

State Wildlife Action Plans and the Military – Integration and Collaboration on a Regional Scale



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Department of Defense**



Training and Testing Are More Important Than Ever

- Realistic training requires realistic training environments
- Readiness is perishable – Skills must be maintained through regular training



***We must train as we fight;
because we fight as we train***

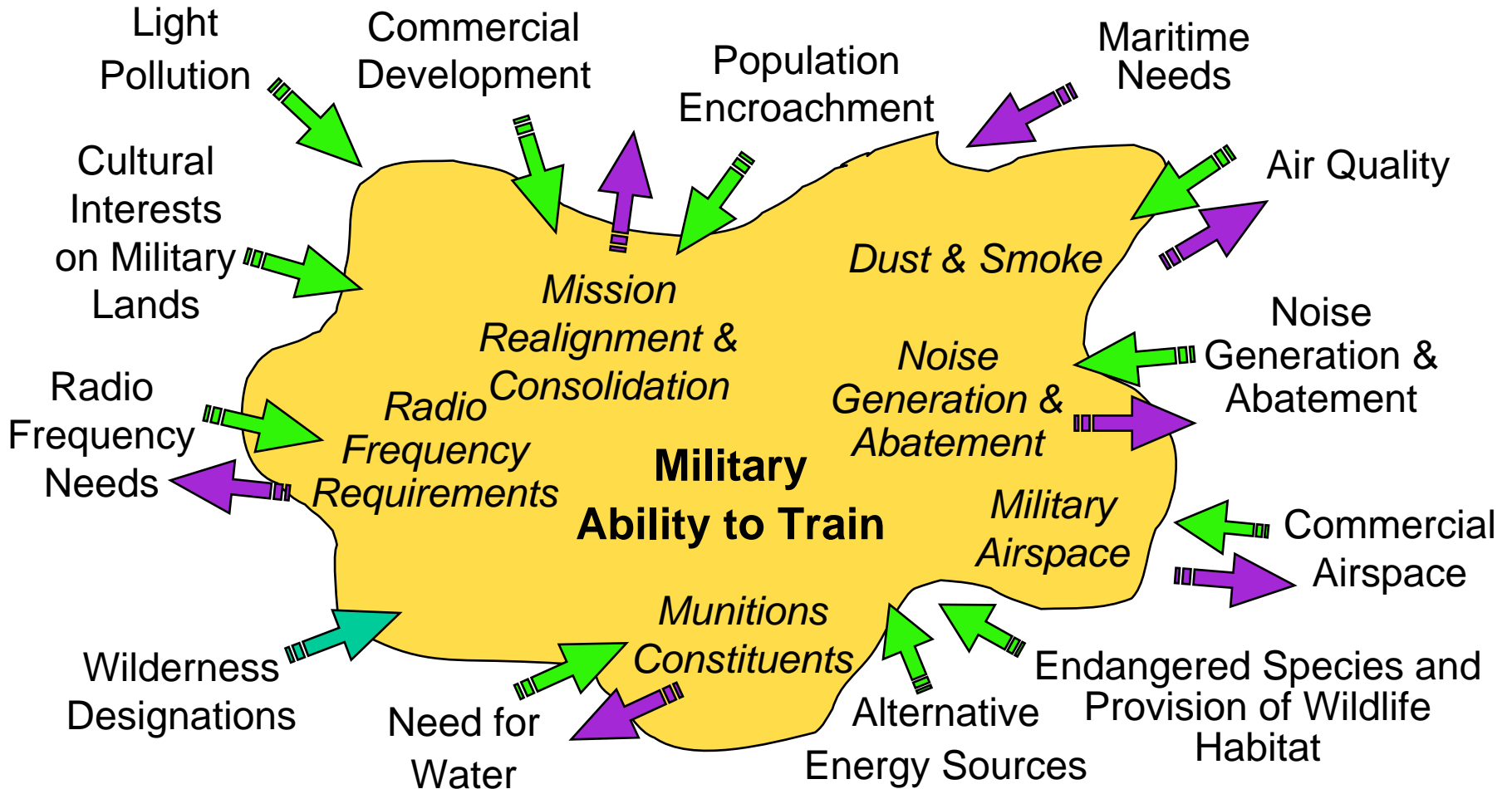
- Military ranges are at risk
- Encroachment: Restrictions that inhibit accomplishment of our live training and testing as required





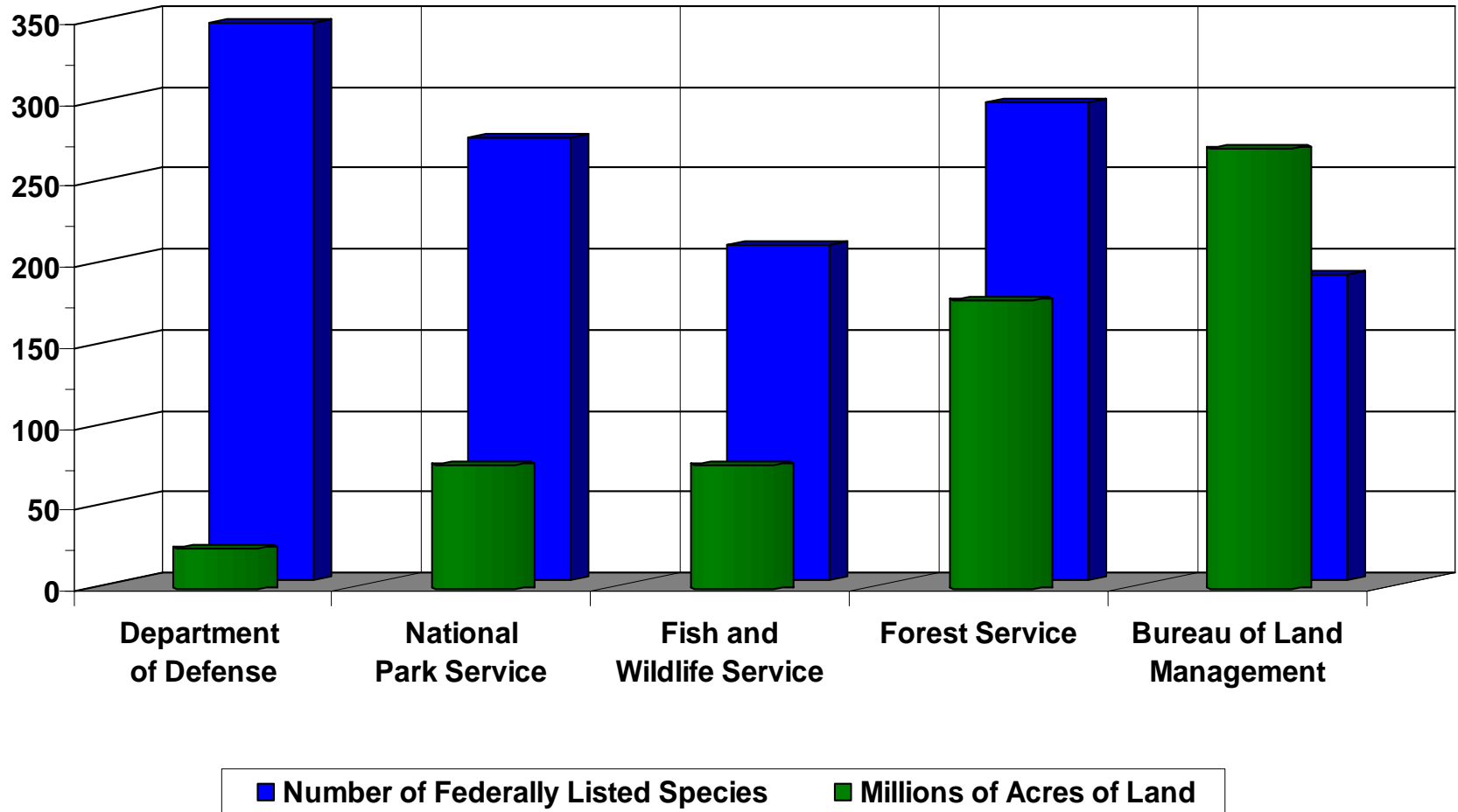
ENCROACHMENT PRESSURES

Work Both Ways





T&E Listed Species on Federal Lands





Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs)

- DoD maintains over 30 million acres of land
- DoD responsible for creating programs and implementing management strategies to conserve and protect biological resources on its lands
- INRMPs are developed to integrate natural resource conservation and military operational readiness

PRELIMINARY DRAFT INRMP

Preliminary Draft
Integrated Natural Resources
Management Plan
For Nellis Air Force Base
Nevada Test and Training Range

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

Base, Nevada
ing Squadron
tal Flight
ed: 2005-2010

Business Center
Camp Mackall
Carolina

OCTOBER 2001

INTEGRATED
NATURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT PLAN

MARINE CORPS BASE and
MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
CAMP PENDLETON

"The primary purpose of DoD lands and waters is to support mission-related activities. Those lands and waters shall be made available to the public for educational or recreational use of natural and cultural resources when such access is compatible with military readiness, readiness, ecological sustainability, and with other considerations such as security, safety, and fiscal soundness.

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Partnerships

- In order to do this effectively, DoD is partnering with non-governmental organizations, states, local governments, other Federal agencies, and other relevant groups
- **Encroachment Partnering Tool (10 USC 2684a)** -- Authorizes military departments to sign agreements with state or local governments or private conservation groups

“The old way of approaching conservation planning -- through individual efforts, and without cross-governmental partnerships -- will not work in a future of ever expanding competition for scarce resources.”

--Secretary Donald Rumsfeld



Partnerships

- **MOU** -- signed between DoD, Fish and Wildlife Service, and IAFWA on 20 Jan 2006
- **Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)**
 - States' interest to establish a regional partnership between DoD, states and other stakeholders
 - Opportunity to initiate and institutionalize better regional, state, and local coordination
 - Meetings
 - July 27-28, 2005, Chapel Hill, NC
 - January 11-12, 2006, Jacksonville, FL
 - August 15-16, 2006, Shaw AFB





Wildlife Action Plans Workshop

- Range Sustainment Initiative obtained funding from DoD Legacy Program to conduct workshop on the integration of DoD INRMPs with State Wildlife Action Plans
- Worked with state wildlife agencies, US Fish and Wildlife, Services, and IAFWA
- Encourage implementation of collaborative projects that are mutually beneficial
 - Promote information and data sharing
 - Assist in updating of plans (INRMPs and Wildlife Action Plans)



Wildlife Action Plans Workshop

- 9-10 May 2006
- Atlanta, GA
- Southeast States (FL, GA, NC, and SC)
- Participants:
 - Installation Natural Resource Managers
 - US Fish and Wildlife
 - State Wildlife Agencies
 - International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Outcome: Increased communication at the field level and identification of 4 pilot projects



Wildlife Action Plans Workshop Pilot Projects

Invasive Species Habitat Conversion Project

- Engage interested parties to identify areas/potential sites for habitat conversion
 - Clear invasive species
 - Replace with native species
 - Reduce BASH near air strips
- South Carolina (expand to include NC)
- September 2006 – Initial Meeting





Wildlife Action Plans Workshop Pilot Projects

North Carolina/Coastal Species at Risk Project

- Assess and determine the most important Species at Risk (and associated habitats) along the North Carolina coast
- Hope to preclude listing of the identified species
- North Carolina (expand to South Carolina and encompass a southeast coastal group)



Wildlife Action Plans Workshop Pilot Projects

Florida Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies/ INRMP Articulation Project

- Form a small work group to draft model objectives for INRMPs and the Wildlife Plans in order to coordinate state-military planning efforts
- Develop a series of annual meetings at NAS Jacksonville, Eglin AFB & Avon Park to serve as points for coordination of planning efforts
- Utilize existing partnerships (and implement new ones) to help accomplish the goals related to articulation among the INRMPs and the Wildlife Plans



Wildlife Action Plans Workshop Pilot Projects

Georgia Conservation Pilot Project

- Initial focus -- identify lands of mutual interest and discuss ways in which to protect them in order to meet everyone's mission needs
- Areas to be focused on are the habitat of gopher tortoise and other threatened and endangered species, as well as species at risk
- Georgia (expand to include Alabama)
- Meet June 20th (next meeting TBD)





Next Steps

- Follow up meeting in 12-18 months
- Present projects at other relevant conferences and meetings (NMFWA)
- Conduct similar workshop – Current Legacy Program Funding
- Bring in other groups/stakeholders



