



U.S. Department of Defense

DoD Environmental Planning and Conservation Webinar Series



Recovering Species, Sustaining Our Mission Through the Recovery and Sustainment Partnership Initiative

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December 19, 2024

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Recovery and Sustainment Partnership
Recovering Species, Sustaining Our Mission

RASP Introduction



Background

Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (RASP)

Memorandum of Understanding
(June 2018, renewed February 2024)



RASP Goals

- 1 Create** more flexibility and certainty for DoD to execute its mission.
- 2 Improve** conservation outcomes for species and habitats.

RASP Strategies

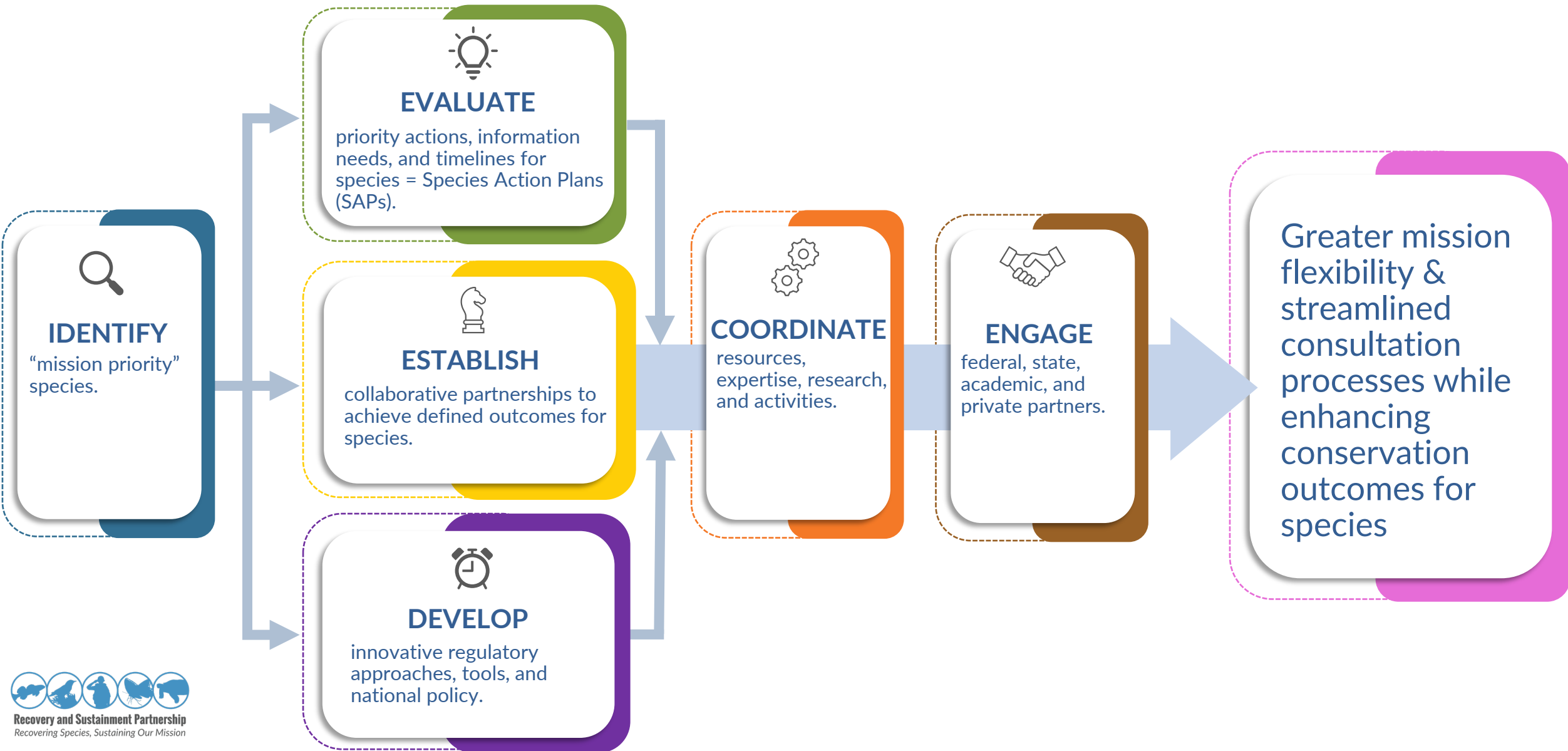
Develop innovative regulatory approaches and tools for achieving the intent of the ESA in a manner consistent with both the USFWS and military mission needs and objectives.

Develop collaborative conservation initiatives to enhance species conservation, advance species recovery, and preclude the need to list additional species.

Recognize and respond to the current and projected impacts of climate change on ecosystems and watersheds and on the species within them.

Recognize successes in support of conservation goals and targets.

RASP Process



Mission Priority Species



Visit our website to see the full list of RASP Priority Species

Species Action Plans (Approved)

5 San
Clemente
Island species



Guam orchid



Okaloosa
darter



Golden-cheeked
warbler



Mojave desert
tortoise



Red-cockaded
woodpecker



Stephen's
kangaroo rat



Marbled
murrelet



Eastern indigo
snake



Inyo California
towhee



California Least
Tern

Species Action Plans (In Development)

Hawaiian stilt



3 snails on
Guam



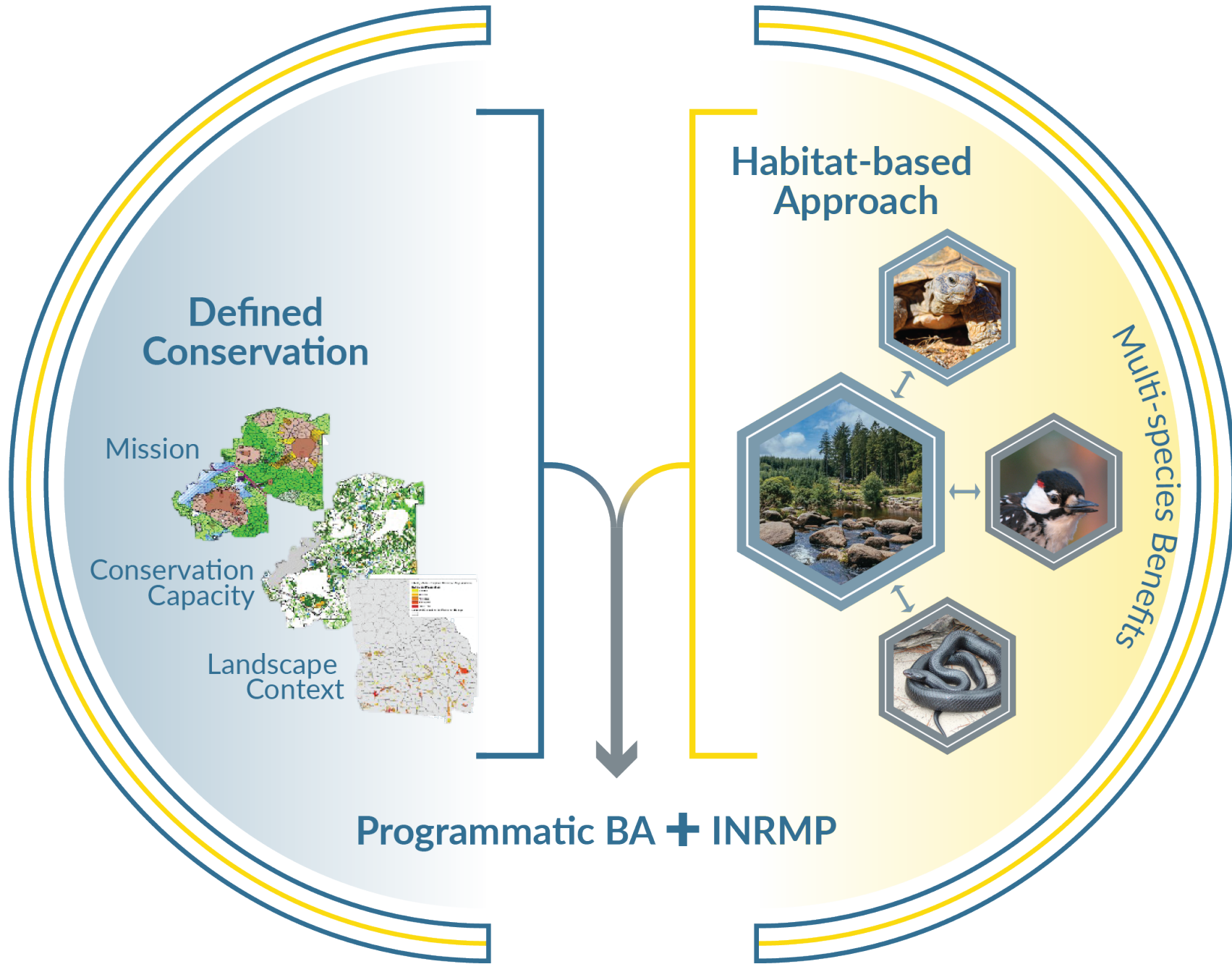
Sonoran
pronghorn



ESA Regulatory Approaches and Tools

Goals

- 1 Greater flexibility for installations
- 2 More predictable and streamlined regulatory process
- 3 Greater conservation outcomes for species and habitats



Nationwide Strategies

Goals

- 1 Consistent ESA consultation approach and coverage for all applicable DOD installations.
- 2 Standardized best management practices that conserve species and minimize mission restrictions
- 3 Improve conservation status of species
- 4 Standards and protocols for inventory, monitoring, data, and storage.

Bats



Monarch butterfly



Collaborative Initiatives

Collaborative Wildlife Protection and Recovery Initiative (CWPRI)

- Voluntary, informal partnership of federal, state, and non-governmental organizations.
- Chartered November 2019 to recover endangered species, prevent new listings under the ESA, and achieve regulatory process efficiencies.
- Partners participate in conservation efforts of their choosing, with an emphasis on selecting projects that protect their mission.
- Collaboration enables partners to maximize conservation outcomes and gain access to resources they would not have if pursuing conservation individually.
- Pilot project underway for least Bell's vireo.



DOD Partners in Amphibian & Reptile Conservation

Species	Species Name	# of Installations
Spotted Turtle	<i>Clemmys guttata</i>	39
Gopher Tortoise	<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>	32
Eastern Diamond-backed Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus adamanteus</i>	28
Northern Red-bellied Cooter	<i>Pseudemys rubriventris</i>	27
Alligator Snapping Turtle	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>	15
Gopher Frog	<i>Lithobates capito</i>	15
Wood Turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	12
Western Pond Turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata/pallida</i>	12
Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	10
Western Spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	10
Florida Pinesnake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus mugitus</i>	7

Mission Sensitive Species



DOD Partners in Flight

Mission Sensitive Species



Species	Species Name	# of Installations
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	70
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	50
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i>	30
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	30
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	25
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	24
Bachman's Sparrow	<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i>	24
Least Tern (Atlantic Coast Pop)	<i>Sternula antillarum</i>	18
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	16
Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	15
Southeastern American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius Paulus</i>	14
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>	7
Greater Sage-Grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	6
Bendire's Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	4
Greater Prairie-Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>	3

Recognizing Success

2024

Downlisting of the red-cockaded woodpecker

The red-cockaded woodpecker had been listed as endangered under the ESA for more than 50 years, since the Act's passage in 1973. This RASP Mission Priority Species relies on mature longleaf pine forests as its habitat, which has largely dwindled across the nation. However, large swathes of longleaf pine forests are still intact on military lands, especially in the southeastern United States.

In October 2024, USFWS celebrated a huge step in the recovery of this species by reclassifying it under the ESA from endangered to threatened.



Recognizing Success

2024

Monarch butterfly conservation strategy

DOD and USFWS collaborated on a strategy that underscores **the Department's commitment to monarch butterfly conservation** while **enabling the military mission**.

The strategy's approach enables DOD to meet its mission with flexibility by promoting the continued implementation of existing conservation programs to benefit monarch on **>1.7 million acres of grasslands** that the Department manages by providing nectar and milkweed resources and protecting **53 sites for overwintering monarchs**.



Recognizing Success

In 2023, six species were declared recovered and no longer need protection under the ESA due to conservation efforts by DOD and partners that led to the species' recovery.

This extraordinary accomplishment represents approximately **10%** of all U.S. species delistings from the ESA due to recovery between 1973 and 2023, and **DOD's continued commitment to species protection** while enhancing the military mission.




60 U.S. Species recovered
between 1973 and 2023
1973




2023

Accomplishments and Successes

**ENABLING THE MISSION,
DEFENDING THE RESOURCES**
DOD NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM



**ENDANGERED SPECIES DELISTING
OKALOOSA DARTER**
Eglin Air Force Base, FL



Endemic Fish No Longer Needs Protection Thanks to U.S. Air Force

The Okaloosa darter is roughly a two-inch, perch-like fish known to occur only in six clear stream systems in northwest Florida. Almost 99% of its habitat is under Eglin Air Force Base's management. In 1973, when less than 1,500 individual darters remained, the species was placed under **Endangered Species Act** protection.

Eglin AFB, in partnership with six other state and federal agencies and scientists from three universities, embarked on an effort to save the darter **resulting in the protection of 90% of the darter's watershed area over the past 30 years.**

Eglin's natural resource managers estimate that as of 2021, the darter's population has skyrocketed to more than 600,000, a 400-fold increase from its population lows. **This recovery has led U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deem the Okaloosa darter recovered.**


**ENABLING THE MISSION,
DEFENDING THE RESOURCES**
DOD NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM



SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND (SCI) Species Delisting

Since the creation of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, 54 species, including 14 plant and 15 bird species, have been delisted because of recovery. **Five species** are scheduled to be added to this list 30 days from Jan. 24, 2023, thanks to the efforts by the U.S. Navy at SCI.

SCI is part of Naval Base Coronado, located 64 miles off the coast of San Diego County, and is the primary maritime training area for the Navy Pacific Fleet and Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Forces.



San Clemente Bell's Sparrow
A small non-migratory songbird with distinctive white and black stripes that is up to 6 inches long and weighs on average 0.59 ounces, which is less than a golf ball.

SCI Paintbrush
Can be 1.3 to 2 ft. tall and is ash-gray in color with densely hairy leaves that are alternate and linear. The plant can be either free-living or parasitic.

SCI Lotus
Typically less than 4 ft. tall and has bushy habit and elongated fruits. The plant has slender green branches with each leaf having three to five leaflets.

SCI Larkspur
An herbaceous perennial in the buttercup family that is generally less than 2 feet tall with light-blue to white flowers.

SCI Bush-mallow
Has stems that are woody only at the base and can reach a height from 2.3 to 3.3 feet tall. Its leaves are 1 to 2 inches wide and with green upper surfaces covered in short fine hairs.

July 2023: Delisted due to recovery thanks to Eglin AFB and partners

January 2023: Recovered 5 species previously on the brink of extinction thanks to U.S. Navy



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RESOURCES

RASP Fact Sheet



RASP Website



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