

# DoD and the AKN: Who, What, Where, When , Why, and How

*Air Force Training, February 7 – 8, 2003*

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[pointblue.github.io/dod\\_workshop](https://pointblue.github.io/dod_workshop)



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# Welcome, Introductions, and Logistics



# Introductions

Who are we?

Who are you? (we'll call on you)

Name, Installation, Position

What type of avian data you collect?

How would you like to use AKN?

# A few logistics

The Agenda with links (bookmark this)  
**[pointblue.github.io/dod\\_workshop](https://pointblue.github.io/dod_workshop)**

- Session: interactive & casual
- Office hours: 8 hours monthly sign up here

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/DoDAKNOfficeHours@pointblue.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

- Parking lot items



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400

ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS,  
AND ENVIRONMENT

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
(ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH)  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
(ENVIRONMENT AND MISSION READINESS)  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
(ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND INFRASTRUCTURE)

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Avian Knowledge Network Program

The Department of Defense (DoD), like other federal agencies, has significant regulatory, management, and stewardship responsibilities related to migratory birds. These requirements are driven primarily by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the "Military Readiness Rule" (50 CFR § 21.15, Authorization of take incidental to military readiness activities) and Executive Order (EO) 13186 "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds." In accordance with EO 13186, DoD has also established a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service outlining the management and stewardship activities DoD will implement for migratory bird conservation. All DoD natural resources conservation programs support DoD access to its land, air, and water resources for realistic military training and testing and to sustain the long-term ecological integrity of the resource base and the ecosystem services it provides, in accordance with the Sikes Act. Collecting data and information from ongoing surveys, inventories, and monitoring are essential to make informed management decisions, efficiently and effectively meet regulatory requirements (e.g., the MBTA, the Sikes Act), conduct environmental analyses, and support planning to adaptively manage migratory bird populations in the context of mission activities. As such, the DoD spends millions of dollars annually to collect these data.

However, even with the collection of large amounts of data, DoD faces significant challenges to fully utilize and optimize our avian data. These challenges include: (1) inefficient access to data for regulatory requirements, environmental analyses, and planning; (2) a lack of visibility on avian species population trends and management across the Military Services and broader landscapes; and (3) a lack of a centralized, secure data repository resulting in data loss during personnel turnover.

To address these challenges, DoD began partnering with other federal agencies (i.e., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service) in the development of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) in 2016. The AKN is a national clearinghouse for avian data and decision support tool for assessing bird population health, status and trends, specific stressors, and conservation measures. The AKN connects partner datasets, includes metadata and data assumptions, contains powerful data analysis tools, and is a permanent archive of all data records.

# DoD Mandate Memo



This office fully endorses the use of AKN and requests that each DoD Component utilize AKN to the maximum extent practicable and provide staff the support needed to make AKN the best tool for DoD. A coordinated and comprehensive approach to implement DoD's participation in the AKN will directly support the military mission and improve the quality and effectiveness of bird conservation on DoD installations. For DoD to fully employ the power of AKN, user training and significant initial data management is required. This office, through the DoD Legacy Resource Management Program, is committed to providing baseline support and resources to help implement AKN. This support will provide training and education for personnel, and technical assistance related to system use and data management. The DoD AKN Director is Ms. Elizabeth Neipert, at [elizabeth.s.neipert@erde.dren.mil](mailto:elizabeth.s.neipert@erde.dren.mil) or 907-201-6244.

Additionally, a national Cooperative Agreement has been established to support AKN implementation. It provides a streamlined process for DoD Components and installations to contribute additional resources to meet their unique needs.

The point of contact for this office is Ms. Liz Galli-Noble, DoD Senior Natural Resources Program Manager and Legacy Resource Management Program Manager, [elizabeth.j.galli-noble.civ@mail.mil](mailto:elizabeth.j.galli-noble.civ@mail.mil) or 406-581-8148

KIDD RICHARD GO Deputy signed by  
ODWIN IV 1163856 11/20/2024 11:29:54 -0400  
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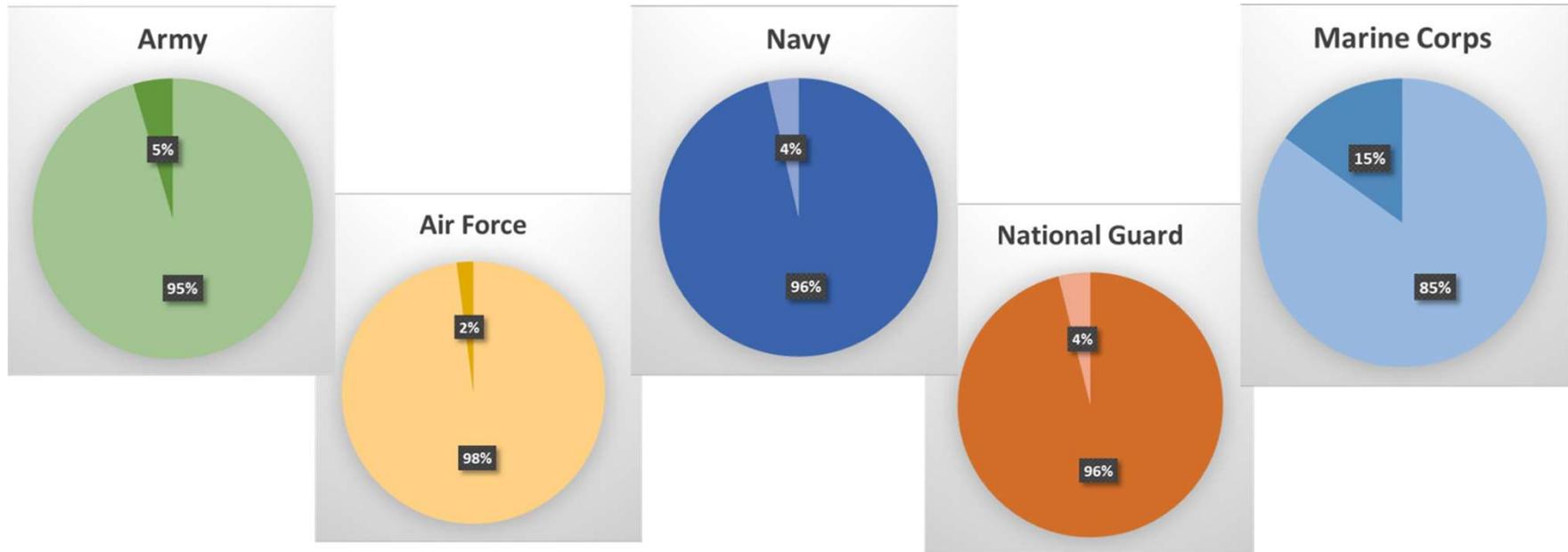
Richard G. Kidd IV  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Environment and Energy Resilience)



# Military Service Progress

**341 installations that require Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans**

**146 Army, 82 Navy, 96 Air Force, 17 Marine Corps installations plus 54 National Guard states/territories**



# Can you log in?

Biologists:

[data.pointblue.org/science/biologists](https://data.pointblue.org/science/biologists)

*Problems logging in?*

Best to find a buddy or  
have one of us help.

# Limitations and caveats

Focus today: Point Count data

Office hours are where we can dig deeply into your installation's specific issues.

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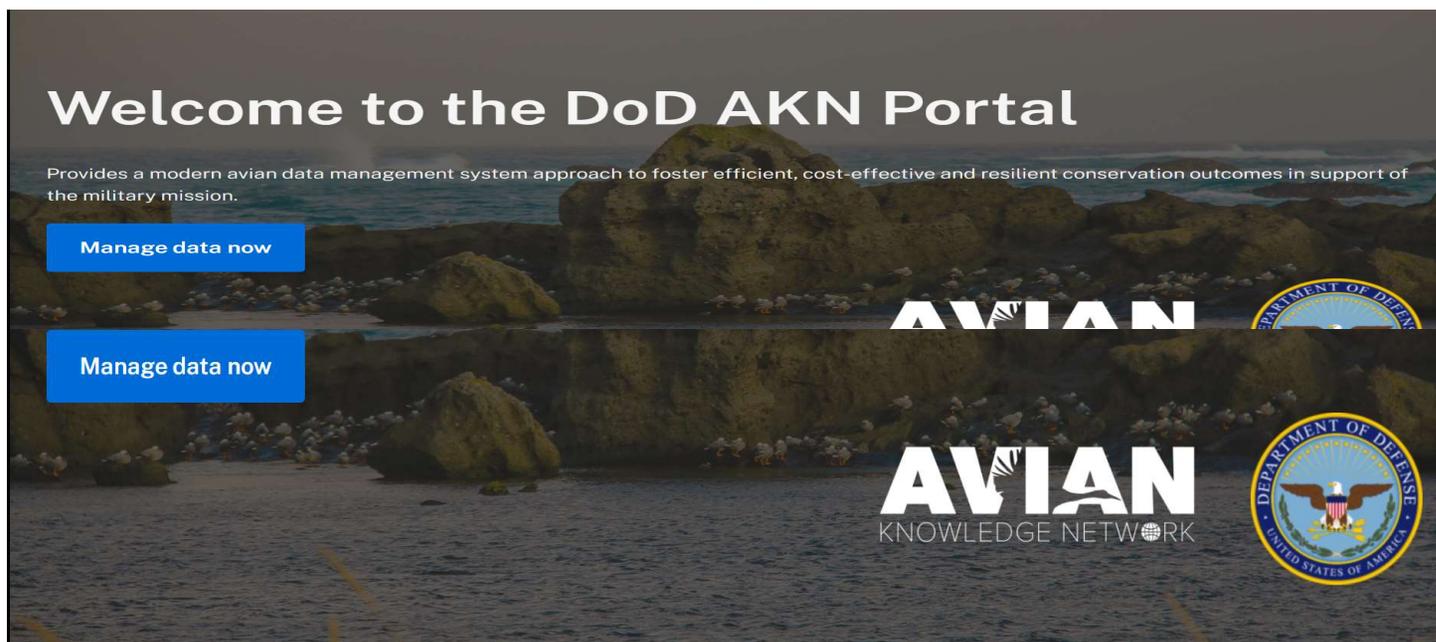


# AKN Project Data 101

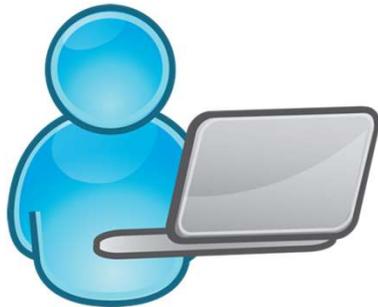


# DoD AKN Portal

<https://www.dodakn.org/>



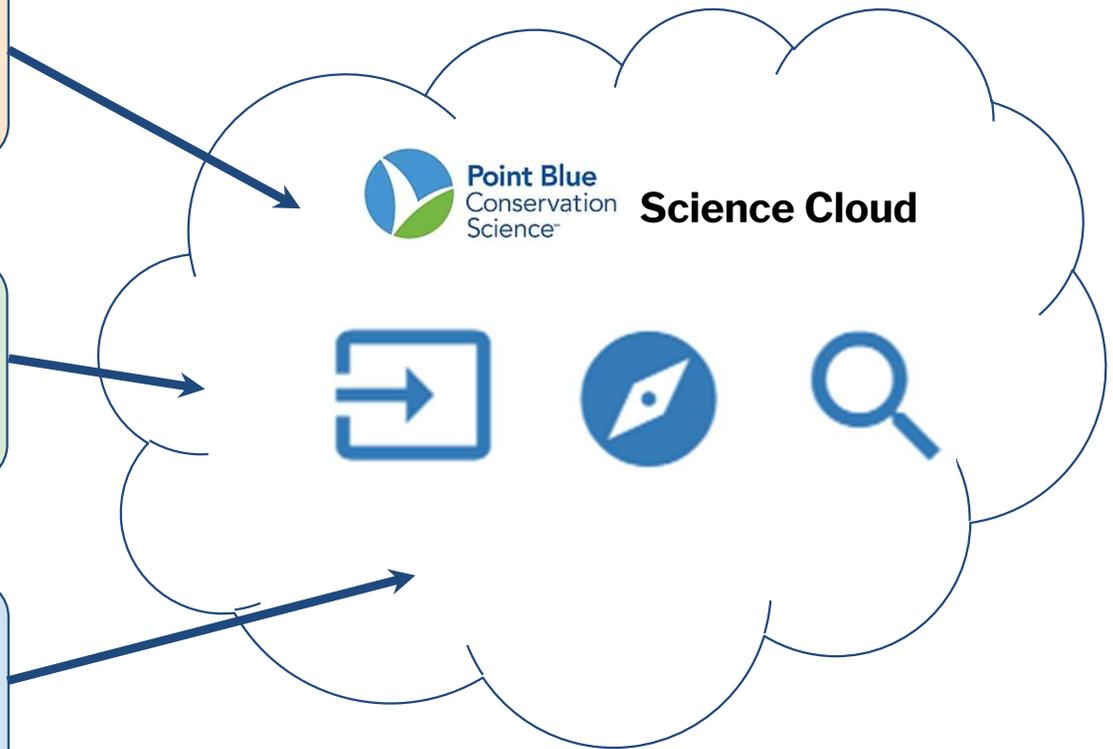
# AKN: common cloud technology



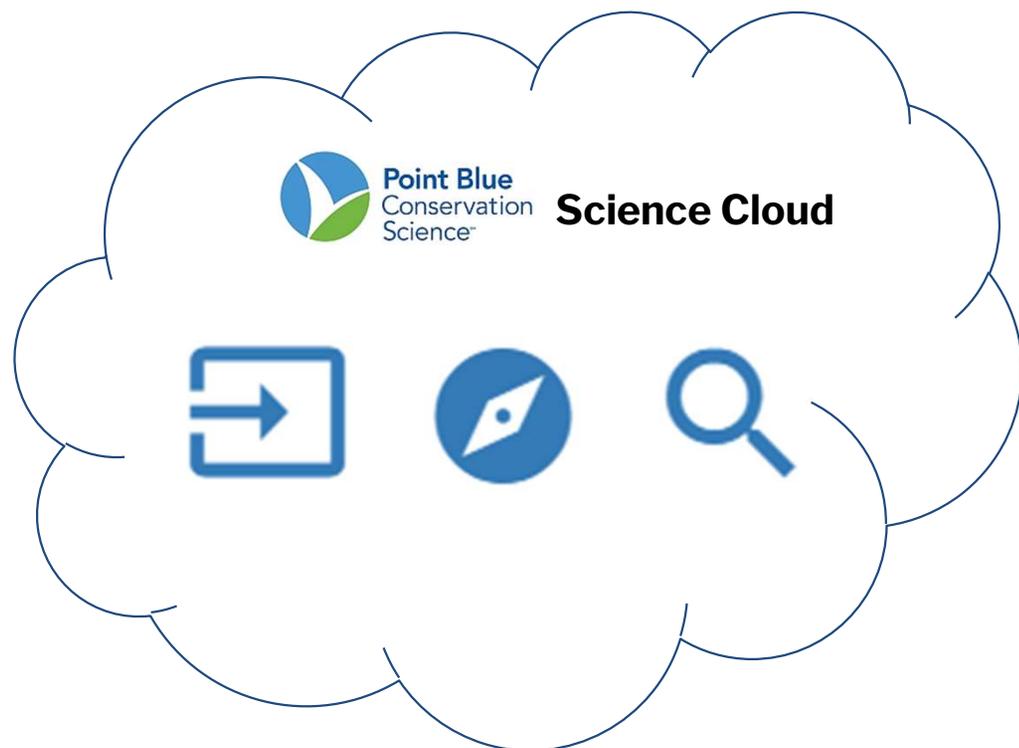
**Federal Avian  
Data Center**

**Avian  
Knowledge  
Northwest**

**Borderlands  
Avian Data  
Center**



# Focus for this training



How do we represent protocol-based science?

How do you get data in?

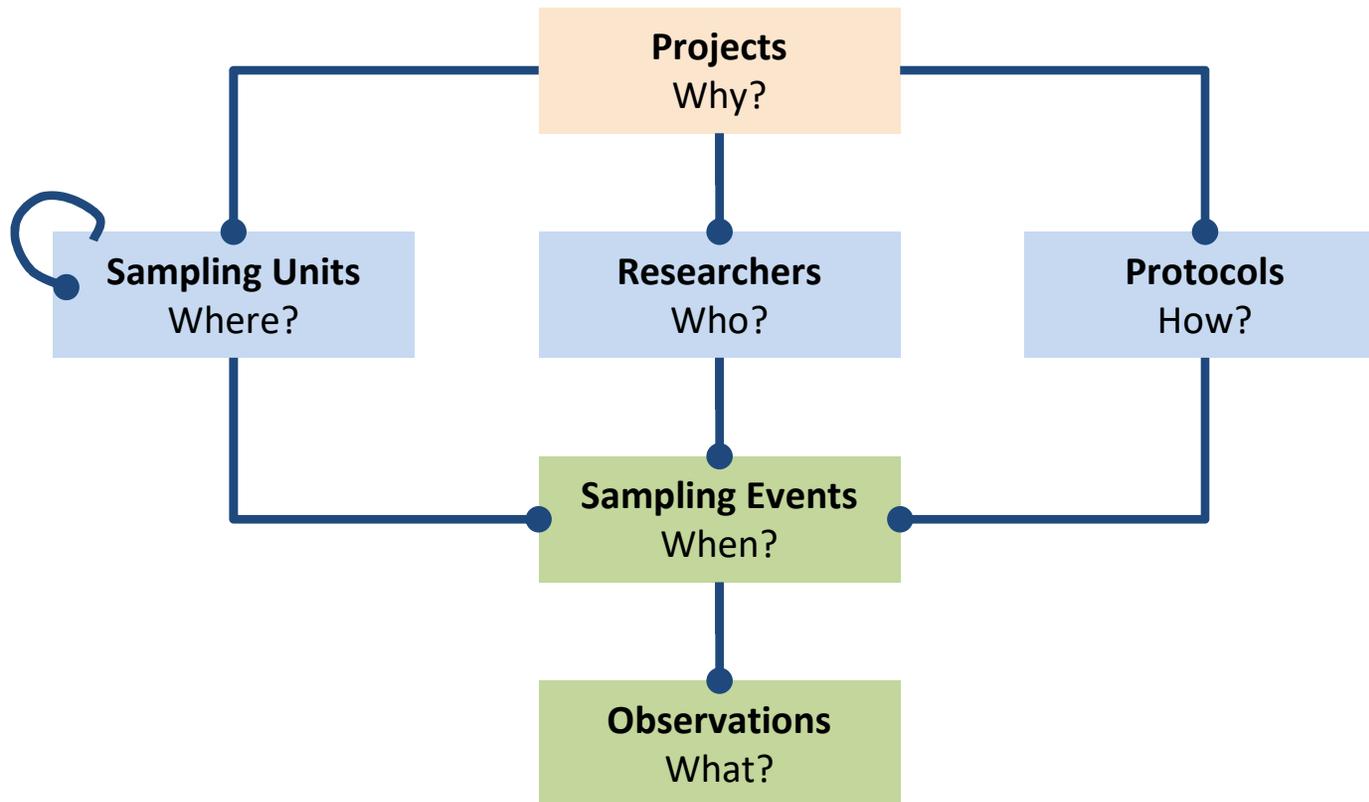
How do you get your data & information out?

What conservation questions can you answer?

# **AKN Project Data 101**

1. The parts of a Project Database
2. The workflow for creating a Project

# The Project Database



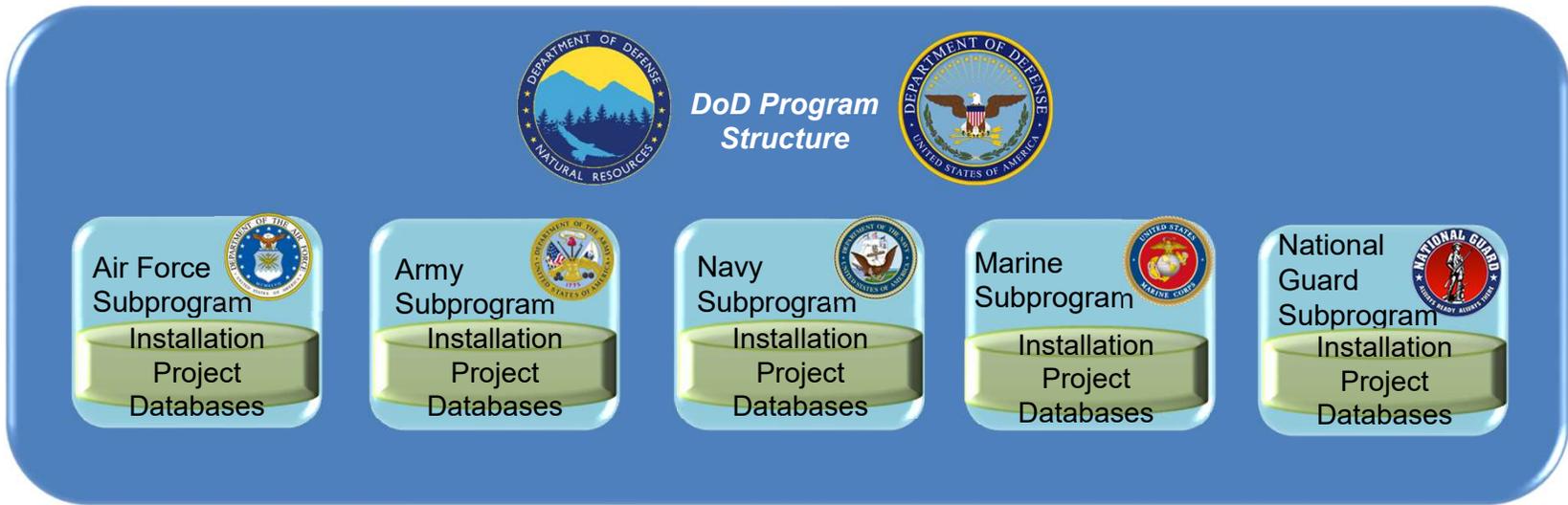
# Project

Container for Event and Observation data

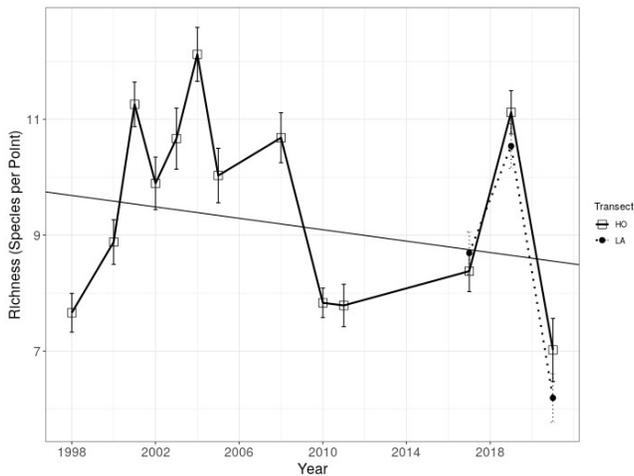
Many ways to organize

For DoD: Project = Installation

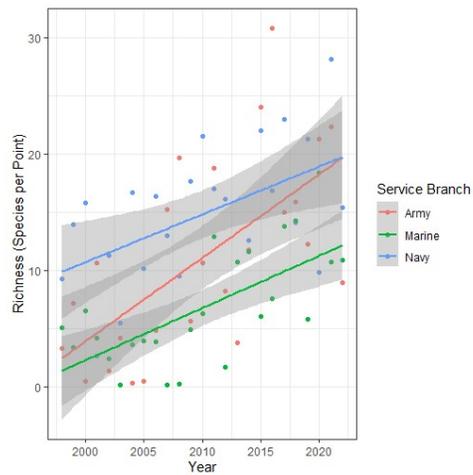
Projects  
Why?



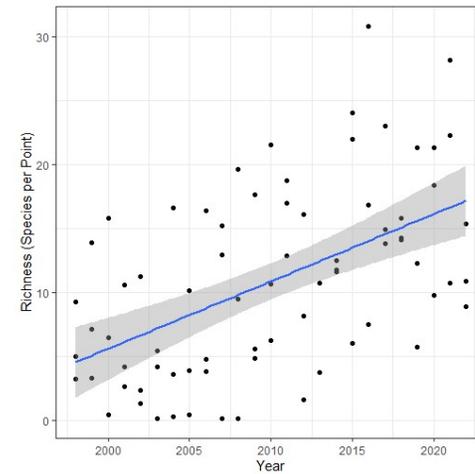
Vandenberg Space Force Base Project Riparian Richness



Service Branch Program Riparian Bird Richness



DoD Program Riparian Bird Richness



# Protocols

The *metadata* describing the methods and mechanics of how observations were collected

Should provide enough information for researcher 20 years from now to understand the methods you used

Protocols  
How?

# Primary Protocol Types



Area Search



Point Count



Linear Transect



Secretive Marshbird



Site Conditions

**Protocols**  
How?

# Point Count Protocols

**Duration** of survey at each point

**Time** (binned)

**Distance** (binned or exact), maximum

**Detection** codes

Can include **breeding behavior**

Assumed **exhaustive** survey

Each animal **counted once**

# Point Count Protocol Examples

Compare how 3 field methodologies represented

[Knutson \(USFWS\) protocol](#)

[Point Blue protocol](#)

[KBO protocol](#)

**Protocols**  
How?

# Sampling Units

The locations where observations are collected

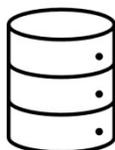
Organized into a tree (hierarchy)

Uniquely named with Project

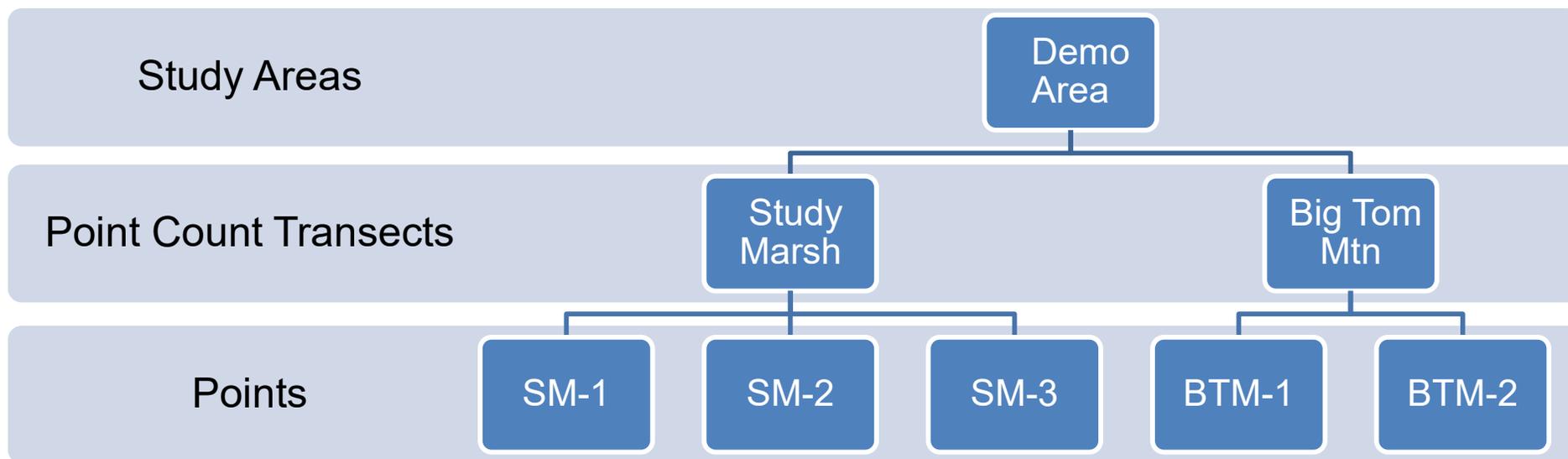
Can have Point/Line/Polygon



# Sampling Unit Types for Point Counts



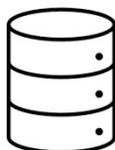
Project: DOD\_DEMO



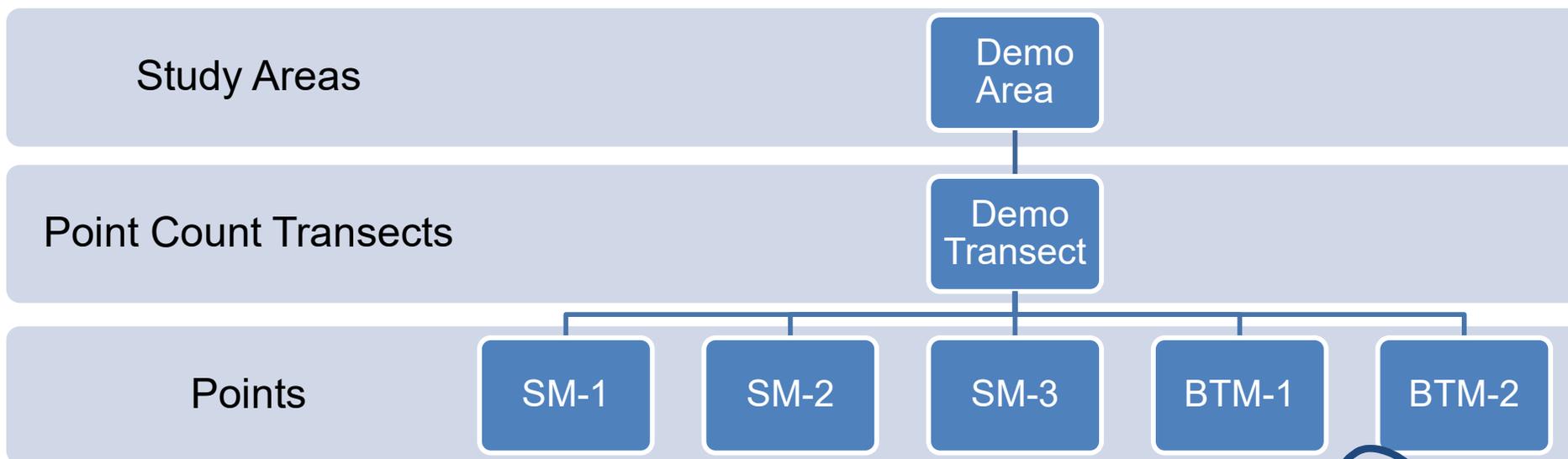
Replicates or independent points?  
What questions are you asking?

Sampling Units  
Where?

# Sampling Unit Types for Point Counts



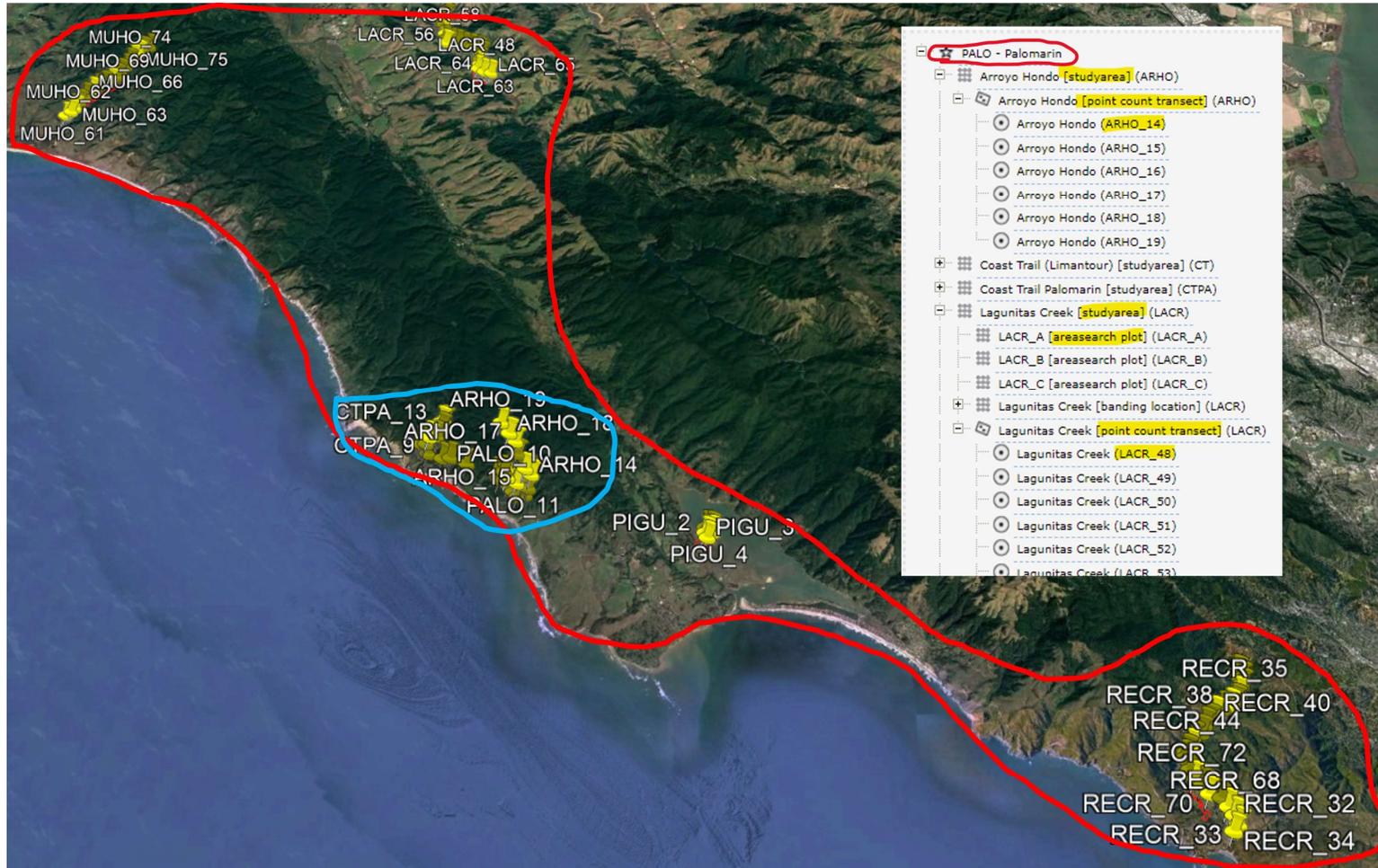
Project: DOD\_DEMO



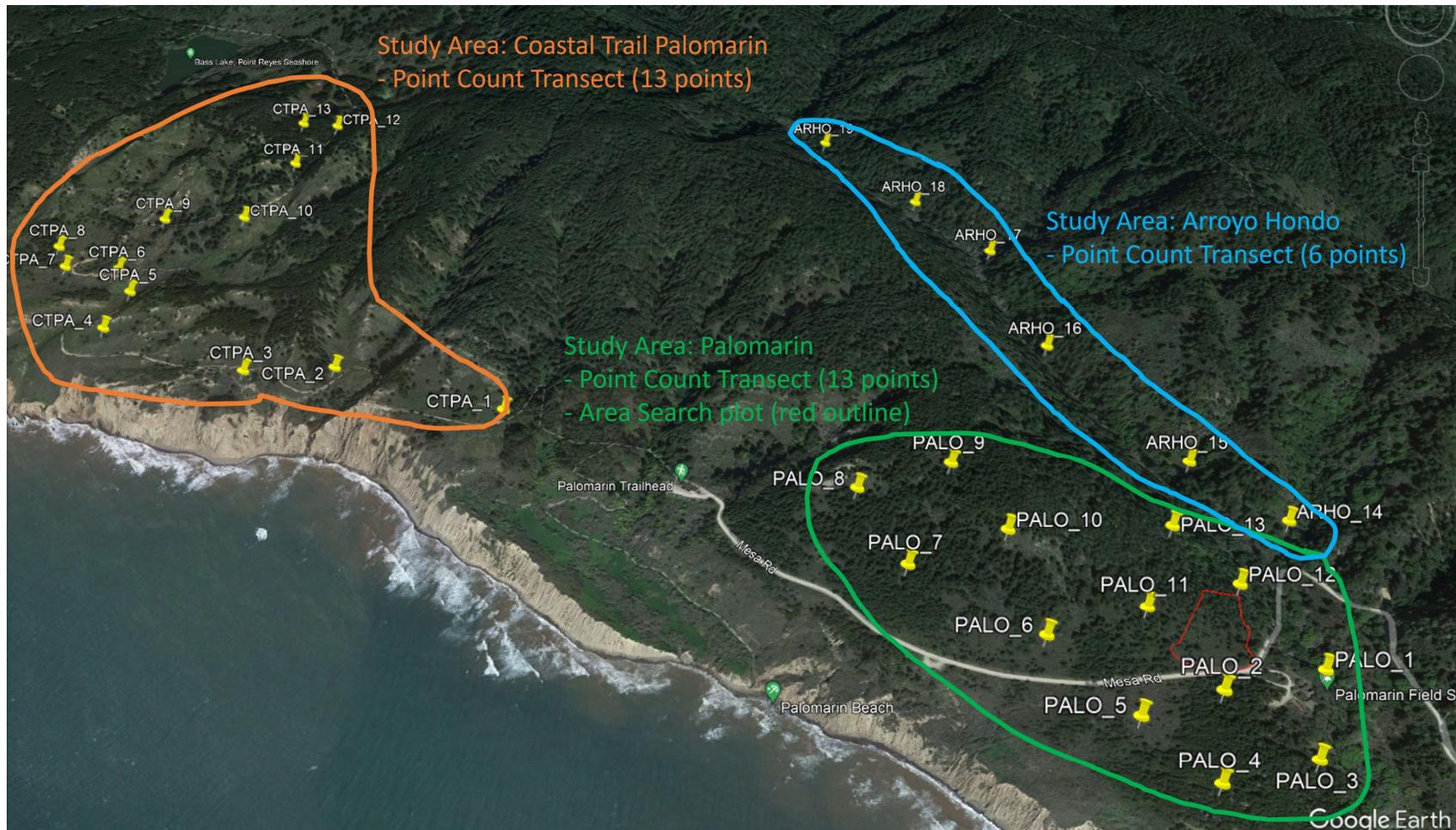
Replicates or independent points?  
What questions are you asking?

Sampling Units  
Where?

# Sampling Unit Types for Point Counts



# Sampling Unit Types for Point Counts



# Researchers

People identified in a Project for getting access and/or who made observations

Created by user registration (for active users) or manual entry (for historical data)

Researchers  
Who?

# Researcher Types

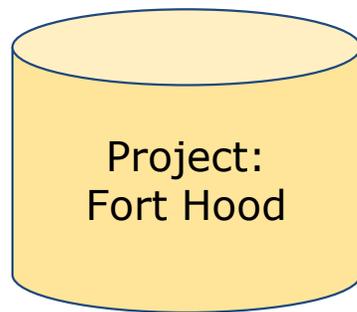
**Project Leader:** the data owner, has full control over data, metadata, and who gets Project access

**Biologist:** can enter and review data in the Project

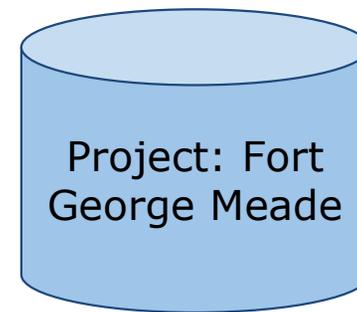
Researchers  
Who?

# Researchers & Project Access

Access Project assigned by Project Leader



Jane: Project Leader  
Mike: Biologist  
**Pat**: Biologist

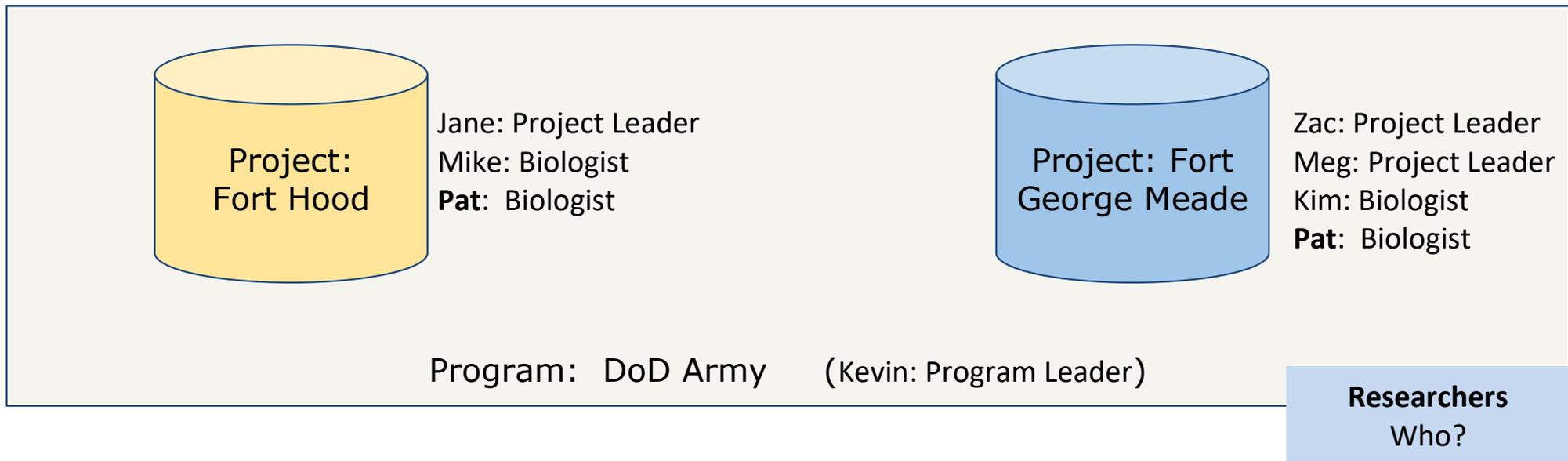


Zac: Project Leader  
Meg: Project Leader  
Kim: Biologist  
**Pat**: Biologist

**Researchers**  
Who?

# Researchers & Project Access

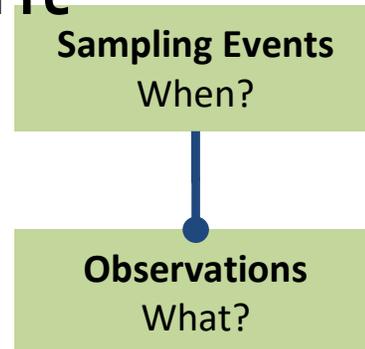
DoD will also have a Program Leader (managed by Point Blue staff w/ guidance from DoD leadership)



# Sampling Events and Observations

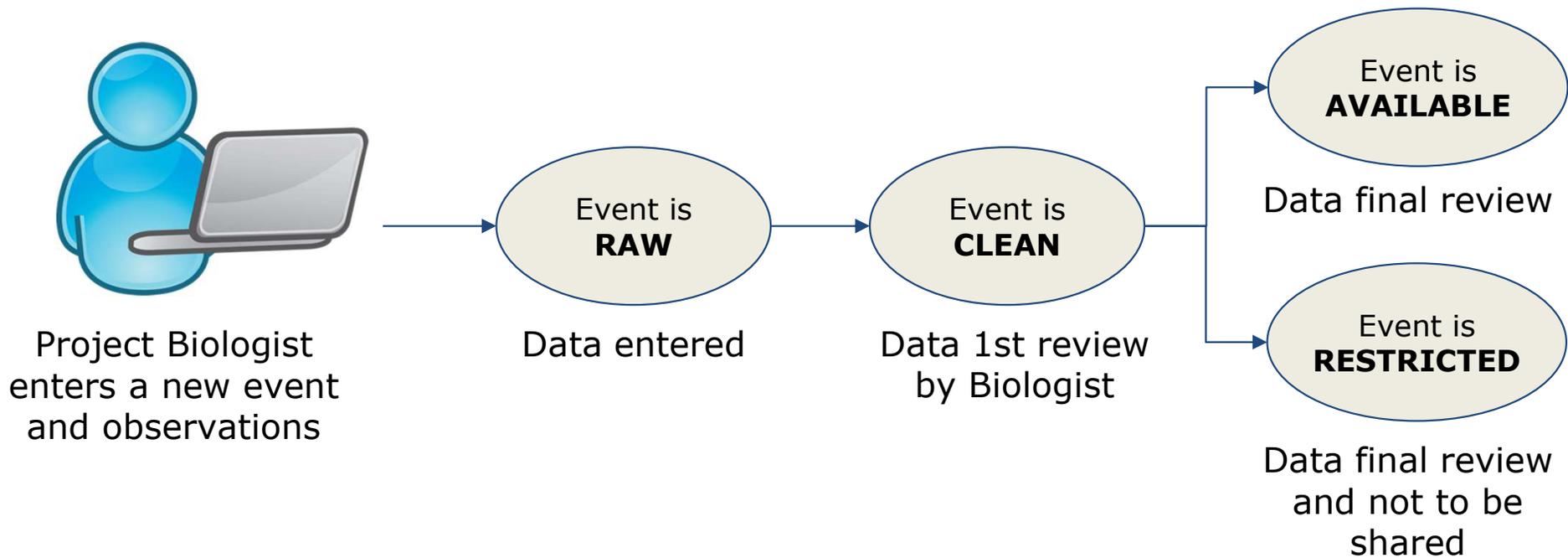
Event: survey at a Sampling Unit using a Protocol by Researcher at a specific date and time

Observation: one or more individuals of a single species detected during an Event

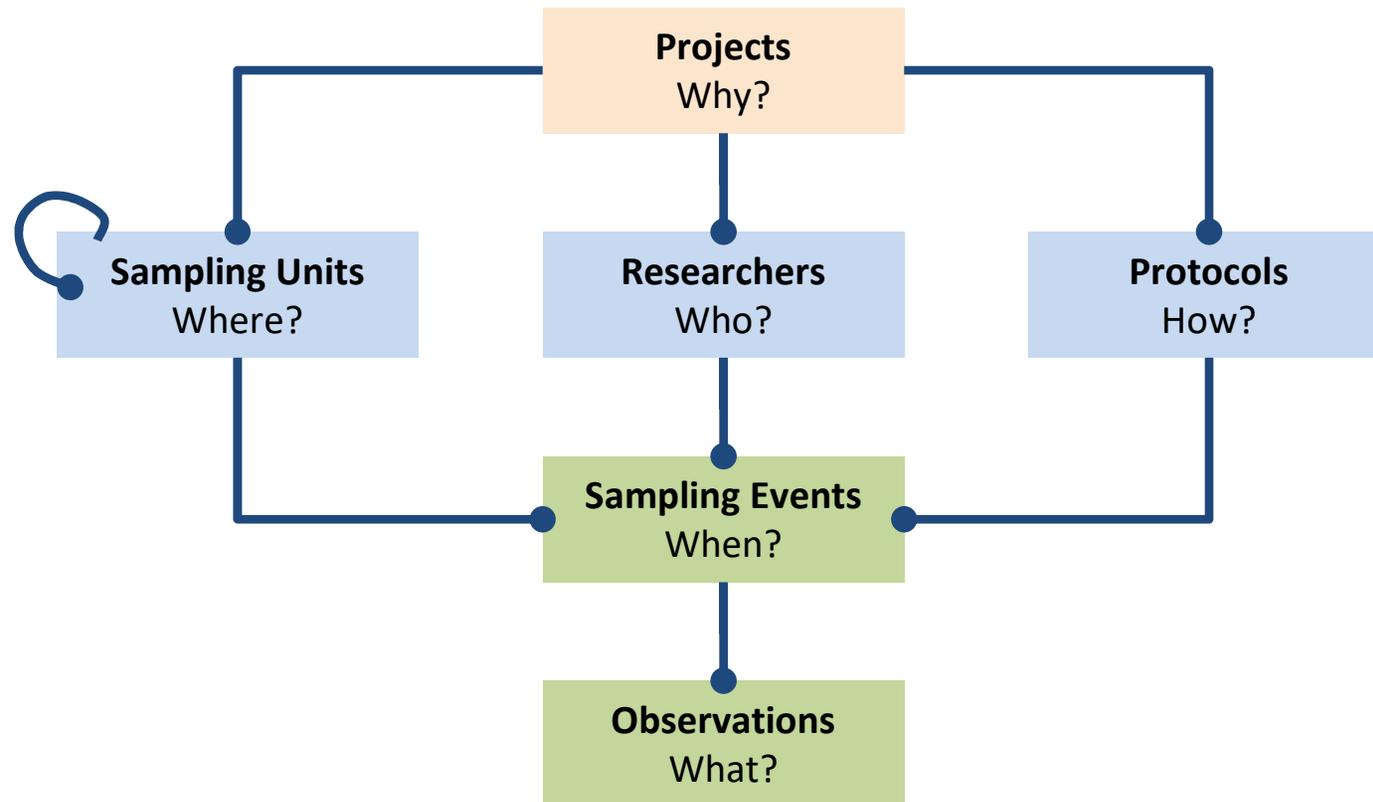


# Review Levels for each Event

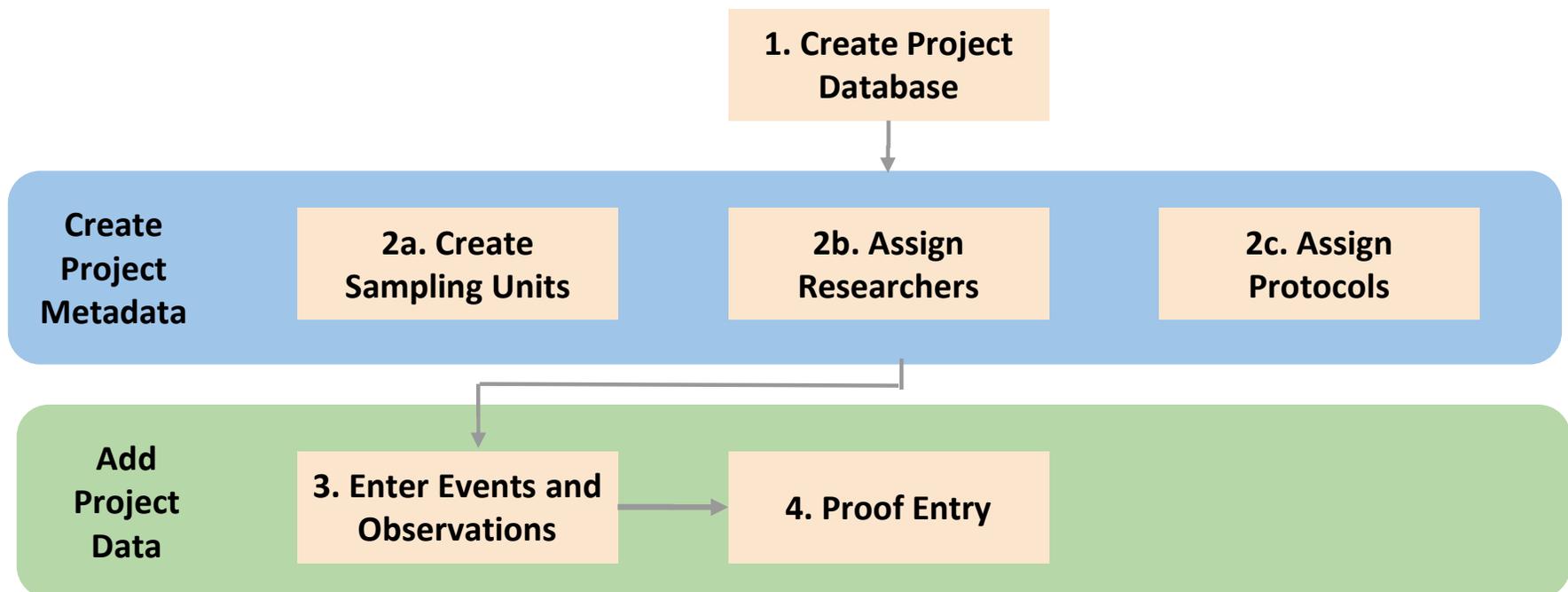
Steps to enter and review data in preparation for sharing



# Questions on Project Database?



# Workflow for Creating a Project



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# Creating Project Metadata

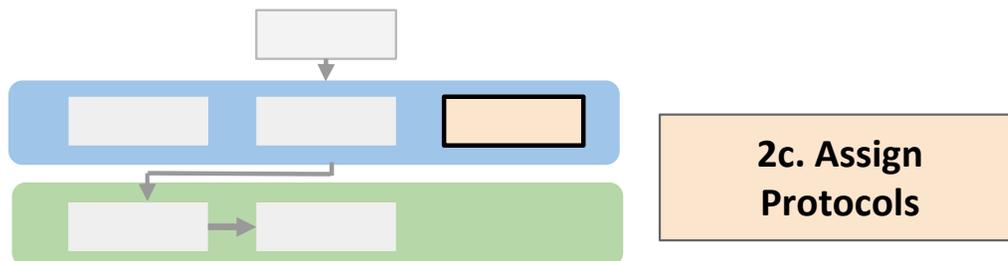


# Choosing Protocols (demonstration)

Goal: select Point Count and Site Conditions protocols that match data sheet

Tools:

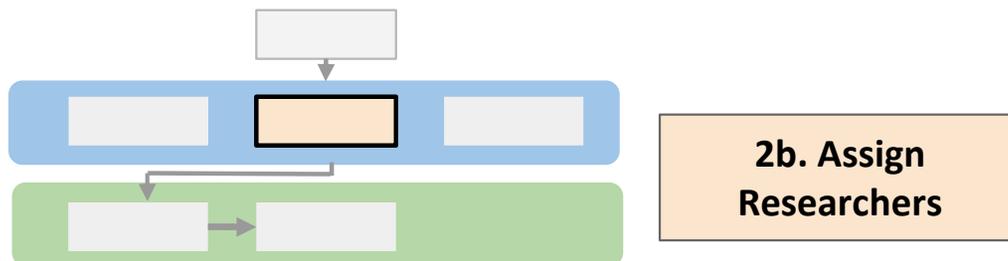
- [Our data sheet](#)
- [Protocol search tool](#)
- [Biologists](#) for adding protocol to project



# Adding Researchers (demonstration)

Tools:

- [Biologists](#) for adding researchers to Project



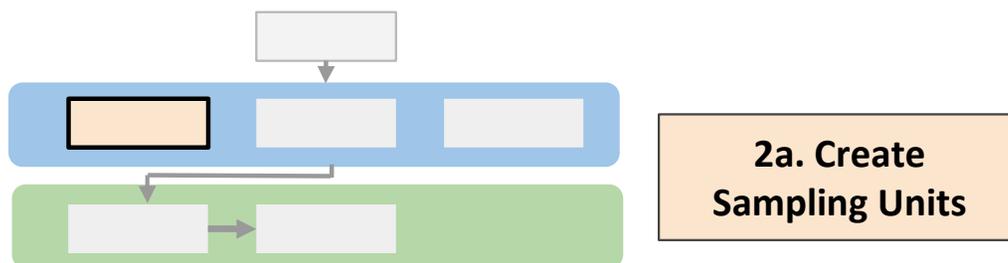
# Create Sampling Units (Exercise 1 and demonstration)

Exercise:

- [Exercise 1 instructions](#)

Downloading the sampling units:

- [Biologists](#) for download locations to GPS, GIS and more



# Break (15 mins)

---

# Entering observation data to a Project



# Enter & proof point count event (Exercise 2)

Exercise:

- [Exercise 2 instructions](#)
- okay not to follow data sheet exactly



# Download Point Count Data from Project (demonstration)

Tools:

- [Biologists](#) for download observations from our Project

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# Bulk loading metadata & observation data into a Project



# **Bulk Loading Data**

Loading spreadsheet data into the Project Database for loading Researchers, Sampling Units, and Observations

Observations: Uses definition file to describe how your spreadsheet maps into AKN

# Batch Processing

## Bulk Uploader v2 - Beta

Follow the steps below to load data in bulk into your project.

First, select the Project you want to bulk load into

FORT\_HOOD - IDOD\_ARMY| Fort Hood

Next, select the Tool you want to use

Each tool independently does a task that helps you bulk load data into your project. Many of the tools process data in batches. Batch processing results can be found in the Batches tool.

Add Researchers   Add Sampling Units   Add Observations   Add Protocol   **Batches**

Results:

### Batches for project FORT\_HOOD

The table is showing all batches for this project. Click on a row to get the batch result details when St

Save as CSV   Refresh list

ID	Utility	Status	Status Detail
455	AddSamplingUnits	success	batch completed successfully
454	AddSamplingUnits	error	batch completed with errors
453	AddObservations	success	batch completed successfully
452	AddObservations	error	batch completed with errors
451	AddObservations	error	batch completed with errors
450	AddObservations	error	batch completed with errors
449	AddObservations	error	batch completed with errors
448	AddObservations	error	batch completed with errors

Results:

Errors:

Error line 744: Value not allowed for weatherwinddirectioncardinal: East Northeast  
Error line 1055: The count field is required.

Add Observations Summary: CSV Rows Reviewed: 1054

Batch ID 451  
AddObservations  
plimptonc@gmail.com

Results:

Add Observations Summary: CSV Rows Reviewed: 1054, New PointCount Events created: 217, New PointCount Observations created: 1045, New PointCount SiteConditionEvents created: 217, New PointCount SiteConditionProperties created: 1207

# Bulk load sampling units (Exercise 3)

Exercise:

- [Exercise 3 instructions](#)
- Purpose to become familiar with the Bulk Uploader tool and use it to create multiple sampling units at once.
- okay not to follow instructions exactly



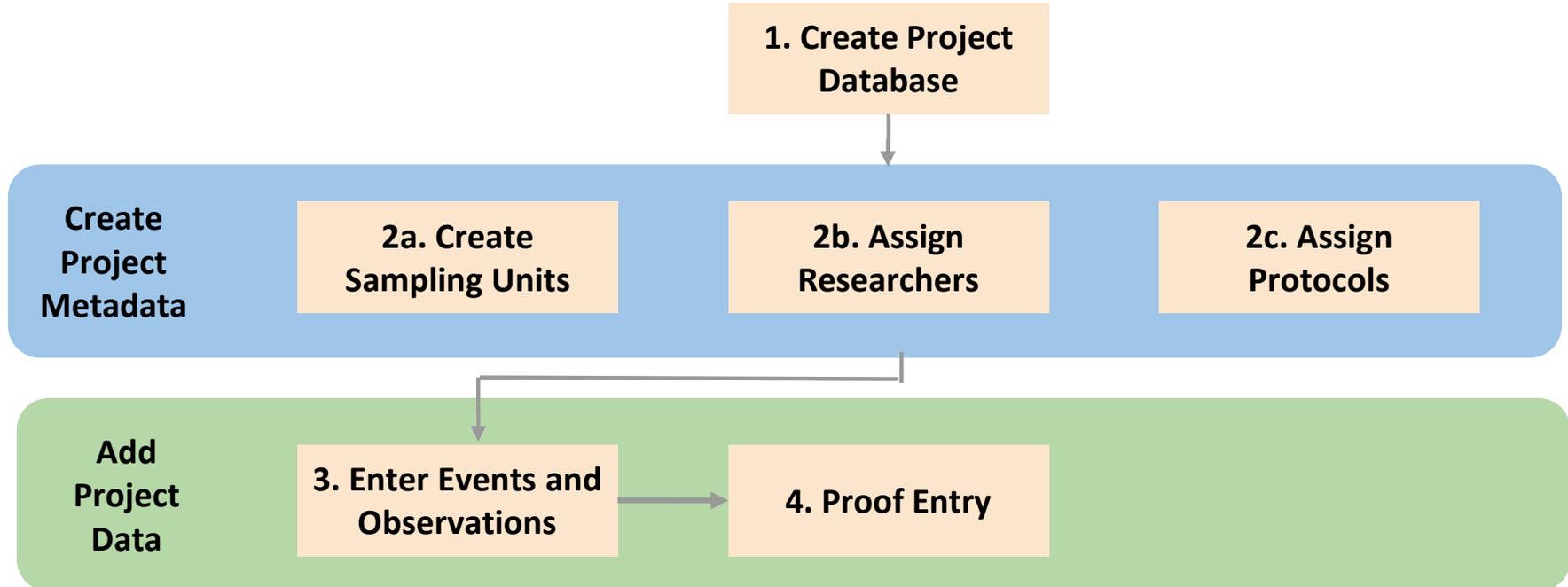
# Office Hours

Discuss bulk loading and other issues regarding **your** observation data

Sign up here:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/DoDAKNOfficeHours@pointblue.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>

# Any questions on Creating a Project?



# What's Next For You?

Demonstration of end-to-end process to register a new user

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# End of Day 1



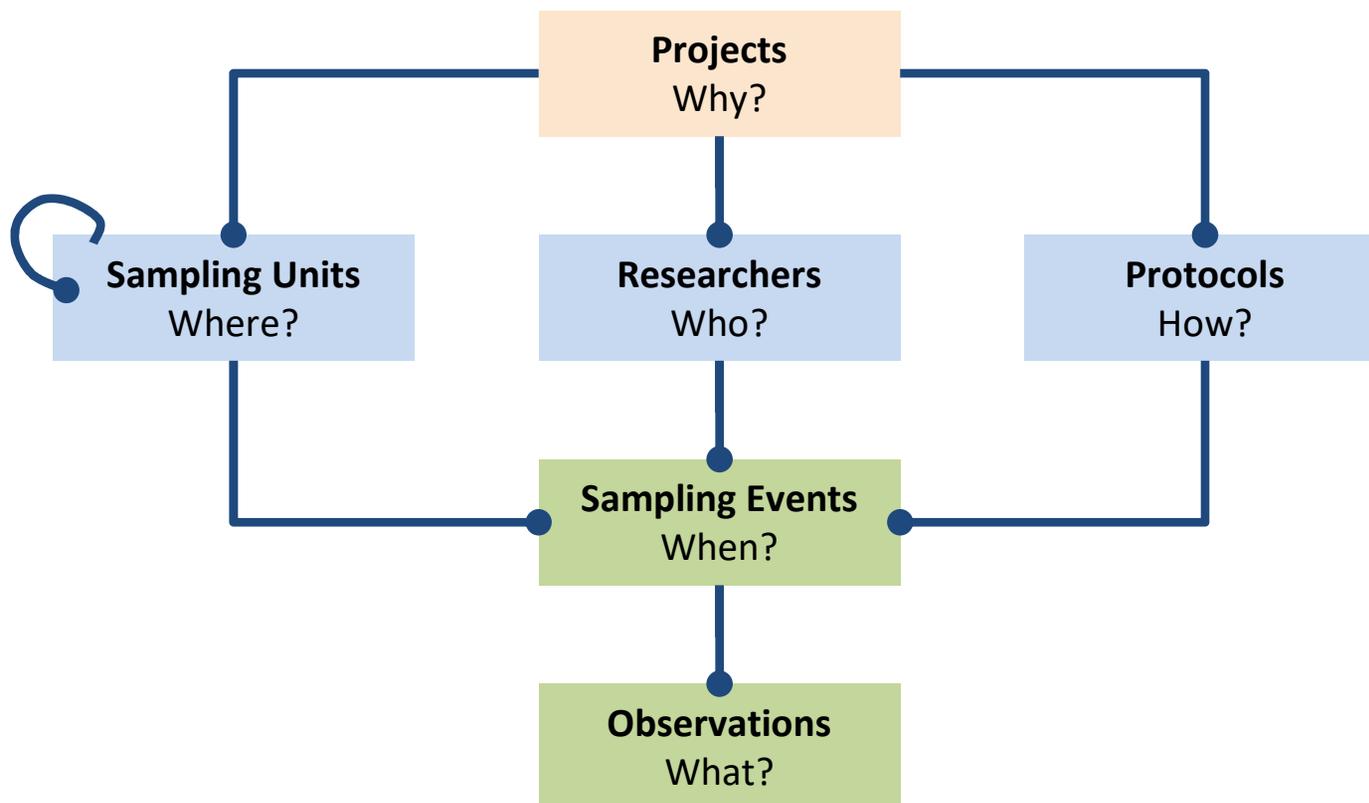
**DoD and the AKN: Who, What, Where, When , Why, and How**  
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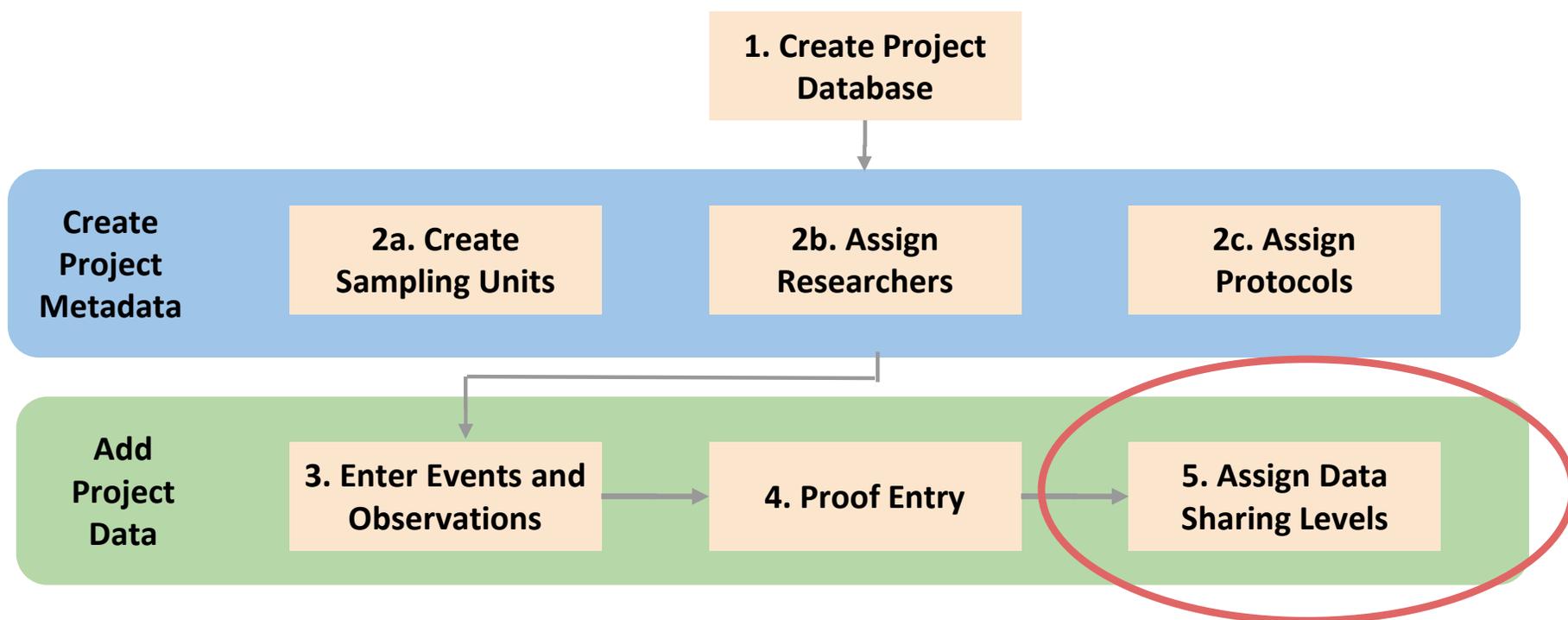
# AKN Warehouse Data 101



# The Project Database



# Workflow for Creating a Project



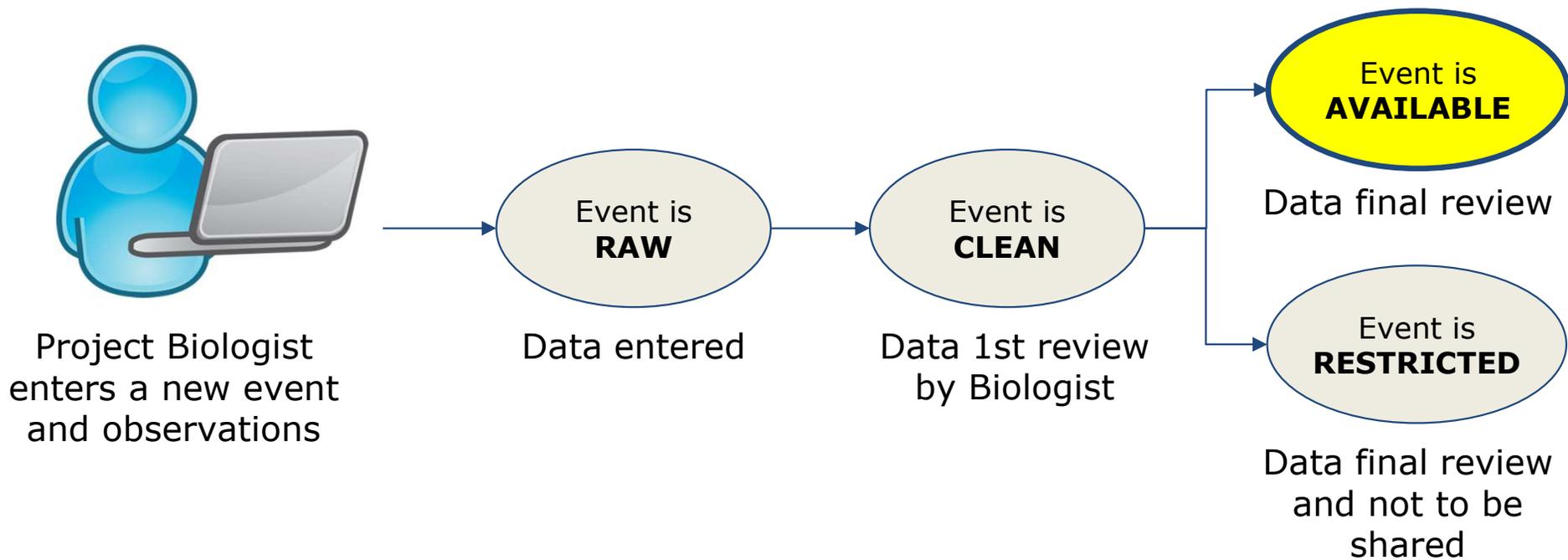
# Data Sharing Levels

Defines how visible each observation is for querying, summarizing, visualizing, and analyzing.

Controlled by the Project Leader within each project

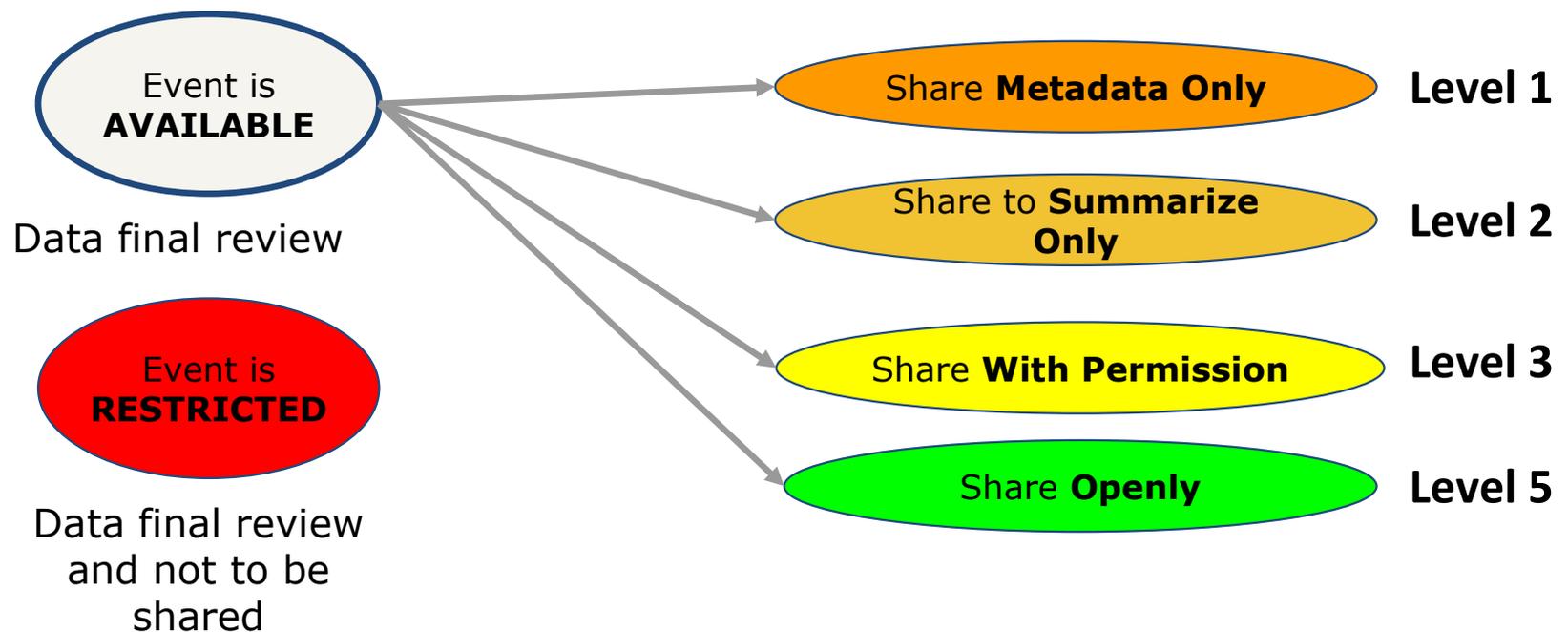
# Review Levels for each Event

Steps to enter and review data in preparation for sharing



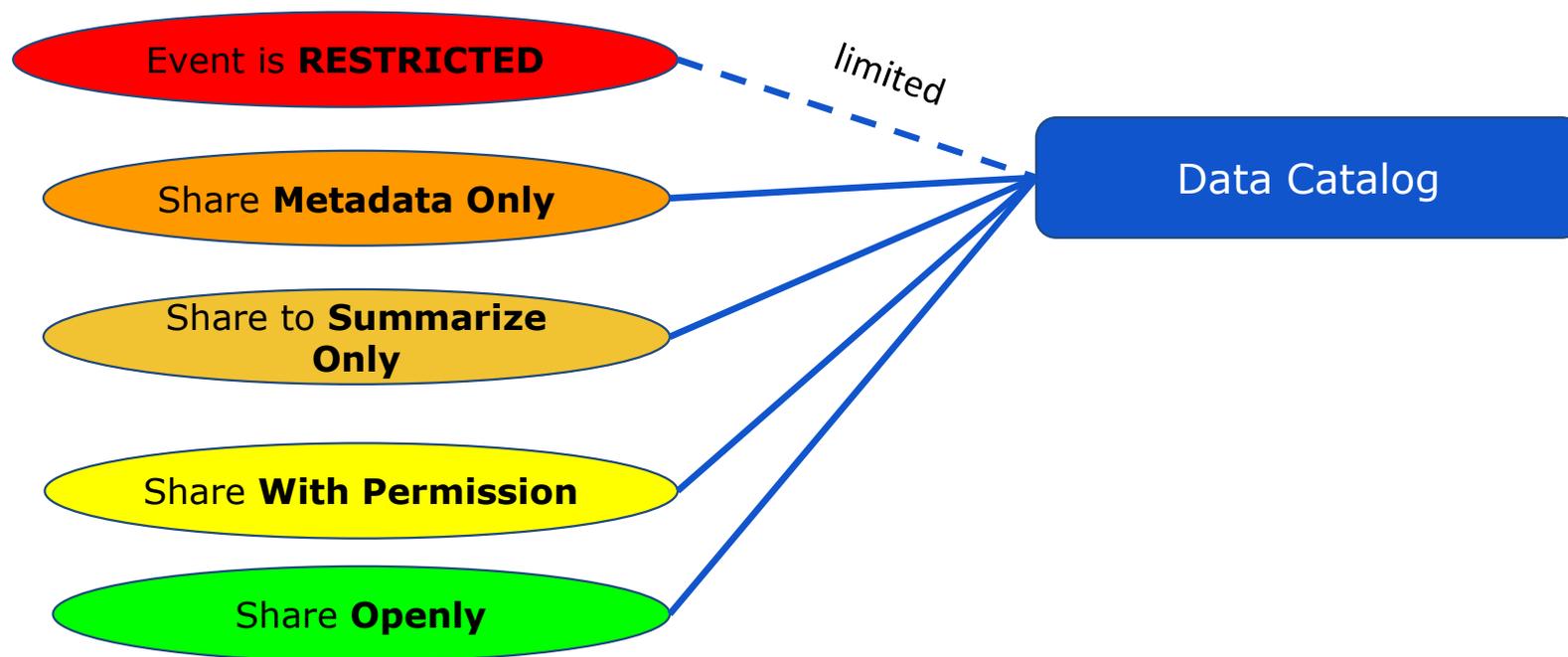
# Data Sharing Levels for each Event

Choices informs the Point Blue Science Cloud tools of your intentions.



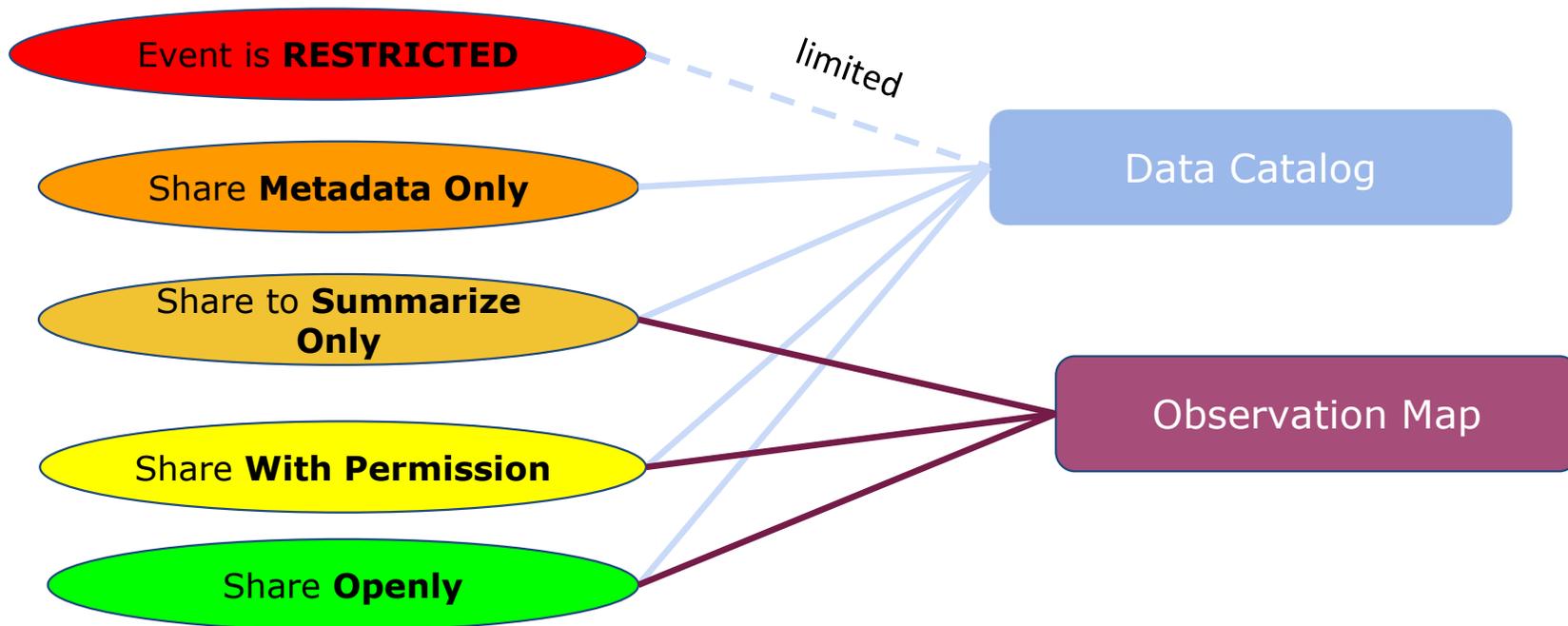
# Data Sharing and Tool Access

Choices informs the Point Blue Science Cloud tools of your intentions.



# Data Sharing and Tool Access

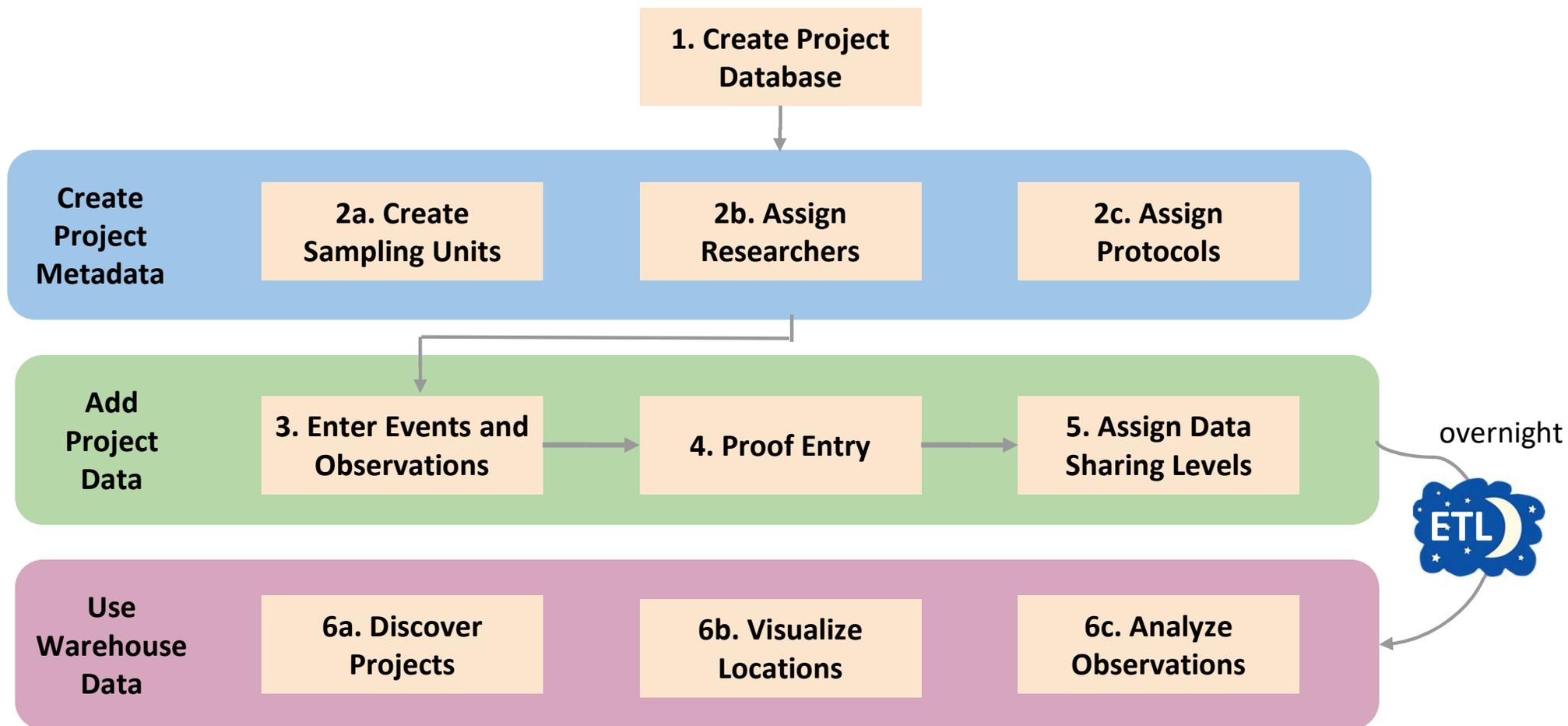
Choices informs the Point Blue Science Cloud tools of your intentions.



# Data Sharing Level Motivation

- Organizational Policy
- Federal / State Law
- Research and Right of First Publication
- Threatened / Endangered Species
- Private Landowner Agreements
- Contribute to AKN Science
- Partnership / Collaboration  
Development

# Workflow for Creating a Project



# Data Warehouses

Database with homogenized copy of observation data, *organized by sampling method* for cross-project query and analysis

Project data input today shows up automatically in the warehouse the day after you enter it

# Project Data vs Warehouse Data

Study Area	Transect	Point	Protocol	Visit	Date	Start Time	End Time	Time Bin	Time Bin	Count	Spp	Common Name	Scientific Name	Detection	Distance B	Distance B	Point Note	Obs	Researcher	Data Status
LITTLERIVER	COMP_5	164	3_5_10m2	1	6/3/2019	8:01:00	8:11:00	3	0_3min	1	PIWA	Pine Warbler	Setophaga pinus	NR	G25	25 to 50	Light sprinkle, light rain	Arbour, David	AVAILABLE	Level 5
LITTLERIVER	COMP_5	164	3_5_10m2	1	6/3/2019	8:01:00	8:11:00	3	0_3min	1	GCFL	Great Crested Flycat	Myiarchus crinitus	NR	G50	50 to 100	Light sprinkle, light rain	Arbour, David	AVAILABLE	Level 5
LITTLERIVER	COMP_5	164	3_5_10m2	1	6/3/2019	8:01:00	8:11:00	3	0_3min	1	KEWA	Kentucky Warbler	Geothlypis formc	NR	G50	50 to 100	Light sprinkle, light rain	Arbour, David	AVAILABLE	Level 5
LITTLERIVER	COMP_5	164	3_5_10m2	1	6/3/2019	8:01:00	8:11:00	10	5_10min	1	BHCO	Brown-headed Cow	Molothrus ater	NR	G50	50 to 100	Light sprinkle, light rain	Arbour, David	AVAILABLE	Level 5

Project	Location	Protocol	Date	Time	HabitatPlot	HabitatPlot	HabitatPlot	HabitatPlot	HabitatPlot	Researcher
					HabitatPlotId	Vine	Cane	Overstory	Midstory	Understory
LITTLERIVERNWR	164	FWS_PC_HAB_LWRMISS	6/3/2019	8:01:00	164	3	1	3	3	4 Arbour, David

Project Database Version  
Warehouse Version

GlobalUniqueIdentifier	ProjectCode	ProjectName	LocalityID	StudyArea	Transect	TransectName	Point	SamplingU	ParentSam	Sam
URN:catalog:PRBO:LITTLERIVERNWR.300600.PointCount.3_5_10m25_50_100MFLyByTm.329406.1	LITTLERIVERNWR	Little River NWR	LITTLERIVERNWR:COMP_5	Little River NWR	COMP_5	Compartment_5	164	300600	348115	Point
URN:catalog:PRBO:LITTLERIVERNWR.300600.PointCount.3_5_10m25_50_100MFLyByTm.329406.2	LITTLERIVERNWR	Little River NWR	LITTLERIVERNWR:COMP_5	Little River NWR	COMP_5	Compartment_5	164	300600	348115	Point
URN:catalog:PRBO:LITTLERIVERNWR.300600.PointCount.3_5_10m25_50_100MFLyByTm.329406.3	LITTLERIVERNWR	Little River NWR	LITTLERIVERNWR:COMP_5	Little River NWR	COMP_5	Compartment_5	164	300600	348115	Point
URN:catalog:PRBO:LITTLERIVERNWR.300600.PointCount.3_5_10m25_50_100MFLyByTm.329406.4	LITTLERIVERNWR	Little River NWR	LITTLERIVERNWR:COMP_5	Little River NWR	COMP_5	Compartment_5	164	300600	348115	Point

DecimalLatit	DecimalLon	Visit	ProtocolCode	Observatic	YearCollec	Month	DayC	JulianDa	JulianDayV	P Time	Collec	ScientificN	CommonN	SpeciesCo	Phylogen	DistanceFr	Flyc I	Detectic E	Observa	NoObse	RecordPermissions
33.9699705	-94.70262	1	3_5_10m25_50_100MFLyByTm	6/3/2019	2019	6	3	154	75	8:01:00	DA	Setophaga Pine Warb	PIWA	1696	37.5	NR	1	0	AVAILABLE	LEVEL 5	
33.9699705	-94.70262	1	3_5_10m25_50_100MFLyByTm	6/3/2019	2019	6	3	154	75	8:01:00	DA	Myiarchus Great Cres	GCFL	1254	75	NR	1	0	AVAILABLE	LEVEL 5	
33.9699705	-94.70262	1	3_5_10m25_50_100MFLyByTm	6/3/2019	2019	6	3	154	75	8:01:00	DA	Geothlypis Kentucky	KEWA	1718	75	NR	1	0	AVAILABLE	LEVEL 5	
33.9699705	-94.70262	1	3_5_10m25_50_100MFLyByTm	6/3/2019	2019	6	3	154	75	8:06:00	DA	Molothrus Brown-hea	BHCO	2015	75	NR	1	0	AVAILABLE	LEVEL 5	

# Project Data vs Warehouse Data

## Point Count Data

**Same:** Species, Count, Protocol, Locations, Detection Cues, Observation Time, Data Sharing Levels

**Differences:** Binned Distance averaged, Comments missing, no Site Conditions, Observer Names to Initials, no Time Bin

# **Data Sharing Guidelines/Policies and Agreements**

# Data Ownership and Control

Project Leaders / Organizations are the owner of data from a Project, regardless of where it is stored

Project Leaders can change Data Sharing Levels at any time, including making more restrictive

# Partnerships and Contractors

## Partner / Contractors

- DoD collects data for a Partnership
- Hiring independent contractors for survey work

## DoD

- Wants to ask questions across DoD
- Needs to manage and control all data on installations

We want data collected on/near DoD installations in DoD Projects

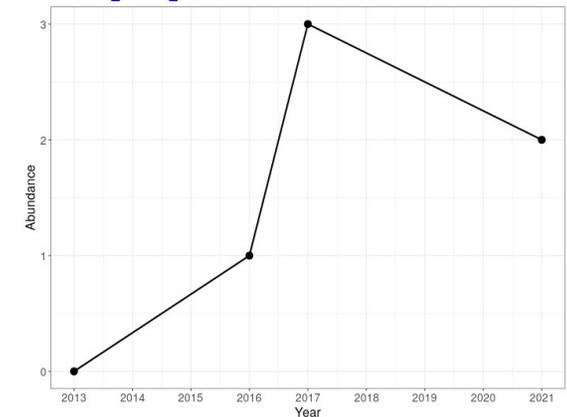


# Using the Analyst Tool (demonstration)

## Tools:

- <https://data.pointblue.org/apps/analysts/>

Common Name	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2021
Acadian Flycatcher	6	11	25	12	14	15
Alder Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	1	0
American Crow	41	28	42	29	24	113
American Goldfinch	14	1	5	6	3	16
American Redstart	0	1	0	1	1	2
American Robin	0	0	0	0	1	0
Barred Owl	0	0	0	0	0	1



**DoD and the AKN: Who, What, Where, When , Why, and How**  
Air Force Training, November 30 - December 1, 2022



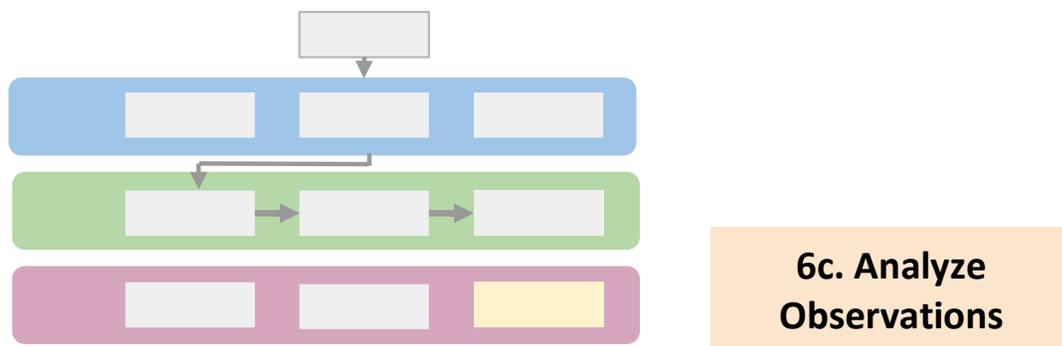
# Discovering observation data



# Create Species List with RAIL Tool (Exercise 4)

Exercise:

- Orientation of [RAIL Tool](#)
- [Exercise 4 instructions](#)



# Download Point Count Data from Warehouse (demonstration)

Tools:

- [Data Downloader](#)

**DoD and the AKN: Who, What, Where, When , Why, and How**  
Air Force Training, November 30 - December 1, 2022



# Break (15 mins)

## Looking for trends



# Looking for Trends (Exercise 5)

Exercise:

- Orientation of [Data Catalog](#) and [Observation Map](#)
- [Exercise 5 instructions](#)



**DoD and the AKN: Who, What, Where, When , Why, and How**  
Air Force Training, November 30 - December 1, 2022

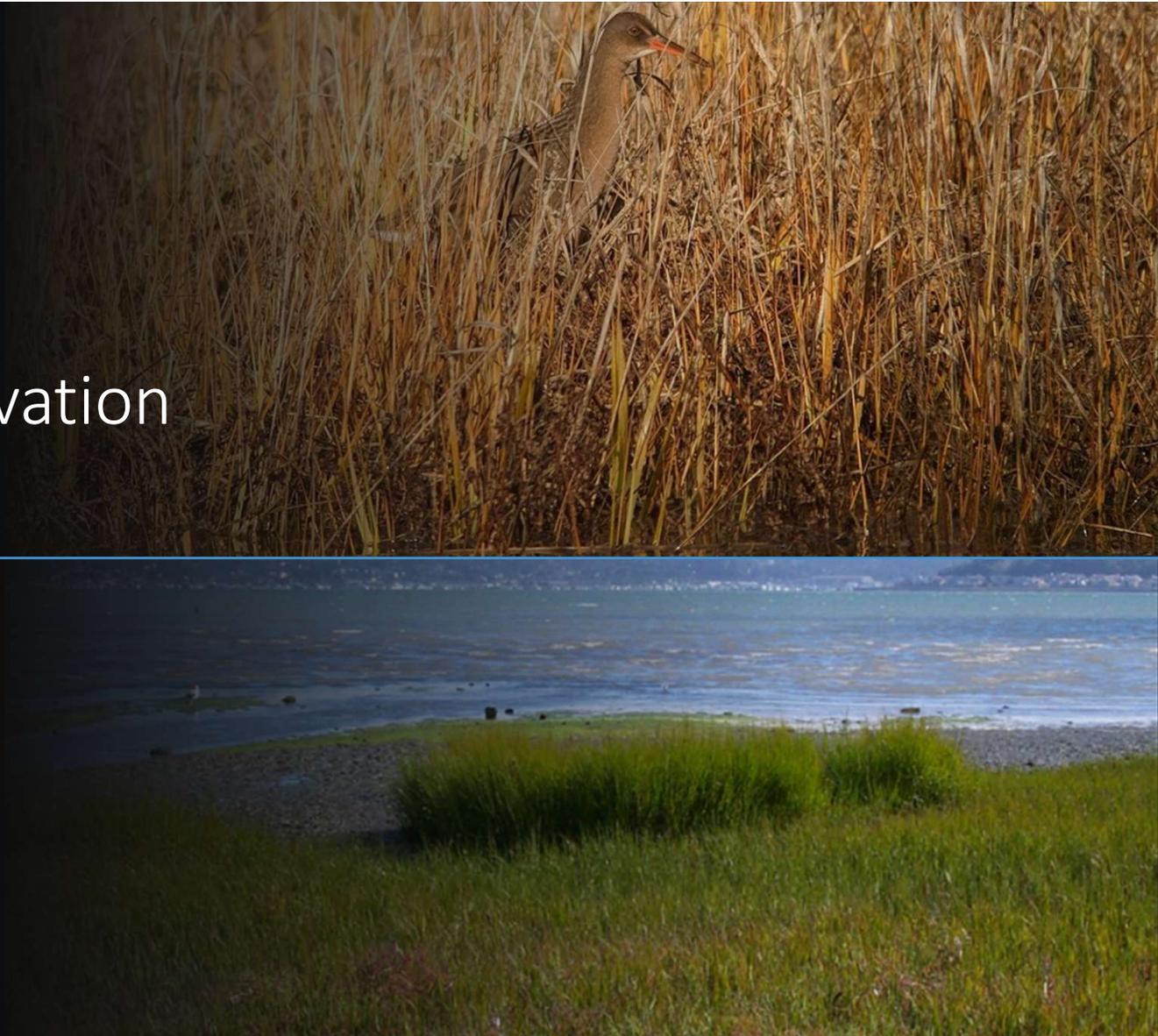


# How have organizations fully leveraged the AKN?



How to achieve  
conflicting conservation  
objectives?

---



# Challenge with assessing Rail response to management

## Multi-partner Effort

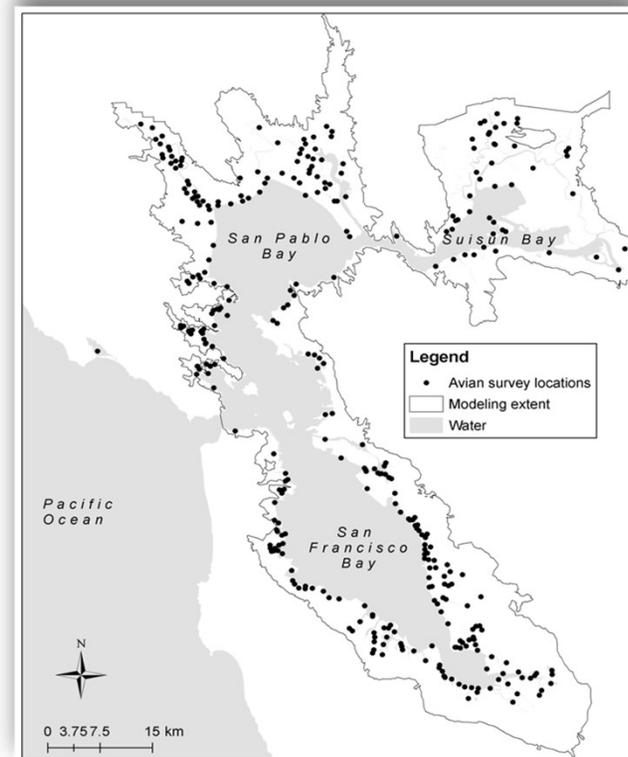
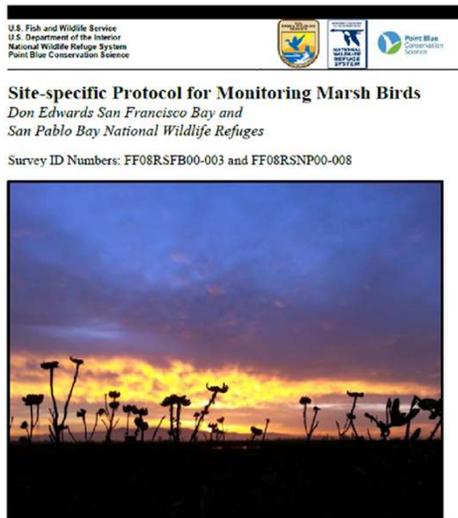


SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY  
INVASIVE SPARTINA PROJECT



# Developing a standard protocol

- North American Marsh Bird Protocol- SF Bay
  - 10 min broadcast point count
- Long-term dataset since 2005
- All partner data in the AKN



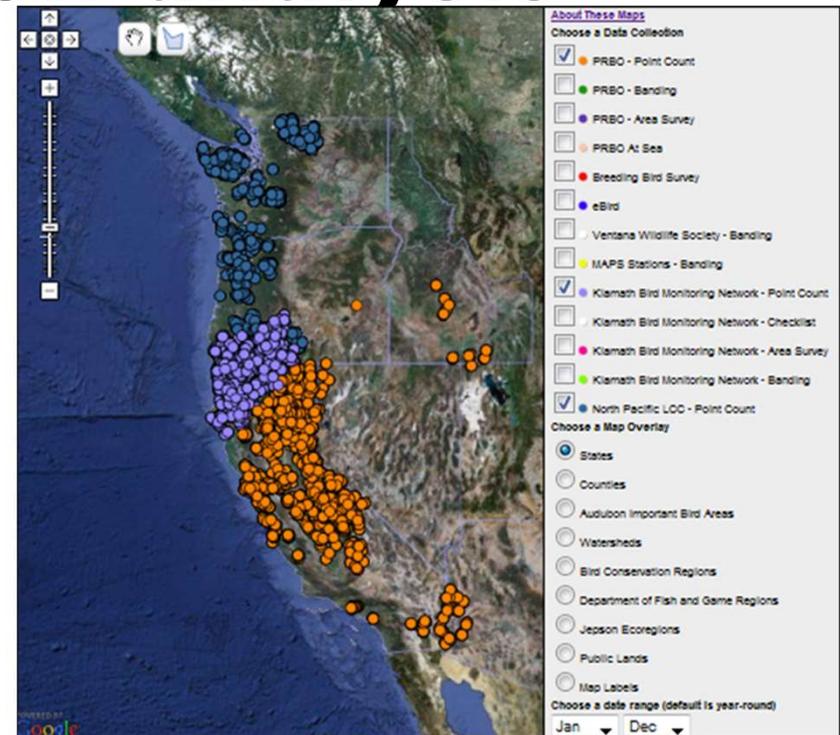
# Science to support landscape level conservation

- Data integration for landscape-scale conservation analysis.
- Understanding climate change effects on species and ecosystems.
- Identify projected future biodiversity hotspots
- Provide interfaces to, geospatial and baseline data fundamental to understanding climate change effects



# Data integration for landscape level conservation analysis

17 Data contributors:  
23 datasets  
Over 900,000 new records



# Understanding climate change effects on species

## White-breasted Nuthatch

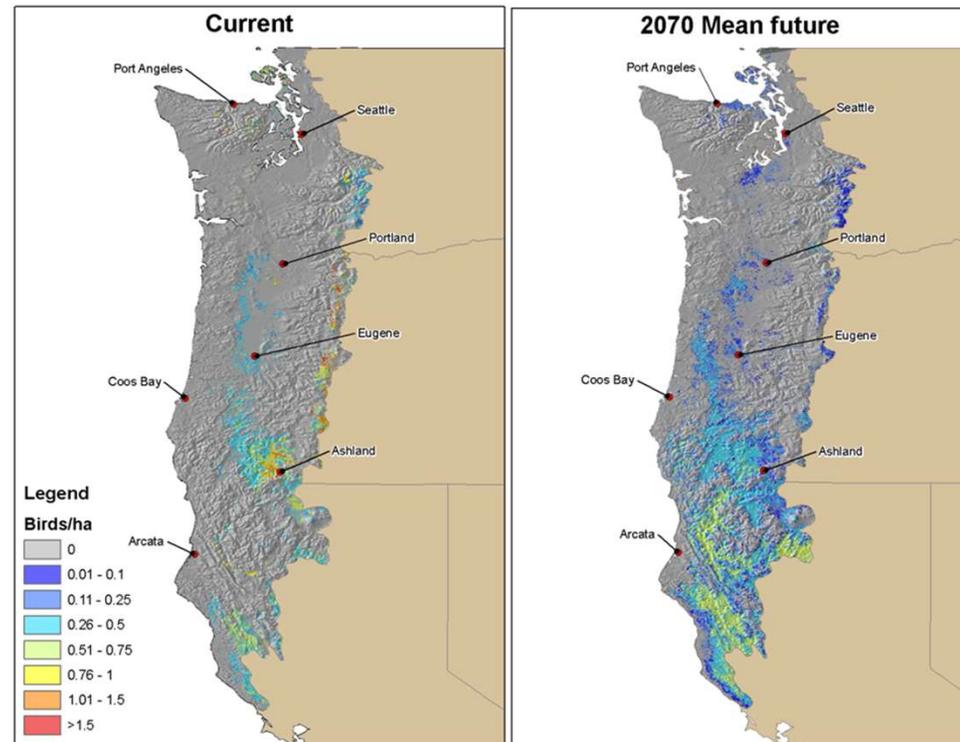
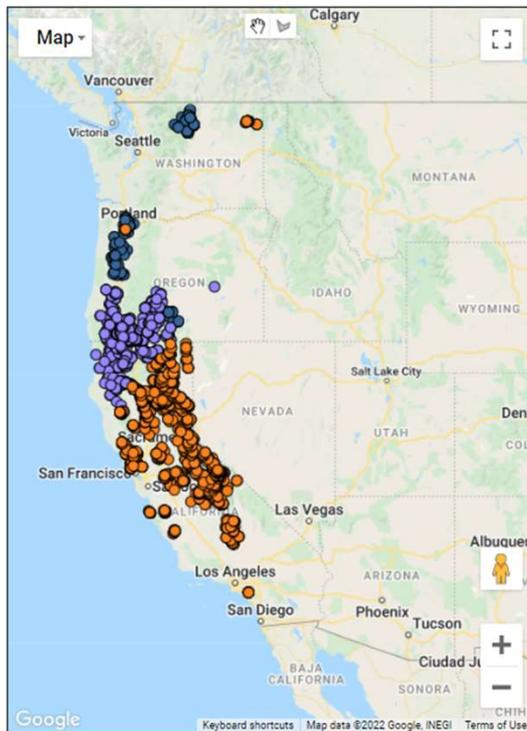


Photo (c)  
Peter LaTourrette

# Interactive web tools

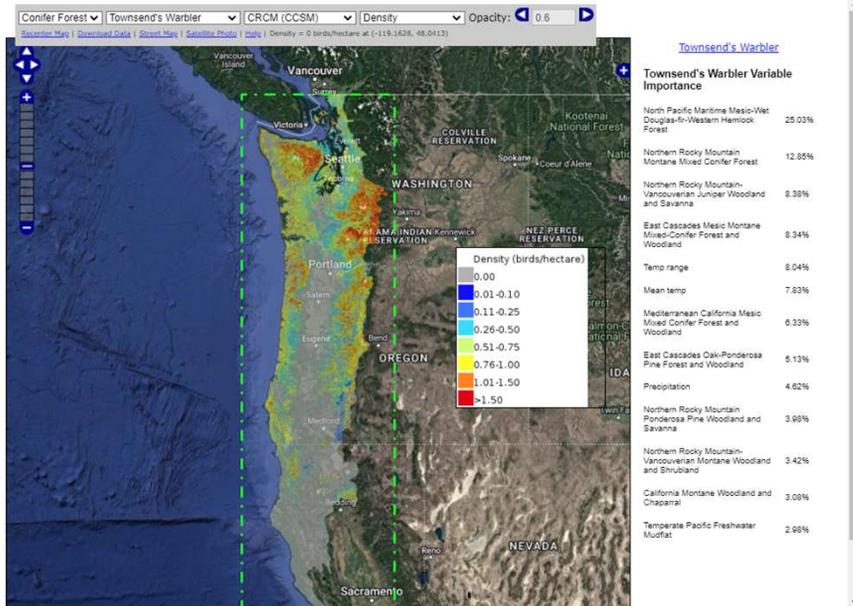
<https://data.pointblue.org/apps/nplcc/>

## Bird Distribution Map

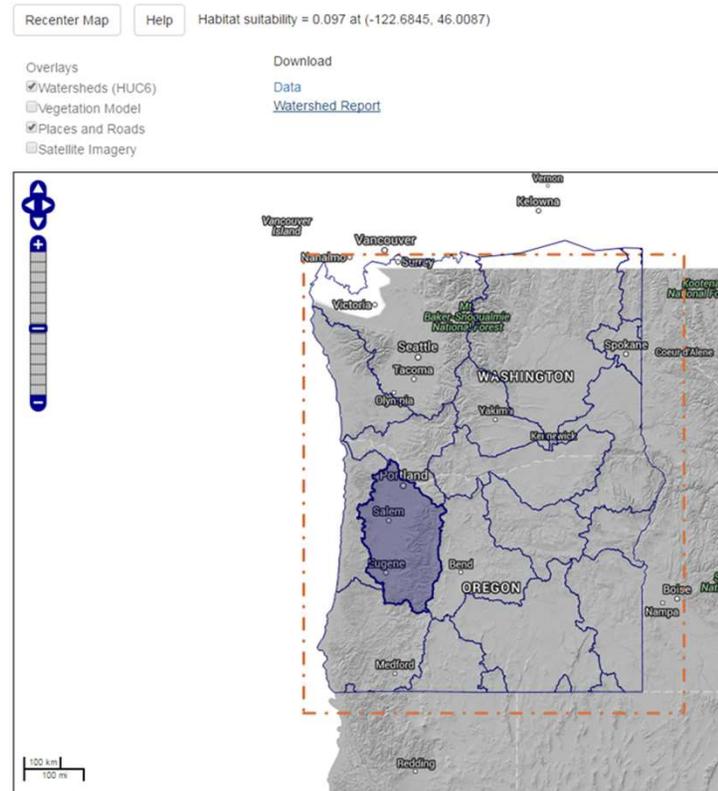
Select one of the 26 species to view how its distribution and density will respond to climate change. We provide projections for current and future (2070) climate and environmental conditions.

You can choose to view:

- Probability of occurrence
- Presence absence
- Density (birds/ha)



<http://data.pointblue.org/apps/nwsc/>



**DoD and the AKN: Who, What, Where, When , Why, and How**  
Air Force Training, November 30 - December 1, 2022



# What should you expect this year with AKN, DoD, and Air Force participation?





# Legal Drivers



- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (PL 65-186; 16 USC 703 *et seq.*)
- Sikes Act (PL 105-85, as amended through 2004 including PL 108-136; 16 USC 670 *et seq.*)
- Executive Order 13186 *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*
- DoD Instruction 4715.03, *Natural Resources Conservation Program*
- National Environmental Policy Act, as amended. (PL. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, as amended by Pub. L. 94-52)
- Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended – PL. 93-205
  - Prioritize species
  - Facilitate and encourage collaboration with partners
  - Focus research and planning efforts
  - Increase information sharing



# DoD AKN Strategic Approach



- DoD AKN Program Management Plan
- OSD and Military Services Support
- Cooperative Agreement
- Updates on Air Force-specific Work
- Planned Updates, Tools, Data Initiatives
- Case Studies
- On-going Support



# DoD AKN Program Management Plan



- Outlines plan/strategy for DoD and AKN
- Background and work-to-date
- Data problems and solutions
- Outline goals and objectives for program
- 5-year needs for new tools and tasks; includes rough budgets
- Approach and work plan for each task
- Agencies and organizations involved and responsibilities



# DoD AKN Program Management Plan



## 5-Year Needs/Initiatives

- **Training**
  - Instructor-led training courses (in-person and virtual)
  - Create video trainings for common actions (continuing)
  - Monthly “Office Hours”
- **DoD-Specific Tools**
  - DoD AKN portal page
  - DoD user guide
  - DoD data standards
  - Scope of work language for contractors
- **Data Initiatives**
  - Mission-Sensitive Species data
  - MAPS and banding data (cost-share)
  - BASH data
- **AKN Tools (partner initiatives)**
  - Program query tool
  - “Contractor” role
  - “Analyst” role
- **On-going Support**
  - DoD Program Management
  - Historical data updates
  - Technical support
  - Annual maintenance



# OSD and Military Services Support **AVIAN** KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

- ***Office of Secretary of Defense and Military Service Support***
  - Ryan Orndorff and Liz Galli-Noble-Office of Secretary of Defense
  - Karla Meyer, Kirsten Christopherson, Rebecca Meyer-Air Force
  - Brian Moyer and Steve Sekscienski-Army
  - Jacque Rice-Marine Corps
  - Tammy Conkle and Jeff Gardner-Navy
  - Jay Rubinoff-National Guard
- ***DoD Support Memo***
  - Signed 24 June 2022; disseminated via AFCEC
  - Mandate use DoD-wide
- ***DoD-wide Cooperative Agreement***
  - Allows oversight of all AKN actions
  - Cost-share actions
  - Enable Military Services and installations to empower smaller amounts of \$\$
  - Allows MIPR for funding our program partners



# Military Service-Specific Actions



## ***Air Force***

- Funded two virtual trainings, Nov 30 – Dec 1, 2022 and this one
- Funded initial training videos-COMplete; available on AKN YouTube Channel
- Funded five MSS Initiatives, BUOW first
- Funded data discovery survey, data prioritization, assistance with set number of data sets

## ***Navy***

- Funded data discovery survey and data prioritization
- Funded SOW language for contractors

## ***Army***

- Initial steps for data discovery survey for informed decisions

## ***Marine Corps***

- Commitment to fund improved tools and training
- Developing solid 5-year investment plan for trainings, data support, and tool development

## ***National Guard***

- Need to work with States
- ARNG Environmental Advisory Council's Conservation Committee approved Guard-specific training for FY23 hosted by ORARNG



# Air Force-Specific Actions



## Air Force-Funded Training Videos

A screenshot of the AVIAN Knowledge Network YouTube channel page. The page features a header with the YouTube logo, a search bar, and a "SIGN IN" button. Below the header is a banner image of several birds standing in shallow water. The channel name "Avian Knowledge Network" is displayed with a "SUBSCRIBE" button and "2 subscribers". Navigation tabs for "HOME", "VIDEOS", "PLAYLISTS", "CHANNELS", and "ABOUT" are visible. The "Uploads" section is active, showing four video thumbnails with their titles and view counts:

- AKN Point Blue Science Cloud - Researchers**: 3 views • 3 weeks ago (5:48)
- AKN - How to Register for a Login**: 4 views • 3 weeks ago (2:59)
- AKN Point Blue Science Cloud - Sampling Units**: 4 views • 4 weeks ago (7:23)
- AKN Point Blue Science Cloud - Overview**: 13 views • 4 weeks ago (11:10)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi9in tC9uTZa9Bo3HgnY1Q /featured>



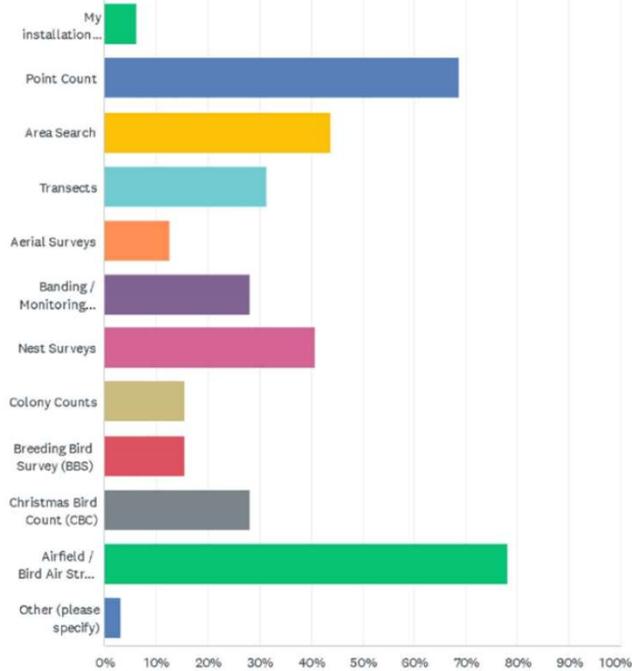
# Air Force-Specific Actions



## Air Force Data Discovery Survey & Training Questionnaire

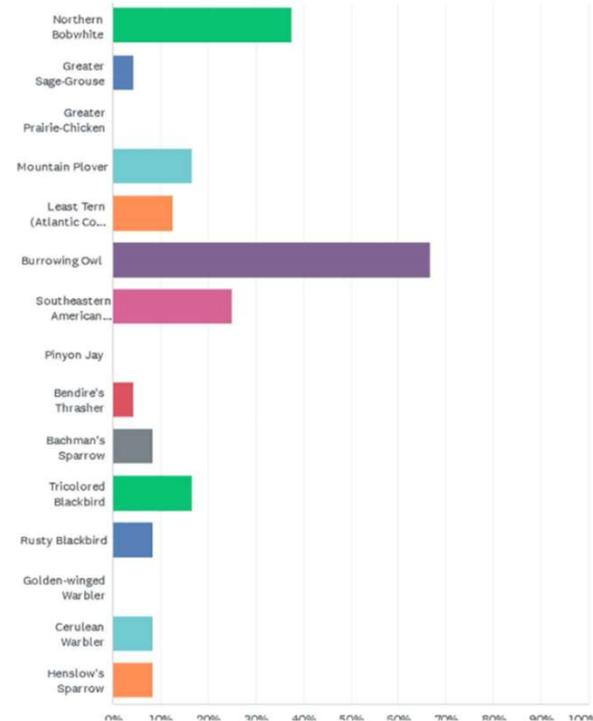
Q11 Please select the avian survey type(s) your installation has conducted and has either current or historical data available.

Answered: 32 Skipped: 1



Q17 Which DoD Mission Sensitive Species occur on your installation?

Answered: 24 Skipped: 9





# DoD Mission-Sensitive Species (MSS)



Northern Bobwhite



Greater Sage-grouse



Mountain Plover



Greater Prairie Chicken



Burrowing Owl



Least Tern (Atlantic Coast)



Cerulean Warbler



Golden-winged Warbler



Pinyon Jay



Southeastern American Kestrel



Henslow's Sparrow



Rusty Blackbird



Bendire's Thrasher



Tricolored Blackbird



Bachman's Sparrow



# DoD MSS



Species	# of Installations
Greater Sage-Grouse	6
Greater Prairie-Chicken	3
Northern Bobwhite	70
Southeastern American Kestrel	14
<del>Black Rail**</del>	<del>5</del>
Mountain Plover	16
Burrowing Owl	50
Least Tern (Atlantic Coast Pop)	18
Pinyon Jay	7
Bendire's Thrasher	4
Golden-winged Warbler	24
Cerulean Warbler	30
Bachman's Sparrow	24
Henslow's Sparrow	25
Tricolored Blackbird	15
Rusty Blackbird	30



# DoD MSS Initiative



## **DATA**

- Locate historical and contemporary data
- Identify and prioritize datasets and projects for AKN integration

## **FIELD METHODS**

- Identify SMEs for each species and categorize acceptable and appropriate survey methodologies
- Work with DoD PIF Research and Monitoring Working Group

## **DATA ENTRY PROTOCOL**

- Upload data protocols into AKN, ready for use by any user

## **MSS QUERY TOOL IN AKN**

- Add MSS as a guild in tools, such as Analyst and Data Downloader



# DoD MSS Initiative: *BUOW*



## Data Survey

- Survey installations with BUOW
- Historical and contemporary data discovery and prioritization

## DoD Focus Group of SMEs

- Identify SMEs for BUOW
- Clarify objectives
- Field method review
- Standard monitoring methods (acceptable and appropriate)

## AKN Data Protocols

- Bulk upload
- Data entry user interface

## Science Delivery

- Custom queries and analyses
- Decision support tools



- ✓ Standardized Monitoring Strategies for Burrowing Owls on DoD Installations (Garcia et al 2008)
- ✓ Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines (California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993)



# DoD MSS Initiative: *PIJA*



## Data Survey

- Survey installations with PIJA
- Historical and contemporary data discovery and prioritization

## DoD Focus Group of SMEs

- Identify SMEs for PIJA
- Clarify objectives
- Field method review
- Standard monitoring methods (acceptable and appropriate)

## AKN Data Protocols

- Bulk upload
- Data entry user interface

## Science Delivery

- Custom queries and analyses
- Decision support tools



- ✓ **Data Standards and Survey Protocol for Pinyon Jays Version 1.0 (Pinyon Jay Working Group 2021)**
- ✓ **Guidance for Locating Pinyon Jay Nests and Confirming Breeding (Pinyon Jay Working Group 2021)**



# DoD Data Needs

- BASH Data, specifically data collected by USDA-WS
- Banding data including MAPS
- Nest data
- Sensor and machine-collected data
- Survey 1,2,3 cross-walk directly into AKN



# DoD-Specific Tools

## Contract Language

- Possession of data collected by contractors is an issue identified by NMFWA Bird Conservation Working Group since its inception in 2014
- AKN offers a mechanism and structure
- Develop guidelines and language for DoD personnel to integrate into contracts
  - Option to upload directly into system (current limitations)
  - Option to deliver data in format acceptable for immediate upload into system



# AKN-wide Tools

## Enterprise Support for Programs

**Need:** Data curation, management, and analysis at multiple scales (installation, Military Service, and DoD-wide)

**Solution:** AKN-wide structure allowing multiple Project grouping via Programs.

**Plan:** Add ability to create/manage Programs appropriately based on rights, especially for query and download of project data, user access management, protocol assignment, data sharing level.

**Status:** Completed the program enterprise warehouse feature preliminary research phase and are moving on to the prototype phase, where we will attempt our first successful build of a program warehouse. Expecting to roll out in next 18 months.



# AKN-wide Tools

## Updated User Roles

**Need:** Roles within the system that meet partner requirements for data entry and/or analysis for portions of AKN projects

**Solution:** Creation of two new user roles that meet identified needs

**Plan:** Creation of Contractor Role - Create a new role to support contractor who gets access (data entry, data download, data analysis) for the portion of a Project for which they are providing services.

Creation of Analyst Role - Create a new role to allow full access to a Project or Program for data download and analysis, but not ability to manage metadata or user access.

**Status:** Needs and roles identified and prioritized. Awaiting completion of the Enterprise Support for Programs.



# DoD Use and Case Studies





# Barry M. Goldwater Range (BMGR), AZ

**AVIAN**  
KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

- Participating in Desert Thrasher Working Group
- Existing protocol in the AKN system
- Critical to add data to DoD-owned project
- Conducted surveys and entered data into BMGR project using desert thrasher data entry protocol available in AKN
- Shared data with thrasher initiative
- Data will show when querying DoD data for this species





# Fort Hood, TX

- Modified existing protocol to meet data entry needs for three survey types
- Structured sampling units across installation
- Bulk uploaded over 3,000 rows of data: now direct entering survey data

1. Select sampling units from the tree below.

## Project Protocols

open new project

FORT\_HOOD - [DOD\_ARMY] Fort Hood

add one

copy tab

Protocol Id	Protocol Name	Protocol Type	
FTHOOD_WEATHER_COWS	Weather with temp, wind, sky, and precipitation, and total number of cows	SiteConditions	
FTHOOD_WEATHER_FALL_COWS	Weather with temp, wind, sky, and precipitation, and total number of cows for fall point counts	SiteConditions	
VCP100Sx	Variable Circular Plot, exact distances to 100m, then >100 with AnimalSex, and bins over 100m for NOBO	PointCount	
VCP_60m_4db	Variable distance point count 60 minutes with 4 distance bins <100, 100-250, 250, 500, >500	PointCount	

4 rows

select all

clear all

- FORT\_HOOD - [DOD\_ARMY] Fort Hood
- Grassland Point Counts 2016-2018 (GRASSLAND)
- Monitoring of Owls and Nightjars (MOON)
- Northern Bobwhite Point Counts (NOBO\_PC)



# MA Army National Guard



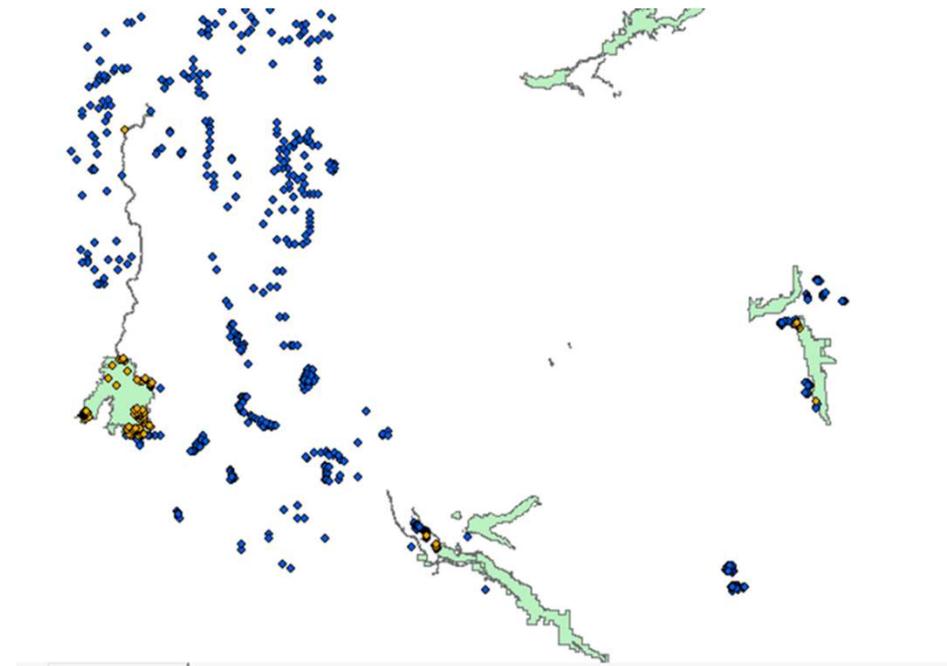
- Biologist leaving position one week after training
- Had 20+ years of data
- Working through data, realized inconsistencies in data entry
- Standardized protocol in system, showing required fields to be utilized in all future surveys
- Successfully uploaded 35,000 records prior to leaving DoD
- Data ready and available to successor



# USACE-Willamette Valley Project, OR



- New biologist took DoD AKN training at NMFWA
- Worked with DoD AKN Team to ID data within boundary
- Data was both USACE and partner data
- Created USACE WVP within USACE enterprise
- Gained access to USACE-owned data
- Reaching out to partners about sharing data within boundary





# Vance AFB, OK

- Biologist was new to AF and did not have any bird data
- Wanted a list of birds on Vance for NEPA and INRMP updates
- RAIL tool available at no cost and without an account

*Integrates data from AKN, Partners in Flight, US Fish and Wildlife, Breeding Bird Survey, eBird, All About Birds, and the Macaulay image library at Cornell.*

<https://data.pointblue.org/apps/rail/>

 Make Decisions



R.A.I.L. tool  
(Rapid Avian Information  
Locator)

Identify the set of birds that occur within specific geographic regions and their conservation status and population trends.  
No account required.



# Vance AFB, R.A.I.L.

The image displays two overlapping screenshots of the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) web application. The interface includes a search bar at the top with the text "Go to location" and "Vance AFB". Below the search bar are two buttons: "SELECT AREA" and "GET RESULTS". A dropdown menu is set to "Use all available species". The main area is a map of Vance Air Force Base, Texas, with a blue polygon highlighting a specific area within the base. The map shows various features like roads, water bodies, and green spaces. The left screenshot shows the "SELECT AREA" button in a greyed-out state, while the right screenshot shows it as an active blue button, indicating that the area selection process is complete.



# Vance AFB, R.A.I.L.



**Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL)**  
 Before using this tool, please read [About the RAIL tool](#)

SELECT AREA GET RESULTS

Use all available species

Go to location: Vance AFB

Species Results FILTER RESULTS (Currently showing 172 of 172 results)

BCR(p): 19-CENTRAL\_MIXED\_GRASS\_PRAIRIE  
 State(s): OK

Bird Species	Population Estimates	Conservation Status	Detail
 American Avocet <i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Global: Not yet available Continental U.S.: Not yet available	<b>BCRBC Breeding: 9, 33</b>	
 American Bittern <i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Global: Not yet available Continental U.S.: Not yet available	<b>State Threatened: MD</b> <b>State Endangered: MA, CT, NJ, PA, OH, IN</b>	
 American Coot <i>Fulica americana</i>	Global: Not yet available Continental U.S.: Not yet available	<b>Common</b>	
 American Crow <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Global: 28,000,000 Continental U.S.: 18,000,000	<b>Common</b>	

 American Redstart <i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Global: 42,000,000 Continental U.S.: 34,000,000	<b>Common</b>	
 American Robin <i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Global: 576,000,000 Continental U.S.: 200,000,000	<b>Common</b>	
 American Tree Sparrow <i>Spizella arborea</i>	Global: 26,000,000 Continental U.S.: 7,000,000	<b>Common</b>	
 American White Pelican <i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Global: Not yet available Continental U.S.: Not yet available	<b>BCRBC Breeding: 1</b>	
 American Wigeon <i>Mareca americana</i>	Global: Not yet available Continental U.S.: Not yet available	<b>Common</b>	
 Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Global: 300,000 Continental U.S.: Not yet available	<b>State Threatened: MA, CT, NH, NY, PA</b> <b>State Endangered: NJ, VT, CA</b>	
 Baltimore Oriole <i>Icterus galbula</i>	Global: 12,000,000 Continental U.S.: 9,000,000	<b>Common</b>	
 Bank Swallow <i>Hirundo lunifrons</i>	Global: 24,000,000 Continental U.S.: 5,000,000	<b>State Threatened: CA</b>	
 Barn Owl <i>Bubo asio</i>	Global: 4,000,000 Continental U.S.: 1,000,000	<b>State Threatened: DE</b> <b>State Endangered: CT, RI, VA, W</b>	
 Barn Swallow <i>Hirundo lunifrons</i>	Global: 196,000,000 Continental U.S.: 49,000,000	<b>Common</b>	
 Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii</i>	Global: 6,000,000 Continental U.S.: 7,000,000	<b>Common</b>	
 Belted Kingfisher <i>Megascops asio</i>	Global: 1,400,000 Continental U.S.: 800,000	<b>BCRBC Breeding: 1</b>	
 Black-bellied Whistling Duck <i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	Global: Not yet available Continental U.S.: Not yet available	<b>Common</b>	



# Vance AFB, R.A.I.L.

## Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL)

Before using this tool, please read [About the RAIL tool](#)

SELECT AREA

GET RESULTS

Type a species...

Selected species

HASP - Harris's Sparrow

OSFL - Olive-sided Flycatcher

BAEA - Bald Eagle



Bald Eagle  
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Alpha Code

Alpha Code<sup>1</sup>: Not yet available

Habitat

Habitat Category<sup>2</sup>: Forests

Primary Breeding Habitat<sup>4</sup>: Wetlands, Generalist

Biology

Food Category<sup>2</sup>: Fish

Behavior Category<sup>2</sup>: Soaring (raptor)

Nesting Category<sup>2</sup>: Tree

Incubation Period<sup>2</sup>: 34 - 36 days

Clutch Size<sup>2</sup>: 1 - 3 eggs

Number of Broods<sup>2</sup>: 1

Egg description<sup>2</sup>: Dull white, usually without markings.

Egg length<sup>2</sup>: 5.8 - 8.4 cm

Egg width<sup>2</sup>: 4.7 - 6.3 cm

Incubation time-frame - Start<sup>2</sup>: Not yet available

Incubation time-frame - Stop<sup>2</sup>: Not yet available

Global: 200,000  
Continental U.S.: Not yet available

State Threatened: MA, CT, NH, NY, TX  
State Endangered: NJ, VT, CA

Physical Details

Weight<sup>2</sup>: 3000 - 6300 g

Length<sup>2</sup>: 71 - 96 cm

Population Information

Global Population<sup>2</sup>: 200,000

% Population Estimate USA<sup>3</sup>: Not yet available

Lower 95% Bound USA<sup>3</sup>: Not yet available

Upper 95% Bound USA<sup>3</sup>: Not yet available

Continental Population Trend<sup>4</sup>: Significant large increase

Regional Population Trend<sup>4</sup>: BCR19 - Significant large increase

% BCR Population<sup>2</sup>: BCR 19 - 0.00%

Lower 95% Bound BCR<sup>3</sup>: BCR 19 - null

Upper 95% Bound BCR<sup>3</sup>: BCR 19 - null

% State Population<sup>2</sup>: OK - 0.00%

Lower 95% Bound State<sup>3</sup>: OK - null

Upper 95% Bound State<sup>3</sup>: OK - null

Conservation Status

Continental Importance<sup>4</sup>: Not yet available

Half Life<sup>4</sup>: Not yet available

Federally Threatened<sup>2</sup>: No

Federally Endangered<sup>2</sup>: No

State Threatened<sup>2</sup>: MA, CT, NH, NY, TX

State Endangered<sup>2</sup>: NJ, VT, CA

Migratory Bird Treaty Act<sup>2</sup>: Listed

Bird of Conservation Concern<sup>2</sup>: No

Bird of Conservation Concern Entire Range<sup>2</sup>: Not yet available

BCRs where BCC Breeding<sup>2</sup>: Not yet available

BCRs where BCC Non-breeding<sup>2</sup>: Not yet available

[More information on BCRs](#)

Phenology Graph



### Filter Species Results

Weight Min (g) Weight Max (g) Habitat Category

Length Min (cm) Length Max (cm) Primary Breeding

### Biology

Egg Length Min (cm) Egg Length Max (cm) Incubation Period

Egg Width Min (cm) Egg Width Max (cm) Clutch Size

Number of Broods Min (integer) Number of Broods Max (integer) Food Category

Behavior Category Nesting Category

Conservation Status  Federally Threatened or Endangered

Continental Importance  Half Life

State Threatened or Endangered  Bird of Conservation Concern  Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) - Listed

CLEAR ALL FILTERS

CANCEL APPLY



# DoD Mission Benefits



- Secure database to input/upload, curate, and manage DoD field data
- Empowers historical data
- Assess status of birds on/near installations
- Monitor trends at multiple scales
- Data sharing and integration with partners
- Advanced data analysis and visualization tools
- Access to data that contributes to more technically and scientifically sound INRMPs and NEPA environmental reviews
- Contributes directly to proactive conservation, monitoring and management of priority bird species



**Enabling the Mission, Defending the Resources**



# Sign-up for DoD AKN Updates



1. Enter name
2. Enter email address
3. Enter "add to listserv"
4. Say please in message
5. Confirm you're not a robot

## Contact the POC for DoD Legacy Resource Management Program

**Privacy Advisory** The use of information provided is subject to the DENIX Privacy Policy. You may opt out of providing contact information in this form. If you do so, we will not be able to provide a response.

**\*Required**

\*Your Name:

\*Email Address:

Phone Number:

\*Subject:

\*Message:

I'm not a robot

Search DoD Legacy Resource M

### Legacy Listserv

[Click here to sign up for the Legacy Listserv](#)

### News

- Natural Selections Newsletter Winter 2021-2022 (1.37 MB)
- 2021 DoD Climate Action plan (112.11 MB)
- Fantastic Flights: Technology Tells the Tale of Avian Travels (Legacy #16-764)

### Online Tools

- Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands: A Guide for Natural Resource Managers 3rd Edition
- Biodiversity Outreach Tools
- Climate Adaptation for DoD Natural Resource Managers, 2019 (Legacy Project #16-790)





# On-going Support



- ***Monthly Virtual Office Hours***
  - Monthly “Office Hours”
  - Calendar and signups [here](#)
  - At NMFWA, Mar 20-24, 2023, St. Louis
  
- ***Other Opportunities***
  - Training videos on AKN YouTube Channel  
([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi9in\\_tC9uTZa9Bo3HgnY1Q/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCi9in_tC9uTZa9Bo3HgnY1Q/featured))
  - Funded data initiatives from Military Services
  - Email me, [elizabeth.s.neipert@erdc.dren.mil](mailto:elizabeth.s.neipert@erdc.dren.mil)



# **What Updates, Initiatives, Tools Do You Want to See?**

# Open Forum

**DoD and the AKN: Who, What, Where, When , Why, and How**  
Air Force Training, November 30 - December 1, 2022



# Pluses and Deltas

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## Wrap-up



# DoD and the AKN: Who, What, Where, When , Why, and How

*Air Force Training, February 7 - 8, 2023*

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Sam Veloz & Dianne Miller, Point Blue Conservation Science  
John Alexander & Caitlyn Gillespie, Klamath Bird Observatory  
Elizabeth Neipert, US Army ERDC

## Thank you for participating!

