



DoD Partners in Flight Program Management and Technical Support

Project # 14-1717

Background:

Migratory birds are well studied by many groups and have significant legislative requirements. The Department of Defense (DoD) Partners in Flight (PIF) program sustains and enhances the military testing, training, and safety mission through proactive, habitat based management strategies that maintain healthy landscapes and training lands.

Objective:

The DoD PIF Program represents DoD in the bird conservation initiatives, and facilitates the exchange of information regarding bird conservation and management within the DoD natural resources community. This project provides support for the major components of that effort, including a full time program coordinator, information and outreach materials, and support for vital regional and national conservation projects.

Summary of Approach:

The DoD PIF program sustains and enhances the military testing, training, and safety mission through proactive, habitat-based management strategies that maintain healthy landscapes and training lands. The DoD PIF Strategic Plan identifies actions that support and enhance the military mission while also working to secure bird populations. These actions can be incorporated into installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) and Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) plans. DoD PIF representatives assist installation natural resources managers in improving the monitoring and inventory, research and management, and education programs involving birds and their habitats. DoD PIF works beyond installation boundaries to facilitate cooperative partnerships, determine the current status of bird populations, and prevent the listing of additional birds as threatened or endangered. The Program Coordinator communicates with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on migratory bird regulations, and facilitates the development of migratory bird guidance for INRMPs and National Environmental Policy Act documents. DoD PIF provides a scientific basis for maximizing the effectiveness of resource management, enhancing the biological integrity of DoD lands, and ensuring continued use of these lands to fulfill military training requirements. Up-to-date migratory bird information is

communicated to installation personnel through an email listserve, regular newsletter, and web site. Participating in partnerships, such as PIF, also helps DoD to more effectively meet its stewardship responsibility to conserve our nation's biodiversity.

Benefit:

Because DoD PIF focuses on partnerships and science to accomplish conservation objectives, installations derive the benefit from the initiative's goals: facilitate cooperative partnerships, determine the current status of migratory birds and causes of population fluctuations, and identify and maintain priority habitats for migratory birds. This allows installation natural resources personnel to proactively manage DoD lands to sustain healthy populations and minimize or prevent the future listing of additional species as threatened or endangered.

Accomplishments:

The DoD PIF Program was actively involved in addressing migratory bird issues on installations and with USFWS. Significant progress was made with improving recommendations for including migratory bird information in INRMPs. The DoD PIF Steering Committee met in April 2015 in conjunction with a DoD/USFWS Federal Partners training course on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and is developing a checklist and template for MBTA-related information that will be useful for DoD managers updating or revising INRMPs. DoD PIF also updated its Mission-Sensitive Priority Species list, which is used to provide monitoring recommendations for those species that, if listed, would have the highest likelihood of impacting the military mission. DoD PIF was also involved in significant outreach activities on several installations to promote International Migratory Bird Day and Earth Day. The DoD PIF Program Coordinator provides staff support for the Office of Secretary of Defense for all bird-related issues within DoD. Relevant information can be found at dodpif.org.

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