



DON Conservation Update

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Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Environment)

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Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment) Organization Chart



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Our Drivers



- Legal compliance
- Support the National Defense Strategy (NDS)
 - Conservation initiatives must support the vision and needs laid out in the NDS
 - Our competitors/adversaries excel at getting projects done quickly – we MUST be able to compete
 - Increasingly complex national security environment defined by rapid technological change
 - Challenges from adversaries in every operating domain
 - Readiness challenges from the longest continuous stretch of armed conflict in our Nation's history

“The competitions and rivalries facing the United States are not passing trends or momentary problems. They are intertwined, long-term challenges that demand our sustained national attention and commitment. There can be no complacency – we must make difficult choices and prioritize what is most important to field a lethal, resilient, and rapidly adapting Joint Force” NDS, Dec 2017

The National Defense Strategy



- Articulates DoD's strategy to compete, deter, and win in the current environment
- Strategic approach – three lines of effort
 - **Build a more lethal force**
 - Strengthen alliances and attract new partners
 - **Reform the department for greater performance and affordability**
- Good conservation supports the mission

“We must use creative approaches, make sustained investments, and be disciplined in execution to field a Joint Force fit for our time, one that can compete, deter, and win in this increasingly complex security environment.” NDS Dec 2017



Key Things on DASN (E) Radar

- NEPA reform – will impact natural resources community
 - 2-year EISs and 1-year EA's
 - New CATEXs in effect Jan 6, 2020
 - Imperative that conservation community help design projects that are “smart from the start”
- Endangered Species Act
 - Changes to ESA Regulations
 - Consultation agreement with USFWS Region 1 – It's working!
 - Recovery and Sustainment Partnership Initiative – RASP
 - Species delisting/downlisting
 - Many species action plans complete or underway
 - Still a high priority for ASN
- Push for additional conservation funding
 - “Maintenance on the car”
 - Pressure to document a return on investment
- Mission Support and Roadblocks

Revised CATEXs and Natural Resources Community



- Final rule published that addresses comments on 6 Dec 2019
- New regulations became effective on 6 Jan 2020
- Changes that apply to the Natural Resources Community:
 - Revised Extraordinary Circumstances

“Before applying a CATEX, the decision maker must consider whether the proposed action would individually or cumulatively:
(v) Involve an action that may:
(A) Have more than an insignificant or discountable effect on Federally protected species under the Endangered Species Act or have impacts that would rise to the level of requiring an Incidental Take Authorization or Letter of Authorization under the Marine Mammal Protection Act irrespective of whether one is procured;
(C) Adversely affect the size, function, or biological value of wetlands and is not covered by a general (nationwide, regional, or state) permit;”

“For actions with a documented CATEX where one or more extraordinary circumstances are present, a copy of the executed CATEX decision document (e.g., Record of CATEX or Decision Memorandum) must be forwarded for review to Navy Headquarters or Marine Corps Headquarters, as appropriate, before the action is implemented.”
 - New CATEX for Natural Resources actions (#45) – Reinstates previous #27
- Increased flexibility

If you have not read the new CATEXs – you need to!



Questions?