



Maintaining and Implementing Sustainable INRMPs Course

05-240

Background:

Pursuant to the Sikes Act and the Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997, Department of Defense (DoD) installations are required to develop and implement Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) with the coordination and cooperation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and state fish and wildlife agencies. These plans are designed to effectively manage the natural resources found on and adjacent to the installation, and should reflect the mutual agreement of the parties concerning conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources.

Objective:

The purpose of this effort was to develop a course for military installations, state wildlife agency personnel, and USFWS personnel to demonstrate ways to maintain and implement sustainable INRMPs. Throughout the course, participants are exposed to lectures, structured exercises, and real life examples of the three parties working together. By the course's end, participants should have a good working knowledge of the responsibilities of each party, as well as their roles in the maintenance and implementation of sustainable INRMPs.

Summary of Approach:

To date, two offerings of the course have occurred, Phoenix, AZ (December 2006) and Baltimore, MD (May 2007), with attendance by over 60 participants. This two and a half day course provides a detailed look at the Sikes Act requirements, roles and responsibilities of all three parties and new ways to implement and maintain sustainable INRMPs.

The updated version of this course seeks to provide a forum for natural resources personnel to learn ways to better draft, implement, and maintain sustainable INRMPs. Instructors for the course have over 50 years of combined experience in the natural resource field. From migratory bird subject matter experts to Sikes Act contributors, the panel of instructors is remarkable in its own right. Headquarters-level personnel from DoD, USFWS, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies are available for questions, answers and explanations.

Topics/modules covered in the course include: The Sikes Act & Sustainable INRMPs, Tri-Party Agreement, Cooperative Management, USFWS Review Process, Project Funding Options, State Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Major Natural Resource Issues, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Public Involvement and Keeping INRMPs Current.

Benefit:

This course provides a variety of benefits to all participants. Serving as a forum for discussion and questions, the course encourages participants to ask the hard questions of each other. The course also: (1) allows installation personnel to meet their respect state and USFWS counterparts; (2) encourages and exemplifies the benefits of the three parties meeting more regularly than the minimum required under the law; and (3) allows participants the opportunity to talk with each other and determine the *best* way for the INRMP process to work *in their state*.

Accomplishments:

This course has successfully educated over 60 participants on new and innovative ways to maintain and implement sustainable INRMPs and on the roles and responsibilities of each party. Additionally, due to regional nature of the course offerings, attendees have had the opportunity to meet with and discuss challenges and prospects for the future with their counterparts in the other agencies. Upon completion of the course, participants have an understanding of what it means to maintain and implement sustainable INRMPs, and have new ideas on how to work with their counterparts to strengthen the partnerships and create a streamlined process for INRMP reviews.

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