

Topic 4: Recovery of Threatened and Endangered and Sustainment of At-Risk Plant Species

Objective

Demonstration projects are sought for innovative approaches to establish in situ new plant populations of threatened, endangered, and at-risk species (TER-S) in areas on or adjoining Department of Defense (DoD) installations to meet DoD stewardship responsibilities. For proposed species, proposals should provide sufficient detail with reference to the scientific literature that indicates the existence of sufficient knowledge of environmental or habitat requirements associated with species establishment. Proposals also should indicate that any necessary permits are in-hand or the date by which they can be attained to work with proposed TER-S. ESTCP will give priority to those proposals that address approaches affecting multiple TER-S and DoD installations.

Background

The DoD manages numerous TER-S, as well as other species of concern, across roughly 30 million acres. In many cases to either recover a listed species or to prevent a new listing requires successfully establishing the species in areas that it previously occupied but from which it is currently extirpated. Establishing anew such species can be challenging, especially if the key environmental or habitat requirements are not completely known or if the environmental or habitat conditions may have changed in an area from what they were historically. Over 150 federal listed and 350 species at-risk occurring on DoD lands are vascular plants. Additional information about such species, including the availability status of ex situ seed-bank material for 185 TER-S plant species, can be found at: <http://www.denix.osd.mil/nr/ThreatenedEndangeredandAtRiskSpecies/index.cfm>.

ESTCP supports demonstration at a scale sufficient to determine the operational performance of the technology or methodology and to estimate its expected full-scale implementation costs. ESTCP will not consider proposals that attempt to establish species in currently unoccupied areas that are at present outside the species' historic range but are forecasted to meet the species' climatic envelope needs under climate change.

Proposed technologies and methodologies should have completed all appropriate proof-of-principle work as applicable. Some species- or site-specific field work may be allowed prior to the actual field demonstration if it can be completed during the first year of the project. Specific DoD site(s) may be suggested in the pre-proposal but are not required to be identified until submittal of the full proposal. Proposals that are meant to address a single installation's specific compliance issue will not be considered.

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