



Springy! ECOS E-News brings you tips and notices about ECOS and its applications.



Got a question, feedback, or a topic idea? Submit it to the [ECOS Help Desk](#) for consideration.

Integrating ECOS Data for Service Access and Use

Toddler exhortation to “share” applies to ECOS data, too!

ECOS as Conceived

For those of you who are new to the *E-News*, the [Environmental Conservation Online System \(ECOS\)](#) provides access to 25 data logging and reporting systems that (so far) support the work of Ecological Services, Fisheries, and Refuges. Most of ECOS’ applications were developed independently by different organizations over time to store and manage their specific data and documents.

Because of the way ECOS developed, most of its applications do not easily share information with each other. Would-be users of certain modules have to request authorization to use them, even to view the data and reports. This was fine for the contaminant biologist, attorney, or Species Lead Office for which a given application was built. But it didn’t make it easy for others to get to the information, or even know it exists.

ECOS Integrated

With the increasing complexity of species and habitat management comes an associated need for Service personnel to consider everything known about a species population or a geographical area in order to make well-informed decisions. ECOS’ many databases contain information concerning species needs, listing status, distribution, recovery plans and activities; habitat conservation plans and activities; contaminant threats and events; fish stocks, strains, and releases; consultations and technical assistance; litigation; expenditure reports; performance targets and measures; and so much more. But how and where can one find it?

This is what the new “Integration” effort is for. The ECOS Development Team will remove existing constraints and provide viewing access for all Service personnel to all non-sensitive ECOS data through data consolidation and a universal search capability.

This way, the vast treasure trove of available ECOS data will be easy to find and view by any Service employee.

With input from Service advisory groups, the ECOS Team has begun designing and programming work that meets two primary objectives:

1. **Aggregation of species information from across ECOS modules into one place.**
2. **Improved access to and discovery of reports across modules, to make it easier to access existing species and ecosystems data in ECOS.**

For the first objective, ECOS is developing *internal* Species Profiles for all species in ECOS. These will include the existing information already on the public Species Profiles pages (searchable by species name via [ECOS](#) or [Endangered Species](#)) as well as additional critical data from other ECOS modules. Deployment of the comprehensive internal Species Profiles is expected late this fall.

The initial focus of the second objective will be to **allow all FWS users read-only access to ECOS data records and reports**. Instead of having to request access to each ECOS application just to view data, users who log in with FWS Active Directory credentials will automatically have view access to all non-sensitive ECOS information. (Edit access will still be granted user-by-user.) The first application open for Service-wide access will be the ECOS Recovery Planning module (formerly ROAR) this May.

Finding the report or dataset you want still can be tricky. Therefore, the ultimate goal is to **catalog metadata (title, description, and keywords) about each ECOS report and dataset**. This will allow users to search the catalog from the ECOS home page to quickly find the report they need, without having to know where it resides in ECOS.

For more information, contact

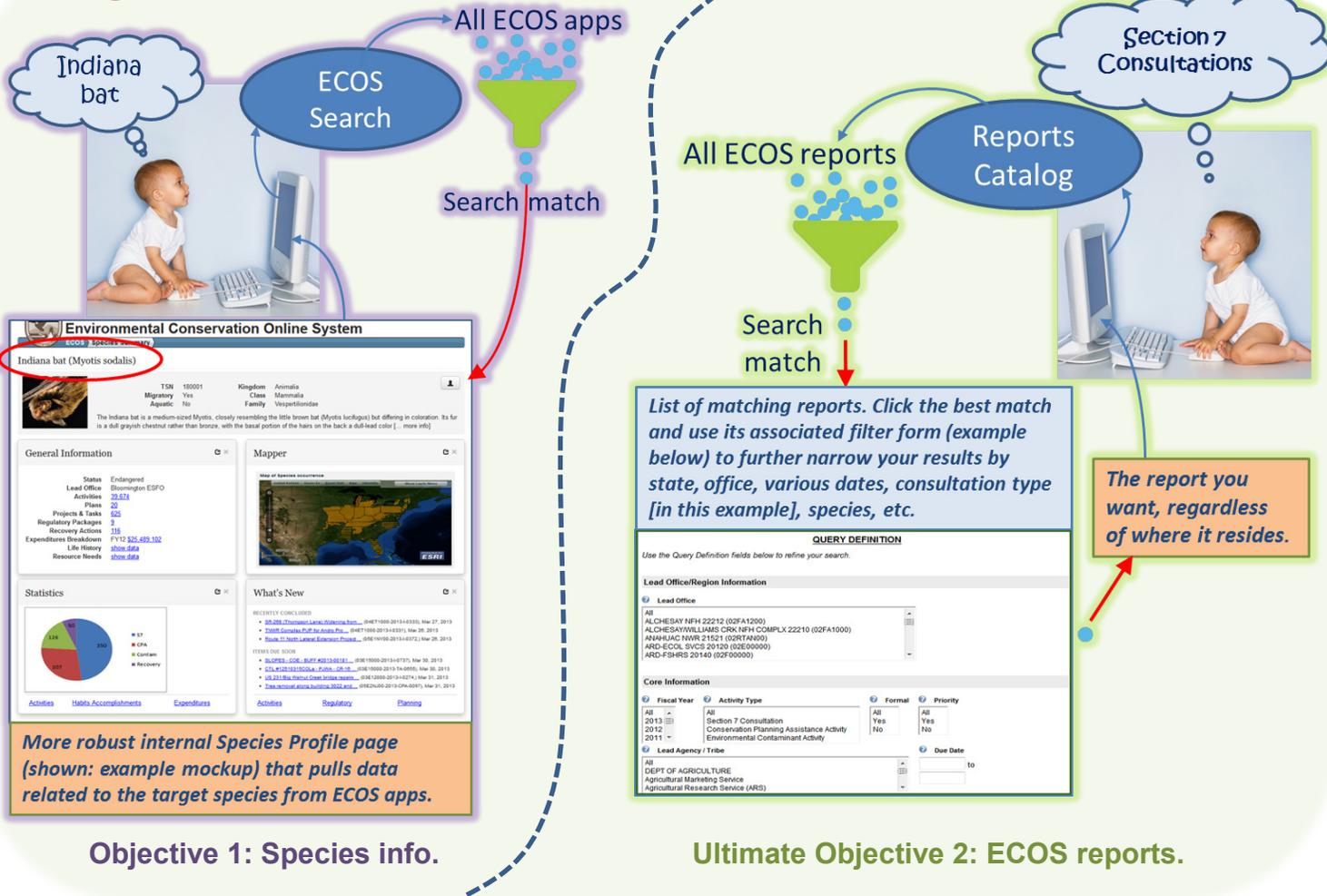
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See diagrams on next page for objectives 1 and 2....



Integration, cont.

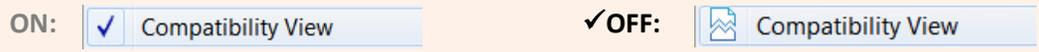


Got Compatibility? Turn It Off.

Here's how...

Of course, we're not talking about people here, but about **ECOS**. If you use **Internet Explorer**, being in Compatibility mode can cause some functions in ECOS applications to break. Therefore, we recommend you make sure Compatibility mode is OFF when working in ECOS by doing the following:

In IE8, click on Tools and make sure there is NOT a checkmark beside "Compatibility View" in the dropdown. If there is, click on it. It will show a broken-page icon if Compatibility is OFF—which is what you want in ECOS.



In IE9, hover over the *broken-page icon* on the address bar. Click it a couple of times to compare the color change:



If it turns a **lighter blue/gray**, it was on and you've just turned it OFF—which, again, is what you want in ECOS.

Questions? Contact the [ECOS Helpdesk](#), or call 970-226-9438, 9 am–6 pm ET Monday through Friday.



Species Current Range Taking Shape!

Current Range changes improve accuracy; shapefiles now uploadable



Data describing species Current Range (where a given species is known or believed to exist) populate range maps on the public Species Profile pages (searchable by species name via the [ECOS](#) or [Endangered Species](#) home pages). These data allow users to search species occurrence by county and by state, and view species occurrence on a map.

Two recent changes to the way species Current Ranges are entered and subsequently displayed on the Species Profile pages support greater accuracy of Current Range data:

- **Range data displayed on the public Species Profile pages now exactly match the data entered in ECOS.**
- **Current Range can be defined using geospatial shapefiles.**

Previously, species location could be entered only by using predefined land units, such as county, HUC, or USGS quarter-quad. But, a species' Current Range was displayed to the public "by county" regardless of the land unit used to enter the range data into ECOS. Now that the public sees the exact same species range that was entered into ECOS, this gap in accuracy has been removed.

Even with the match between recorded (FWS) and viewed (public) land units, a user cannot discern *where* in that land unit the species occurs. So, the ECOS Development Team made it possible to upload Current Range as geospatial data, in the form of "shapefiles," that much more precisely define and map where a species is known or believed to occur, without limiting (or extending) distribution to predefined land-unit boundaries.

The combination of these two upgrades enable FWS personnel and the public alike to get a much more accurate picture of species distributions, whether for management decisions, development planning, or educational purposes.

Species Expenditure More Accessible

New TESS report pulls expenditures data from more sources for easier access

Rolled-up expenditures for the previous fiscal year are now available in a new TESS report, "Reported Regional Species Expenditures." This new report retrieves expenditures information from four different ECOS applications (Grants, HabITS, FIS, and ROAR) and rolls up dollars by species and application. You can now find the information from the various sources directly through this report, which is exportable to Excel.

Organized by Region, the report shows dollars spent by species (common name first) where available among the four applications, and then summarized as "Species Total" (see screen capture below).

It's important to understand what this report is—and isn't! Find this information by clicking the  button (at right below) and look it over *before* using this report. To access the report, log in to **ECOS** and follow this trail: [TESS](#) > [TESS Reports](#) > [Recovery: Other](#) > [Reported Regional Species Expenditures for Last Fiscal Year](#).

[ECOS](#) > [TESS](#) > Regional species expenditures for FY 2012

REPORTED REGIONAL SPECIES EXPENDITURES FOR FY 2012

FIRST, click here and read the Help!

For help information, toggle the help button here => 

Then click on a Region

Export option: [EXCEL](#)

Exportable!

Species	Grants	Habits	FIS	ROAR	Species Total
Indiana bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>) [E] -- Entire	\$114,322	\$189,549	\$0	\$0	\$303,871
Kirtland's Warbler (<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>) [E] -- Entire	\$288,924	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$291,924
Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>) [E] -- Great Lakes watershed	\$18,238	\$9,000	\$0	\$0	\$27,238



Getchyer ECOS E-News Here — Read All About Us!

Current and past issues now available on Sharepoint and Google Drive

Missed a past issue or want to look up an FAQ, announcement, or story you remember reading? Or maybe you'd like to let more people know about ECOS and what it is, does, and delivers. Well, you're in luck! All the back issues, as well as the current issue once it's distributed, are parked in folders named "ECOS E-News" on both Sharepoint and Google Drive (pick your favorite repository).



For those of you receiving this newsletter for the first time, the ECOS E-News is a semi-regular newsletter targeted to ECOS users. We use the E-News to announce ECOS application and module updates, new applications, user FAQs and workarounds, and other ECOS news to benefit users. Last year we also used it to inform the ECOS community of the succession of actings who took the helm while we selected a new ECOS Project Manager (John Swords) to replace long-time leader Linda Purviance. Find the entire collection here:

Sharepoint: (via fishnet.fws.doi.net)

https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/projects/home/ecos/Shared%20Documents/ECOS_E-News/

Google Docs: (via Bison Connect)

https://drive.google.com/a/fws.gov/?tab=mo#folders/0B4T4_bxB28XGSEV2UVV5cnlOWms



Got ideas or user questions/issues others might be interested in?

As always, we welcome ideas for articles or FAQs related to ECOS and its applications. Please submit any ideas to the [ECOS Help Desk](#).

TAILS Hits 500,000th Logged Activity!

But more importantly, who won the cookies?



Just kidding (sort of). Seriously, TAILS has been indispensable for documenting and tracking millions of important details concerning Conservation Planning Activities, Section 7 Consultations, and Environmental Contaminant Activities. The fact that some 2,200 Service staff have used TAILS to record their work and interactions, up to the half-millionth logged activity and beyond, is testimony to the great service this application performs. TAILS keeps all levels of offices apprised of everything dedicated staff do to carry out the Service's mission in these key areas, while providing data backup and sharing services, the basis for administrative records, staff/office workload measures, constant uniform reporting for data calls and end-of-year performance reporting, identification of geospatial relationships between our work and trust resources, and much, much more.

Congratulations to biologist **Dan Cordova** (Sacramento FWO), who won the guessing contest by predicting the 500,000th logged activity within 8 days of when it actually occurred (March 26th)! **Congrats** also to TAILS logger **Cheri Yapp** and Staff Lead **Michele McNulty** (Kansas ESFO), who together were responsible for this significant milestone. All parties happily received and enjoyed the promised cookies, as evidenced by the photos at right. Yum! Anyone care to guess when we hit one million?

Lucky winners

Cheri Yapp (right) and **Dan Cordova** (below) eat their prizes with gusto (Cheri) and dedication (Dan).

