

DoD Planning for Potential Listing of 251 Candidate Species

Overview

The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia approved a settlement on September 10, 2011 that requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to decide whether to extend federal protection to 757 plant and animal species. This Multi-District Litigation (MDL) settlement with the Center for Biological Diversity and Wild Earth Guardians established a 6-year schedule for final listing decisions on 251 species on the candidate list, and developing initial findings on 506 other species.

Potential Impact on DoD

A preliminary DoD survey identified 60 of these species as being on or adjacent to DoD lands. Of these, the Army identified 25, the Navy 35, the Marine Corps 5, and the Air Force 6. Eight species, including the yellow-billed cuckoo the streaked horned lark, and the greater sage grouse, are of concern to more than one Military Service. The Military Services tentatively identified nine species as having the greatest potential to significantly impact military actions.

Species of Greatest Potential Concern

Taylor's checkerspot butterfly (JB Lewis-McChord)
Greater sage grouse (Mt. Home AFB and associated ranges; Nellis AFR)
Yellow-billed cuckoo (locations for all Military Services in AZ, ID, NV, NM, UT))
Red knot (Navy/Marine Corps East coast installations from MD to FL, including MCB Lejeune and MCAS Cherry Point))
Streaked horned lark (Army and Navy locations in WA and OR)
Washington ground squirrel (Army and Navy locations in WA and OR)
Brand's phacelia (Navy and Marine Corps locations in southern CA)
Vandenberg monkeyflower (Vandenberg AFB)
Gunnison's prairie dog (Air Force Academy)

Steps Forward—Office of the Secretary of Defense

The OSD, USFWS and Military Departments have each identified steps to increase coordination and cooperation and reduce the potential need to list these species.

- Met with USFWS to determine their priorities and timelines
- Continue to discuss at Endangered Species Roundtable
- Work with Military Departments to standardize how they identify key interest species and potential mission impacts
- Provide updated consolidated list of key species to USFWS
- Establish policies and procedures to ensure Military Departments are actively managing the candidate species that pose the greatest risk to mission, including up-to-date Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans and report at the FY 2012 Environmental Management Reviews.

Steps Forward—USFWS

- Identify types of information to be used in making listing decisions
- Incorporate DoD species/habitat information (e.g., monitoring, scientific studies) in their decision-making process
- Provide template for installations to provide input
- Provide POCs for all key DoD species of interest
- Provide a timeline for listing actions/update as appropriate
- Emphasize the use of Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCAs) and Candidate Conservation

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Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs)

- Defer action on the list of 506 species

The USFWS has developed for DoD use a summary description of the five factors they use to evaluate and determine if species should be added to the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. A species may be determined to be endangered or threatened due to one or more of the five factors described in Section 4(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act.. This document, prepared specifically and solely for DoD use, may be found at

https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix_secure/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=24070

Steps Forward—Military Departments

- Continue to evaluate the list of 251 species
- Ensure NR managers and mission trainers/testers coordinate on identifying key issues
- Determine if installations have necessary baseline information
- Ensure installations provide key species/habitat information to USFWS field and regional offices
- Screen the complementary list of 506 species to determine which species occur on or near DoD lands