



Enhanced On-line Features Added to the Website Version of “Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands”

Project #
09-247

Background:

In 2006, the Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Program funded a revised biodiversity handbook titled “Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands: A Guide for Natural Resources Managers” (2008 edition), to provide military natural resources personnel with up-to-date guidance in meeting their military and natural resources obligations in ways that promote biodiversity conservation while preserving the ability to conduct required testing and training activities.

Based on recommendations received through in-depth interviews and an online survey of several hundred DoD natural resources staff and others, many encouraged the production of an updated "Commander's Guide to Biodiversity" as a follow on item to the revised 2008 edition of the handbook, as well as an online version of the handbook that could continue to be updated and provide additional information resources for military natural resources managers.

Objective:

Taking advantage of advances in technology and the way users access information, the new 2008 handbook is available online on a dedicated website www.dodbiodiversity.org as well as on www.DENIX.osd.mil, in printed and DVD formats. The objective of this effort was to enhance the online web version of the handbook by a review and update of all web links, the addition of a toolbox / resources section, and by adding new content in the form of ten additional case study "success stories" from DoD lands.

Summary of Approach:

All web links in the revised handbook were checked to ensure workable links wherever possible so that users are able to link to additional information on the site. The toolbox/resources section of the handbook, titled “An Annotated List of Online Resources Related to Biodiversity Conservation on Department of Defense Lands” was completed and added to the on-line handbook. The existing website also was enhanced by the addition of ten new "success stories" on DoD lands. These ten new case studies are now available online at the ‘Additional Case Studies’ link at www.dodbiodiversity.org.

The new case studies include an overview of the Air Force Academy cone collection program in Colorado, a case study about establishing American Chestnut test orchards on two Tennessee Army National Guard installations, and a case study describing an innovative approach to protecting endangered species habitat on F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.



Goats grazing at F. E. Warren AFB (© Douglas Ripley)

Benefit:

Enhancing the usefulness of the DoD Biodiversity Handbook by adding interactive links, a resources/toolbox section, and new case studies, will directly enhance the ability of natural resources managers to do their jobs effectively. Successful natural resources management, resulting in enhanced biological diversity, will improve the overall health and resilience of military lands, thus significantly improving the usefulness of those lands for meeting the military’s training, testing, and operational mission requirements.

Accomplishments:

NatureServe has completed the enhanced features for the online handbook. This website www.dodbiodiversity.org will serve as an ongoing resource and interactive tool for DoD natural resources managers and others.

Contact Information:

Nancy Benton, Project Manager
NatureServe
4600 N. Fairfax Drive, 7th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203
Phone: 703-908-1886
Email: nancy_benton@natureserve.org

