

Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans



Sikes Act Basics: INRMPs



Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans



What is an INRMP?

- Comprehensive planning document
- Provides for sustainable use of natural resources
- Balances management of natural resources with mission requirements



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Installation Plans Integrated into INRMPs

- Holistic approach to resource management
- Other plans may be incorporated into an INRMP
 - Installation master plans and range ops plans
 - Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans (ICRMPs)
 - State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs)
 - Fire management plans
 - Bureau of Land Management (BLM)/Forest Service plans



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Which Installations Must Prepare INRMPs?

- All installations within the US and its territories and possessions with significant natural resources
- DoD provides USFWS with **a** list of INRMP-required installations



Ft Stewart, GA



Los Angeles AFB

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INRMP Required Elements

- Resource management and fish and wildlife-oriented recreation
- Habitat enhancement or modifications
- Wetland protection, enhancement, and restoration
- Integration and consistency among activities
- Specific natural resource management goals

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INRMP Required Elements (continued)

- Public use of natural resources
- Public access consistent with safety, security, & mission
- Enforcement of natural resource laws



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But Military Bases Are NOT Wildlife Refuges

- Program and INRMP must
 - Be consistent with the use of installations to ensure military preparedness; and
 - Ensure no net loss in capability of installations to support military mission.



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Procedural Requirements

- Must provide opportunity for public comment on (at least the initial) INRMP
 - NEPA as recommended means for soliciting
- All parties must review no less often than every five years
- Defense and Interior must report annually to Congress



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INRMP Review Requirements/Timing

- Must be reviewed “as to operation and effect”
- DoD strongly recommends an annual tripartite review
- “Regular basis, but not less often than every 5 years”
- Document for the record
- Ensure “mutual agreement” reflected

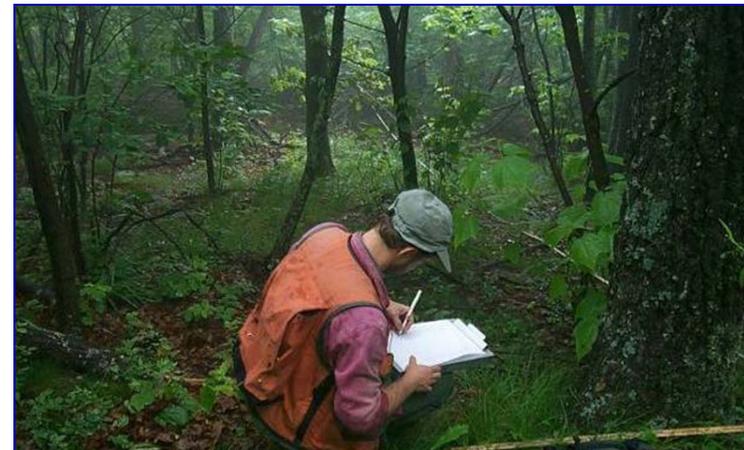


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Scope of Review

- Revision not necessarily required
- Triggers
 - Changed circumstances
 - **Endangered Species Act (ESA)** critical habitat designation
 - Not working

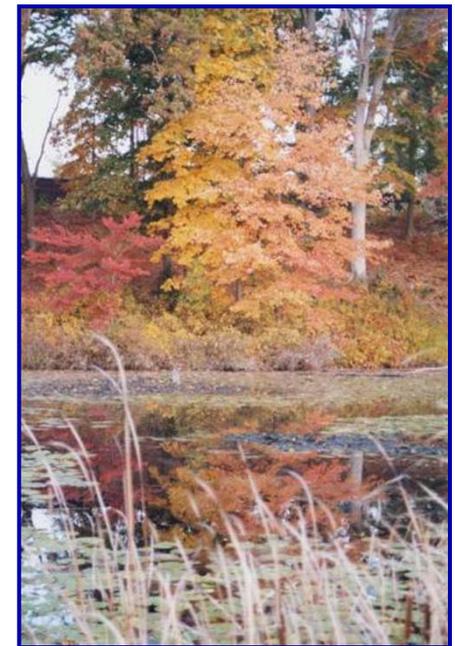


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INRMP Adequacy

- Adequacy determination based on:
 - Effectiveness of INRMP implementation
 - Effectiveness of partnership and collaboration
 - Sustainment of installation's mission
 - Status of listed species and critical habitat
 - Maintenance of ecosystem integrity



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INRMP Adequacy (continued)

- Compliance with:
 - Sikes Act
 - Endangered Species Act
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
 - Other natural resource and environmental laws
- Support for exclusion from critical habitat designation



Photo by Peter S. Weber

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Bottom Line

- Congress expects:
 - Plans to be developed and revised cooperatively
 - Plans to be implemented
 - Public to have access to installations to enjoy natural resources
 - But military preparedness **CANNOT** be compromised

