

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DoD), DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
(DoI) and
the US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)**

**INTERAGENCY ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS THE GAO REPORT ON
ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT AFFECTING DoD LANDS**

I. BASIS

The GAO Report titled *Military Training: Implementation Strategy Needed to Increase Interagency Management of Endangered Species Affecting Training Ranges*, GAO-03-976, recommended the development and implementation of this multi-agency action plan. The GAO report cites the following:

1. Develop and implement an interagency strategy that includes a systematic methodology to identify opportunities for cooperative management efforts, funding, science and technology sources, and goals and criteria to measure success.
2. Develop a comprehensive training program for federal land managers, including senior executives, regional, and on-site staff to identify and implement opportunities for interagency cooperation.
3. Create a centralized or easily accessible source of information on cooperative management efforts that includes elements such as lessons learned, best practices, and agency contacts for federal land managers.

II. APPROACH

The Departments of Defense, Interior and Agriculture have developed an Interagency Action Plan for endangered species management affecting DoD lands to address the GAO recommendations. This action plan addresses the three GAO recommendations – Annex A, Strategy to identify opportunities for cooperative management efforts, funding, science and technology sources, and goals and criteria to measure success; Annex B, a comprehensive training program plan for DoD land managers; and Annex C, creation of an accessible science and information data source for DoD land managers. Specific actions are described in each annex.

The term “DoD land managers” is defined broadly in this document to include senior executives, regional, and on-site managers who directly or indirectly affect the management of natural resources on lands owned or managed by the DoD. While the GAO report uses the term “military training ranges,” this plan uses “DoD lands” to describe the same. The terms used in the GAO Report and this plan such as “interagency cooperative management,” “cooperative management” and “cooperative management efforts” are not meant to imply that the lands are co-managed.

III. APPROVALS

Designated representatives from the following parties have reviewed and approved this plan.

Alex A. Bullock

11/22/05

DoD. Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)

DATE

[Signature]

12/30/05

DoI. US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Assistant Director
Endangered Species Program

DATE

J. B. Willes, ACTING

12/20/05

DoI. FWS. Director, National Conservation Training Center

DATE

[Signature]

12/22/05

DoI. Bureau of Land Management. Assistant Director,
Renewable Resources and Planning

DATE

[Signature]

12/13/05

USDA. Forest Service. Director, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife
Air, and Rare Plants

DATE

[Signature]

12/14/05

USDA. Deputy Chief for Management, USDA
Natural Resources Conservation Service

DATE

ANNEX A. INTERAGENCY STRATEGY TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT, FUNDING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND GOALS AND CRITERIA TO MEASURE SUCCESS

I. METHODOLOGY

A. GENERAL. Recommendation number one advocates the development of an overarching strategy focusing on:

1. Identifying opportunities for cooperative management
2. Funding sources
3. Science and technology sources
4. Goals and criteria to measure success

B. ORGANIZATION.

The lead parties within each department for Annex A are:

- DoD. Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)
- USDA. US Forest Service, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Staff
- DoI. US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Endangered Species Program.

These organizations identified the DoD/FWS Endangered Species Roundtable (Roundtable) as the appropriate coordinating body to address the GAO Report recommendations. Started in September 1999, the DOD/FWS Endangered Species Roundtable (Roundtable) began as an informal meeting between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the natural resources leadership from the various military services of the Department of Defense (Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force), and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. These meetings provided an informal setting to discuss endangered species issues, address conflicts, and to seek ways to work together in species recovery efforts. This partnership benefited all parties by sharing early alerts of upcoming policies and decisions, creating opportunities for cooperative problem solving, and improving staff communication between the organizations.

Since its inception, this successful partnership has grown from the original concept to reflect greater joint efforts between FWS and DoD.

The Roundtable invited USDA into its membership to further the interagency effectiveness, as recommended in the GAO Report. The scope and agencies represented by attendees at the Roundtable have grown over time to include USFWS Migratory Birds, US Geological

Survey, Army and Air National Guard, Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and US Forest Service.

The Roundtable created a new subcommittee, the Interagency Strategy Committee, to coordinate efforts related to the development of the interagency strategy contained in this annex.

C. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FACTORS

The GAO report cited the following factors as impediments in developing an interagency strategy to seek opportunities for cooperative management, funding, science and technology, and goals and criteria to measure success:

- Cooperative management efforts may not be seen as a high priority by federal land managers if a species is not federally listed.
- Limited agency interactions result in a lack of a single vision, mistrust, and a misunderstanding about each other's land use responsibilities.
- Limited resources require the financing of interagency cooperative management effort with already limited funds.
- A lack of training and experience limit interagency cooperative management.
- A lack of an easily accessible source of centralized information inhibits learning and sharing about natural resources cooperative management among agencies.

II. IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

A. GENERAL. This strategy provides specific actions to address GAO recommendation number one. The Interagency Strategy Committee, will coordinate efforts to implement the measures below.

B. AREAS OF CONCENTRATION: Sections II.C. through II.F. of this strategy:

1. Provide a consolidated list of cooperative management opportunities for DoD, other federal land managers, and their leadership.
2. Provide a consolidated list of potential threatened, endangered and at-risk species funding sources for DoD, other federal land managers, and their leadership to consider for use on federal and adjacent non-federal lands.
3. Provide a consolidated source of science and technology information for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species for DoD, other federal land managers, and their leadership.
4. Provide goals and criteria to measure success of the plan formulated to address the recommendations from this report.

C. OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

General.

1. A lack of training and experience limit interagency cooperative management.
2. Limited agency interactions result in a lack of a single vision, mistrust, and a misunderstanding about each other's land use responsibilities.

Implementation.

1. Training and Experience.
Annex B describes the creation of a coordinated and comprehensive set of interagency natural resources land management training resources for federal land managers focusing on cooperative natural resource management issues. Interagency training and conferencing will promote understanding of various federal agency land use responsibilities and thus foster trust and cooperative natural resource management.
2. Agency Interactions.
 - a. The Interagency Strategy Committee will support the creation or continued development of a multi-agency working group, such as the Southwest Strategy's Southwest Endangered Species Act Team¹ and the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group², focusing on the cooperative interagency management of threatened, endangered and at-risk species (TER-S) and/or their habitats. The committee will prioritize its efforts to the Southwest, Southeast and Pacific regions of the United States. These three regions contain the greatest number of TER-S and military installations.
 - b. The Interagency Strategy Committee will seek funding for the development of at least one regional cooperative natural resource management forum. The forum(s) would address the concerns in the GAO report, seek representation and participation from DoD, DoI and USDA; develop cooperative interagency management strategies, work groups, and initiatives; and strive for self-sufficiency after initially organized.

¹ The Southwest Endangered Species Act Team (SWESA) seeks to deal with endangered species issues in Arizona and New Mexico with representation from DoD, USDA, DOI, Tribes and the state fish and game agencies.

² The Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG) is a collaboration of regional Federal executives who lead agencies with natural resource conservation as part of their mission e.g. DoD, DoI and USDA. The members are committed to the common purpose of fulfilling agency mandates in ways that promote conservation and restoration of important natural resources, wise management and sound stewardship of natural, biological and cultural resources, and ecologically sustainable development.

3. Actions to date. DoD, FWS, and USDA have undertaken a number of activities to address the concerns, listed in Annex A, I. C., including:
 - a. Limited Agency Interactions.
 - DoD and FWS addressed the plenary sessions of the 2004 and 2005 National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA) annual meetings.
 - Two FWS staff members from the Endangered Species program addressed the 2005 NMFWA Annual Meeting.
 - The FWS's Migratory Bird program addressed the NMFWA 2005 National Meeting.
 - USDA Forest Service staffed a booth at the 2004 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference held in conjunction with NMFWA's national gathering.
 - To seek assistance in addressing adverse environmental issues such as soil erosion, loss of vegetative cover, and inadequate watershed protection, the Army Environmental Center (AEC) has entered into several Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
 - b. Training.
 - DoD and FWS coordinated training sessions on the Sikes Act and the preparation and implementation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMP) at the 2004 and 2005 NMFWA National Meeting and a full day workshop at DoD's 2004 Conservation Conference.
 - DoD coordinated a full day of presentations on INRMP preparation and implementation at the 2005 Joint Services Environmental Management conference.
 - FWS helped organize and made presentations at the Army National Guard National Conservation Conference in 2005.
 - USDA Wildlife Services presented at the 2005 NMFWA Annual Meeting.
 - c. Species a-risk.
 - DoD and other federal land agency partners addressed threatened, endangered and at-risk species impacting military lands at the Ecological Society of America meetings August 2004 and August 2005.
 - d. Limited Resources.
 - FWS and DoD established two DoD liaison positions, one in Washington, DC and one in the Southwest Region, to promote natural resource interagency

cooperation with an emphasis on range sustainability and endangered species.

- Efforts are underway to establish additional regional DoD liaison positions.

D. FUNDING SOURCES

General.

- Limited resources are available to finance interagency cooperative management efforts.
- Cooperative management efforts may not be seen as a high priority by federal land managers if a species is not federally listed.

Implementation.

1. Funding Sources.

A subcommittee of the DoD/FWS Endangered Species Roundtable, the Information & Education Working Group (I&EWG), will gather, assess and consolidate appropriate funding source information related to federal land management.

Some sources of natural resource funding potentially available for the management of threatened and endangered species and their habitats are available on the DENIX webpage. [<https://www.denix.osd.mil>]. I&EWG efforts will result in a more easily accessible and complete source of funding sources for endangered species management.

2. Species At-Risk.

This is covered in E. 2. below.

E. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SOURCES

General.

- A lack of an easily accessible source of centralized information inhibits learning and sharing about natural resources cooperative management among the agencies.
- Cooperative management efforts may not be seen as a high priority by federal land managers if a species is not federally listed.

Implementation.

1. Centralized Information.

Annex C discusses access to a centralized, easily accessible source of information on various aspects of cooperative federal natural resources land management. The emphasis is on threatened, endangered and at-risk species (TER-S) science. Although at-risk species are not federally listed, they are of concern to DoD land managers because future listing could result in increased constraints on military uses of DoD lands.

2. Species At-Risk.

- a. DoD and FWS have addressed the need to actively manage species at-risk as well as federally listed species. DoD's Legacy Program funded two species at-risk projects; one in FY 2003 and the second in FY 2004. These are joint efforts involving DoD, FWS, and various non-governmental organizations (NGO) including NatureServe.
- b. DoD's Range Readiness Preservation Initiative (RRPI) made species at-risk a key natural resource topic at their 2005 Southeast Regional Range Readiness Conference. This illustrates the understanding and commitment of the highest DoD natural resource leadership to managing species at-risk, and not just federally listed species. A RRPI managed project and the 2004 Legacy funded Species at-Risk Georgia Project are coordinating efforts to promote the management of species at risk on lands adjacent to DoD installations.
- c. A Legacy pre-proposal will be submitted for FY 2006 to continue the species at-risk project successes and continue to promote the management of species at-risk on military installations and adjacent lands.

F. GOALS AND CRITERIA TO MEASURE SUCCESS

This plan assumes that cooperative management for endangered species affecting military lands will result if the three recommendations contained in the referenced GAO report are addressed. Three annexes, including this one, address the GAO recommendations. These are:

- Interagency Strategy to Identify Opportunities for Cooperative Management, Funding, Science and Technology and Goals and Criteria to Measure Success
 - Comprehensive Training Program for DoD and Other Federal Land Managers
 - Creating Accessible Science and Information for DoD and Other Federal Land Managers

Each strategy lists the focus area, action items, and a timeline for their accomplishment.

Although many of the actions proposed in this annex and Annexes B and C have completion dates, efforts in these areas are designed to continue, thus are not necessarily considered one-time events. The Departments will continue to update the information listed in each plan and promote interagency cooperation. The Roundtable and its subcommittees will serve as the primary unit to oversee the actions delineated in this and the other two strategies.

The scope of the Roundtable and its subcommittees is broader than just endangered species. It includes species at-risk, and federally listed species. This broader view should enhance the goal of cooperative interagency management and address the program development factor discussed in the GAO report described below.

III. TIMELINE

The following milestones will guide the implementation of this plan and to evaluate its effectiveness.

- **PLAN APPROVAL.** By December 2005.
- **OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT.**
 - The milestones dealing with training are contained in the Comprehensive Training Program, Annex B.
 - A Legacy pre-proposal to develop a regional cooperative natural resource management forum will be submitted by September 30, 2005. Completed.
- **FUNDING SOURCES.**
 - A list of potential funding sources will be posted on DENIX by October 2005. Completed.
- **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION SOURCES**
 - The milestones dealing with a consolidated source of information is contained in Annex C.
 - The Species at-Risk Georgia Project will be completed by November 2006.
 - A Legacy pre-proposal will be submitted to expand the Species at-Risk project by September 30, 2005. Completed
 - The Species at-Risk FY 2003 project will be completed by April 2006.

ANNEX B. A COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM PLAN for DoD AND OTHER FEDERAL LAND MANAGERS

I. METHODOLOGY

A. GENERAL. GAO report recommendation number two advocates for the development of a comprehensive training program to identify and implement opportunities for interagency cooperation for the management of threatened and species affecting DoD lands.

B. ORGANIZATION.

The lead parties within each department for Annex B are:

1. DoD
 - Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)
 - Interservice Environmental Education Review Board (ISEERB)
2. USDA. US Forest Service, Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Staff
3. DoI
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Endangered Species Program
 - FWS, National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)
 - National Park Service (NPS)
 - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

These organizations identified the DoD/FWS Endangered Species Roundtable (Roundtable) as the appropriate coordinating body to address the GAO Report recommendations. The Roundtable referred the task of assisting with the accomplishment of activities to address this recommendation to a working group of liaisons stationed at NCTC and the ISEERB. At this time, NPS, have assigned training liaisons at the FWS's NCTC. This working group will submit its findings, recommendations, and staff work to the Roundtable for consideration.

C. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FACTORS

The GAO report cited the following factors as impediments to developing an interagency strategy for a comprehensive training program plan for DoD and other federal land managers:

- A lack of training and expertise, due to a number of factors, limits the ability of federal land managers to identify opportunities for cooperative management efforts for endangered species on DoD lands.
- A lack of expertise in natural resource programs limits the abilities of federal land managers to implement cooperative management efforts.

- Federal land managers often are required to have a broad and diverse skill set for the management of federal natural resources.
- DoD has a continuing need for trained natural resource managers, including field biologists.

II. IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

A. GENERAL. This annex provides specific actions to address GAO recommendation number two. The scope of the plan encompasses federal land managers in DoD, DoI, and USDA.

B. AREAS OF CONCENTRATION: Sections II.C. through II.E. of this strategy:

- Provide a coordinated and comprehensive set of natural resources land management training resources for federal land managers focusing on DoD natural resource management issues.
- Provide a coordinated and comprehensive set of training resources for DoD land managers on interagency cooperative land management.
- Provide an outreach strategy to ensure the widespread dissemination of these materials.

C. LAND MANAGEMENT TRAINING RESOURCES.

General. This section of Annex B calls for the development of an easily available source of land management courses of potential interest to DoD and other federal land managers. Course examples include: Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement offered by BLM and Scientific Principles & Techniques for Endangered Species Conservation offered by FWS.

Implementation.

The NCTC-based training liaison working group will gather, assess, and consolidate appropriate courses related to federal land natural resources land management through access to DOI Learning Management System; DOI Learn. The DoD Interagency Environmental Education Review Board (ISEERB) will assist in this effort. The purpose of ISEERB is to promote efficient, cost-effective environmental education and training within DoD and the US Coast Guard. When ISEERB endorses a course, it considers the course's contents suitable for at least two military services. The FWS's NCTC agreed to waive half the tuition fee for ISEERB's designated person to review target courses for potential endorsement. This promotes the partnership and attainment of mutual natural resource goals.

Federal land management agencies will contribute a website link or list of applicable courses, including the course title, short description,

availability dates, location, and costs for posting on DoD's Defense Environmental Network and Exchange (DENIX) website. Agencies will provide points of contact or links to websites for additional course information and registration procedures. ISEERB approved courses will be appropriately indicated.

The DENIX website is actively managed by DoD and is accessible to all DoD staff and the general public. The NCTC training liaison working group will develop recommendations to improve the layout of the DENIX website to promote easy access to natural resource course information.

The following federal land management agencies and related organizations will provide information on natural resource training courses open to other federal land management personnel:

- FWS-National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)
- NPS*
- USDA Forest Service
- BLM*
- US Navy
- US Air Force
- US Army Environmental Center (USAEC)
- US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)
- National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)

The agencies listed above and indicated with an asterisk (*) have a liaison at NCTC. They provide a critical function by coordinating natural resource training such as described in this plan.

Attendance at a course offered by a non-DoD federal land management or related agency will have the added affect of promoting interagency understanding, consultation, cooperation in order to better conserve natural resources on DoD lands.

Consolidating a source of training opportunities offered by non-DoD federal land agencies will simplify training management for DoD natural resource managers and provide a basis for the improvement of interagency cooperation regarding threatened, endangered and at-risk species affecting DoD lands. Consolidation of training opportunities available in DOI will be accomplished by providing access to DOI Learn. Key word search will provide up to date course listings offered by all DoI bureaus.

D. INTERAGENCY COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT TRAINING.

General. This Section of Annex B will determine how training resources for the identification and implementation of cooperative interagency management of DoD lands for threatened and endangered species can

be organized, developed, and/or provided. Course examples include: Interagency Consultation For Endangered Species offered by FWS and Policy and Legal Aspects of Endangered Species Management offered by USDA through Lewis and Clark College.

Implementation.

The NCTC training liaison working group, plus ISEERB, will lead the coordination effort for this Section of Annex B. Courses focusing on interagency cooperative land management will be listed in a separate category on the DENIX website or via links to sources such as the DoL Learn.

To promote the identification and/or implementation of opportunities for interagency management of threatened and endangered species on DoD lands, the liaison working group, plus ISEERB and USDA will provide access to existing viable training opportunities for DoD and other federal land managers. These training opportunities focus on facilitating cooperative multi-jurisdictional TES conservation by federal land management agencies, as well as state, tribal and local land management agencies and NGOs. Course information or their links will be posted under the appropriate heading on DENIX.

DoD's Legacy Program funded the development of a course to assist military installations in formulating their Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP). The INRMP process is interagency by design, involving DoD, FWS, and State natural resource agencies. When completed, this course will be added to the list that promotes interagency cooperative management of natural resources.

To promote the interaction of DoD land managers with other federal land managers and their leadership in a training environment, federal natural resource management conferences, workshops and related gatherings will be posted on the DENIX website. A separate DENIX website training category will be created for this category of training opportunities.

E. OUTREACH.

General. Access to the training resources to promote cooperative interagency management of threatened and endangered species affecting DoD lands will be followed by an effort to inform and promote the availability and use of these training resources. This section of Annex B addresses training outreach.

Implementation.

Outreach activities will be crafted with the guidance and input of the NCTC training liaison working group

The training liaison working group plus ISEERB will be the key organization to promote opportunities to attend scheduled natural resource training. The training liaison working group will also update the Roundtable on an as needed basis.

Actions to Date.

Item E, Outreach, was most recently addressed by a presentation from the Director of the FWS's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) to an audience of DoD natural resource managers and their leadership at the NMFWA national meeting held March 2005. This presentation highlighted NCTC's natural resource training and education resources available to all federal land managers and the advantages of training and interacting with counterpart members from other federal land management agencies.

III. TIMELINE

The following milestones will be used to guide the implementation of this plan and evaluate its effectiveness.

- **LAND MANAGEMENT TRAINING RESOURCES.**
 - Recommendations to improve the layout of the DENIX website was prepared and submitted to DoD in July 2005. Completed.
 - Updates to training information will be submitted to DENIX by November 2006 and each November thereafter.
 - The link to or a list of courses from contributing federal land management agencies will be completed and submitted to DENIX by January 2006.
- **INTERAGENCY COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT**
 - Recommendations to improve the layout of the DENIX website to highlight interagency cooperative management was prepared and submitted to DoD in July 2005. Completed.
 - The link to or a list of courses from the federal land management agencies in this category will be completed and submitted to DENIX by January 2006.
 - Updates to the training information will be submitted to the DENIX by November 2006 and each November thereafter.
 - Interagency cooperative management course availability will be developed and provided to DENIX for posting by December 2006.
 - The INRMP training course information will be added to the DENIX training resource list when completed. This action is projected for completion by March 31, 2006.

- OUTREACH.
 - FWS will submit a request by October 31, 2005 to NMFWA to present an update on natural resource training at the 2006 NMFWA Annual Meeting in March 2006. Completed
 - A notice announcing the availability of the natural resource course information on DENIX will be submitted to the FAWN, a publication of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association by January 2006.
 - An announcement of the completion of the natural resource course information on DENIX will be prepared for the FWS Director's Notes by January 2006.
 - A request will be submitted by the end of November 2005 to present an update on natural resource training at the Army National Guard's 2006 conservation conference. Completed
 - A group email will be prepared by March 2006 to announce the posting on DENIX of the natural resource course information available from DoI, USDA Forest Service, and DoD.

ANNEX C. CREATING ACCESSIBLE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION FOR DOD AND OTHER FEDERAL LAND MANAGERS

I. METHODOLOGY

A. **GENERAL.** Recommendation number three advocates for the creation of a centralized or easily accessible source of information on cooperative management efforts that includes elements such as lessons learned, best practices, and agency contacts for federal land managers.

B. ORGANIZATION.

The lead parties within each department for Annex C are:

1. DoD. Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)
2. USDA. US Forest Service, Research and Development
3. DoI. US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Endangered Species Program

These parties identified the DoD/FWS Endangered Species Roundtable (Roundtable) as the appropriate coordinating body to address the GAO Report recommendations. The Roundtable opened its membership to USDA and US Geological Survey (USGS) to further the interagency effectiveness recommended by the GAO Report.

In-turn, the Roundtable created a subcommittee, the Threatened, Endangered and At-Risk Species (TER-S) Science Forum, to address the GAO concerns and aid in the creation of an interagency TER-S data repository.

C. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FACTORS

The GAO report cited the following factors as impediments for creating accessible science and technology information for DoD and other federal land managers:

- Federal agencies have no established method to share and integrate endangered species research information.
- The availability of information such as agency points of contact, land management and conservation plans, and description of agency missions is needed to encourage more cooperative management efforts.
- Information readily accessible to all land managers could facilitate cooperative efforts.
- Federal land managers and their leadership have no avenue to easily learn and share information about cooperative land management efforts within and across agencies/organizations.

II. IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES

A. GENERAL. This strategy provides specific actions to address GAO recommendation number three. Its primary focus is to provide federal land managers in DoD, DoI, and USDA with improved information regarding TER-S.

B. AREAS OF CONCENTRATION: Sections II.C. and II.D. of this strategy provide for a centralized source of information on:

- Cooperative natural resource management and science information.
- Natural resource management agency contacts.

C. COOPERATIVE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

General. This Section of Annex C describes procedures to develop an easily accessible source of cooperative natural resource management information for DoD and other federal land managers.

Implementation.

The TER-S Science Forum will coordinate and assist in this effort to gather, assess, and consolidate appropriate information related to cooperative federal land management and endangered species science from all appropriate and available sources. Creating a single information source will simplify the search by natural resource managers and their leadership and facilitate cooperative natural resource management efforts.

Actions Taken

DoD's Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and the Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Center (ERDC) developed a product termed "Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) Document and Data Repository." This repository allows federal land managers to easily share information and learn about cooperative land management efforts within and across agencies and organizations. The Data Repository provides information from DoD-relevant TES research and monitoring efforts, as well as other research information, to researchers, land managers, policy makers, and others. SERDP continues to gather information to populate this database.

This repository will be in addition to other databases on TER-S but will establish cross-references to those databases in order to reduce redundancy.

Documents in the TES Document and Data Repository include:

- Technical reports

- Management plans
- Biological opinions/assessments
- Policy and position statements.

A link will be established on DENIX to SERDP's TES Data Repository. DENIX will also be used to post links to relevant data bases from other federal agencies as technology and coordination allow.

The TER-S Science Forum assisted SERDP in the development of its June 2005 "Technical Symposium & Workshop: Threatened, Endangered, and At-Risk Species on DoD and Adjacent Lands." The purpose of this event was to highlight innovative research relevant to DoD TER-S and their habitats and to identify research gaps/needs that can be addressed, in part, by future SERDP Statements of Need and Army requests for proposals. Proceedings of the symposium will be posted on SERDP's TES Document and Data Repository and will be easily accessible from DENIX.

D. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY CONTACTS

General. Developing a centralized source of information on agency points of contact, cooperative land management and conservation plans, and a description of agency missions is needed to encourage cooperative interagency management of threatened and endangered species affecting DoD lands. This Section of Annex C addresses consolidation of agency information and promotion of the resulting centralized information resource to federal land managers and their leadership.

Implementation.

Information will be gathered from appropriate natural resources agencies, organized and placed on the public DENIX website. Basic information on the website will include linkages to appropriate agency webpages. The T&E Roundtable's Information and Education Working Group (I&EWG) develops materials and initiatives designed to promote cooperative natural resource management. I&EWG activities are posted at <https://www.denix.osd.mil>.

The Roundtable's TER-S Science Forum will serve as the key organization to develop actions to promote the availability of centralized agency contacts and related information.

III. TIMELINE

The following milestones will guide the implementation of this annex and to evaluate its effectiveness.

- Proceedings of the TER-S symposium will be posted on SERDP's TES Document and Data Repository and linked to DENIX by January 2006.
- A link will be established on DENIX to SERDP's TES Data Repository (Repository) by January 2006.
- Inputs to the Repository will be an ongoing effort.
- Actions for continued improvements in the areas covered by this plan will be an ongoing effort led by the TER-S Science Forum.