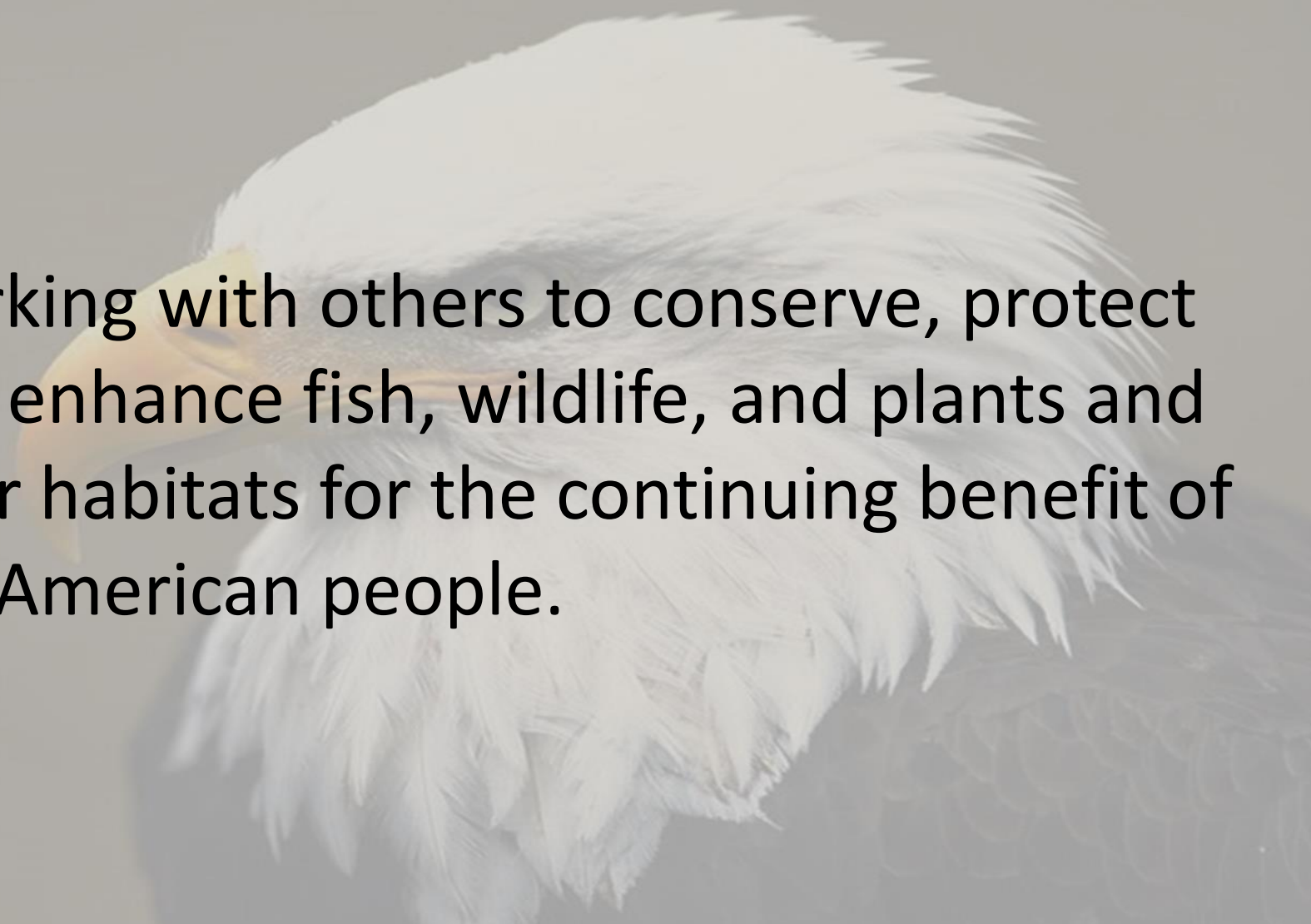


# Project Pre-Planning and Endangered Species



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# USFWS Mission Statement



Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

# 1973 Endangered Species Act

- Section 2(b): Purposes.-The purposes of this Act are to provide a means whereby the **ecosystems** upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes and treaties and conventions set forth in subsection (a) of this section.
- Gives joint authority to Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service

# Key Definitions

## *Section 3 of ESA*

**Endangered** Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.



Northern Long Eared Bat

**Threatened** Any species likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo

**Critical Habitat** Specific geographic areas essential to the conservation of a listed species.



Critical Habitat

**Take** harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or to attempt to engage in these activities.

# Federally Listed Species in OK

## Birds

- Lesser Prairie-Chicken (T)
- Piping Plover (T)
- Red-cockaded woodpecker (E)
- Red knot (T)
- Whooping crane\* (E)

## Fishes

- Arkansas River shiner\* (T)
- Leopard darter\* (T)
- Peppered Chub\* (E)
- Neosho madtom (T)
- Ozark cavefish (T)

## Insects

- American burying beetle (T)
- Monarch (C)

## Plants

- Harperella (E)



**Arkansas River shiner**



## Mammals

- Gray bat (E)
- Indiana bat (E)
- Ozark big-eared bat (E)
- Northern Long-eared bat (E)
- Tri-colored bat (PE)

## Reptiles

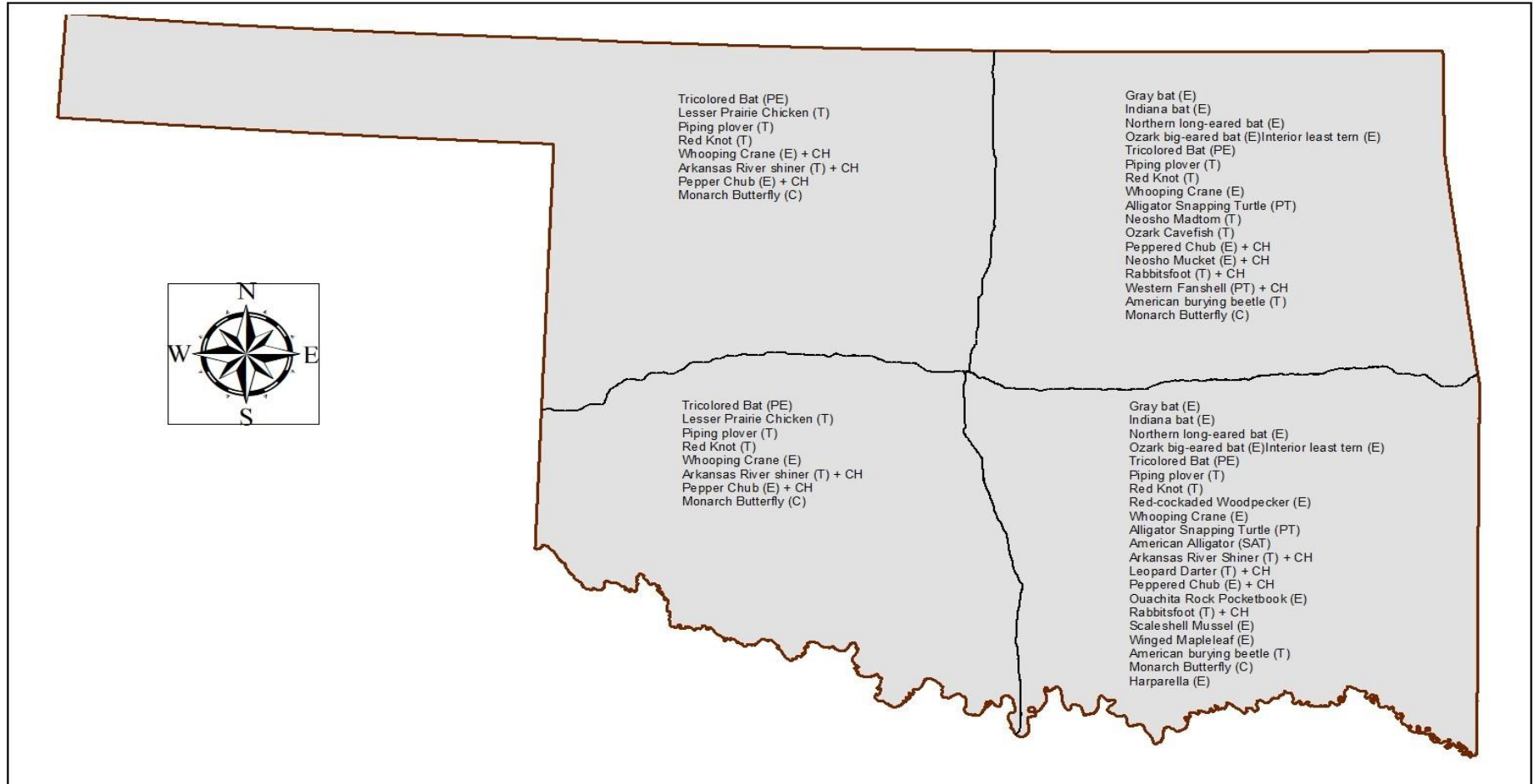
- Alligator snapping turtle (PT)
- American alligator (SAT)

## Mussels

- Ouachita rock-pocketbook mussel (E)
- Scaleshell mussel (E)
- Winged mapleleaf mussel (E)
- Neosho mucket mussel\* (E)
- Rabbitsfoot mussel\* (T)

\* Denotes Critical Habitat in Oklahoma

# Federally Listed Species by Quadrant in Oklahoma



# IPaC is a project planning tool that streamlines the USFWS environmental review process

GET STARTED

LOG IN

<https://ipac.eosphere.fws.gov/>

## Integrate the environmental review process into your project design

Quickly and easily identify USFWS managed resources and suggested conservation measures for your project.

### Explore species and habitat

See if any listed species<sup>1</sup>, critical habitat, migratory birds or other natural resources may be impacted by your project.

Using the map tool, explore other resources in your location, such as wetlands, wildlife refuges, GAP land cover, and other important biological resources.

### Conduct a regulatory review

Log in and define a project to get an official species list and evaluate potential impacts on resources managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

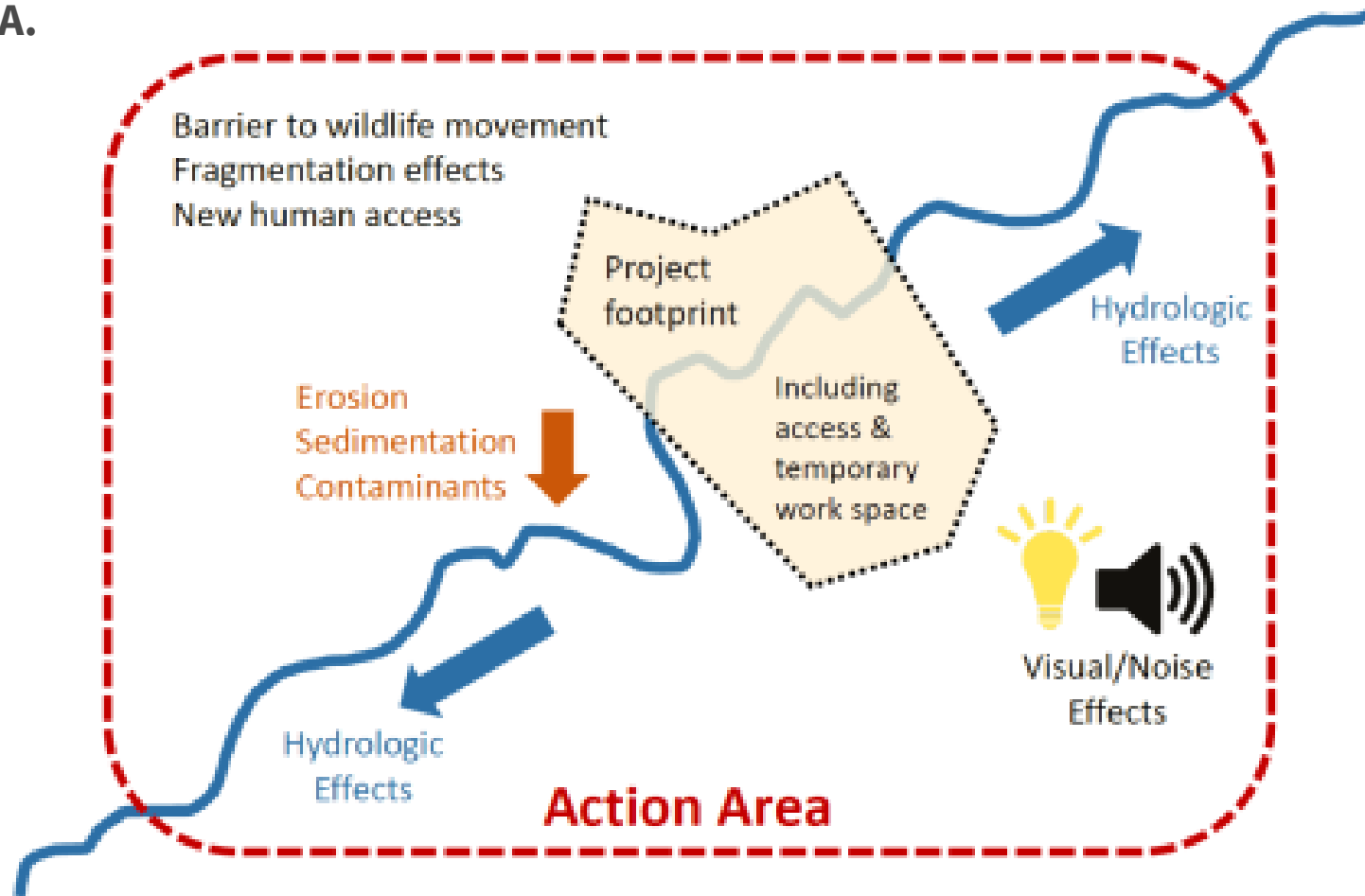
Follow IPaC's Endangered Species Act (ESA) Review process—a streamlined, step-by-step consultation process available in select areas for certain project types, agencies, and species.

### Build a Consultation Package

Consultation Package Builder (CPB) replaces and improves on the original Impact Analysis by providing an interactive, step-by-step process to help you prepare a full consultation package leveraging U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data and recommendations, including conservation measures designed to help you avoid or minimize effects to listed species.

CPB will continue to be improved over time

The action area is defined by federal regulation (50 CFR §402.02) as all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action. This analysis is not limited to the "footprint" of the action nor is it limited by the federal agency's authority. This action area will be the area referenced in all project review steps that follow. Failure to correctly define the action area as instructed will result in incorrect outcomes and may not comply with the ESA.





# Section 7 - Project Planning

<https://www.fws.gov/office/oklahoma-ecological-services/project-reviews>

## OKESFO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS

1. Informally contact OKESFO early and often as needed prior to officially submitting project review request
2. Ask for and use trust resource planning information; Use information to support development of Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation (BA/BE)
3. Reaching out early can help identify steps to avoid or minimize impacts to listed species
  1. Timing
  2. Distances
  3. Visual markers
  4. Other measures that may be more species specific
4. [OKProjectReview@fws.gov](mailto:OKProjectReview@fws.gov)

# What Are The Benefits To Early Involvement?

- Proactive vs. reactive approach to ecosystem protection
- Obtain agency and industry concerns early during the planning process
- Helps projects proceed in a timely manner. Minimizes delays in review process.
- Ensure environmental mandates are met in a comprehensive manner

# Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office

## TIPS

- Do not use species lists provided from anywhere except IPaC/ECOS
- Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence
- Project review requests are recommended to include geospatial data depicting proposed activities (ArcGIS or GoogleEarth files recommended)
- Account for petitioned, candidate and/or proposed species in biological assessments, especially for projects with long planning timelines or when regulatory deadline is expected during project implementation
- Policy and guidance changes occur; Contact OKESFO for latest information.
- Layout of ECOS and availability of subcomponents changes
- Contact us at any time for any Technical Assistance questions. We're here to help through the entire process