

**Southern Plains  
State Wildlife Action Plan  
&  
Integrated Natural Resource  
Management Plan Workshop**

**Workshop Summary**

**May 8 - 9, 2007  
Albuquerque, New Mexico**



# Executive Summary

On May 8—9, 2007, the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) (ODUSD(IE)) and the Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Program, with support from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), sponsored a Southern Plains State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) Workshop at the Wyndham Albuquerque Airport Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Forty-four natural resource and wildlife personnel attended from a variety of organizations, including: Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Army, Navy, and Air Forces (*Appendix A*). The purpose of this workshop was to unite participants and identify how DoD, state wildlife agencies, and other relevant agencies can work together to identify problems and solutions relating to SWAPs and INRMPs in the Southern Plains. It is hoped that the connections established, the regional pilot projects crafted, and the issues discussed will improve overall natural resource management in the region.

An introduction the first day was given by Mr. Peter Boice (ODUSD(IE)) and Dr. Bruce Thompson (New Mexico Department of Fish and Game). Presentations on the first day were given by Mr. David Chadwick (AFWA), Mr. Peter Boice, Mr. Steve Helfert (USFWS), Mr. Bruce Rosenlund (USFWS), and Mr. Russell Hooten (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) describing their respective organizations and approaches to cooperative regional planning (*Appendices B—F*). The afternoon was spent in breakout groups working to answer some fundamental questions about integrating SWAPs and INRMPs (*Appendix G*). Following the breakout groups, participants came back together to discuss potential pilot projects that could be discussed further the following day, and later implemented.

On the second day, participants formed breakout groups by state in order to consider the usefulness and need of the pilot projects for their region. Participants then identified six key projects and formed groups to determine a “way forward” for each project. Breakout group questions were provided to guide the discussion and to focus the groups on some key project issues, such as determining the next steps needed to ensure the implementation of the project (*Appendix I*). After the pilot project report-outs, the workshop concluded with the entire group identifying next steps for the group as a whole and closing remarks from Peter Boice.

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# Introduction

The Department of Defense is responsible for creating programs and implementing management strategies to conserve and protect biological resources on its land while helping to ensure long-term sustainability of its resources for military testing and training missions. DoD develops and implements INRMPs at its installations to ensure military operations and natural resources are integrated and consistent with stewardship and legal requirements.

Similarly, state wildlife agencies are responsible for managing and conserving all resident fish and wildlife species. As part of that responsibility, and as a requirement of the federal State Wildlife Grants program, every state has completed a SWAP, known technically as a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. SWAPs outline actions needed to conserve wildlife and natural resources before both become too rare and costly to protect. The completion of the SWAPs was a historic step forward in the management and protection of wildlife in the United States.

During INRMP development and implementation, an installation is required to consult with its state wildlife agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to coordinate its planned course of action. Similarly, a state wildlife agency is required to consult with federal agencies and other resources (e.g. U.S. Forest Service Land Management Plans) when creating its SWAP. However, the degree to which each organization involves the other varies according to a number of factors, including resources present on DoD land, availability of personnel and fiscal resources, and regional interests.

In addition to the requirements stated above, DoD, USFWS, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in January 2006. The MOU commits the three parties to a cooperative program of INRMP

development, implementation, and oversight, and incorporates mutually agreed upon fish and wildlife conservation objectives that satisfy the goals of the Sikes Act. To better support the goals and objectives set forth in the MOU, to better integrate SWAPs and INRMPs, and to bring together key regional stakeholders, DoD has committed to a series of regional INRMP-SWAP workshops. The third in this series of workshops was held in the Southern Plains, defined for workshop purposes as the states of New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Texas. The primary focus of these workshops is to identify new partnerships to integrate SWAPs and INRMPs, and to support development and implementation of new projects.

## Day One—May 8, 2007

The workshop opened with introductory remarks by Mr. Peter Boice of ODUSD(IE). Mr. Boice described the purpose of the workshop—to bring together groups of people that are working *near* each other, but not necessarily *with* each other, after which welcome was given by Dr. Bruce Thompson, Director of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

The morning continued with Mr. David Chadwick from AFWA presenting an overview of SWAPs (*Appendix B*). As of October 2005, all states had prepared a Wildlife Action Plan (available online at [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com) and [www.wildlifeactionplans.org](http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org)), that inventories and prioritizes its wildlife and other species and provides a range of management options. The plans include ideas for specific conservation projects as well as suggestions on ways to educate the public about effective conservation practices. Mr. Chadwick emphasized the need for collaboration and partnership with military installations, since wildlife issues continue beyond the fence line. He closed by encouraging the participants to become familiar with and learn from each other.

Mr. Boice spoke next, providing an overview of INRMPs (*Appendix C*). He described the Sikes Act, which requires installations to create and implement INRMPs, and also delineates the required elements that must be contained in the INRMP. The INRMP planning teams are obligated to involve USFWS and the appropriate state wildlife agency to ensure proper consideration of fish and wildlife. However, the degree to which these and other agencies are consulted vary; for example, USFWS may only review INRMPs and may not be intimately involved in the creation process. Mr. Boice reiterated the hope that this workshop would promote increased communications and forge partnerships which extend into the future. Mr. Boice also informed the group of additional INRMP tools that are available to further enhance INRMP development, implementation, and best management practices. Finally, Mr. Boice gave a summary of

prior SWAP/INRMP workshops and discussed various projects that resulted from these collaborative forums.

Following Mr. Boice's presentation, Mr. Steve Helfert (USFWS), Mr. Bruce Rosenlund (USFWS), and Mr. Russell Hooten (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) spoke in detail about various DoD Wildlife Agency collaboration projects. Mr. Helfert discussed the Species at Risk (SAR) DoD Legacy project in Arizona and New Mexico. The purpose of the project is to protect significant ecosystems and species in Arizona and New Mexico with the goal of avoiding listing. Next, Mr. Rosenlund discussed the Colorado Shortgrass Prairie Initiative, which is a collaborative effort to promote and support long-term survival of native species and communities in the shortgrass ecosystem. Finally, Mr. Hooten discussed the South Texas Natural Resource Partnering Team, a partnership between the region's Navy installations and state, federal, and non-governmental organizations. This particular team has measured success in four of its major projects and meets quarterly to review INRMP implementation and plan future projects. These partnerships have identified the key elements to maintaining good partnerships, such as overarching leadership teams, clear mission statements, organization roles, and methods of gathering data, and as such, are growing and succeeding.

Following the presentation on existing collaboration projects, Kate Hutson (BAH/ODUSD(IE)) reviewed the breakout session instructions and questions for Day One (*Appendix G*). Participants broke out into their assigned groups to answer questions about the benefits and obstacles involved in integrating INRMP and SWAP processes/information.

Once breakout discussions were complete, each group reported out their top three answers for each question. These answers were then written up and each individual was given six stickers to place by their top issue for each question (see *Table 1-1* for top two choices for each question from the group). Once this was complete, Dave Chadwick facilitated a group discussion on the top two answers for each question



(these were the answers that received the most stickers and were considered highest priorities).

**Table 1-1: Considerations When Integrating INRMPs and SWAPs**

(Bullets in bold received most votes and discussion)

<b>Breakout Question Presented to Groups</b>	<b>Ideas/Answers Generated During Breakout Session</b>
I. List 3 or more benefits to integrating INRMPs and SWAPs processes/information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Increases funding efficiency for identified priorities/combining resources</b></li> <li>• <b>Aligning of local, state, regional objectives/goals</b></li> <li>• Linking habitat management with species management</li> <li>• Learning about other plans and acronyms</li> <li>• Leveraging expertise in planning process</li> <li>• Fuels projects implementing SWAPs/INRMPs/etc</li> <li>• Comprehensive resource planning</li> <li>• Increased communication (decrease duplication, increase data sharing)</li> </ul>
II. Identify communication barriers between states, installations and DoD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Different missions, values, goals</b></li> <li>• <b>Workload availability/constraints</b></li> <li>• Answer to different bosses/administrative processes</li> <li>• Acronyms and vocabulary</li> <li>• Communicating/identifying the right “players”</li> <li>• Different planning cycles/fiscal years/deadlines</li> <li>• Personnel turnover</li> </ul>

<p>III. Can these barriers be overcome? And if so, how (on a local level and national level)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Identify common benefits/goals</b></li> <li>• <b>Identify POCs between agencies</b></li> <li>• Participate in other agency meetings</li> <li>• Bring in more partners (i.e. through established, regular meetings)</li> <li>• Make available more opportunities for interagency cooperation</li> <li>• Mandate involvement /participation</li> <li>• Shadowing/cross-agency training (Day in the life of...)</li> <li>• Communicate early and often (increased use of e-tools; web based sharing databases)</li> <li>• Having folks working on-site with military; embedded people within the installations/agencies; Natural resource people on bases who work for Fish and Wildlife; Multi-agency management team; different avenues for funding this position</li> <li>• DoD as a listed partner</li> </ul>
<p>IV. How can we integrate DoD Species-At-Risks (SAR) into State Wildlife Action Plans and vice versa? How can we effectively share that information?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Compare lists: identify overlaps/priorities</b></li> <li>• <b>Early collaboration during revisions (INRMP/SWAP reviews)</b></li> <li>• Keep NatureServe updated/current</li> <li>• Overcome agency communication barriers</li> <li>• Include them in INRMPs</li> <li>• Validate purpose/need of SARs</li> <li>• Share plan info/requirements (INRMPs, SWAPs)</li> </ul>
<p>V. Identify ways that DoD could assist states in SWAP implementation (posting information used to create these docs on FTP sites? Etc?) and vice versa.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Establish State/DoD liaisons</b></li> <li>• <b>Review implementation of SWAPs annually at state and eco-regional level</b></li> <li>• Make INRMPs available electronically to other agencies</li> <li>• Identify POCs</li> <li>• Better data sharing (Mapping/GIS information)</li> <li>• Resource sharing (labor, equipment, expertise)</li> </ul>
<p>VI. What other management plans (i.e. USFS Forest Land Management Plans, etc.) could be integrated into INRMPs/SWAPs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All agency plans</b></li> <li>• <b>Large-scale ecosystem plans</b></li> <li>• Municipal and county plans</li> <li>• Partners in Flight</li> <li>• Joint Venture Plans</li> <li>• National Fire Plans</li> <li>• Private Landowners (Safe Harbor Agreements, Habitat Conservation Plans)</li> </ul>

After a break, the entire group reassembled to discuss potential project ideas. Mr. Chadwick spent a few minutes describing the projects that materialized from some of the regional planning workshops that he has attended. He encouraged the groups to think broadly and to brainstorm as many ideas as possible. The groups identified projects ranging from cooperative conservation initiatives to species specific projects to tackle current critical issues (*Appendix H*).

## Day Two—May 9, 2007

Day two began with a brief overview of the day's agenda by Kate Hutson (*Appendix I*). Due to the variety of projects identified on day one, the participants took some time to break into groups by state to discuss project priorities. The group reconvened and Mr. Chadwick facilitated the identification of target projects given each state's particular considerations. Six pilot projects were identified and guiding questions were provided to the groups to assist in their project development. Participants were encouraged to think of all possible questions that had to be answered—from potential partners to funding sources.

The six potential pilot projects generated were:

### **(1) The Grey Vireo Project**

This group proposes holding a one day, multi-state grey vireo coordination meeting to establish a dialogue between all parties interested in the recovery of the species. The group's goal is to provide a cooperative framework to prevent federal listing of the grey vireo through better communication and data sharing. The meeting will provide a forum for coordinating similar research efforts, identifying information gaps, and inventorying existing data and research. The project will also establish a position to maintain a list of all work (and associated POCs) being done related to the grey vireo. The target area for this project is the southern plains, specifically the states of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, and Texas. Partners targeted include: land management regulatory agencies, non-governmental organizations, private land owners, DoD installations, and state fish and game agencies.

### **(2) The Bat Project**

This group's proposal is to hold a discussion about current initiatives related to bat preservation, including identification of working groups and their resources,

and site-specific threats. The goal of this project is to engage participants in bat management discussion and create a clearinghouse for bat-related data and contacts in the Southern Plains. The group plans to look to an existing bat project in Utah for direction and next steps.

### **(3) Wildlife Diversity Project**

This group focused on planning an annual regional meeting for coordinated implementation of SWAPs, to be attended by natural resource managers. The group identified the need for annual two-day meetings, with the first day consisting of presentations on existing SWAPs and the second day focusing on collaborative breakout groups. The project is designed to raise awareness among agencies regarding SWAP implementation, identify existing collaborative efforts, and identify opportunities for cost-effective collaboration. In the long-term, the meetings would serve as a forum for coordinated revision of natural resource management plans across ecoregions.

### **(4) Southern New Mexico Coordination Project**

The goal of this project is to coordinate agency efforts to accomplish each agency's mission efficiently and effectively. The group will organize an informal meeting every six months to discuss high priority projects to share information, provide opportunities to create partnerships, and promote ecosystem-wide natural resource management. The first meeting will be hosted by New Mexico Game and Fish in Las Cruces in the Fall of 2007, and may include north Texas. Carol Hale of USFWS in Arlington, Texas plans to hold a similar meeting (Texas only) in Austin, Texas. The meeting will serve as an opportunity for partners in southern New Mexico and Austin, Texas to realign agency priorities, strengthen relationships, and coordinate projects, partnerships, and funds. The group will rely on each agency to fund travel expenses for the attendance of their representatives at the meeting.

#### **(5) DoD Liaison Pilot Project**

This group proposed to create a pair of pilot projects to evaluate the usefulness of funding a liaison position between state game and fish agencies and DoD.

The liaison, an employee of the State Game and Fish Department, would be tasked with the goal of enhancing coordination and communication between the partners and standardizing procedures across military services. The pilot position would run for two years, with one position each in Texas and New Mexico. The group plans to initiate the project in September 2008 if DoD Legacy funding is available. At the end of the two year pilot project, the position would be evaluated for effectiveness and the future of the position determined. The goals of this project are to ensure 1) state participation in INRMP and military natural resource issues, 2) state recognition and inclusion of DoD in state programs, and 3) coordination of all state agencies and programs.

#### **(6) Cooperative Conservation Project**

The goal of this group is to promote discussion of current and potential cooperative conservation tools in an effort to integrate SWAPs and INRMPs at the ecosystem level. The group will focus on DoD's interest in working off-base on buffer encroachment issues and will explore DoD's potential role in the habitat credit trading system created through an MOU between USFWS, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and AFWA. The group will look generally at integrating SWAPs into INRMP revisions and specifically at including DoD in the Colorado SWAP.

After each group reported on their project ideas and goals, the group as a whole was asked to consider next steps for the entire group. The following are considerations and potential next steps<sup>1</sup>:

- Post workshop summary on DENIX website
- Send the following documents to workshop participants:

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<sup>1</sup> Some action items identified in this Summary may have already been completed. For up to date information, please visit:  
<https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/Sustain/Ranges/toolstraining/workshops.html>

- Service POC list for DoD's Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative Program
  - Contact information for workshop participants
- Establish a follow-up meeting in 18-24 months
- Send out Virginia State Conservation Forum Legacy Project information to participants

After the discussion of follow-up actions and next steps, Mr. Boice provided some closing remarks and thanked all the attendees for their active participation.

# **Appendix A: List of Participants**



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## **Appendix B:**

# **Dave Chadwick's Presentation**



# Wildlife Action Plans: A Resource for Conservation Partners

May 2007



## Action Plans for Every State



*The Nation's Core Program for  
Preventing Wildlife from Becoming  
Endangered in Every State.*



## State Wildlife Grants

### How It Works:

- Allocated by formula to every state  
→ Population + Area
- Non-federal match  
25% for planning  
50% for implementation
- Annual appropriations



# Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program

## How It Works:

- Allocated by formula to every state  
→ Population + Area
- 25% Non-federal match
- Conservation, Education, Recreation, Law Enforcement, Research
- Dedicated funding



## Wildlife Action Plans

Working together to conserve wildlife and natural areas for future generations



# Wildlife Action Plans

Minimum Legal  
Requirement

*The  
Opportunity*

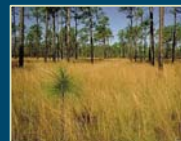


Outline how state  
plans to use SWG  
funding

*Engage Partners in  
a Strategic Vision  
for Wildlife  
Conservation*

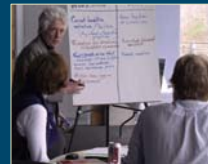
## Eight Required Elements

1. **Wildlife** distribution and abundance, focused on species of greatest need
2. **Habitat** location and condition
3. **Problems** and research needs
4. **Conservation Actions** and priorities



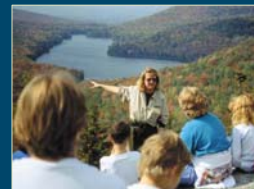
## Eight Required Elements

5. Monitoring and Evaluation
6. Plans to **Review and Revise**
7. **Coordination** with other agencies, planning efforts
8. **Broad public participation**



## Wildlife Action Plans

Historic  
*and*  
Structured  
*but*  
Flexible





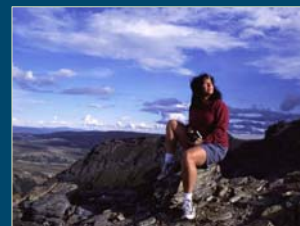
## Keeping It Off the Shelf

- More Funding
- Operational Planning and Integration
- Coordination with Partner Agencies
- Policy and Regulatory Changes





## Wildlife For Future Generations



## **Appendix C: Peter Boice's Presentation**



# Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) and the Sikes Act Improvement Act

L. Peter Boice  
DoD Conservation Team Leader

## Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997

- Enacted November 18, 1997
  - Product of three-plus years of discussion
  - Agreed to by DoD, USFWS, IAFWA
- **Authorizes** DoD to carry out a program for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations

## Need for Amendments

- Broaden scope of DoD's natural resources program
- Integrate program with operations & training
- Embrace tenets of conservation biology
- Invite public review
- Strengthen funding for conservation

## Key Elements

- SECDEF directed to carry out natural resources program...
  - Previous program discretionary, self-imposed, and dictated by internal policy
  - Previous program focused on fish and game conservation
- ...unless installation not home to **significant natural resources**

## Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- Military Departments required to prepare **and implement** INRMPs for relevant installations
  - Broader in scope than cooperative plans
  - “Must fund” requirements
- INRMPs prepared in cooperation with DoI/FWS and State fish and wildlife agencies
  - Anticipated a truly collaborative process

## Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- INRMP shall reflect “mutual agreement” of the parties
  - Goal: agreement on entire plan
  - Requirement: agreement on elements of plan within scope of USFWS and State’s legal authority
- Sikes Act neither enlarges nor diminishes parties’ legal authorities

## Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- Required elements of plan:
  - Natural resources management
  - Sustained **multi-purpose** use
  - Habitat enhancement
  - Integration of activities
  - Public access and sustainable public use
  - Specific goals and objectives
- Plus requirements from DoDI
  - Embrace principles of ecosystem mgmt

## Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- Program and INRMP must:
  - Be consistent with the use of installations to ensure military preparedness; and
  - Ensure **no net loss** in capability of installations **to support military mission**

## Procedural Requirements

- Provide opportunity for public comment on INRMP
- Cooperative development
- 5-year reviews
- SECDEF annual Report to Congress

## Cooperative Development: Partnering with USFWS and States

- Involvement and review includes:
  - Evaluating impacts on fish and wildlife
  - Ensuring consideration of fish and wildlife resources in installation planning activities
  - Identifying opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife while accomplishing other mission objectives
  - Providing technical assistance to ensure proper consideration of fish and wildlife

## Bottom Line

- Congress expects that:
  - Plans will be developed cooperatively;
  - Plans will be implemented; and
  - Public will have access to installations to enjoy natural resources...
  - But military preparedness CANNOT be compromised

## Other SAIA Features

- Ensures sufficient numbers of professionally trained natural resource managers
- Authorizes fee collection for hunting and fishing permits
- Authorizes cooperative agreements
- Authorizes conservation law enforcement
- 1998 amendment: Disabled Sportsmen's Access

## Endangered Species Act and INRMPs

- ESA requires consultation on actions that “may affect”
- USFWS believes consultation required even for beneficial effects
- USFWS may encourage installations to introduce species or enhance habitat but:
  - No net loss of military lands
  - No species introduction w/o command approval

## Critical Habitat Designation and INRMPs

- Section 318 of FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act
- Precludes designation of critical habitat on military lands if .....
  - INRMP provides a benefit to the species for which critical habitat is being designated

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act and INRMPs

- Section 315 of FY 2003 National Defense Authorization Act
- Provides exemption from MBTA for **military readiness activities**:
  - Will be covered by USFWS Final Rule
  - Confer on significant adverse effects on populations of concern
  - INRMPs must address migratory birds
- EO 13188 MOU will govern other activities

## Encroachment and INRMPs

- 10 USC 2684a
- DoD may enter into cooperative agreements to acquire real estate interests:
  - With States, other Federal agencies and conservation organizations
  - To preserve habitat that prevents incompatible land use



## Related INRMP Tools

- DoD Implementing Guidance
- Sikes Act Tripartite MOU
- Handbook: DoD Resources for INRMP Implementation
- Report: Best Practices for INRMP Implementation
- Course: Developing and Maintaining Sustainable INRMPs
- INRMP Template
- Conservation Metrics
- Handbook: Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands

## Some DoD Priorities

- Emphasize regional or ecosystem-based projects
- Avoid future species listings
- Identify priority conservation areas
- Establish conservation easements
- Manage invasive species
- **In support of military readiness**

## INRMP-SWAP Integration

- Southeast
  - Atlanta (May 2006)
- Southwest
  - Phoenix (December 2006)
- Southern Plains
  - Albuquerque (May 2007)
- TBD
  - Late 2007
- National Synthesis

## Projects from INRMP-SWAP Southeast Workshop

- Georgia Conservation Forum Project: Gopher Tortoise Support
- Florida SWAP-INRMP Regional Coordination
- Carolina Species At Risk Project
- Clear Zone Habitat Conservation on a South Carolina Airstrip (Invasives Control)

## Potential Projects from INRMP-SWAP Southwest Workshop

- Assessment and Prioritized Restoration of Seeps, Springs and Riparian Systems [NV]
- Partnering Workshop for Integrating SWAPs and INRMPs [Carlsbad Office]
- SW Burrowing Owl Symposium
- Southwest Cooperative Data Management Project
- Bonneville Basin Integration Project

## Potential Projects from INRMP-SWAP Southern Plains Workshop



## TER-S Regional Workshops

- Pacific Islands
  - Honolulu: June 2006
- Southeast
  - Cocoa Beach: February 2007
- Southwest
  - Tucson: October 2007

## Projects from Pacific Islands TER-S Workshop

- Removal of Invasive Fire-prone Grass to Increase Training Lands in the Pacific
- Hawaii Cooperative Conservation Project
- Predator-proof Fencing for Invasive Species Control in Hawaii
- Ten-Year Resurvey of Biodiversity of Marine Communities and Introduced Species in Oahu (pending)

## Southeast TER-S Workshop Scientific White Papers

- Emerging Issues in Forest Health
- Disturbance Ecology of Infrequent Catastrophic Events
- Aquatic Priorities
- Connectivity in a Fragmented Landscape

## Questions?

[Peter.Boice@osd.mil](mailto:Peter.Boice@osd.mil)

<http://www.osd.denix.mil> ⇨ DoD Conservation  
Program

<http://www.dodlegacy.org>

<http://www.serdp.org>

## **Appendix D: Steve Helfert's Presentation**



## DoD SW State Wildlife Action Plan / INRMP Workshop



### DoD Species At Risk (SAR) – AZ/NM

### DoD Legacy Program Project

May 2007

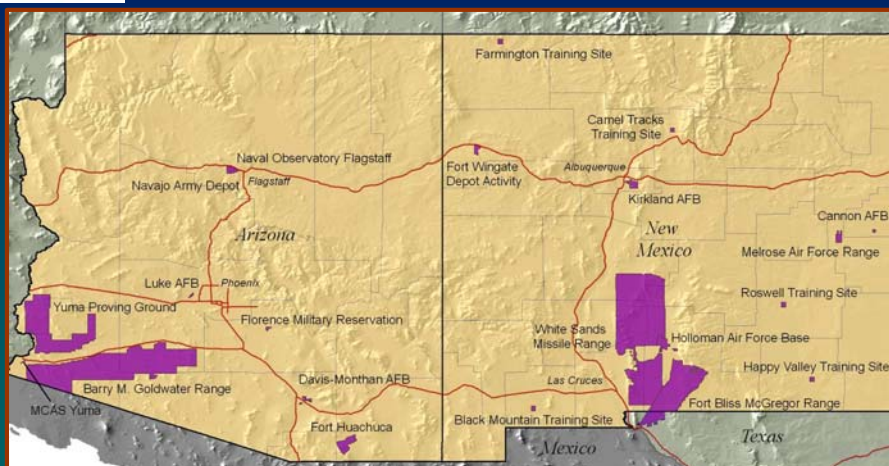
Steve Helfert, DoD Liaison



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



### Locations of Military Installations – AZ/NM



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



## DoD Drivers

- ◆ Sikes Act
- ◆ Sikes Act Improvement Act
- ◆ Tripartite Sikes Act MOU – 2006
- ◆ INRMPs



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



## SAR – AZ/NM Project

- ◆ Action Items
  - Establish 4 Project Leadership Teams for 4 military installation clusters in AZ & NM
  - ID species at risk (SAR) on selected military installations in AZ/NM
  - Develop brief habitat-based plans for those species
  - Final Report – recommendations & lessons learned
  - DoD SW Workshop on SAR – Fall 2007
  - Spin off DoD Legacy proposals from DoD SAR AZ/NM project
    - + FY 07 Camp Navajo/Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station
    - + FY 08 BMGR/YPG/MCAS Yuma – AZ Sonoran Tortoise, bats
    - + FY 08 Kirtland AFB/Range /ARNG Camel Tracks – Grey vireo
  - Cooperative partnerships outside the military fenceline for SAR conservation, corridors, and funding sources (SWESA Team)



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM





## WSMR/Fort Bliss/ Holloman AFB



- ◆ WSMR, Fort Bliss & Holloman AFB cluster includes over 3 million acres of military lands
- ◆ High diversity Chihuahuan desert basin, dunes and sky island mountain ranges in southern NM
- ◆ Project Leadership Team – Army/ AF / FWS /NMDGF / TNC
- ◆ Tie-in w/ other projects
  - + Sustainable Range Initiative
  - + BLM, others



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



## Kirtland AFB/Range / ARNG Camel Tracks



- ◆ Kirtland AFB/Range & ARNG Camel Tracks – over 60,000 acres of military ranges
- ◆ Diverse southern Rocky mountain ranges and high desert basins in northern NM
- ◆ Project Leadership Team – AF/ARNG/ FWS/ NMDGF/ NM Natural Heritage
- ◆ PLT anticipates submitting FY 08 DoD Legacy proposal – grey vireo
- ◆ PLT initiating grey vireo cooperative conservation partnership in lieu of listing –ties into NM State Action Plan for grey vireo conservation and recovery



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



## Grey Vireo Habitat Kirtland AFB/Range



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



## BMGR/MCAS- Yuma/YPG



- ♦ BMGR, MCAS Yuma, & Yuma Proving Ground – cluster of over 3.5 million acres of military ranges
- ♦ Lower Sonoran desert basins and low mountain ranges in SW AZ
- ♦ Project Leadership Team – AF/USMC/FWS/ Cabeza Prieta NWR, AZGFD, TNC
- ♦ PLT anticipates submitting FY 08 proposal to DoD Legacy Program for SAR such as AZ Sonoran desert tortoise and desert bat species that colonize several hundred abandoned mines on BMGR, MCAS Yuma and YPG – spin off from DoD SAR-AZ/NM Project
- ♦ PLT same team that is about to implement new BMGR INRMP
- ♦ Potential use of Candidate Conservation Agreements & seek funding sources for collaborative conservation efforts that benefit military mission



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM





## Camp Navajo/NOFS



- ◆ **Camp Navajo & Naval Observatory Flagstaff Station – part of the largest Ponderosa forest in the world**
- ◆ **AZ mountain forest species at risk – birds and bats**
- ◆ **Project Leadership Team – already developed FY 07 proposal to DoD Legacy Program – spin off from DoD SAR – AZ/NM Project**
- ◆ **Project Leadership Team – Army/Navy/FWS/ AZGFD**
- ◆ **PLT part of new Camp Navajo/NOFS Conservation Buffer Partnership w/ larger partner group – another follow on action from DoD SAR – AZ/NM Project**



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM



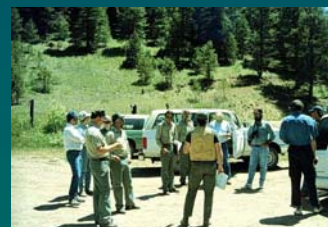
## Partnering



- ◆ **SWESA Team**
  - + **Coordinating Role**
  - + **Tie in w/ SWESA Team's ongoing DoD Legacy Project on SAR**
- ◆ **State Natural Heritage Programs (NatureServe affiliates)**
- ◆ **Cooperative Conservation**



DOD-SAR-AZ/NM





# SAR- AZ/NM



## Summary

- ◆ 4 military range clusters (Army/AF/Navy / Marine Corps)
- ◆ Value added 4 Project Leadership Teams
- ◆ Cooperative Conservation
- ◆ SAR Conservation
- ◆ Protect military mission



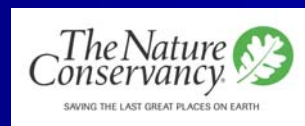
DOD-SAR-AZ/NM

## **Appendix E: Bruce Rosenlund's Presentation**

# Central Shortgrass Prairie Assessment & Partnership Initiative

*A collaborative, science-based vision for  
conservation success*

## A Collaborative Partnership Effort

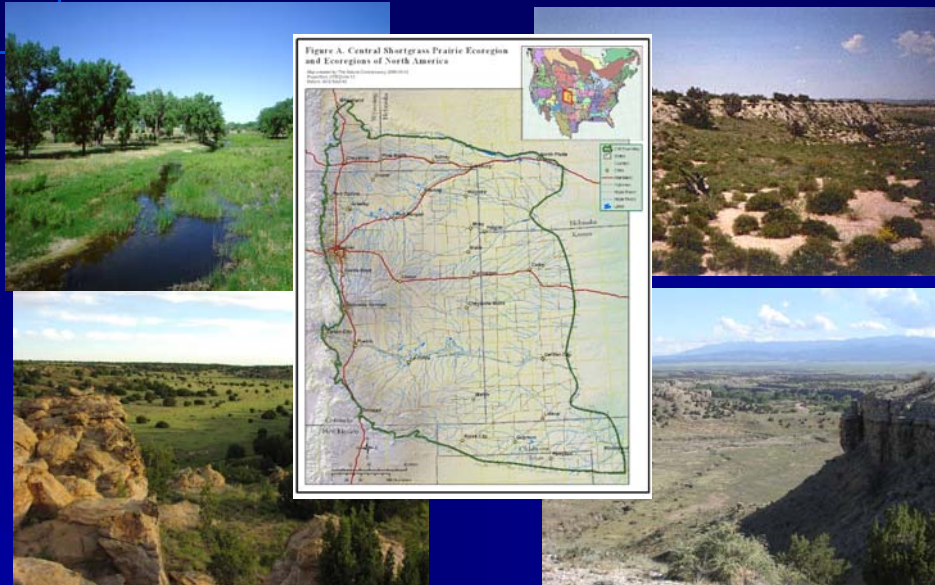




# Common Assessment Vision

Promote & support long-term survival  
of all native species, communities,  
ecological systems, & processes  
  
through the collaborative design &  
conservation of a network of  
areas

## Central Shortgrass Prairie



## Important habitat for species at risk



## Increasing Threats

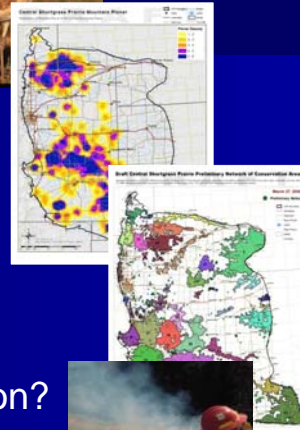
- Rapidly growing population
- Increasing development footprint
- Climate change
- Declining water supplies



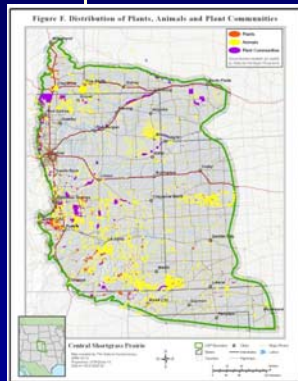


# Assessment Process

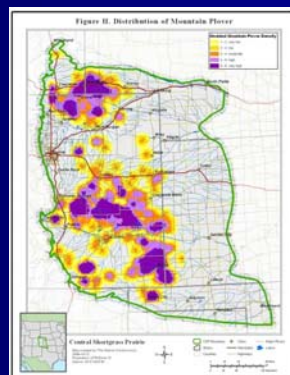
1. What needs to be conserved?
2. Where is it and how is it doing?
3. How much is enough?
4. What places contribute to goals?
5. What is needed for their conservation?



## Regional biological data sets



Species & communities



Mountain plover



Fish

# Conservation Goals



Shortgrass prairie 30% of historic extent

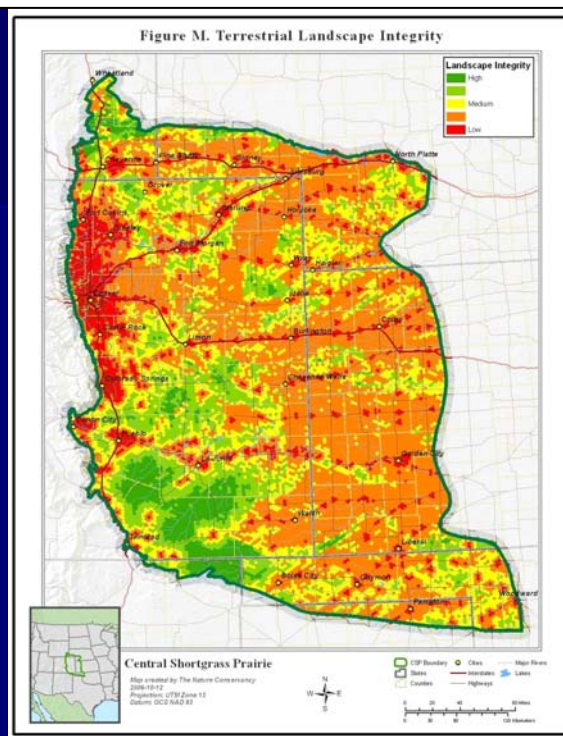


Edge of Range: 5 occurrences



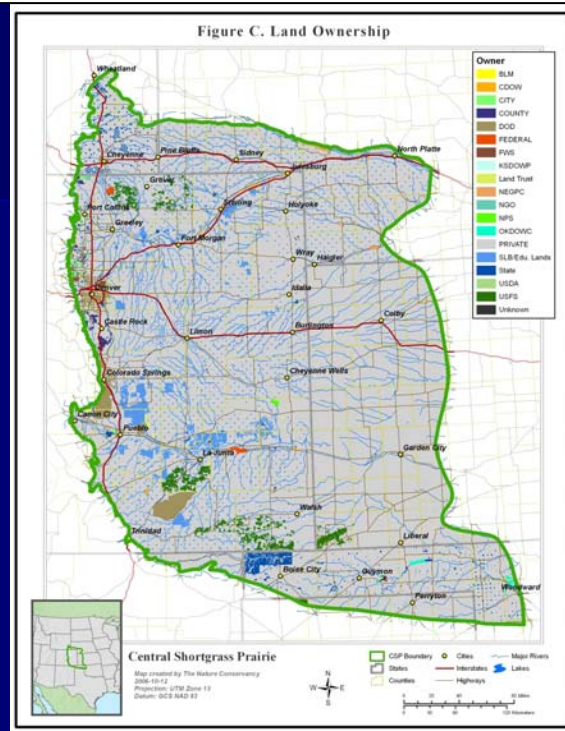
Imperiled: all viable occurrences

## Ecological Integrity



# Ownership

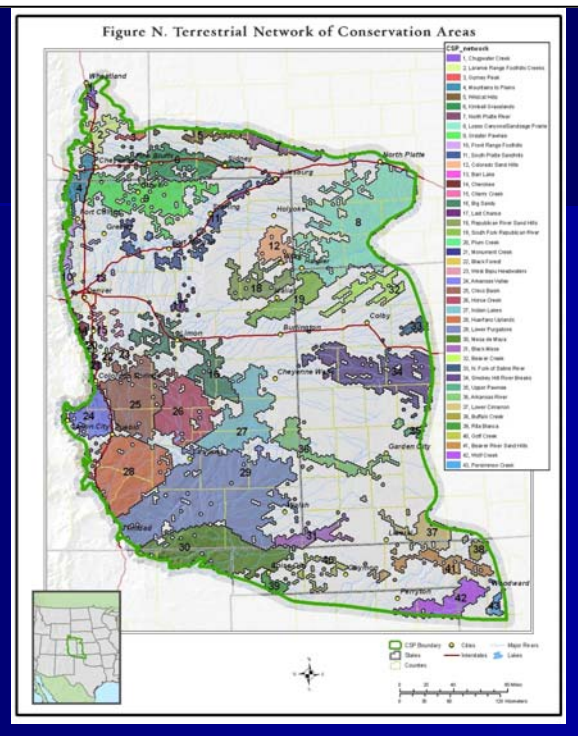
92% privately owned



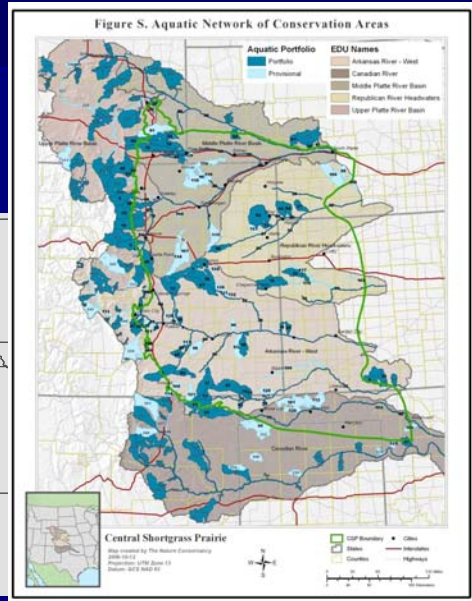
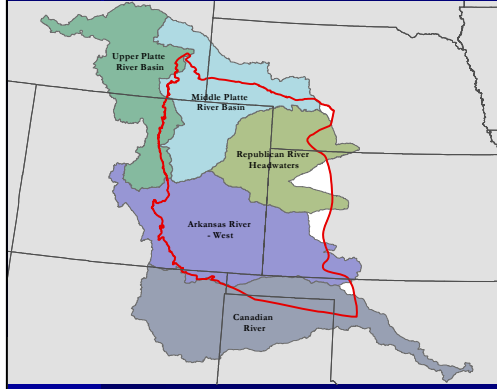
## Network of Terrestrial Areas

Efficient set of areas to ensure species & ecosystems will survive over long-term

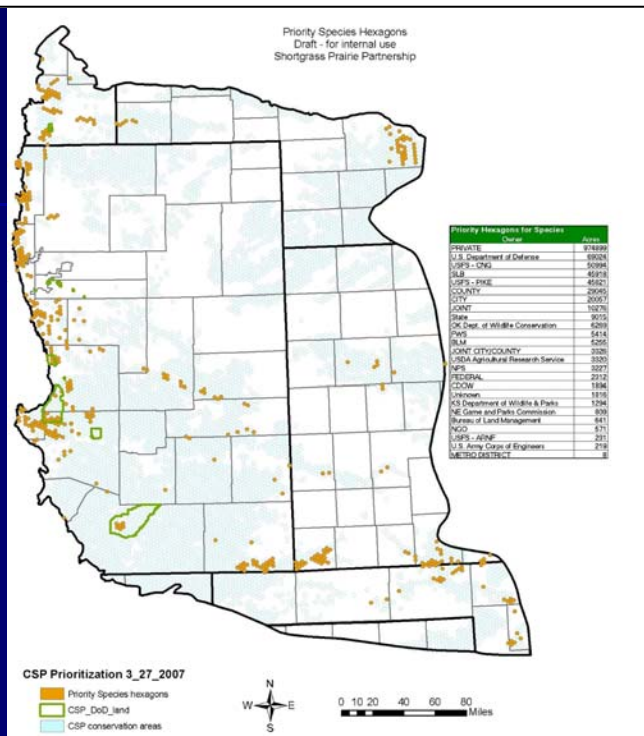
Vision for conservation success & starting point for strategies



## Aquatic Conservation Areas



## Further prioritization

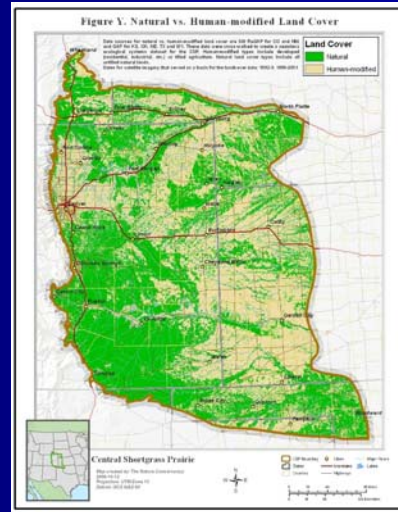




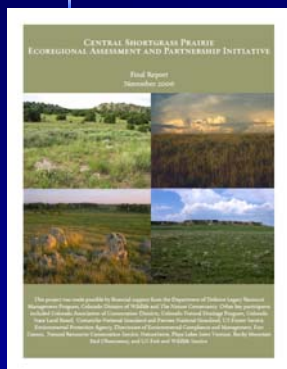
# Ecoregional Measures of Success

Established baseline to assess over-time:

- Biodiversity health
- Conservation status
- Trends in threats



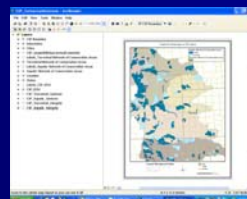
## Products/tools to guide conservation efforts



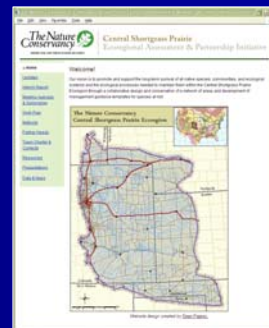
Report



DVD



Interactive Map



Website

## Partnership Vision

Provides agencies, non-profits, landowners and managers...the opportunity to collaboratively work together to conserve prairie

while promoting the continued existence of economically productive landscapes that sustain local communities.

## MOU

To facilitate cooperative efforts to effectively conserve species & ecosystems while sustaining human traditions compatible with conservation

1. Conserve species, natural communities & ecosystems
2. Undertake joint conservation projects
3. Promote continued data analysis & sharing
4. Serve as a forum for collaboration

## Major Accomplishments

- Regional datasets & analyses using best available science
- Prioritized lands within ecological context
- Baseline for measuring progress & trends
- A shared conservation vision & collaborative implementation effort

= synergy & efficiency



## Partnership Results

On the Colorado shortgrass prairie, the Steel's Fork Prairie and Playas project will protect, restore and manage 50,000 acres of native prairie rangelands, seeps, springs, wetlands, riparian areas.

- Conservation actions were catalyzed by CSP assessment partnership members
- Multiple funding sources (state, federal, TNC) contributed
- Measurable progress towards conservation goals for FWS, DOW, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, TNC, and others
- Proactive conservation improving species status and reducing the chances for future regulatory burden

Wetlands, riparian areas, native Great Plains fish, Burrowing Owls, Mountain Plovers, prairie dogs, waterfowl, shorebirds, declining grassland birds, rare plants, playas, Northern leopard frogs



## Cooperation

- Landcover
- Conservation Design/Strategic Habitat Conservation/Ecoregional Planning
- PART
- Focal Species
- NAWCA
- Endangered Species



## Program Assessment Rating Tool

- Asks whether:
  - Long-term and annual performance goals with measures and targets are in place;
  - Information on performance is being collected;
  - The data show the program is achieving results.
- Results inform the budget process, but do not by themselves determine budget decisions.
- Supports Government Performance and Results Act concepts at the program level



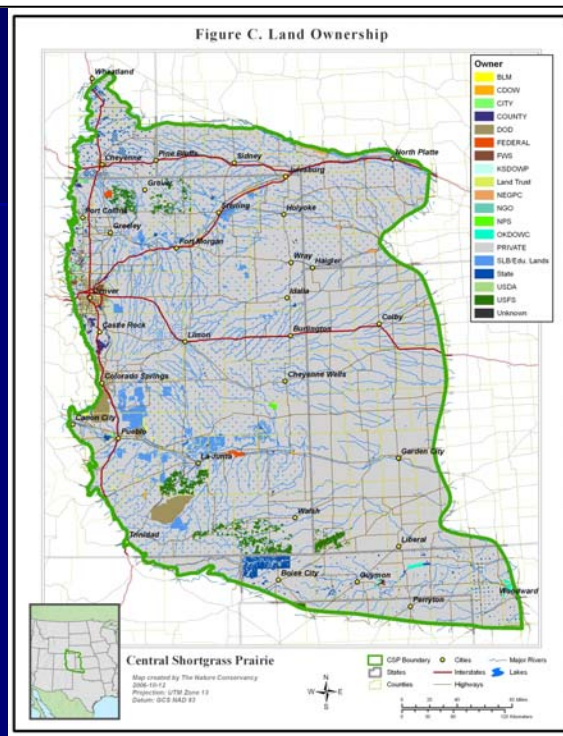


# Focal Species Strategy

- ❖ Success of the Focal Species Strategy depends on cooperation and coordination
- ❖ Partner assistance and expertise in developing particular details of the action plans
- ❖ Help and collaboration in carrying out necessary Focal Species management tasks where missions and interests overlap
- ❖ A benefit of the Focal Species Strategy will be to build new (and re-forge existing) relationships

## FWS and DOD Cooperative Agreements

17 FTE's  
Stationed on  
5 Installations



# A Collaborative Partnership Effort



Significant funding  
provided by:  
DoD Legacy Program  
CO Division of Wildlife  
Numerous in-kind  
providers

Slides provided by TNC & PLJV

Compiled by Kettler - April 2007

## **Appendix F: Russell Hooten's Presentation**

# The South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team:

## A Proactive Partnership



Russell Hooten

STNRPT Member  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department  
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program  
May 2007



# South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team



## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

- Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes
  - Live oak/Redbay community
  - Coastal wetlands
  - Submerged Aquatic Vegetation



## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

- South Texas Plains
  - Brushland
  - Woodland
  - Coastal grasslands



## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

- **HISTORY**
  - Early involvement from resource agencies
  - Navy projects/activities “outside the fence”
    - BASH
  - Non-Navy projects of interest to Navy
    - Public outreach

## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

- **BUSINESS PRACTICE MODEL**
  - Core Beliefs
  - Team Member Roles and Responsibilities
  - Communications
  - Organizational Structure
  - Meeting Process

## **South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team**

### **CORE BELIEFS**

- **VISION**-Team will work cooperatively to achieve environmental compliance and to maximize natural resources stewardship in South Texas while meeting national defense requirements.
- **MISSION**-Team will ID and implement innovative solutions to natural resources issues with meeting Navy operational readiness and stewardship goals of South Texas.

## **South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team**

- **Meeting Process**
  - **Ground Rules**
  - **Consensus Policy**
  - **Standard Agenda Template**
  - **Roles and Responsibilities**



## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

### ■ PROJECT & PARTNERING EXAMPLES

#### ■ South Texas Ambrosia (*Ambrosia chieranthifolia*)

##### ■ Management Plan



## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

### ■ PROJECT & PARTNERING EXAMPLES

#### ■ Species Inventories

##### ■ Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute





## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

### ■ Surveys and Studies

- Grassland Birds and Burrowing Owls (USGS)
- Natural communities, exotics,  
T & E species (TNC)
- Maritime Pocket Gopher (*Geomys personatus  
maritimus*) (TAMU-K)



## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

- ### ■ Habitat Enhancement
- Shoreline Stabilization



Dec 2002



Sept 2003

## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

- Habitat Enhancement
  - Prescribed Burns (TNC, USFWS)



## South Texas Natural Resources Partnering Team

### SUMMARY

- Benefits of partnering team
  - Early and continued project coordination
  - Collectively work toward common goal

## **Appendix G: Break Out Questions—Day One**

# Break Out Group Instructions

## Day One

In your groups, consider the following questions and discuss various answers/approaches. Record all ideas and suggestions. Choose someone to be the reporter and be prepared to share your top 2 answers for each question with the group.

- List 3 or more benefits to integrating INRMPs and State Wildlife Action Plans processes/information
- Identify communication barriers between states, installations and DoD
- Can these barriers be overcome? And if so, how (on a local level and national level)?
- How can we integrate DoD species at risk into State Wildlife Action Plans and vice versa? How can we effectively share that information?
- Identify ways that DoD could assist states in State Wildlife Action Plans implementation (posting information used to create these docs on FTP sites? etc?) and vice versa.
- What other management plans (i.e. USFS Forest Land Management Plans, etc.) could be integrated into INRMPs/State Wildlife Action Plans

## **Appendix H: Potential Project Ideas**

## Potential Project Ideas

- State-DoD Liaison Pilot Project
- Collaborative Mapping/Database tool, integrating existing tools (HABITS)
- SWAP Meet
- Cooperative Conservation Incentives
- Database with NatureServe Data funded by SWG
- Grey Vireo and Pinon Juniper Habitat (NM, CO)
- Bat project
- Compilation of landscape scale plans per-state, so states can be compared
- Annual meeting of resource managers (southern New Mexico, Chihuahuan desert region) to share information on the past and upcoming year
- Overarching INRMP/SWAP review/collaboration process
- Statewide Conservation Forum

# **Appendix I: Break Out Questions—Day Two**

# Break Out Group Instructions

## Day Two

You are now in groups of your own choosing based on the pilot project ideas presented yesterday. First, identify a recorder for the group. Then discuss the logical “next steps” to move your pilot project forward. You will be provided a project template to help you think about the topics you’ll need to discuss. Please fill out the template as completely as possible. Keep in mind the overarching ideas discussed yesterday, as well as the following additional questions:

- What is the main purpose/goal of your project?
- What benefits could derive from this project?
- What other organizations could contribute and partner with this proposed plan?
- What tools/techniques/information is need to enhance these partnerships?
- What type of product does your group hope to produce (a report, a working group, a database, etc.)
- What possible sources of funding are available for your project?