



Background:

The Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Program continues to build on key cooperative conservation elements including courses such as the DoD Sikes Act – Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) Implementation Course, workshops such as the DoD State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)-INRMP and DoD Threatened, Endangered, Rare and Species At Risk (TER-S) regional workshops, supporting regional conservation initiatives, and science-based support such as the DoD Partners in Flight Program. The DoD Species at Risk (SAR) Arizona / New Mexico Military Ranges project was initiated based on a need to support a regional step-down overview of SAR resources on major military ranges and installations in the southwest. The DoD Legacy project generated SAR reports, four permanent Military / FWS / State conservation partnership teams, and multiple Legacy projects that support about 25% of military lands in the nation. All four Military Services are represented and supported by these teams.



White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico

Objective:

The overall purpose of the project is to continue to provide support to several key military installations, such as Barry M Goldwater Range (BMGR) and White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) that support diverse military missions and diverse ecoregions in the southwest. The diversity ecosystems in the southwest is some of the highest in North America. The conservation partnership teams work closely with multiple military installations, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the states, and other partners such as Bat Conservation International toward conservation of TER-S, migratory birds, bats, and native plants and pollinators. The next step is for the teams to launch landscape level partnerships across these

diverse landscapes in the southwest.

Summary of Approach:

This project in phase II focused on strengthening the permanent Military / FWS / State conservation partnership teams, infusing lessons learned from other regional approaches in DoD conservation, focusing on key conservation issues and solutions, using a facilitated process to explore future collaborative conservation projects, supporting the Western Regional Partnership, and presenting briefings and overviews at DoD conferences, workshops, and training courses.

Benefit:

The results of this project have further protected the diverse military mission and conservation programs at several key military installations in the southwest, including BMGR, Yuma Proving Ground, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Camp Navajo, Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station, WSMR, Fort Bliss, Kirtland AFB, Holloman AFB, Davis Monthan AFB, NM Army National Guard's six Training Ranges, and Fort Huachuca. These teams work toward protecting military readiness and diverse ecological resources on about 25% of all military lands in the nation.

Accomplishments:

We have established and worked with four Military conservation partnerships teams, made key common ground approaches with the new Western Regional Partnership (established after the teams were in place), the Southwest Endangered Species Act (SWESA) Team, and Bat Conservation International (BCI) and one major migratory bird joint venture. The teams have used shared science, field projects, collaborative ecological approaches, and outreach to support multiple military installations and INRMPs. These teams have been recognized in multiple conferences, workshops and training courses. They are working examples of the success of the DoD Legacy Program's collaborative conservation approach.

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