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# 2 Natural Resources

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The Department of Defense manages about 29 million acres of land across the United States. These lands are rich in natural resources and encompass a wide variety of habitat types (e.g., wetlands, grasslands, semi-arid scrublands, and forests). These and other high quality habitats host a wide array of threatened, endangered, and at-risk species. They also provide valuable ecosystem services and ensure a strong foundation for realistic and sustainable military training and testing.

## Natural Resources at a Glance

### Program Accomplishments:

- Provided over **\$161 million** to develop and implement Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) in fiscal year (FY) 2010
- Increased the percentage of installations with completed INRMPs from 74 percent in FY09 to **78 percent** in FY10

## Requirements

These regulatory requirements provide the framework necessary for the Department of Defense (DoD) to manage its natural resources:

- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940
- Endangered Species Act of 1973
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
- National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 §318
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- Sikes Act, as amended
- Executive Order (E.O.) 13112, "Invasive Species"
- E.O. 13186, "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds"
- E.O. 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environment, Energy, and Economic Performance"
- DoD Instruction 4715.03, "Natural Resources Conservation Program"

## Program Summary

DoD's conservation goal is to ensure continued access to realistic habitat conditions to support the military's combat readiness mission, while simultaneously working to maintain the long-term sustainability of our nation's priceless natural heritage. The Department is responsible for the lands, waters, and airspace under its control. DoD

also manages and protects about 430 federally-listed species and over 520 at-risk species. Through the implementation of its Natural Resources Program, DoD manages and protects its lands by:

- Fulfilling and advocating for priorities established by the Secretary of Defense
- Overseeing the DoD Components' natural resources program expenditures
- Developing policy and guidance
- Providing tools and training to natural resources managers
- Participating in partnership-based conservation efforts
- Promoting public awareness

## Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs)

INRMPs are comprehensive plans that help commanders manage installation natural resources to support the military's mission and comply with applicable laws and regulations. INRMPs must reflect mutual agreement between the installation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and state fish and wildlife agency. INRMPs must also conserve, protect, and manage plant and animal resources. At the same time, each INRMP must ensure that installation resources support the military's testing and training mission.

A basic INRMP includes:

- A description of the installation, its history, and its current mission
- Management goals and associated timeframes
- Projects to be implemented and estimated costs
- A discussion of how the military mission and training requirements are supported while protecting the environment
- Natural resources' biological needs and legal requirements
- The role of the installation's natural resources in the context of the surrounding ecosystem
- Input from the USFWS, state fish and wildlife agency, and the general public

## Evaluation Criteria

Each installation requiring an INRMP is rated on a “red-yellow-green” basis for these seven focus areas:

- INRMP Impact on Installation Mission
- INRMP Implementation
- Partnership/Cooperation and Effectiveness
- Team Adequacy
- Status of Federally-Listed Species and Critical Habitat
- Ecosystem Integrity
- Fish and Wildlife Management and Public Use

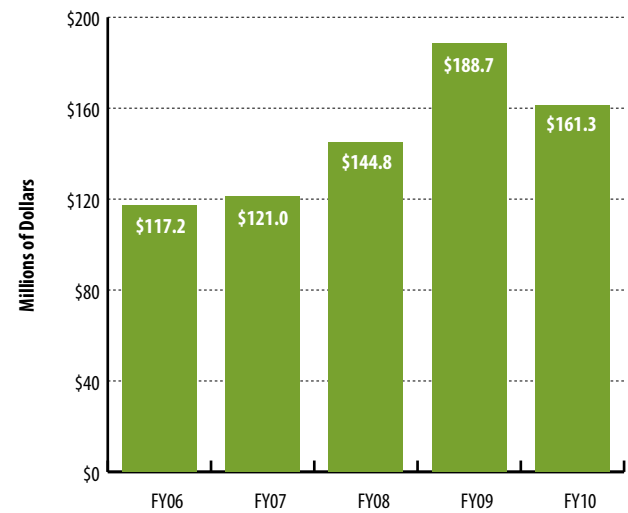
DoD is revising the evaluation criteria for these data areas. It will take a minimum of three years of data collection to fully refine measurement criteria and identify trends or forecast future performance.

For more information on the Natural Resources Program, please go to: <http://www.denix.osd.mil/nr>

## Performance Summary

DoD invested more than \$161 million in FY10 to develop and implement INRMPs. While this number is a decrease of nearly \$27 million from FY09 (Figure 2-1), overall INRMP funding has increased by more than \$44 million since FY06. This increase shows the Department’s continuing commitment to natural resources conservation in support

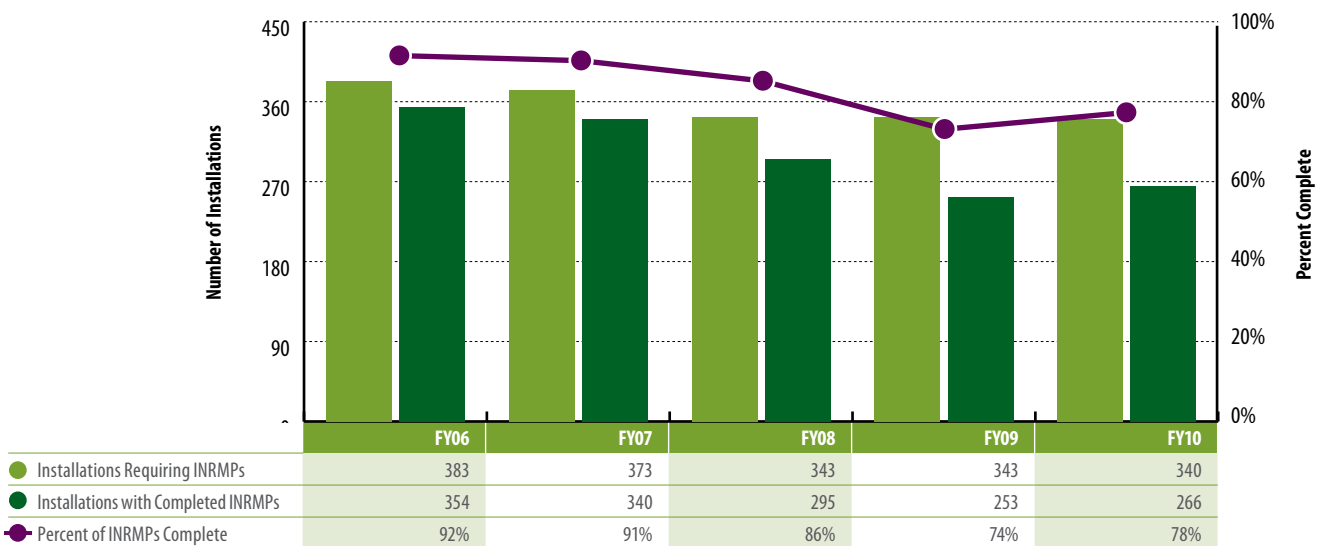
Figure 2-1 INRMP Funding



of the military mission. Portions of the decrease from FY09 are due to lost reimbursable revenue streams and increases in significant, non-recurring requirements for the Marine Corps in FY10. In addition, Army had fewer overall natural resources expenditures in FY10.

In FY10, 78 percent of DoD’s required INRMPs were complete (Figure 2-2). This is a four percent increase from FY09 and is largely due to the DoD Components implementing a new system of reporting metrics that more closely scrutinize INRMP status and adhere to Sikes Act requirements. These new reporting metrics should

Figure 2-2 INRMP Progress



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also allow the DoD Components to better manage and allocate resources. However, delays caused by lengthy USFWS review periods, Environmental Assessments and/or Environmental Impact Statement, and changes in staff at the installation can all impact INRMP completion dates.

Appendix D, Section 2 contains Natural Resources Program data by DoD Component.