



WRP Natural Resources Committee Update

Abbie Jossie, WRP Natural Resources
Committee Co-Chair



WRP Natural Resources Committee Co-Chairs

- **Tom Caughlan**, Assistant Chief of Staff G-7, Government and External Affairs, MCIWest- MCB Camp Pendleton
- **Thomas M. Finnegan**, Colonel (Retired), Arizona Military Affairs Commission
- **Clayton Honyumptewa**, Director, Department of Natural Resources, The Hopi Tribe
- **Abbie Jossie**, Deputy State Director, Resources, Bureau of Land Management, Utah
- **Kevin Kinsall**, Natural Resources Intergovernmental Coordinator Arizona Game and Fish Department

WRP Natural Resources Committee Goals

- Further explore related findings from the 2017 WRP Regional Assessment
- Assist in precluding or delisting species through coordinated conservation efforts; identify gaps/leverage ongoing efforts
- Provide resources for conservation efforts
- Engage in ongoing dialogue on western water sustainability

The above completed through hosting of webinars, conducting a survey, monitoring related efforts over the past year and research.

WRP Region

Potential for unintended land use conflicts among WRP Partners' interests

- 18% of the U.S. population, 19% of the U.S. land mass
- Considerable state, federal and Tribal lands and various land management processes
- Approximately fifty percent of the land within the WRP Region is managed by a Federal agency.
- There are several hundred Federally listed species *
 - **Arizona: 64** (of which 43 are animals and 21 are plants)
 - **California: 300** (of which 118 are animals and 182 are plants)
 - **Colorado: 34** (of which 17 are animals and 17 are plants)
 - **Nevada: 40** (of which 30 are animals and 10 are plants)
 - **New Mexico: 53** (of which 40 are animals and 13 are plants)
 - **Utah: 42** (of which 18 are animals and 24 are plants)

* According to USFWS ECOS

WRP Natural Resources Committee Accomplishments

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Information Sharing on Key Critical Elements

Three Webinars – Eleven Presenters:

- **DoD's Natural Resources Program and the Collaborative Wildlife Protection and Recovery Initiative**
 - Presenter: DoD's Director of Natural Resource Conservation Programs
- **Federal Agency Planning Efforts highlighting BLM, USFS, USFWS and NPS**
 - Presenters: BLM (HQ & Utah BLM); US Forest Service (HQ); U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Pacific Southwest Region); and National Park Service (Pacific West Region)
- **2018 Federal and State Water Strategies and Collaboration**
 - Western States Water Council; DoD; NOAA /WestFAST Chair; U.S. Geological Survey; NOAA/NWS Headquarters/WestFAST Federal Liaison

Natural Resources Committee Criteria

(based on input provided through survey)

Objective: Enhance collaboration among WRP Partners to assist efforts to preclude or delist species through conservation efforts and to relieve the regulatory burden for WRP Partners

- Multi-state region (at least 2 states)*
- Maximizes mission interest of WRP Partners (supports many members' missions)
- Coordinates with existing efforts
- Builds resilience for wildlife, plants and their habitats and enhances Partners' missions
- Increases habitat/precludes listing

** Generally, the Committee will focus on species in at least two states in the WRP Region. However, there may be situations where the Committee will focus on a species in only one WRP state if the species is of national or regional significance.*

Review/Analysis of Species Input

1. Consolidated WRP NR and SC 2018 Species Input
2. Compared with input provided in 2015 and 2017
3. Selected “top” rated input of 11 species against the criteria
4. Developed maps of overlays of selected species
 - Maps produced by WRP NR GIS Liaison – Mike Dick, USFWS
 - Included USGS GAP data (species range) & USFWS data; landmarks, land ownership, etc.
5. Reviewed species and compared with Committee criteria; eliminated species that already had much stakeholder support/engagement (seeking not to duplicate)
6. After careful deliberation, WRP NR Committee Co-Chair consensus to focus on three species

WRP Natural Resources Committee Focus on Species

*Information from Environmental Conservation Online System <https://ecos.fws.gov/>

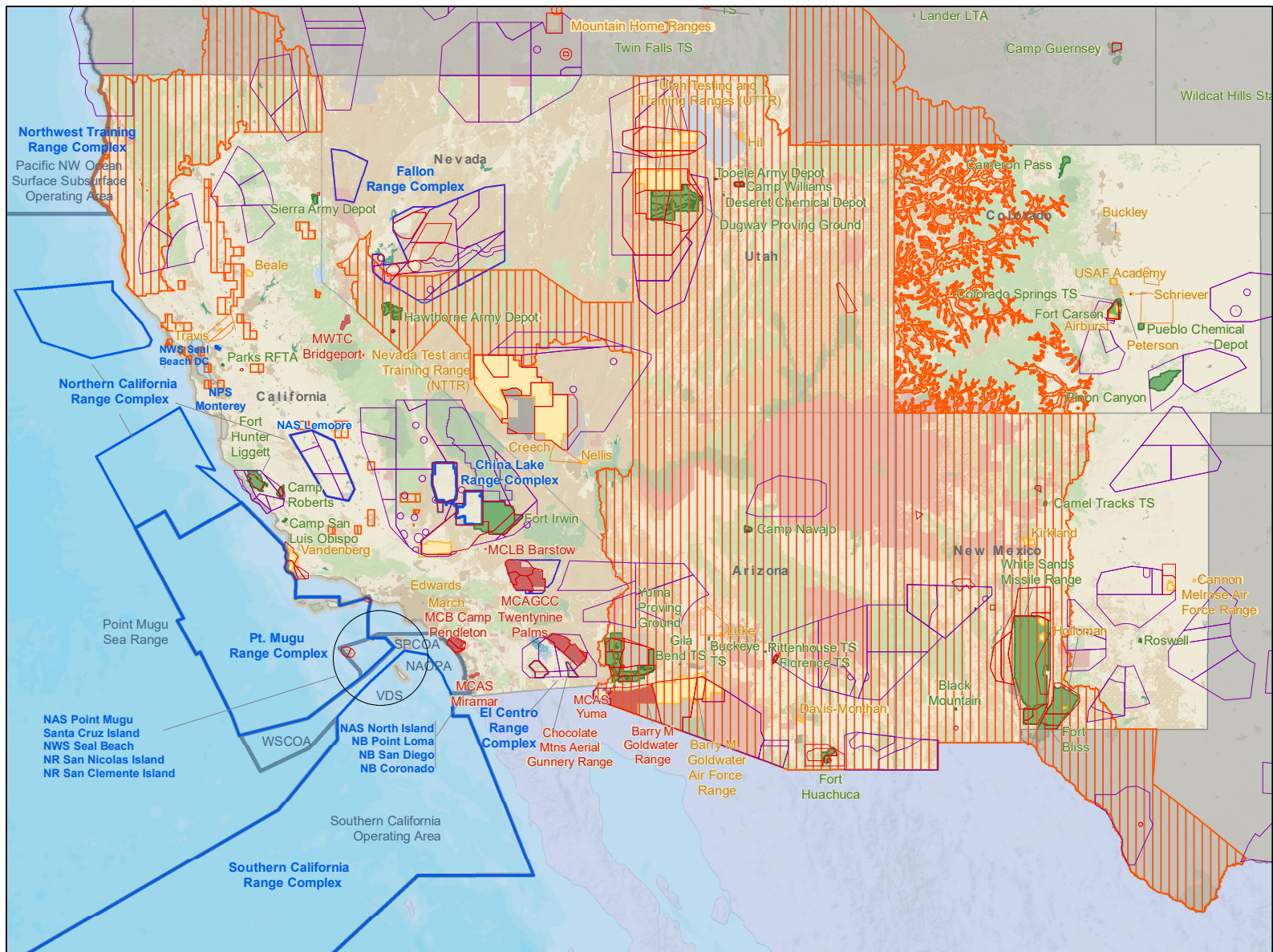
Species	Listing Status*	Location*	Rationale	Last Action
Least Bell's Vireo	Endangered	CA	DoD indicated important species in 2018; in 2017 ranked third	Monitor CWPRI and find out how WRP Natural Resources Committee can best support
Sonoran Desert Tortoise	Not Listed	AZ	Ranked #1 in 2015; petition to list was rejected in 2015 but additional comments were sought	Highlighted existing engagement opportunities and success to date; best practice
Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	Threatened	AZ, CA, CO, NM, NV, UT	Ranked #3 in 2015, 2017 and #2 in 2018; status review initiated June 2018 in response to petition to delist	Developed data overlays, with habitat and range. WRP NR FOCUS over the 2018-2019 WRP year; encourage interested agencies to participate to fully maximize efforts



Yellow-Billed Cuckoo

WRP Action: Focus Efforts

- Widespread and associated with aquatic environments. Designation of critical habitat would affect many aspects of water and riparian habitat
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo also appears in the Eastern US
- Western Distinct Population Segment is listed as threatened; Eastern is not.
- Some petitioners (cattle, mining, etc.) asked the USFWS to review the designation as threatened for two reasons:
 - Western DPS is really not distinct from the bird that appears elsewhere.
 - Even if it is distinct, it is using additional habitat in the West, so it is not really under threat.
- The FWS said there is enough information on habitat to review its designation as threatened on that basis and will also revisit the DPS determination.



Western Regional Partnership Yellow-billed Cuckoo Habitat



DoD Installations and Ranges

- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Army*
- U.S. Marine Corps
- U.S. Navy

*Army ranges smaller than 500 acres are not labeled.

Land Ownership*

- Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service
- American Indian Reservation, Trust, or restricted fee
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Other

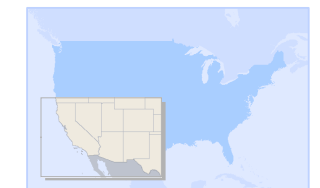
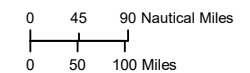
*Symbology is diluted in map

Restricted Area and Military Operating Area

- Alert Area
- Danger Area
- Restricted Areas
- Military Operating Areas

Other

- Yellow-billed Cuckoo Habitat



Sources: OSD DISDI, 2018; ESRI;
US Census; USGS

WRP Natural Resources Committee

Selected Highlights of Activities Important to WRP

- **DoD and DOI signed an MOU** in June 2018 to Establish a Recovery and Sustainment Partnership Initiative
- Notice of Intent to Amend the **Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan** Revisions and Amendment(s)
- **Initiation of Five-Year Status Reviews** of many species in the WRP Region
- **WGA: Biosecurity and Invasive Species Chairman's Initiative**; Top 50 **Invasive Species in the West**; Established **Working Lands Forum**
- **Fort Huachuca won the 2018 REPI Challenge** and afterwards NRCS announced an additional \$3M to assist in this area
- Major federal land planning agencies are dealing with the general direction to **streamline planning processes, expedite the EIS process**, and participate in One Federal Decision
- Extension of and possible changes to the **Waters of the United States Rule**