



U.S. Army Engineer
Research and Development Center

Threatened and Endangered Species

Description of Technology

The Environmental Laboratory (EL), U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), provides expertise on restoring and managing threatened, endangered, and sensitive species (TES) habitats on Civil Works water resources projects and Department of Defense (DOD) military installations nationwide. Current emphasis is on habitat restoration and management strategies for high-profile species and development of analytical methods to determine the suitability of various habitat types for a diversity of sensitive species. Specific techniques are being developed to assess impacts of various Civil Works and military activities and land use practices on TES and to improve existing habitat for protected species.

Benefits

The conservation and management of TES and their habitats are major issues on Corps projects and military installations throughout the United States. DOD is required by law to manage and protect these species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The protection and maintenance of natural resources on DOD real estate is essential for the continued use of these lands and waters for carrying out both Civil Works and military missions and ensuring compliance with environmental laws. Products from EL studies proactively address high priority issues associated with TES and provide resource managers with useful management tools.

Significant Accomplishments

Numerous direct allotted and reimbursable projects have been completed for Civil Works and military programs. Recent accomplishments include the completion of a Strategic Environmental Research and Development (SERDP) study that produced a community-based regional plan for managing TES on installations in the southeastern United States. Thirty products resulted from this effort, including species profiles on 18 species. A major Corps study sponsored by the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Research Program is addressing the impacts of reservoir operations on habitats of sensitive species; 25 products have resulted from this work, including species profiles and management recommendations for over 40 species of turtles, raptors, shorebirds, songbirds, and bats. Recent reimbursable studies have included species surveys and development of management recommendations regarding TES bird and mammal species (especially neotropical migrant birds and bats) at a variety of military installations. EL also has recognized expertise in habitat assessment and management for aquatic fauna including sea turtles, salmonid fishes, sturgeons, manatees, whales, and freshwater mussels.

Point of Contact

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