



Natural Resource Management

NAVAL AIR STATION CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

Environmental Division

August 2014

BIRD AIRCRAFT STRIKE HAZARD (BASH)

The BASH Program was implemented to address the aviation safety hazard associated with wildlife in and around airfields. BASH prevention is important because it can help protect wildlife as well as minimize loss of air crew, loss of air craft, and maintenance costs.



THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES



Piping Plover
(*Charadrius melodus*)

- Breeding populations winter along the South Atlantic, Gulf Coast

- Small shorebirds approximately 7 inches long
- Favor open sand, gravel, or cobble beaches for breeding
- Primary prey includes insects, various crustaceans, & occasionally bivalve mollusks

Sea Turtles – 5 Species Exist in the Gulf of Mexico:

- Kemp's Ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
- Green (*Chelonia mydas*)
- Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)
- Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

-All species of sea turtle listed above are federally listed; therefore, are protected from harm, harassment, capture, etc.

-All, excluding the Hawksbill, have nested on Texas shores in recent years.

-If seen in the water, do not approach them.

-**If seen on the beach, do not approach and contact Nancy Mitton, Natural Resources Program Mgr (961-5354).**

SENSITIVE SPECIES

Maritime Pocket Gopher (*Geomys personatus maritimus*)

- Significant zoological feature of Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC)
- Presence easily observed because of their large, fan-shaped mounds



- Natural Resource Management is working to preserve the pocket gopher's existence while minimizing its adverse effects on the facilities at NASCC.

Southern Yellow Bat (*Lasiurus ega*)

- These bats use old palm fronds to raise their young from late May to early June.
- The annual pruning of palms is performed between July and August in order to protect habitat for nesting and rearing of the young bats.



INVASIVE SPECIES

Invasive species are not native to a particular ecosystem. Their presence can threaten native ecosystems and may even harm the health of humans. Invasive species can be plants, animals, and other organisms (e.g. microbes). Invasives are transferred through numerous vectors including boats, barges, ships, vehicles, agriculture, aquaculture, nurseries, or connected waterways. Some common invasive species in this area are the Brazilian pepper tree, Guineagrass, fire ants, and starlings. To help minimize the spread of invasive plants, utilize natives for landscaping. Using native plants for landscaping will also help conserve water.

FERAL CATS



Managing domestic cat populations poses a problem for military bases. Frequent transfers of personnel often means cats are left behind and must fend for themselves. Free-roaming cats kill native wildlife, including rare and endangered species, and can also threaten the health and safety of military personnel and their children.

REDUCING FERAL CAT POPULATIONS:

- ✓ Never abandon cats. If you are transferred and can't take your cat with you, find a good home or contact a veterinarian or local humane society for help.
- ✓ Do not feed stray cats—this only increases the cat overpopulation problem.

QUESTIONS ABOUT NATURAL RESOURCES?

Nancy Mitton

961-5354