



Recovering Species to Sustain the Mission

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Background

- DoD owns/controls approximately 25 million acres of land
- 383 military installations are considered to have “significant natural resources” and implement Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMP)
- 400+ species listed as either “threatened” or “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act either occur on military installations or in areas that support mission activities
- Hundreds of addition “species at risk”
- While species conservation and military mission are most often compatible, regulation requirements can affect mission



Current Initiatives

- Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (RASP)
 - June 2018 MOU between DoD and Department of Interior with the purpose of establishing a mutually beneficial partnership to develop and promote effective ecosystem and species conservation and recovery initiatives that will reduce or eliminate the need for federal protection and regulation under the ESA and provide for increased flexibility for military mission activities.
 - Goals:
 - Facilitate decision making for species review and down/de-listing where warranted through existing regulatory processes
 - Identify and establish collaborative conservation initiatives to move species towards recovery and/or preclude the need to list additional species
 - Develop innovative regulatory approaches and tools for achieving ESA objectives in a manner consistent with military mission needs and objectives.



RASP Implementation

- Identify “mission priority” species
- Develop Species Action Plans (SAP) for mission priority species that identify priority actions, information needs and timelines for implementation
- Establish or promote existing collaborative partnerships to achieve defined outcomes for priority species
- Coordinate resources, expertise, research and activities towards supporting these collaborative conservation initiatives and engage additional federal, state, academic and private partners.
- Develop innovative regulatory approaches and tools that provide greater mission flexibility and streamline consultation processes while enhancing conservation outcomes for listed and “at risk” species.
- Develop national policy options to facilitate adoption and implementation of the innovative initiatives, approaches and tools.



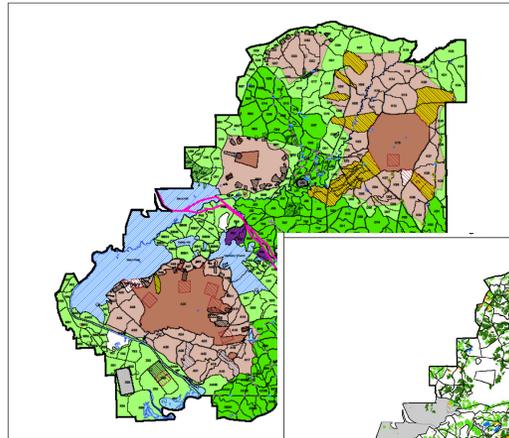
“Mission Priority” Species

Red-cockaded woodpecker	Guam orchid
San Clemente Island Endemic Species - (6)	Least Bell's vireo
California least tern	Okaloosa darter
Stephens' kangaroo rat	Lesser long-nosed bat
Golden-checked warbler	American burying beetle
Black-capped vireo	Hawaiian goose (Nene)
Desert tortoise	Tidewater goby
Taylor's checkerspot butterfly	Inyo California towhee
Mazama pocket gopher	Hawaiian stilt
Horned streaked lark	Gopher tortoise



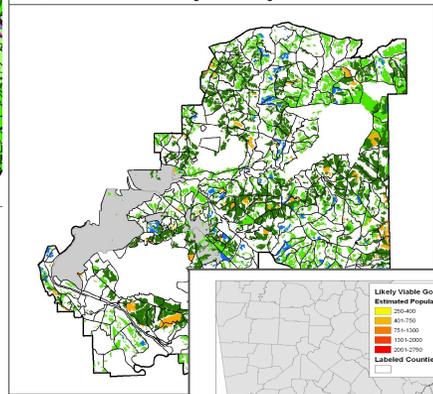
Innovation

Defined Conservation

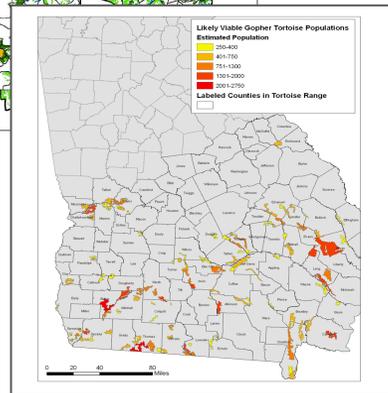


Mission

Conservation Capacity



Landscape Context



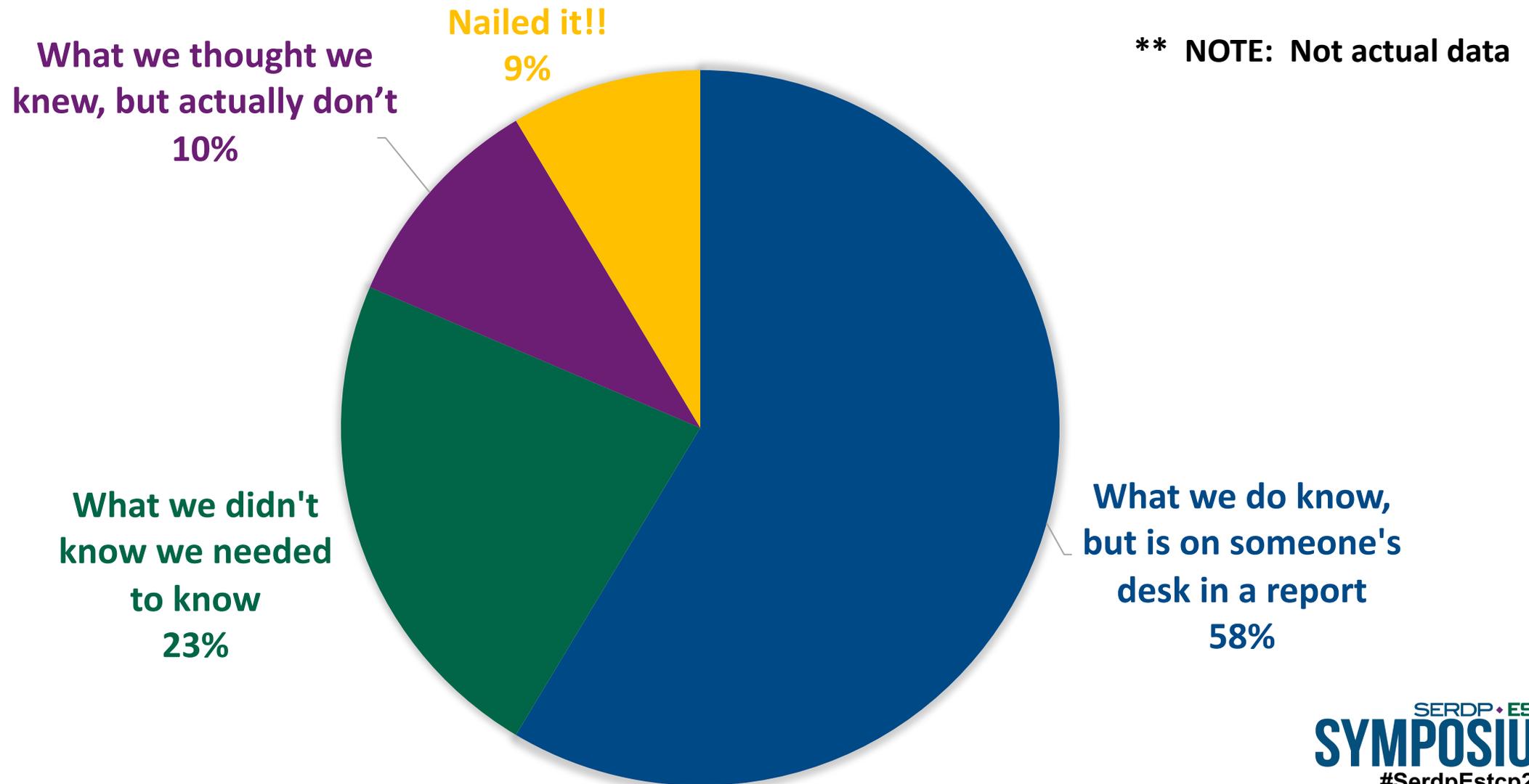
Habitat-based Approach



Multi-species Benefits



What questions have emerged?



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- Genetics
 - What is a species? (distinct population segments, subspecies)
 - Population connectivity (dispersal, bottlenecks)
- Current conditions
 - Species Status Assessments
 - Filling gaps (baseline inventories, surveys, monitoring)
- Future conditions
 - What sensitivities or responses will species have to future conditions?
 - What sensitivities or responses will habitats have to future conditions?



What questions have emerged?

- Evaluating effectiveness of alternative conservation investments
 - What conservation investments actually yield the greatest results?
 - Establishing equivalency among various conservation practices
- Landscape context and defined level of conservation
 - Strategic Habitat Conservation framework
 - How much? How much more? Where?
- Habitat/Ecosystem-based approach
 - Multi-species conservation targets based on surrogates (habitat, umbrella species)
 - “Causal link” between beneficial/detrimental habitat effects to multi-species





Questions?

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