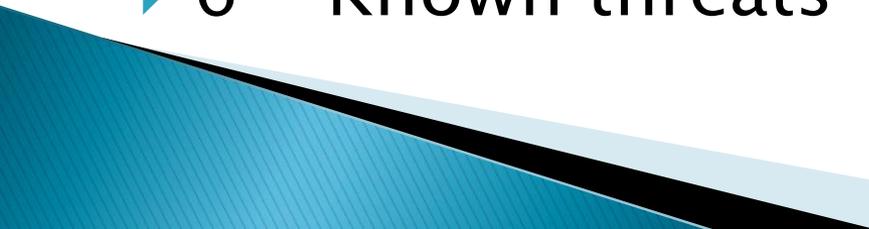
LEVEL OF CONCERN	ARMY	NAVY	MARINE CORPS	AIR FORCE	TOTAL
RED	6	0	1	0	7
ORANGE	25	6	1	0	29
YELLOW	45	38	3	0	71
WATCH LIST	0	0	0	6	2
TOTALS	72	43	5	6	109

KEY SPECIES IDENTIFIED

- ▶ Red knot (3 Military Services)
 - ▶ Greater sage grouse (3)
 - ▶ Washington ground squirrel (2)
 - ▶ Taylor's checkerspot butterfly
 - ▶ Streaked horned lark
 - ▶ Roy prairie pocket gopher
 - ▶ Louisiana pine snake
- 

TYPES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR USFWS

We may be able to avoid listing some species by providing USFWS with information that may inform the listing decision process.

- ▶ 1 – Status of species
 - ▶ 2 – Trend analysis
 - ▶ 3 – Survey/monitoring information available
 - ▶ 4 – Habitat requirements
 - ▶ 5 – Actions being taken to manage habitat and/or species
 - ▶ 6 – Known threats
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NEXT STEPS

- ▶ Provide information, as appropriate, to USFWS
 - ▶ Identify potential collaborations with Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)
 - ▶ Seek potential partnerships with other agencies and NGOs
 - ▶ Discuss at October T&E Roundtable
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Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR)

- ▶ USFWS requested suggestions that would create incentives for landowners and others to take voluntary conservation actions
 - to benefit species likely to become threatened or endangered
 - that will be recognized as offsetting the adverse effects of land owner activities
- ▶ DoD provided comments – July 26, 2012
- ▶ We will work with USFWS and others to develop potential pilot projects

Questions?

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