



Advocacy

The NR Program engages in a variety of communication and advocacy efforts to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones by:

- Maintaining web portals (www.DoDNaturalResources.net) to include the latest NR Program information as well as links to its initiatives and other resources;
- Engaging in social media efforts through a Twitter account, @DoDNatRes; and
- Creating animations that highlight mission-sustaining natural resources projects and climate change responses.

Some of the management tools available on the web portal include:

- **Biodiversity:** DoD Biodiversity Conservation Toolbox, *Commander's Guide to Biodiversity*, *A Handbook for Natural Resources Managers: Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands* with additional case studies, and Biodiversity Outreach Toolkit (2 DVD-set).
- **Invasive species:** Public outreach posters, radio public service announcement template, DoD PowerPoint presentation template, and *Commander's Guide on Invasive Species*.
- **Bird conservation:** Coordinated Bird Monitoring Guidance, DoD PIF fact sheets, and information about Priority Species of Concern.
- **Coral Reefs:** *Department of Defense Coral Reef Protection Implementation Plan*, *Coral Reef Conservation Guide for the Military*, and [Department of Defense Coral Reef Initiative Database](#).

Did You Know...

- DoD manages more than 340 military installations that have natural resources significant enough to require Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs).
- Access limitations due to security and safety concerns shelter many military lands from development pressures and large-scale habitat loss. As a result, some of the finest remaining examples of rare wildlife habitats are found on military installations.
- DoD has the highest density of species listed as threatened or endangered (T&E) under the ESA of any other federal land management agency.
- DoD is responsible for managing more than 70 species found only on DoD lands.
- The concept of an INRMP was created by the 1997 amendments to the [Sikes Act](#). Each INRMP must be coordinated with the USFWS and the appropriate state fish and wildlife agency.
- DoD consults with the USFWS and NOAA Fisheries Service on T&E species management.
- By joining the CESU, the NR Program has saved over \$7 million in overhead fees while completing hundreds of ecoregional projects.



DoD has spent over \$160 million to manage the red-cockaded woodpecker and its habitat over the last 20+ years; more than on any other species.
Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



A pair of juvenile great horned owls on a Light Armored Vehicle (LAV) at Twentynine Palms, CA. The mother owl kept a watchful eye from the canopy above as this photo was taken, and the LAV was left in place until the owls successfully fledged.

Source: Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center

Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, Environment, Safety and Occupational Health (ODUSD I&E ESOH)

www.denix.osd.mil/nr

www.dodnaturalresources.net

@DoDNatRes



Enabling the military's testing and training mission while protecting our nation's priceless natural heritage



"The mission of the Department of Defense is more than aircraft, guns, and missiles. Part of the defense job is protecting the waters, timber, and wildlife, the priceless natural resources that make this great nation of ours worth defending."

General Thomas D. White
Former Air Force Chief of Staff



LEADERSHIP

PROTECTING MORE BIOLOGICALLY IMPERILED SPECIES PER ACRE THAN ANY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY

PARTNERSHIP

ENSURING THAT SOLDIERS HAVE REALISTIC HABITATS FOR TRAINING

STEWARDSHIP

MANAGING NEARLY 28 MILLION ACRES OF PUBLIC LANDS

Mission Support

Healthy natural systems are critical to the U.S. Department of Defense’s (DoD’s) mission success. DoD’s Natural Resources Conservation Compliance Program (NR Program) helps enable the military’s testing and training mission by ensuring that our Servicemen and women have continued access to realistic training environments, while simultaneously working to maintain the long-term sustainability of the priceless natural heritage entrusted to DoD stewardship. To achieve these goals, the NR Program provides policy, guidance, and oversight to manage natural resources across approximately 28 million acres of military land, air, and water resources.

Program Overview

The three principles that guide the NR Program are **leadership**, **stewardship**, and **partnership**.

DoD is committed to environmental excellence, and leads by example through the respectful use of natural and cultural resources. Stewardship initiatives help DoD safeguard its irreplaceable resources for future generations while ensuring its personnel have high quality training areas for years to come. And, DoD works through partnerships to access the knowledge and talents of many organizations and individuals.

The Office of the Secretary of Defense, Military Departments, and USFWS work cooperatively to reduce the need to list candidate species.

Program Responsibilities

Evolving statutory and regulatory drivers, combined with increasingly dynamic natural resources conditions, such as habitat loss/species decline, wildlife disease, wildland fire, drought, storm surge, and factors exacerbated by climate change, can and do impact the military’s training and testing missions. The NR Program works to address these impacts by defining needs, addressing gaps, enhancing outreach, and expanding partnerships.



DoD developed an automated monitoring technique to detect potential threats and prevent population declines to the endemic San Nicolas Island fox. This technique allows the Navy to facilitate fox conservation efforts while ensuring maximum training flexibility (see [Legacy Project 08-308](#)). Source: U.S. Navy

Policy and Guidance

The NR Program develops policy and guidance to support the Secretary of Defense’s priorities, address natural resources management challenges, and help ensure no net loss to mission capability. Examples of policy initiatives include:

- Updating [DoD Instruction \(DoDI\) 4715.03](#), *DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program*, and developing an implementation manual;
- Establishing new conservation metrics to evaluate key performance; and
- Issuing policy memoranda to the Military Departments that address natural resources challenges.

Partnerships

The NR Program works closely with a range of partners to address emerging natural resources issues and leverage joint resources to achieve mutual goals.

Federal agencies: DoD works closely with federal agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Fisheries Service to effectively manage species and their habitats on DoD lands.

Nongovernmental organizations: DoD works in partnership with the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association, The Wildlife Society, 15 regions of the [Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units \(CESU\) Network](#), Wildlife Conservation Society, National Wildlife Federation, Bat Conservation International, National Environmental Education Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and many other groups to collaborate on issues of mutual interest and importance.



Each year, the Legacy Program funds National Public Lands Day projects on DoD installations across the country. Above, volunteers plant gardens for beautification, shade, ground stabilization, wildlife cover, and pollinators. Source: Eglin Air Force Base

Specific management actions identified in installation INRMPS vary by species and landscape, and can include habitat enhancement, prescribed burning, invasive species management, noise effect studies, and captive breeding programs.

National DoD programs: DoD Partners in Flight (PIF) and DoD Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) are national initiatives within the NR Program that develop materials and provide on the ground support to help DoD steward birds and herpetofauna on military lands. Additionally, the NR Program collaborates with the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) to protect habitats adjacent to DoD installations.

The NR Program also works with the [Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program](#) (SERDP) and [Environmental Security Technology Certification Program](#) (ESTCP) to coordinate DoD’s research and management of its natural resources, and improve its understanding of climate change impacts. The Armed Forces Pest Management Board also is an important partner that helps DoD manage invasive species issues.

The NR Program often collaborates with these and other partners through projects funded by the DoD [Legacy Resource Management Program](#) (Legacy Program), which awards funds on a competitive basis for projects that protect and enhance natural and cultural resources that support military mission objectives.