

Three-Legged Race: Innovative Conservation Planning with the Department of Defense

6/8/22

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Photo Credit: Capt. Brian Harris,
16th Combat Aviation Brigade

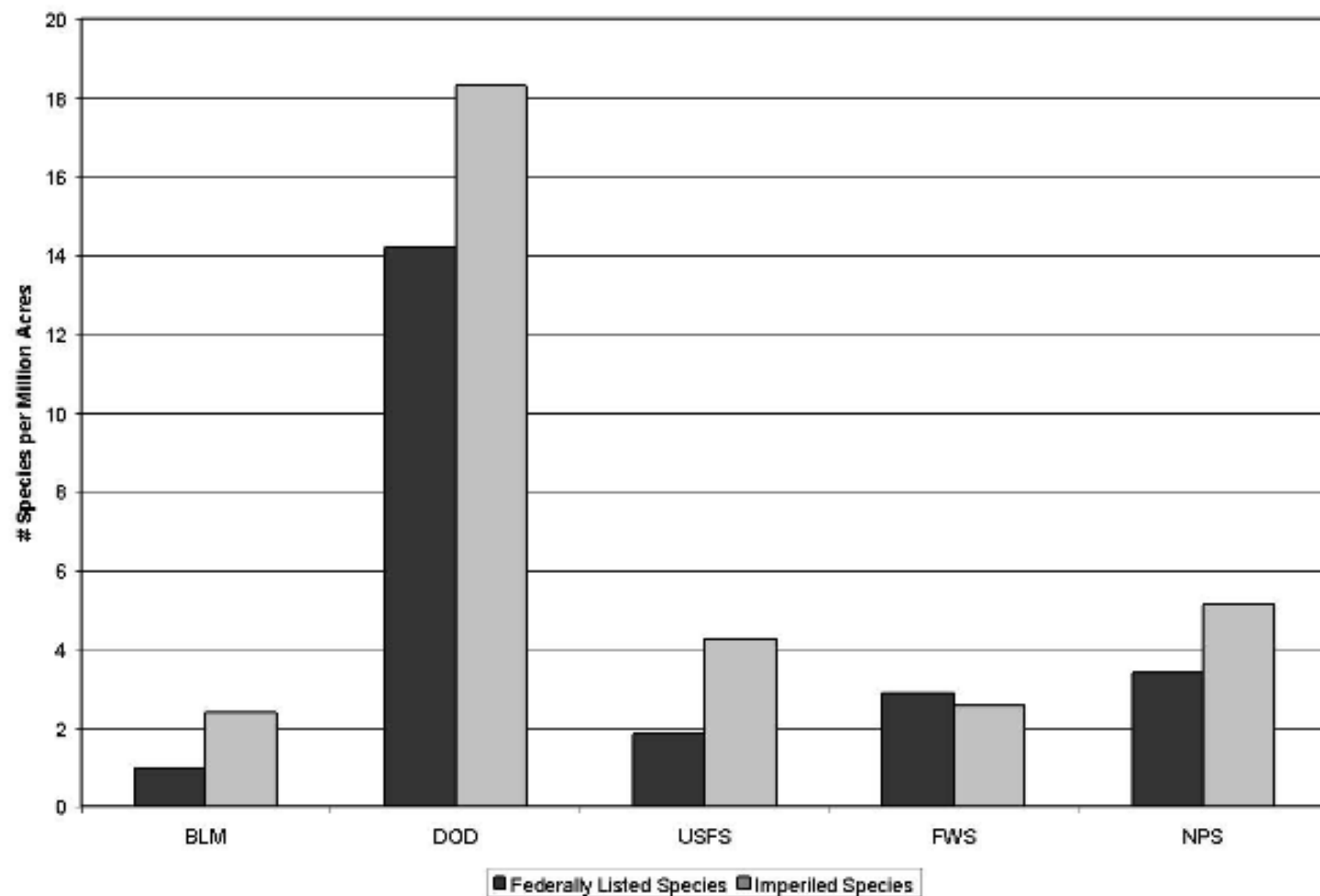
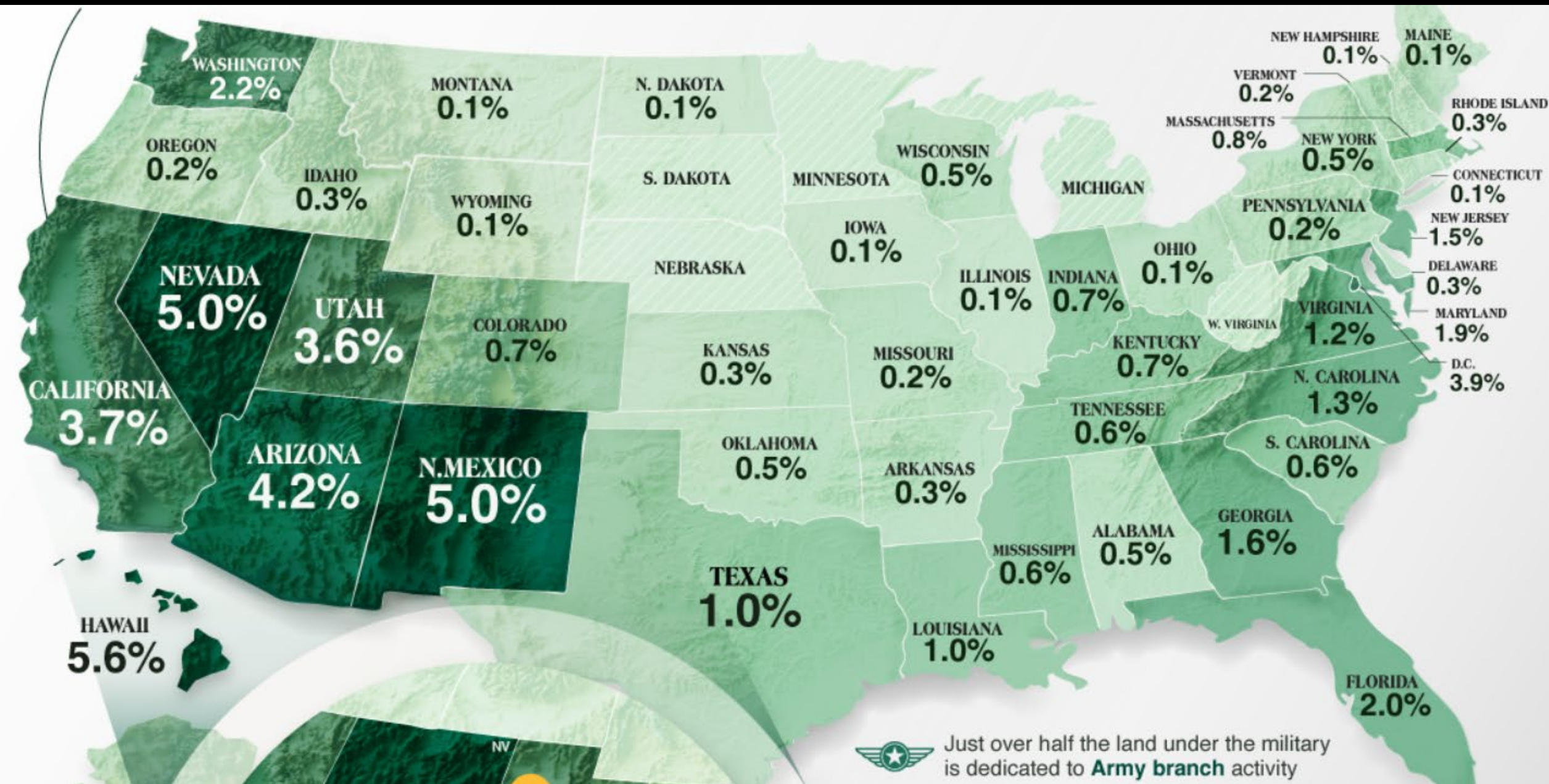
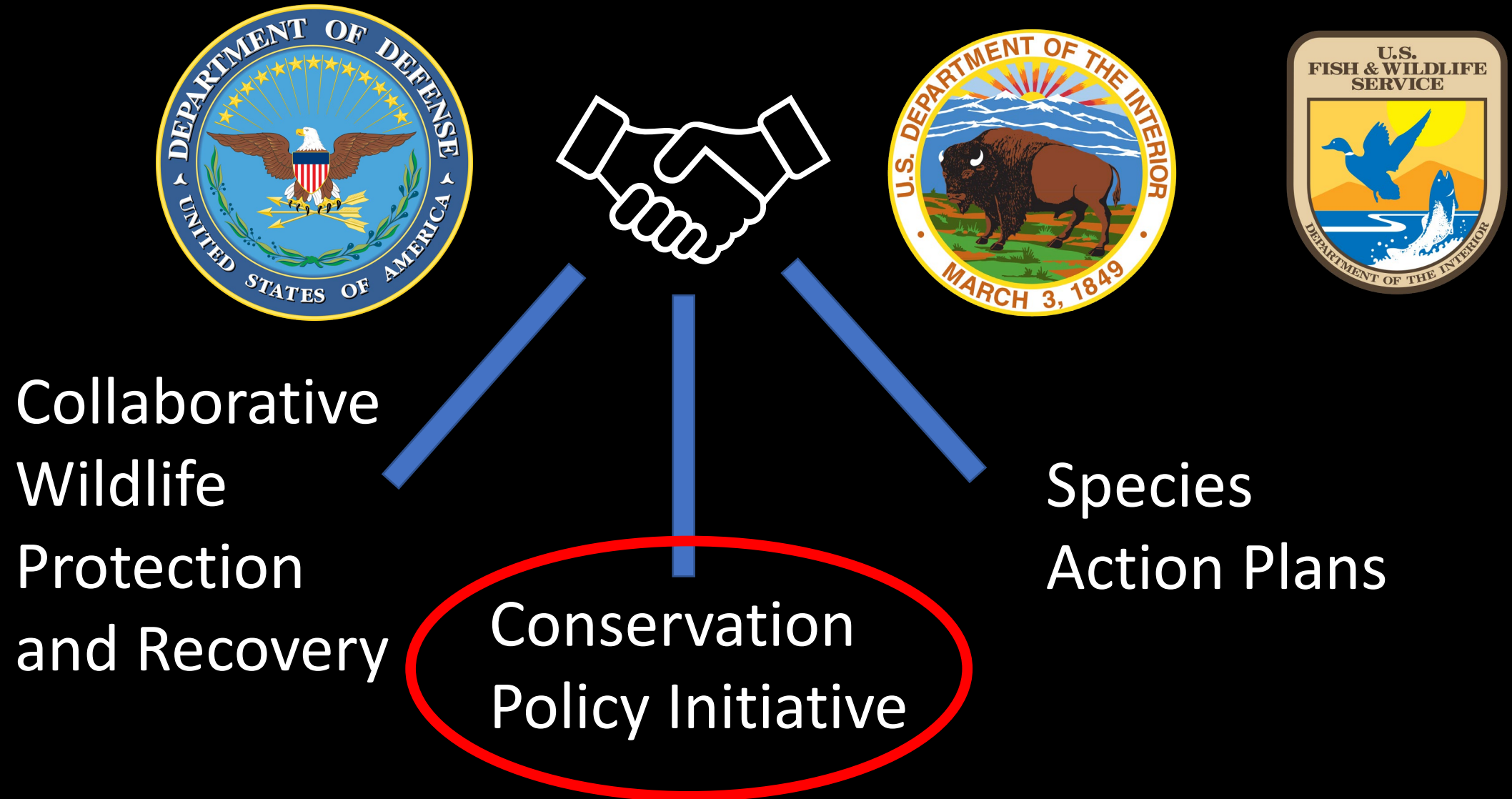


Figure 1.8. Density of endangered and imperiled species on federal lands. Military lands have the greatest density of both ESA status species and imperiled species of any federal land management agency (Adapted from Stein et al. 2008).



Just over half the land under the military is dedicated to **Army branch** activity

Recovery and Sustainment Partnership (RASP) Initiative



Conservation Policy Initiative

“Through enhanced collaboration, DoD and USFWS commit to greater flexibility to support military readiness through enhanced use of ESA processes with incentives and proactive approaches that streamline regulatory processes and achieve greater conservation benefit to listed or at-risk species.”

Guiding Principles of CPI

1. A “defined conservation commitment”, which accommodates current and reasonably foreseeable future mission needs and ensures that installations contribute appropriately to the conservation of species and habitats.
- ~~2. Use of a habitat-based approach (e.g., Strategic Habitat Conservation), which uses habitat or species surrogates to represent an entire suite of species, removing the need to individually address each species in the planning or consultation processes.~~

Endangered Species Act primer

Section 7(a)(1)

General affirmative commitment for Federal agencies to conserve and recover listed species

Section 7(a)(2)

Federal agencies present actions that may affect listed species, and the Service prepares analysis of jeopardy, adverse modification, and a “take” permit.

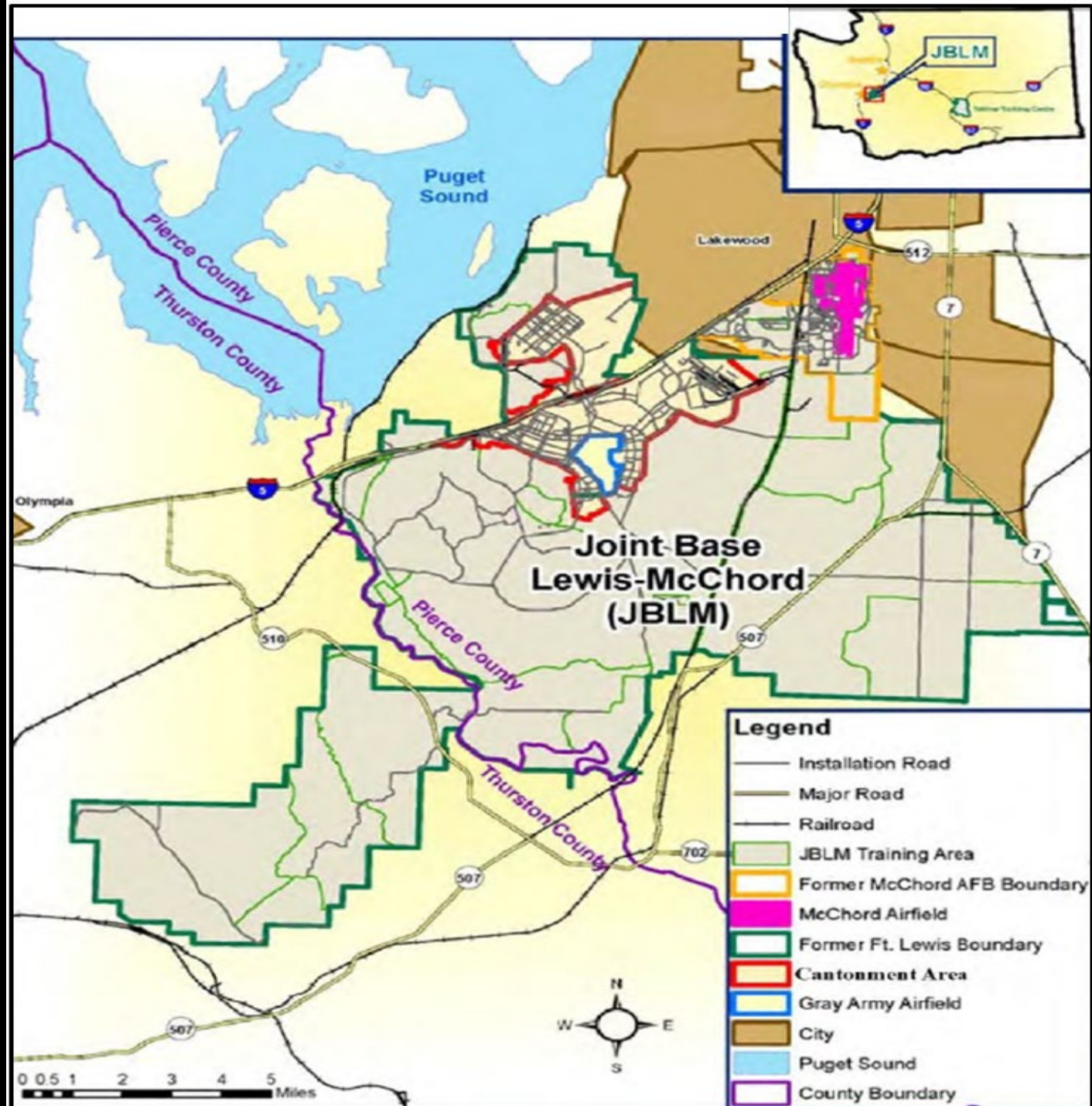
Joint Base Lewis-McChord in the Crosshairs



JBLM by the Numbers

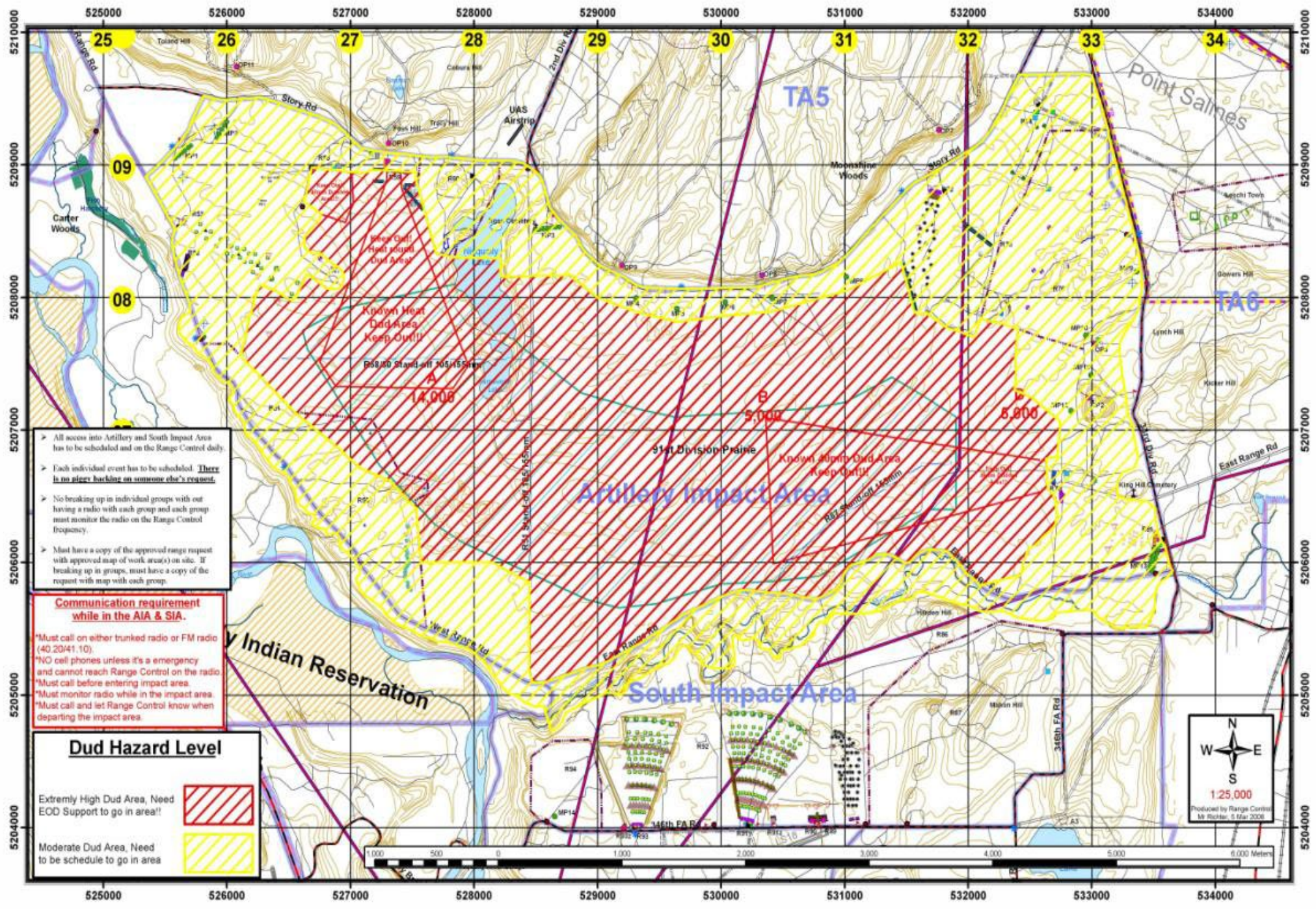
- 91,000-acre military reservation; Army and Air Force
- ~12,000 acres of prairie
- 1,500 acres of YPG, 6,000+ acres of RPPG
- ~300 larks (4 breeding groups)
- The last metapopulation of TCB
- Contains nearly all Oregon Vesper Sparrows in Washington
- And a lot of other cool stuff.











- All access into Artery and South Impact Area has to be scheduled and on the Range Control daily.
- Each individual event has to be scheduled. There is no piling back on someone else's request.
- No breaking up in individual groups with out having a radio with each group and each group must monitor the radio on the Range Control frequency.
- Must have a copy of the approved range request with approved map of work area(s) on site. If breaking up in groups, must have a copy of the request with map with each group.

Communication requirement while in the AIA & SIA.

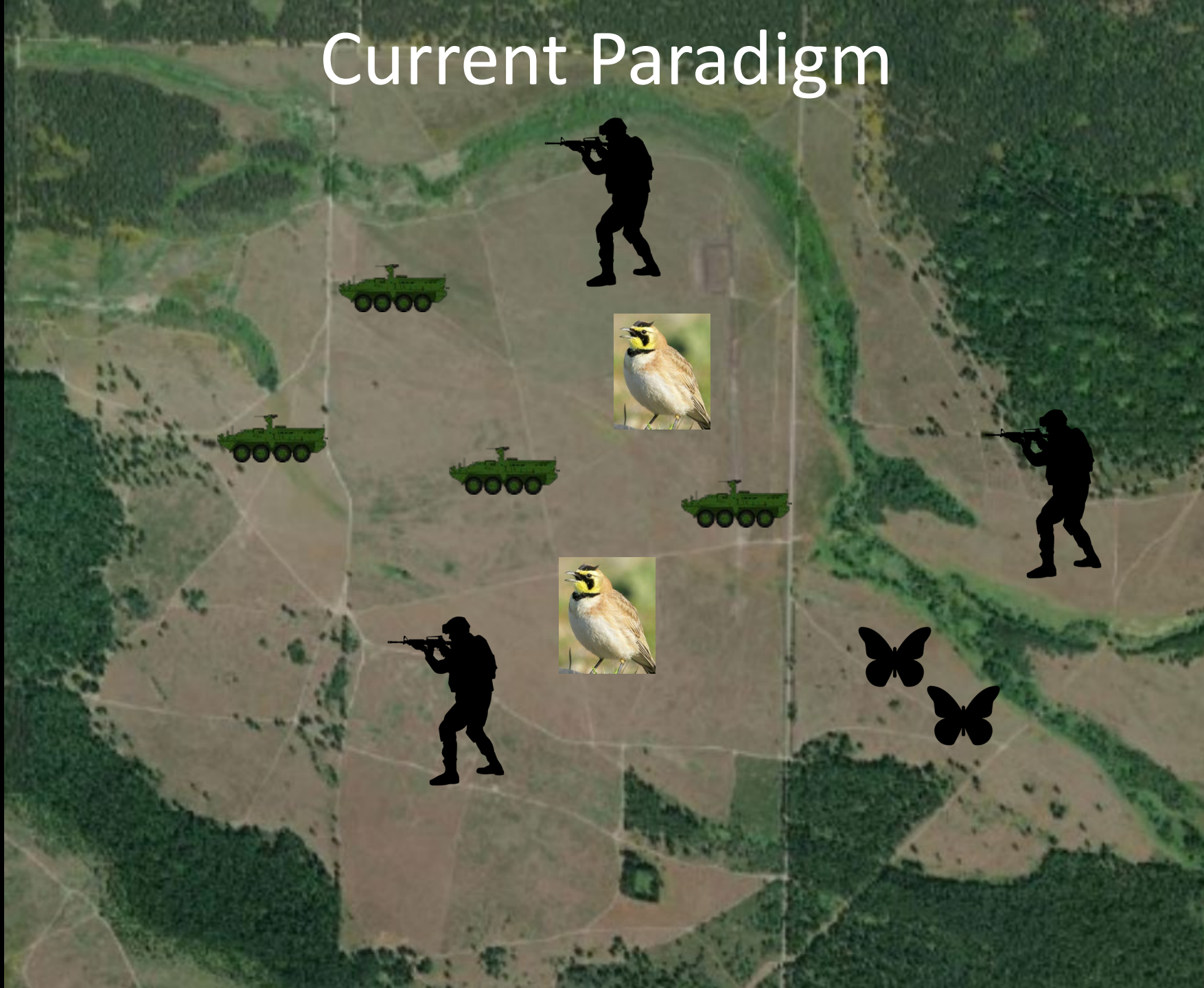
- *Must call on either trunked radio or FM radio (40.20/41.10).
- *NO cell phones unless it's a emergency and cannot reach Range Control on the radio.
- *Must call before entering impact area.
- *Must monitor radio while in the impact area.
- *Must call and let Range Control know when departing the impact area.

Dud Hazard Level

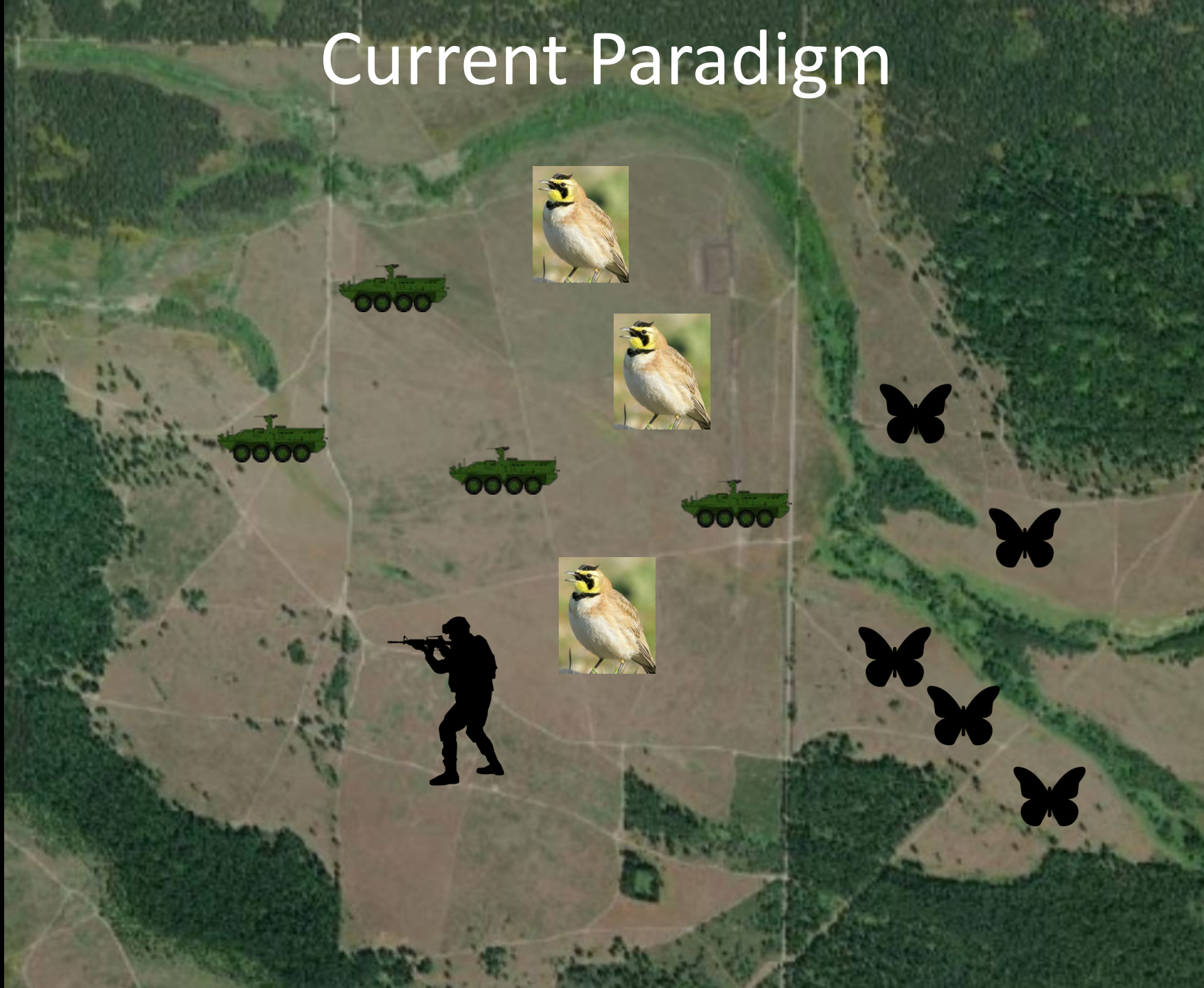
Extremely High Dud Area, Need EOD Support to go in area!!	
Moderate Dud Area, Need to be schedule to go in area	



Current Paradigm



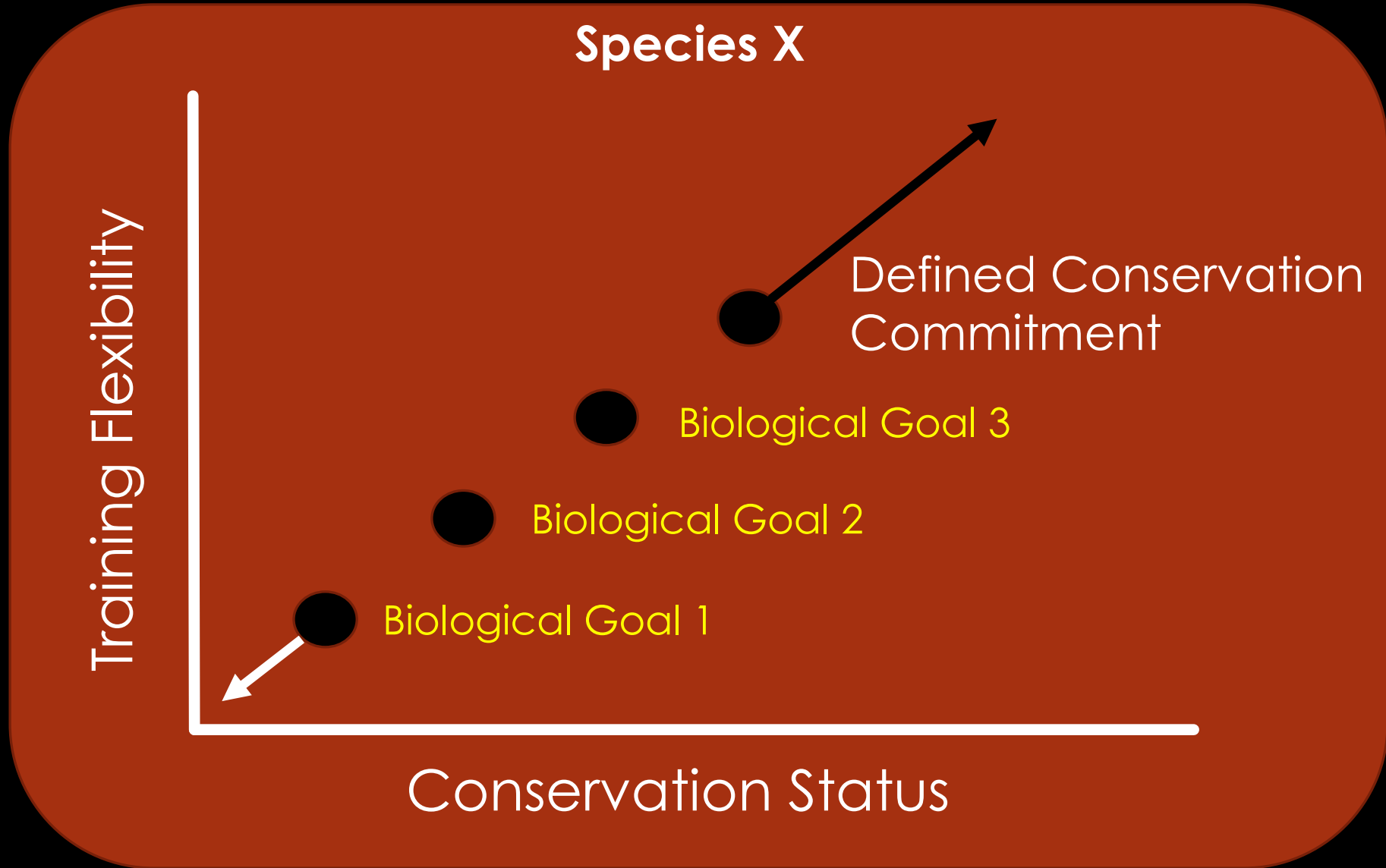
Current Paradigm



Current Paradigm



Conceptual Model for Success

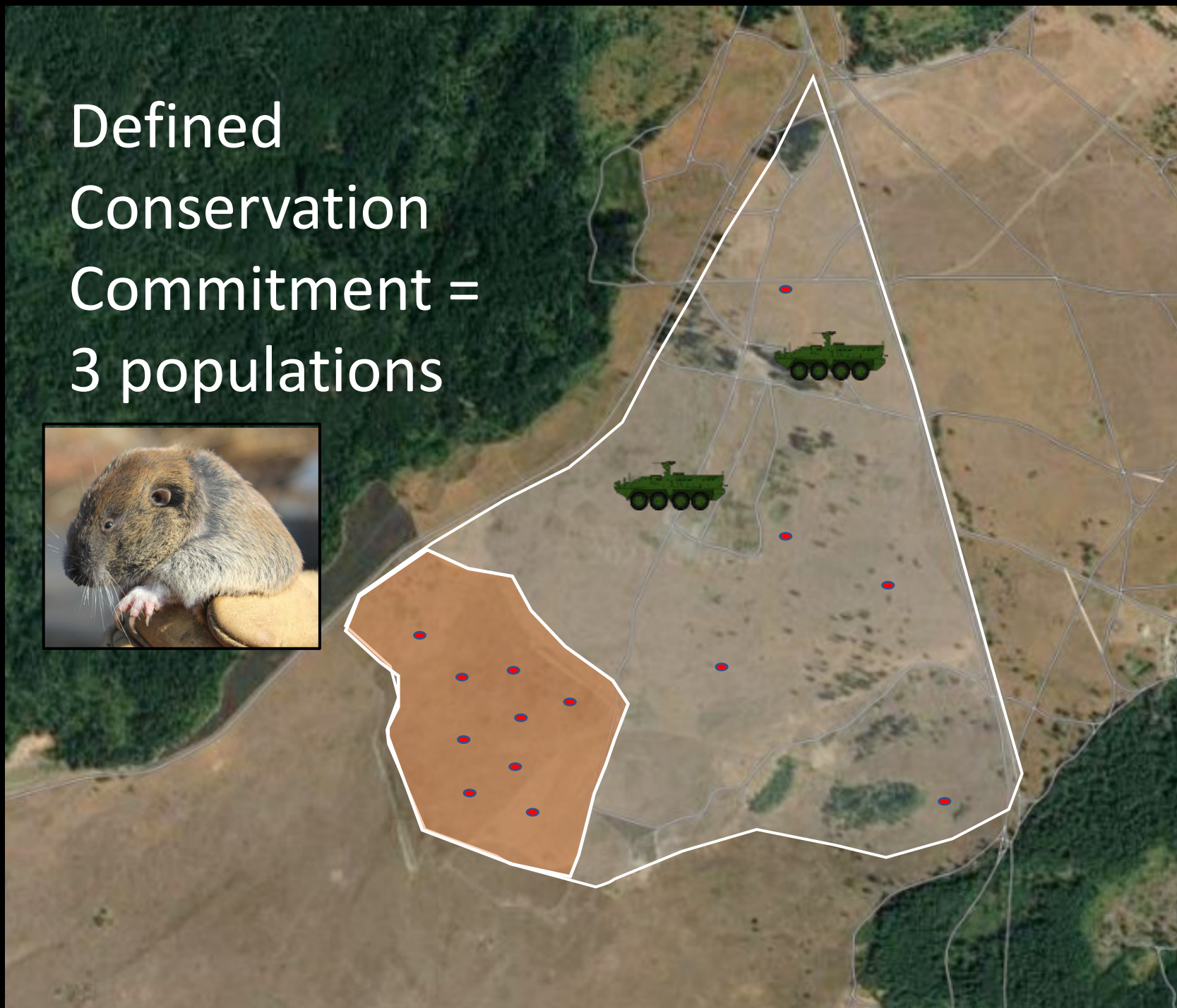




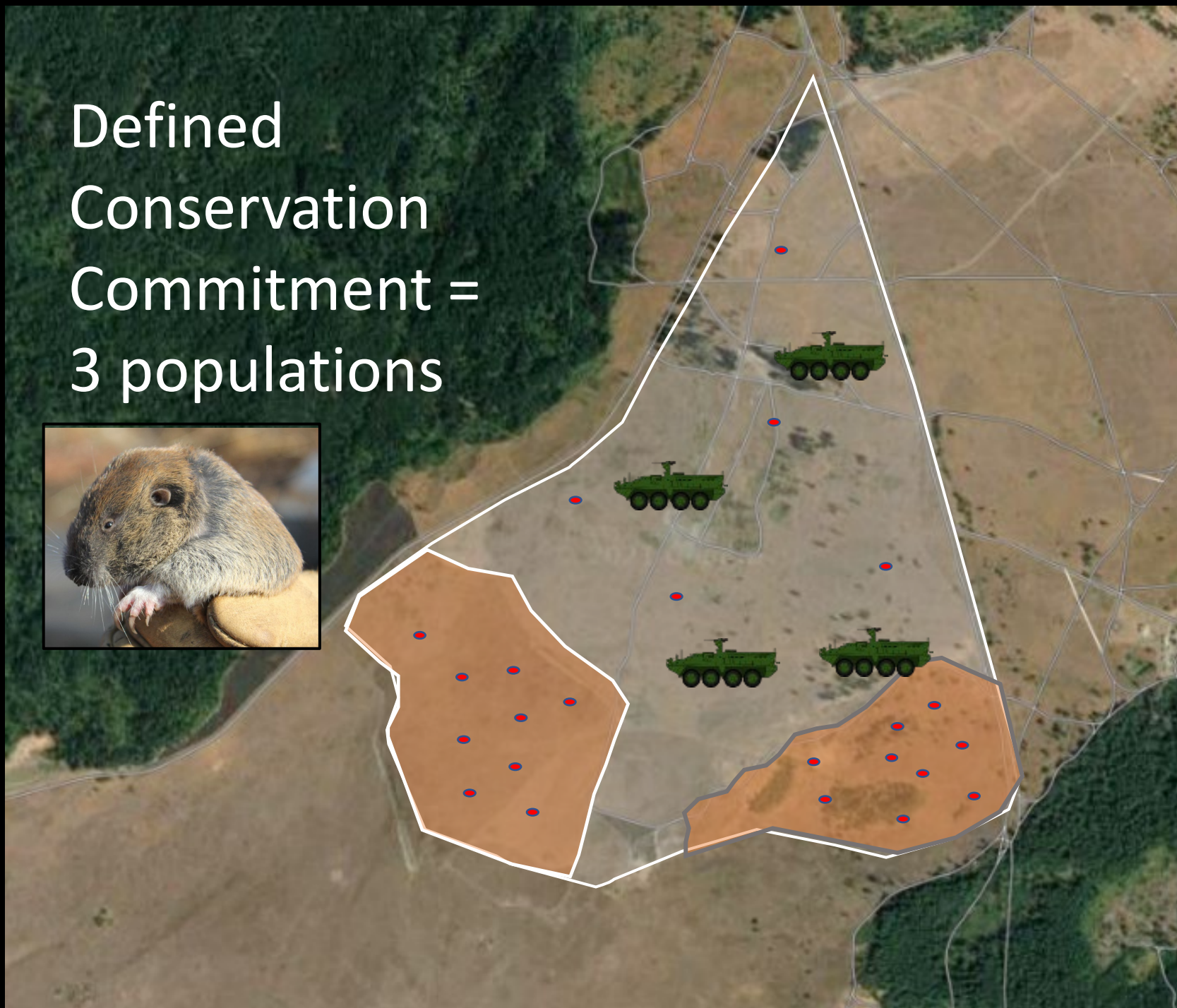
Defined
Conservation
Commitment =
3 populations



Defined
Conservation
Commitment =
3 populations



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Defined
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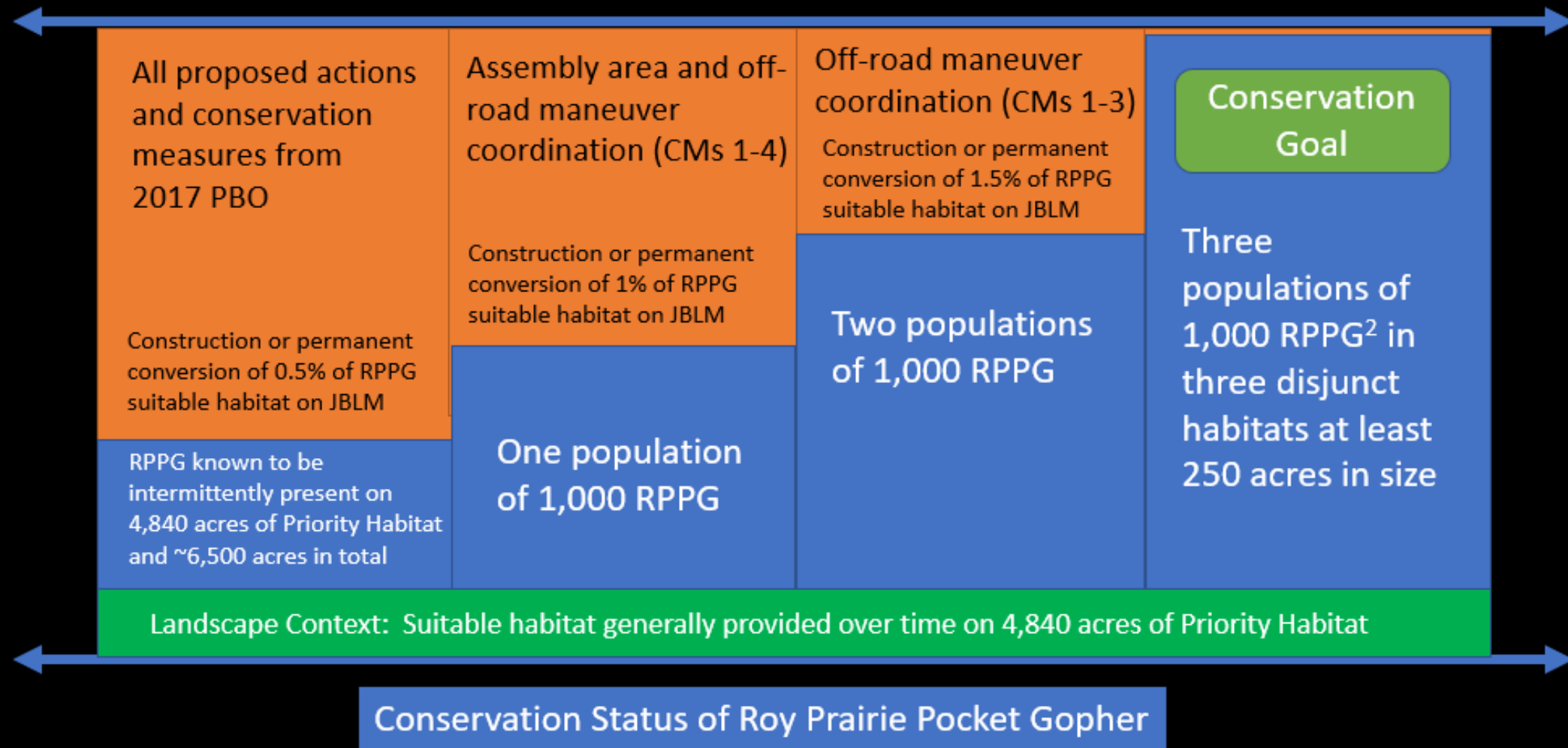


Three-Legged Race

- Provide a path forward for 5 species most likely to constrain training (plus one more)
- One multi-decade biological opinion
- Remove disincentives for conservation
- Manage for capped population goals instead of occupancy-based measures
- Leverage on-base, off-base success for interim and final regulatory relief

Roy Prairie Pocket Gopher Conservation Policy Initiative Strategy

Training Limitations and Conservation Measures¹





To be continued...