



NATURAL RESOURCES

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM



The DOD Natural Resources Program

The Department of Defense's (DOD) ability to conduct realistic live-fire training, weapons system testing, and essential operations is vital to preparing a more lethal and resilient combat force. To meet these mission requirements, warfighters rely on lands and ranges that contain a variety of landscapes and replicate the operational environment in which they may fight. DOD manages and maintains nearly 27 million acres of land, water, and airspace across the United States and its territories to support mission-related activities and advance national security goals and objectives. Ensuring access to those realistic and varied ecosystems, such as deserts, grasslands, rainforests, tundra permafrost, and coastlines, is essential for military training and preparing our warfighters for any of the challenges they may face while conducting global operations.

Aligned under the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment (OASD(EI&E)), the DOD Natural Resources (NR) Program provides the DOD Components with the policy, guidance, and oversight needed to implement their natural resources programs to support the military mission in compliance with all Federal environmental laws and requirements, such as the Sikes Act, Executive Orders, and Presidential memoranda.

The DOD NR Program strives for no net loss in the capability of DOD lands and waters to support the national security mission by:

- ▶ Sustaining access to the natural training and testing environments essential for a lethal combat-ready force;
- ▶ Avoiding land use conflicts near installation boundaries through partnerships with surrounding communities;
- ▶ Decreasing risks to operations and infrastructure from environmental hazards such as wildland fires, floods, spread of invasive species, or drought; and
- ▶ Preventing or minimizing legal and environmental barriers that could impact mission readiness through natural resources management and stewardship of species and their habitats.

INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. § 670) requires the Secretary of Defense to carry out NR programs to ensure no net loss in military installation capabilities, steward natural resources, and maintain or improve the resilience of military installations through the implementation of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs).

Collaborative Planning

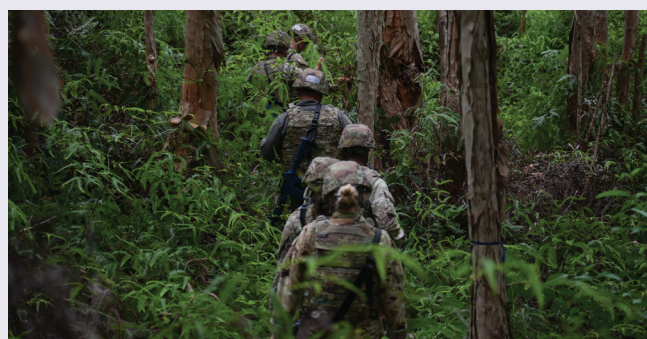
For installations with significant natural resources, INRMPs are developed in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State Fish and Wildlife Agencies to serve as the blueprint for sustaining installation mission readiness through the management and stewardship of installation lands and water.

Community & Readiness Benefits

INRMP activities can also support defense communities by providing public access and supporting outdoor recreation opportunities for servicemembers and their families.

Living Documents, Long-Term Access

INRMPs are living documents that require a comprehensive and integrated approach to natural resources management to ensure DOD has continued access to its lands and waters.



U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam exercise map navigation skills during Warrior Airmen Training at Schofield Barracks East Range. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Alan Ricker)

INRMPS SUPPORT MISSION SUSTAINMENT THROUGH NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND STEWARDSHIP AT 364 OF THE DEPARTMENT'S 550 INSTALLATIONS, INCLUDING:



**164 ARMY
INSTALLATIONS**



**18 MARINE CORPS
INSTALLATIONS**



**78 NAVY
INSTALLATIONS**



**102 AIR FORCE
INSTALLATIONS**



**2 DEFENSE LOGISTICS AGENCY
DISTRIBUTION CENTERS**



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Marines assigned to the 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion conduct a water insertion during Pololu Strike at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. (Photo by Marine Corps Sgt. Israel Chincio)

NR PROGRAM PARTNERSHIPS, TOOLS, AND RESOURCES

The NR Program integrates and aligns with other DOD programs that address threats to mission-sustainment, such as the Wildland Fire Management and Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard programs. To maximize the effectiveness of its management activities in supporting the military mission, DOD also supports partnership-based conservation efforts (e.g., DOD Partners in Flight, DOD Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Recovery and Sustainment Partnership Initiative, Sentinel Landscapes Partnership).

Finally, to leverage cost-effective research and technical resourcing, the DOD NR Program supports cooperative agreements through the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units National Network, which has facilitated approximately 2,800 installation-level projects while saving DOD an estimated \$207 million in avoided costs from FY2009-FY2024.



The goal of DOD's NR program is to support mission readiness and guarantee continued access to lands, waters and airspace critical to mission activities through natural resources management and stewardship.

Marines with 3rd Littoral Combat Team receive live-fire instruction at Range 400, MCAGCC, Twentynine Palms, California. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Enge You)

FUNDING PROGRAMS THAT PROTECT MISSION READINESS

OASD(EI&E) supports natural resources management through several competitive funding programs that maintain and enhance mission readiness:

  **SERDP** **ESTCP** The Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (SERDP/ESTCP) invest in basic and applied research and develop innovative, scalable technologies that enhance military readiness, improve warfighter capabilities, and strengthen defense infrastructure.

 The DOD Legacy Resource Management Program provides strategic investments in natural and cultural resources to avoid regulatory barriers and reduce natural hazard risks to mission-critical activities on installations.

 **REPI** The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program supports cost-sharing agreements between the Military Services, other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and private organizations to avoid land use conflicts near military installations, address environmental restrictions that limit military activities, and increase military installation resilience.



3rd Battalion, 1st Marines maneuver during the Rifle Squad Competition at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Elijua Guel)

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.denix.osd.mil/nr/>
or scan to the QR code to the right.

