



Threatened, Endangered, and At-risk Species (TER-S) Technology Transfer

**Project #
05-242**

Background:

The Department of Defense (DoD) utilizes nearly 30 million acres of land, and thousands of square miles of air and sea space to conduct missions vital to National Security. These same areas of lands, air, and sea provide habitat for a great diversity of plants and animals, some of which are found only in areas within DoD stewardship. With approximately 320 threatened and endangered species and nearly 550 species at risk (those under threat, but not yet protected by federal law), DoD harbors more imperiled species per acre than any other federal land management agency. This creates a challenge for DoD: how to effectively use lands, air and sea for National Security missions, while simultaneously protecting and conserving species protected by the Endangered Species Act and those at risk of needing such protection.

Objective:

The Symposium and Workshop objectives were to evaluate TER-S research relevant to DoD, and to bring together researchers from multiple organizations to more holistically address TER-S issues at a national level. More specifically, the event, which was held in June 2005 in Baltimore, MD, was designed to present the most up-to-date information on government and academic TER-S research relevant to DoD, stimulate collaboration and foster partnerships among participants, and identify additional areas of research needed to address TER-S and associated habitat issues facing DoD and other federal land managing agencies.

Summary of Approach:

The strategy was to develop a symposium of current and recently completed TER-S research relevant to the DoD, followed by a participatory workshop to assess input and determine the best path forward.

To create the symposium agenda, the planning committee distributed a call for abstracts, and then selected presentations from among the submittals. The technical program focused on specific management areas, including current and recently completed research on mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, freshwater fish, invertebrates, and vascular plants. Additionally, committee members identified and invited specific plenary speakers. These speakers identified and discussed various agency views and overall approaches to TER-S conservation.

During the concluding workshop, the symposium session chairs and other selected invitees convened to discuss

TER-S research needs, synthesize current information, and outline a path for future TER-S priorities.

Benefit:

Results from this Symposium and Workshop are helping DoD and other land managing agencies identify existing TER-S research needs and improve regional partnerships. With this information, DoD natural resource managers can better and more broadly (e.g., regionally) manage their lands for TER-S, thereby potentially alleviating current and future training and operational restrictions, and improving installation range readiness profiles.

Accomplishments:

This symposium marked the first time that a broad spectrum of researchers from diverse backgrounds and agencies/organizations gathered to share mutual concerns and issues regarding the need to protect TER-S and their habitats on DoD and adjacent lands. Products from the Symposium and Workshop include: increased collaboration, information exchange, and technology transfer; identification of current research initiatives and future requirements documented in the proceedings; and information to populate a new DoD TER-S Document Repository. Additionally, as a direct result of participant input, a series of DoD-sponsored regional TER-S workshops is now underway. For more information on the national symposium or any of the follow on regional workshops, please visit www.serdp.org/tes.



Endangered black-capped vireo (Vireo atricapilla). Photo by FWS.

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