A DATABASE FOR TRACKING POPULATIONS OF ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES IN NATIONAL PARKS

**Problems:**

- To annually track the extant and historic occupancy, status and trend, and associated expenditures for 453 species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on 53 units across the National Park Service (NPS).
- To design and implement a data flow for these data that not only facilitates annual review and updating of the information by park biologists and NPS regional, other federal agencies, and the public.
- To effectively provide park superintendents and natural science staff with concise information on how to recover federally listed species.

**Solutions:**

- To facilitate regular communications between the Chief of Natural Resources of NPS units, the Regional Endangered Species Coordinators, and the Endangered Species Program Manager at the Washington National Park Service Headquarters.
- To implement a database system that tracks the status, expenditures, and recovery information for each federally listed or proposed species in a way that NPS personnel can review data reported in previous years.

**Methods:**

- The selected method is an implementation of a combination of Endangered Species Coordinators, and the Endangered Species Program Manager at the Washington National Park Service Headquarters.

**External Data Sources (e.g., USFWS, NMFS, USDA):**

- Summaries Continuously Available
- Final Data to NPS Park Units in October
- Final National Database Distributed to Regions in October
- External Information Gathered Year-Round from Lists, Documents, Websites, etc.
- Regional Databases Updated in September with Preliminary Information
- Final Data to NPS Park Units in October
- Annual Expenditure Report Sent out to NPS in October

**NPS ESA Coordinators**

- NPS ESA Coordinators
- Final Data to NPS Park Units in October
- Final Version of Database Available Upon Request
- Final Recovery Strategies
- Final Version of Database Available Upon Request

**Public Website and Online Database**

- Public Website and Online Database
- External Information Gathered Year-Round from Lists, Documents, Websites, etc.
- Final Data to NPS Park Units in October
- Final National Database Distributed to Regions in October
- External Information Gathered Year-Round from Lists, Documents, Websites, etc.
- Regional Databases Updated in September with Preliminary Information
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**Results:**

- Empowers the NPS Endangered Species Program to develop nation-wide recovery strategies and to prioritize recovery efforts.
- Ease of Use
  - Works across a wide range of end-user expertise levels and internet access speeds and reliability.
  - Facilitates access to electronic Species Recovery Plan documents library (available via FTP, email, CD/Zip disk on regular mail).
  - Accommodates data transfer across multiple data delivery routes (FTP, email, CD/Zip disk on regular mail).
- Data Quality
  - Facilitates accurate reporting of information on extant and historic occupancy, expenditures, and biological stability for listed and proposed species.
  - Supports reconciliation of the species nomenclature used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with the standardized nomenclature employed by the NPS.
- Recovery Planning and Implementation
  - Links all recovery plans to species assigned to NPS
  - Provides single tools to assist NPS managers with recovering listed species.
- Compliance and Reporting
  - Requires NPS leadership with the ability to quickly produce data summaries in the Access version through pre-determined queries such as:
  - Annual expenditure report
  - Summary report of listed species on NPS managed lands by major taxa (plants, flowering plants, insects, etc) and ESA listing status.
  - Summary report of species profiles by major taxa (plants, flowering plants, insects, etc) with species trends.
- Public Access
  - Allows public access to these data through an online database searchable by ESA Listed Species or NPS Unit Name.

**Conclusions:**

- The NPS ESA database has proven useful to NPS personnel and other federal agencies and the public.

**Acknowledgments and Contacts**

- The NPS ESA database has been in existence since 1993.
- Loyal Mehrhoff, loyal_mehrhoff@nps.gov.

**Other ESA Listed Species Associated with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area**

- Bald Eagle
- Presidio
- Clarkia
- Mission Blue Butterfly
- San Francisco Garter Snake
- Coho Salmon

**Number ESA Listed Species by Major Taxon at Golden Gate NRA**

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| ESA Listed Species on NPS Lands with Stable Habitat

**Other ESA Listed Species Associated with the Teachers College Unit of the Colorado National Heritage Program**

- Bald Eagle
- Presidio Clarkia Mission Blue Butterfly San Francisco Garter Snake Coho Salmon