

## **Topic 5: Inventory and Monitoring Technologies for Vertebrate Populations**

### Objective

Demonstration projects are sought for cost effective technologies to inventory and monitor vertebrate populations on Department of Defense (DoD) installations to meet DoD stewardship responsibilities. The technologies available to inventory and monitor vertebrate populations have increased over recent years. This topic attempts to take advantage of these recent developments and seeks proposals that demonstrate innovative but technically mature technologies, along with associated methodological approaches. ESTCP will give priority to those proposals that address the application of inventory and monitoring technologies and methodologies affecting multiple vertebrate species and DoD installations. Of particular interest are those technologies and methodologies that can be used to inventory and monitor raptor populations.

### Background

The DoD manages numerous threatened, endangered, and at-risk species (TER-S), as well as other species of concern, across roughly 30 million acres. The inability to accurately assess the population status of TER-S in particular can lead potentially to negative impacts on DoD's mission. Depending on the species, its life history and life stages, successful population assessment can be challenging. This may be because the species occurs in inaccessible areas or habitat or is cryptic with respect to its surroundings. Over 135 federal listed and 60 species at-risk occurring on DoD lands are vertebrates. Additional information about such species can be found at: <http://www.denix.osd.mil/nr/ThreatenedEndangeredandAtRiskSpecies/index.cfm>.

Proposed technologies and methodologies should have completed all appropriate proof-of-principle work as applicable. 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. For proposals involving field work, 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.

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