



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM**

TELEPHONIC INTERVIEW Time (3:22)

**CORAL PINK SAND DUNES TIGER BEETLE (HOST – SARAH LEON WITH
KATHERINE RICHARDSON)**

This transcript was produced from audio provided by FWS Endangered Species Program

PROCEEDINGS

(Music plays.)

MS. LEON: Hello there. This is Sarah Leon for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. I'm on the phone today with Katherine Richardson, Fish and Wildlife biologist at the Utah Field Office. Hi, Katherine. How are you today?

MS. RICHARDSON: I'm good, Sarah. How are you?

MS. LEON: I'm great, thanks. I was hoping you could spend some time talking about the Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle today.

MS. RICHARDSON: Sure.

MS. LEON: This is a rather striking insect, as far as insects go. And I'm really thrilled that we're getting to highlight this species today, especially since many of our listeners have probably not even heard of it before. Katherine, can you please start by just telling us some basic facts about the species?

MS. RICHARDSON: Well, it lives only in the Coral Pink Sand Dunes, which is an area in southern Utah. It's a very small area. They are a predacious species, so the adults actually fly around the sand dunes looking for other insects to eat. They have a two year long larval cycle. So the adults lay the eggs in the sand and when they hatch they become larva and they live in a little burrow in the sand. They wait in their burrow for other insects to come crawling by and then they kind of jump out of their burrow and

grab them.

MS. LEON: What is the current status of this species?

MS. RICHARDSON: Currently the tiger beetle is a candidate for the Endangered Species List. It has been a candidate since the first Invertebrate Candidate Review in 1984. It's pretty high on the priority list now because the threats are considered both intense and of high magnitude.

MS. LEON: I've heard that this is a highly recoverable species. Can you explain why this is, and what's being done to help recover this insect?

MS. RICHARDSON: Well, I consider it recoverable because its entire range is owned by only two landowners—the Bureau of Land Management and the Utah Department of Parks and Recreation. So a lot of wide ranging species, they have a lot of problems trying to get all the potential shareholders involved because a lot of them are on private land and things of that nature. So this is all state and federal land, and both of our partners are very enthusiastic about contributing to the recovery of this species.

MS. LEON: Sometimes it seems that convincing the public to care about a species' recovery is challenging, especially if it's a bug. So can you spend these last few moments explaining why people should maybe take an interest in the Coral Pink Sand Dunes tiger beetle and care about its recovery?

MS. RICHARDSON: Well, it really is a very unique species that lives in this unique ecosystem—these particular sand dunes in southern Utah. I think that's pretty cool. But, who gets to decide which species we try to recover and which species we don't try to recover? They all have intrinsic value, so we do our best to recover as many as possible.

MS. LEON: Well thank you for your time today, Katherine. It's always great getting to know about a unique species like this, so thank you.

MS. RICHARDSON: You're welcome. Thanks, Sarah.

MS. LEON: This is Sarah Leon for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thanks for listening.