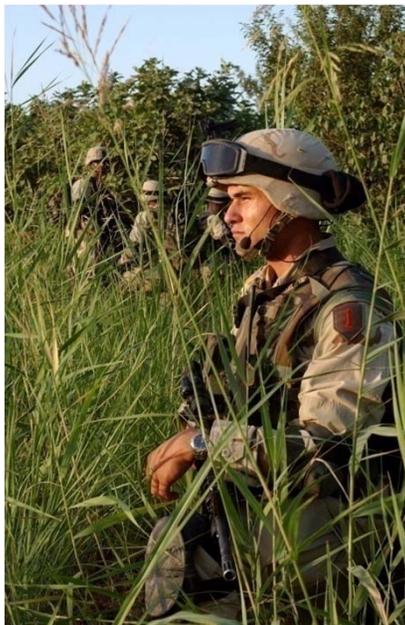


Managing Threatened and Endangered Species



Sikes Act Basics:

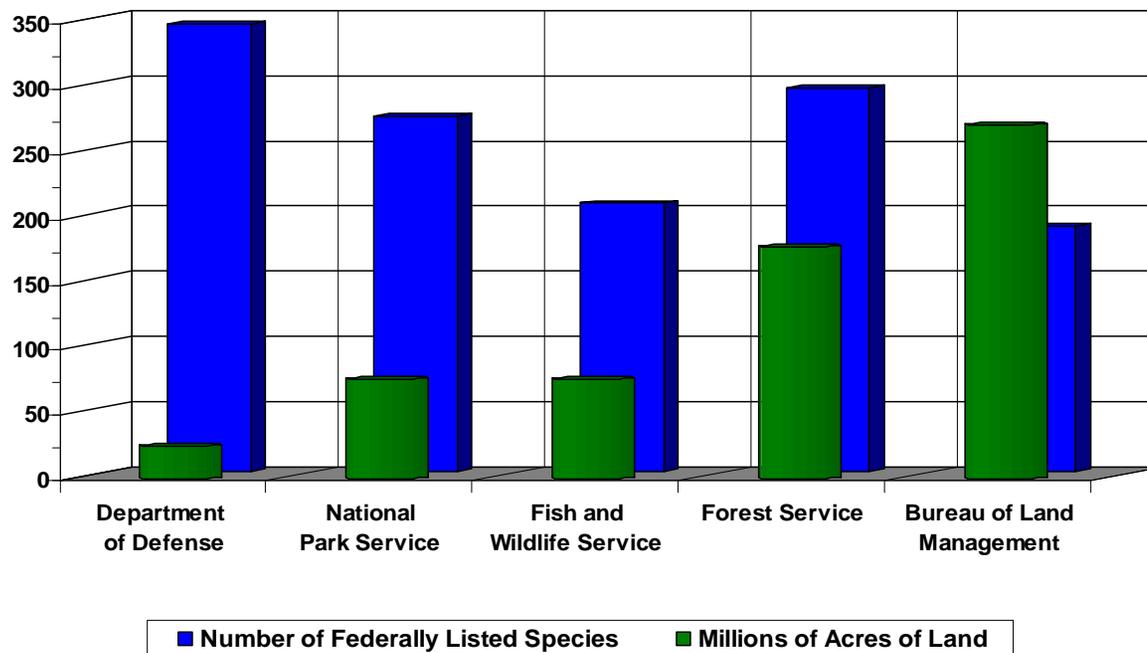
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Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Program



Source T&E Species on DOD Lands: Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment) Conservation
Data Source: NatureServe and its Natural Heritage member programs. Copyright: 2003 NatureServe

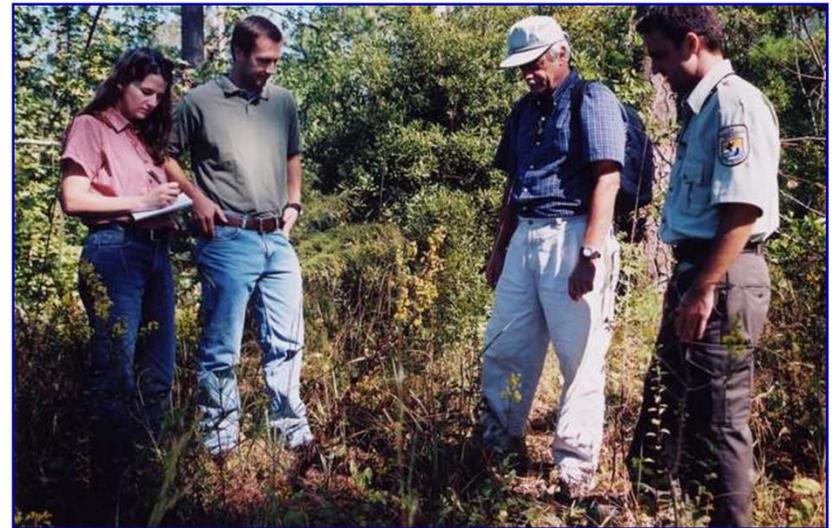
- About 320 listed species may be found on DoD lands
- More than 250 installations have at least one federally-listed species

Managing Threatened and Endangered Species



Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Consultation

- Each Federal agency must ensure that its actions:
 - Will not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species, **or**
 - Destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat

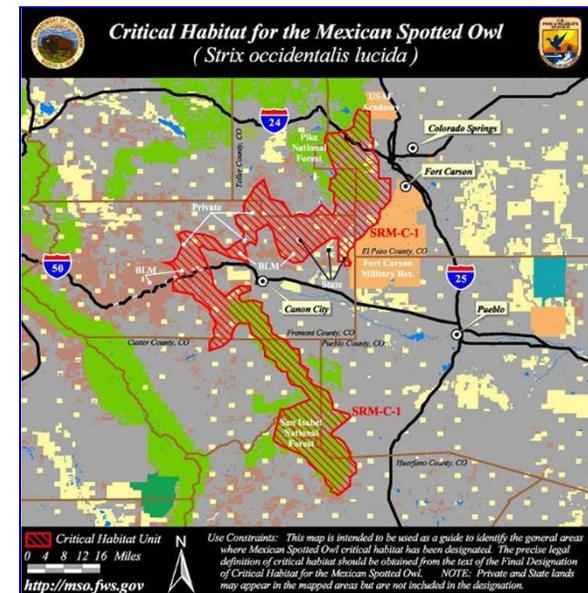


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Designated Critical Habitat

- “Critical Habitat” defined:
 - Areas deemed essential to the conservation of a threatened or endangered species, and
 - May require special management consideration or protection
- “Conservation” in this context means those areas needed to enable listed species to recover to the point the protections of the ESA are no longer necessary



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ESA sec. 4(a)(3)(B)

- INRMP may obviate need for designation of critical habitat if the INRMP “provides a benefit to the species”
- To provide a “benefit,” INRMP must demonstrate that no special management or protection is needed
- Per rulemakings to date, USFWS will require INRMP to:
 - Provide a conservation benefit to the species;
 - Provide assurances that management strategies will be implemented; and
 - Provide assurances that the strategies will be effective



Managing Threatened and Endangered Species



ESA sec. 4(a)(3)(B) (continued)

- If Interior Secretary determines INRMP provides “benefit” to the species, critical habitat designation precluded
- INRMPs substitute for designation of critical habitat
- Advantage?
 - Only “jeopardy” standard applies
 - So what?
 - Consultation obligation limited to occupied habitat
 - “Jeopardy” survival obligations may be less demanding than “adverse modification” conservation requirements

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State Listed Species Requirements

- **At-risk state species** may include state-listed species (State protection only – not required Fed'l protection)
- State Wildlife Action Plans – identify at-risk species & actions – INRMP/SWAP integration
- At-risk state species may be incorporated into actions under INRMP, when practicable

Managing Threatened and Endangered Species



Impact of T&E Species on the Military Mission

- Threatened & endangered species can impact military mission & INRMP - balance
- At-risk species can impact military mission & INRMP implementation
- INRMP & at-risk species conservation



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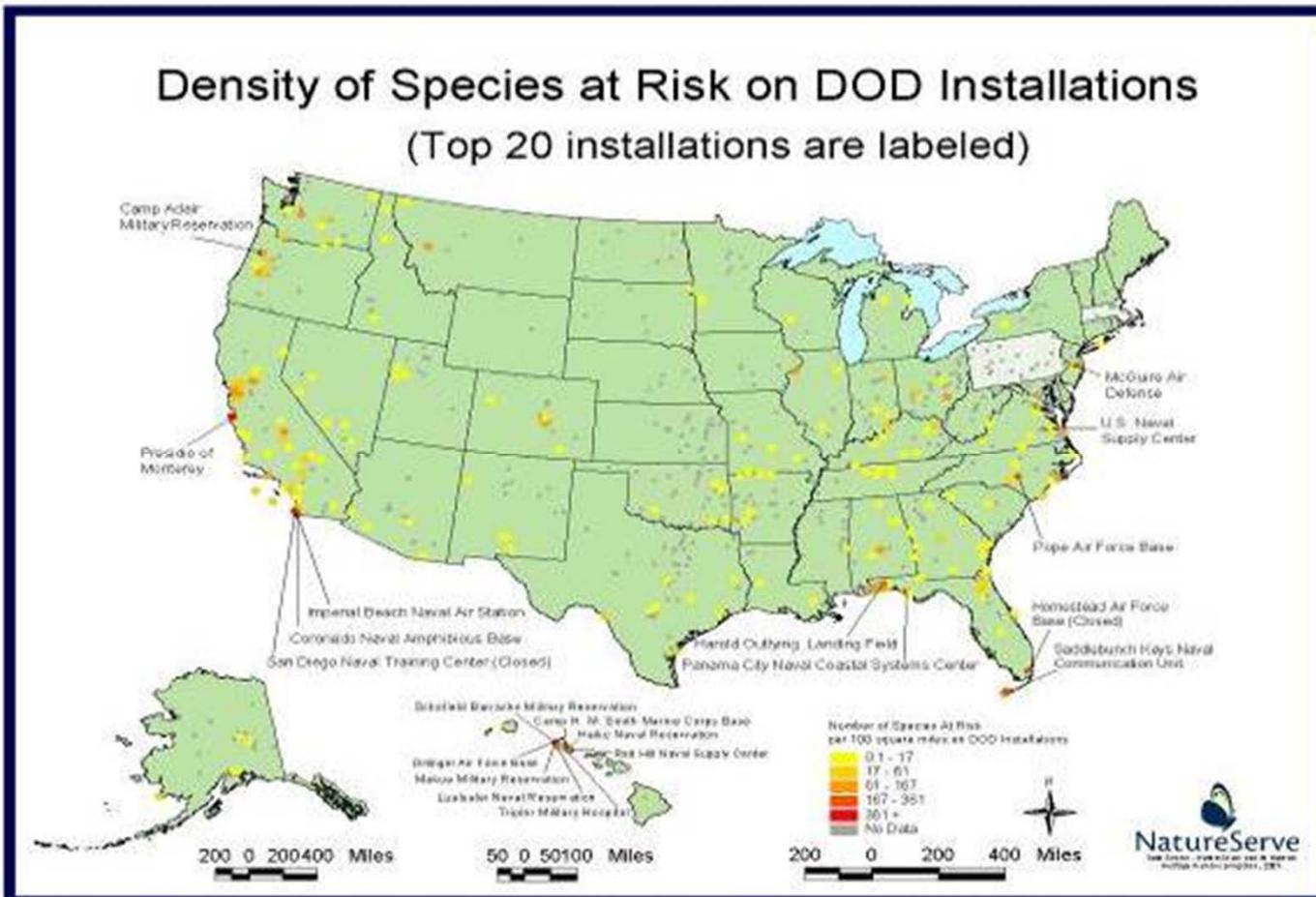


INRMPs and the ESA

- INRMPs should reflect relevant aspects of:
 - Prior §7(a)(2) consultations
 - §7(a)(1) conservation planning
 - §4(f) recovery plans
- Typically, INRMPs incorporate measures agreed to as part of informal or formal consultations
- INRMP multi-species strategies may trigger need for new consultation on INRMP



Managing Threatened and Endangered Species



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Partnership Spotlight: DoD-SAR Project

- BMGR, MCAS Yuma, & Yuma Proving Ground – cluster of over 3.5 million acres of military ranges in southwest Arizona – Davis Monthan AFB added recently
- Lower Sonoran desert basins and low mountain ranges in SW Arizona
- Sonoran Desert Military Ranges Conservation Partnership Team explored over 20 species at risk including Sonoran desert tortoise, birds, bats and native plants
- DoD Legacy SAR project- example of exploring collaborative conservation efforts that benefit military mission – binational range & bird conservation

Partners

- Air Force
- Marine Corps
- Army
- FWS
- Arizona Game & Fish Department



Managing Threatened and Endangered Species



T&E Species Coordination Best Practices

- Establish working relationship with Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)
- Consult informally with FWS
- Baseline T&E and share data
- Partner to increase T&E presence
- At-risk species w/ FWS and States – SWAPs & CCAs as tools for priority species

