

# Caribbean

## Ecological Services Field Office

November 2010



Elfin-Woods warbler, candidate species by Mike Morel



Female coquí guajon by JP Zegarra, USFWS



Leatherback turtle in St. Croix by Claudia Lombard, USFWS



Agave eggersiana wild on coastal cliff by M. Vargas, USFWS

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### Station Facts

- Established: 1974
- Staff: 34 (including employees in Boquerón and Rio Grande, 2 Interns and 2 STEP's)
- FY10 Budget: \$3,664,255

### Station's Mission

Promote strategic conservation to protect, conserve and enhance wildlife and ecosystems.

Work cooperatively with private landowners in restoring and protecting wildlife habitat.

Protect endangered species through the administration of pre-listing, consultation and recovery activities in cooperation with other Federal agencies, Commonwealth and Territorial agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Manage the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program and lead the interagency working group.

Conserve wildlife and wetland resources by evaluating and recommending modifications of projects proposed for Federal construction, funding or authorization.

Evaluate impacts of contaminants on trust resources and aid in remediation of impacts and restoration of habitats and resources.

Develop partnerships with Federal, Commonwealth and Territorial agencies, organizations and citizen groups to understand climate change impacts on fish and wildlife resources and their habitats.

### Landscape Conservation and Data Integration

Developing two Strategic Habitat Conservation Projects in the north and south of Puerto Rico implementing the LCC framework.

Working with DNER, USGS, the Manatee Conservation Center of Puerto Rico, North Carolina State University (NCSU) and PBS&J Caribe to validate Antillean manatee census methods, develop recovery criteria, evaluate possible manatee protection areas and other management options.

Working with NCSU to develop the Caribbean LCC.

### New Energy

Assist private entities, USVI and PR governments evaluate and address potential impacts to wildlife from energy projects including natural gas pipeline construction and wind farms.

### Highlights for 2010

#### Endangered Species Program:

Conducted reviews through technical assistance and Section 7 consultations for 737 proposed actions.

Conducted 17 species status reviews. Working on listing evaluation of three petitioned species. Established new populations for the herbaceous plant *pepperomia wheeleri* and the cactus *leptocereus grantianus*.

**Coastal Program:** Restored 418 wetland acres, 108 upland acres and 1 mile of riparian habitat, for a total of 31 projects today.

**Contaminants Program:** Assisted EPA in responding to the CAPECO Explosion and subsequent remedial response. Assisted USFWS Southeast Regional Office respond to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill with four employees completing seven rotations.

**Partners Program:** Enrolled 18 new farms to conserve 410 acres of land and 2.1 miles of riparian habitat for a total of 160 projects implemented today. Provided technical assistance to USDA with 21 Farm Bill Projects.