

Military training noise impacts on the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker: Preliminary results (A)

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A new three-year study has been initiated to determine the degree of impact of military training noise on the endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW). The study is being conducted on an Army installation. The study design and preliminary results from the first nesting season are presented. Noise sources of interest include artillery and tank live fire blast noise, small arms live fire noise, small arms blanks noise and artillery simulator noise that occurs during maneuver training, and helicopter noise. Response criteria include proximate responses such as flushing from a nest and fitness measures such as nesting success. The objective of the study is to determine, for each type of noise, a dose-response relation and/or response thresholds. The study includes a determination of an audiogram for woodpeckers, which will provide the basis for selecting stimulus characterization metrics that include appropriate frequency weighting and will facilitate interpretation of response data. [Work supported by SERDP.]