

CONSERVATION CROSSFEED

Notes from AFCEE/ECC
November 2001

TOP TEN LIST FOR ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT:

1. Control/Eradicate invasive species, plants and animals
2. Limit/Reduce soil disturbance
3. Develop a baseline of all flora and fauna, and communities
4. Monitor species against baseline, annually
5. Enhance habitat (especially low quality) to encourage more species utilization
6. Avoid planting monocultures
7. Use indigenous species from local gene pool (local plant material)
8. Focus on and restore historical vegetative communities, if feasible
9. Work with adjacent (public and private) property owners to manage resources within the watershed(s)
10. Team with other groups (federal, state, and local) to manage unique and critical habitats and ranges for T&E species

List developed by Mary Anderson and Dan Friese; look for more on Ecosystem Management. Keep checking the ECC webpage.

GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING AND MANAGING ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

The mission of every restoration project is to establish (or reestablish) a functional ecosystem of a designated type containing sufficient biodiversity to continue to its climax community by natural processes and to evolve or adapt over longer periods of time in response to changing environmental conditions (global warming, encroachment). Two attributes of biodiversity that are most readily attained by restoration are: species richness and community structure.

The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) had developed a set of guidelines for developing and managing ecological restoration projects. They are useful in any context -- stewardship programs, mitigation projects, land management and range management activities. These guidelines are generic and were developed as essential background for managers, policy makers, and interested public.

The guidelines are broken into 51 tasks under 6 planning activities. If interested in this information go to:

<http://www.ser.org/downloads/Guidelines.pdf>

Or contact Mary Anderson, AFCEE Botanist, DSN240-3808, mary.anderson@brooks.af.mil



*San Gabriel
Mountain slender
salamander*

Candidate Conservation Program, USFWS

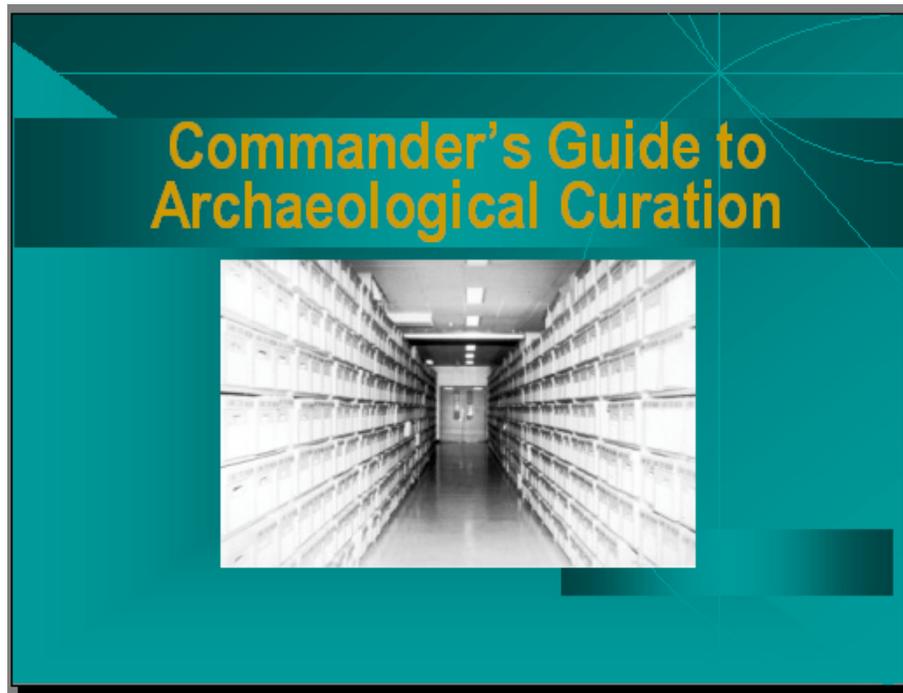
"An effective program for the conservation of endangered species requires a means of addressing species that have not yet been listed but that face immediate, identifiable risks. Candidate species are plants and animals for which the Service has sufficient information on their biological status and threats to propose them as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities.

Early conservation preserves management options, minimizes the cost of recovery, and reduces the potential for restrictive land use policies in the future. Addressing the needs of species before the regulatory restrictions associated with listed species come into play often allows greater management flexibility to stabilize or restore these species and their habitats." (http://endangered.fws.gov/candidates/index.html#CNOR).

This is an opportunity for installations to be proactive in the management of these candidate species by surveying for their presence and, if present, developing management plans before they become listed. For a complete list of these species, go to: <http://endangered.fws.gov/candidates/index.html#CNOR> or check out the Federal Register, Vol 66, #210, Tue 30 Oct 2001, pages 54808-54832.

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COMMANDER'S GUIDE TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATION

Curation is a major, if not quite visible, issue in the Air Force. Most AF installations have performed archaeological surveys and evaluations that resulted in at least some archaeological collections. These collections of artifacts and records are forever the property of the Federal government, and must be, by law, curated and stored properly to be available for future researchers and the interested public. But, most AF collections are not properly labeled, packaged, recorded, curated, or stored. Changing this situation, and moving toward compliance with 36 CFR 79, the "Curation" regulation, is the reason the DOD chartered the Archaeological Collections Integrated Product Team (IPT) in 1998. The IPT has developed and disseminated several documents that are available on DENIX. These include, Curation Options reports on museums that are willing to partner with DOD installations, Curation Needs Assessments on the current status and condition of collections throughout the DOD, and Guidelines for Collection and Curation of DOD Archaeological Collections.

Recently, the IPT developed a textual document and a separate PowerPoint presentation, both titled "Commander's Guide to Archaeological Curation." They will be available on the AFCEE website in the near future. In the meantime, they are provided here for your use and distribution (attachment). The commander's guides provide basic knowledge about the regulation, and outline processes to ensure that archaeological collections from installations will be properly handled and stored. They condense some of the information included in the above mentioned "Guidelines for the Field Collection of Archaeological Materials and Standard Operating Procedures for Curating Department of Defense Archaeological Collections." Please contact Dr. James Wilde (james.wilde@brooks.af.mil) if you have questions or desire more information on curation of AF archeological collections and records.

SEE ATTACHMENT FOR "COMMANDER'S GUIDE TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL CURATION" (PP presentation and text document).

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2001

Dec 12-13: NATIVE PLANT PROPAGATION AND RESTORATION STRATEGIES, Eugene OR. Western Forestry and Conservation Association. (Contact Mary mary.Anderson@brooks.af.mil for more details)

2002

January 6-9: PHRAGMITES CONFERENCE, Cumberland County College, NJ; Contact Mike Weistein (mweinstein@njmsc.org) or visit www.njmsc.org

Feb 15-18; GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT, <http://birdsource.cornell.edu/gbbc/>

February 27 - March 1;: [5th National Mitigation Banking Conference](#) in Renaissance Washington Marriott Hotel, Washington, D.C.. Contact: C. Bahler. Phone: 703/548-5473. Email:cbahler@erols.com.

April 1-5; National Military Fish and Wildlife Meeting, Dallas TX. www.nmfwa.org

Planning for '02 training

Need information on what/who/where/when? Go to the ECC webpage "Management Training Courses" (<http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/ec/cnr/training.htm>)

Call for Papers (NMFW Annual Meeting)

In the past, the AF has had VERY few papers given at this meeting. Think about what you do on a daily basis, or if you have done a special project, and consider sharing that information with fellow Natural Resource Managers. You are not alone out there. If interested in presenting a paper at the 2002 NMFW Meeting, contact the session chair/co-chair in the following sessions:

- **Forestry and Wildlife Management - Where do we Stand?** (jim.Copeland@cnet.navy.mil)
- **Coastal Challenges on DOD Installations** (jim.bailey@usag.apg.army.mil)
- **Ethics in DOD Natural Resources Management** (clewell@ria.army.mil)
- **Encroachment Issues on DOD Lands** (sbelfit@aec.apgea.army.mil)
- **Range and Prairie Restoration Efforts on Military Installations** (mellok@mccoy-emh1.army.mil or hessilj@huachuca-emh1.army.mil)
- **Managing Ecosystems into the Future** (dgibb@horne.com or Douglas.ripley@ang.af.mil)
- **Field Notes (misc topics - NEPA, T&E species, etc)** (Daniel.friese@brooks.af.mil or mary.Anderson@brooks.af.mil)

Or contact Chester Martin

(chester.o.martin@erdc.usace.army.mil)

FREE WEB-BASED WATERSHED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM !

Watershed Academy Web (<http://www.epa.gov/watertrain/>) -- contains a set of self-paced training modules that represents a basic but broad introduction to watershed management across six disciplines. This program's goal is to provide useful information to local and state/tribal efforts aimed at improving the health of our Nation's waters by protecting and managing their watersheds.

Some of the benefits to this training opportunity are: No Cost (FREE!!), Available worldwide anytime, Self-paced instruction with Perpetual Review Potential, Coverage of key topics with Flexibility to customize. To receive the Watershed Academy Web Training Certificate you must compete and pass a series of 15 of 43 courses. The length and complexity of each module varies, but most are at the college freshman level of instruction and require ½ to 2 hours each to complete. Unlike an average technical paper, many modules are visually rich and contain 25 to 50 color illustrations and photos. Typically, a module contains many hot links for those seeking greater detail, while module-specific glossaries are there for beginners. Self-tests enable trainees to check their retention and see immediate results.

I have done a couple of the modules and while they are easy to understand, they do cover important, useful information. Even if your goal is not to receive the Certificate, these modules are worthwhile to have bookmarked (Favorites) for future