Natural Resources in DoD

Current Issues and Program Priorities

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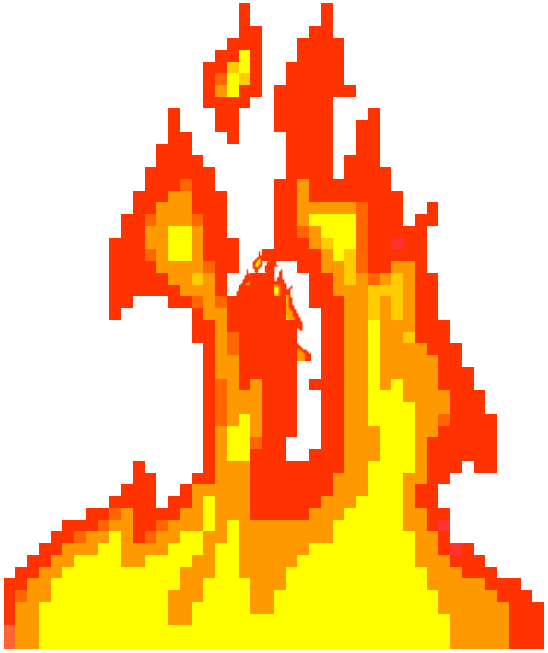
Deputy Director, Natural Resources

CURRENT HOT ISSUE



Candidate Species

Candidate Species Designations
BACKGROUND

- Center for Biological Diversity and Wild Earth Guardians filed suit with USFWS on 757 species
- Judge approved settlement September 10, 2011
- USFWS agreed to:
  - A 6-year schedule for final listing decisions on 251 species on the candidate list
  - Developing initial findings on 506 other species
- Formal data call to DoD Components
  - Key species
  - Level of concern
  - Information available

LEVEL OF CONCERN
DEFINITIONS

- Red – Significant potential to impact military readiness. Listing/critical habitat designation (CHD) would make at least some mission areas NOT mission capable.
- Orange – Moderate potential to impact military readiness. Listing/CHD would make at least some mission areas only partially mission capable. The range is partially mission capable.
- Yellow – Minimal potential to impact military readiness Listing/CHD could make at least some mission areas only partially mission capable in the future
- Pale Yellow (Air Force) – Watch List
- White (Blank) – No known impact on military

LEVEL OF CONCERN

SUMMARY RESULTS

LEVEL OF CONCERN	ARMY	NAVY	MARINE CORPS	AIR FORCE	TOTAL
RED	6	0	1	0	7
ORANGE	21	5	1	0	25
YELLOW	45	38	3	0	69
WATCH LIST	0	0	0	6	2
TOTALS	72	43	5	6	103

KEY SPECIES IDENTIFIED

- Red knot (3 Military Services)
- Greater sage grouse (3)
- Washington ground squirrel (2)
- Taylor's checkerspot butterfly
- Streaked horned lark
- Roy prairie pocket gopher
- Louisiana pine snake

TYPES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR USFWS

We may be able to avoid listing some species by providing USFWS with information that may inform the listing decision process.

- 1 – Status of species
- 2 – Trend analysis
- 3 – Survey/monitoring information available
- 4 – Habitat requirements
- 5 – Actions being taken to manage habitat and/or species
- 6 – Known threats

INFORMATION AVAILABLE
SPECIFICS

- Total data elements (for each candidate species, by installation) – 248
- At least some information available – 226
- Monitoring information available – 137
- Actions being taken to manage – 122
- Threat information available – 68
- All information types available – 16

ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED IN INSTALLATION INRMP?

STATUS	ARMY	NAVY	MARINE CORPS	AIR FORCE	TOTAL
YES	47	54	3	5	109
NO	68	43	3	2	116

NEXT STEPS

- Provide information, as appropriate, to USFWS
- Identify potential collaborations with Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI)
- Seek potential partnerships with other agencies and NGOs
- Discuss at October T&E Roundtable

Other Simmering Issues

- Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for Expanding Voluntary Conservation Actions
- EPA Data Request for Federal Agency Pesticide Use
- Stormwater Management and BMPs for Forest Roads
- Conservation Law Enforcement
- Renewable Energy Siting
- Wildland Fire Management

Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR)

- USFWS requested suggestions that would create incentives for landowners and others to take voluntary conservation actions
  - to benefit species likely to become threatened or endangered
  - that will be recognized as offsetting the adverse effects of land owner activities
- DoD provided comments – July 26, 2012
- We will work with USFWS and others to develop potential pilot projects

EPA Data Request for Federal Agency Pesticide Use

- March 22, 2012 letter to all major Federal agencies with land management responsibilities
- Asked for information on their use of registered pesticide products
- Purpose – use EPA's Registration Review program to ensure OPP complies with ESA
- More than 1150 active ingredients
- Request is on hold

Stormwater Management and BMPs for Forest Roads

- EPA plans to revise its stormwater regulations
  - Numerous activities will be defined as “industrial activities for forests”
  - NPDES permits will be required for these activities
    - Stormwater discharge from logging roads excluded
- EPA is seeking information on
  - Definitions of “forest roads”
  - BMPs for discharges from forest roads

Conservation Law Enforcement

- OSD Personnel and Readiness circulated draft DoDI for informal comments
  - DoDI 5525.jj, *Conservation Law Enforcement Program (CLEP)*
- Key CLEP topics
  - Responsibilities
  - Personnel and training
  - CLEP plans
  - Authority, powers and jurisdiction
  - Law enforcement coordination

Wildland Fire Management

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- Who owns the program?
- Reimbursement for mutual aid
- Fire training/certification
- Wildland Fire Center of Expertise
- Interaction with National Interagency Fire Center

Renewable Energy Siting

- Potential conflicts with
  - Mission
  - Natural resources stewardship
  - Cultural resources conservation
- Need for early and frequent coordination!

Natural Resources Program Priorities

- Develop Policy and Guidance
- Oversee DoD Components' Natural Resources Programs
- Define Needs and Address Gaps through Internal Coordination & Representation
- Enhance Outreach and Expand Partnerships through External Advocacy & Awareness

POLICY AND GUIDANCE

DoDI 4715.03
INRMP Implementation Manual
Coordination with USFWS Sikes Guidance

Natural Resources Conservation Instruction, DoDI 4715.03

14 February 2011

- Purposes
  - Improve the integration of mission and stewardship
  - Integrate a conservation ethic throughout DoD
  - Facilitate military readiness and cost-effective policies through sustained use of natural resources
  - Identify opportunities for improved cooperation, information sharing, technology demonstration and transfer, and public communications
  - http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/471503p.pdf

DoD Component Responsibilities

- Integrate the DoD Natural Resources Program with mission activities
- Comply with all applicable Federal statutory requirements, including Executive Orders and DoD policies
- Plan, program, and budget necessary resources
- Ensure scientifically sound, innovative, and effective stewardship
- Ensure that installations prepare, maintain, and implement INRMPs
- Conduct internal self-assessments and external INRMP reviews

INRMP Implementation Manual

- General INRMP provisions
  - Coordination, review and public comment
  - Implementation and special management
  - INRMP contents
  - Ecosystem-based management
- Formal Coordination: – Fall 2012

Coordination with USFWS Draft Sikes Guidance

Background

- 335 Installations require INRMPs
- Tripartite MOU between DoD, FWS, AFWA – update underway

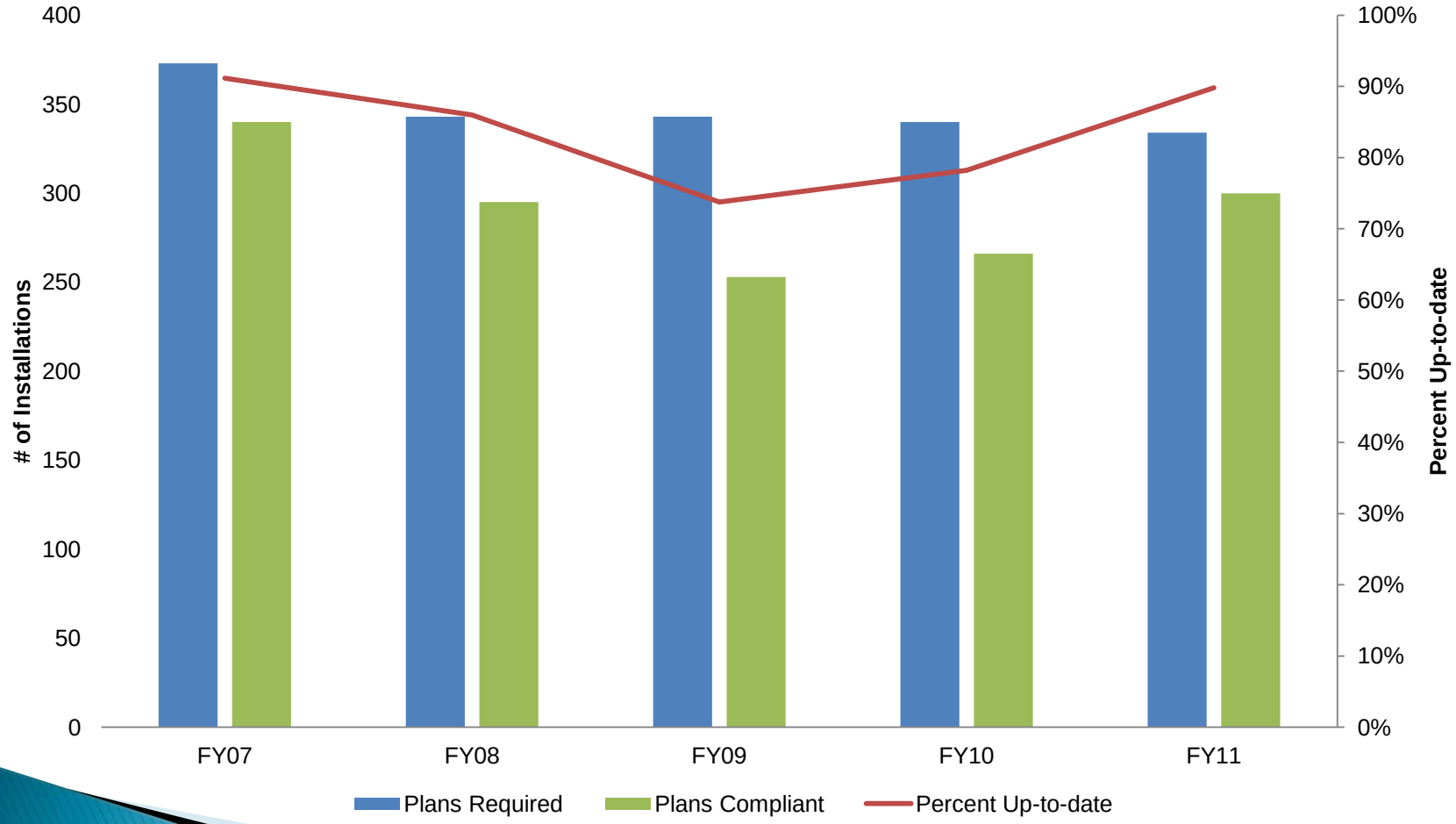
Key Issues

- Expedited review of INRMP revisions
- Consistency of definitions
  - Compliant INRMP
  - Revision
  - Review as to Operation and Effect
- Nature and timing of reviews for operation and effect
- How to address environmental contaminants
- USFWS input to annual Focus Area metrics

PROGRAM OVERSIGHT

INRMP Status
Focus Area Metrics
Critical Habitat Designation Exclusions
Conservation Expenditures
Revised Program Budget Elements

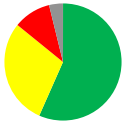
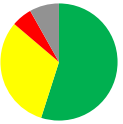
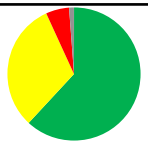
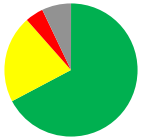
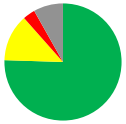
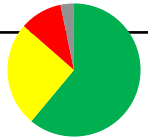
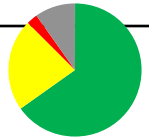
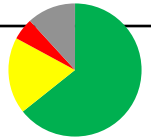
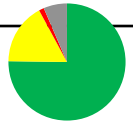
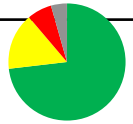
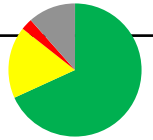
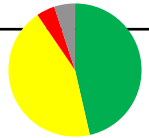
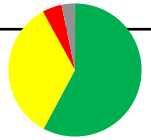
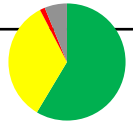
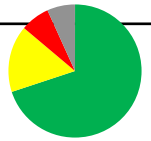
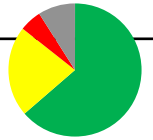
INRMP status



Natural Resources Metrics

- Evaluate effectiveness of natural resources support to the military mission
- Assess overall health and trends of each installation's natural resources program
- Identify and correct potential funding and other resource shortfalls

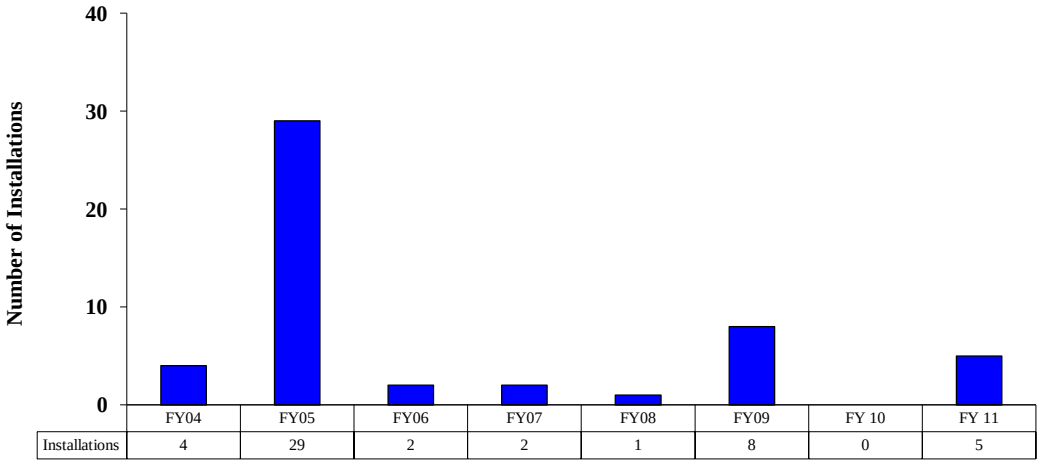
Natural Resources Focus Areas (DoD)

Focus Areas	FY09	FY10	FY11
INRMP Implementation			
Sikes Act Cooperation (Partnership Effectiveness)			
Team Adequacy			
INRMP Support of the Installation Mission			
Listed Species and Critical Habitat			
Ecosystem Integrity			
Recreational Use and Access			

Metrics Next Steps

- Revised Focus Area definitions
  - In place for FY 12 Environmental Management Review (EMR)
- Improved consistency in defining program health (G-Y-R)
  - Consistent definitions
  - Scoring flow chart
  - Optional for FY 12

Critical Habitat Designation Avoidance



INRMPs and Critical Habitat Exclusions

- 51 installations and satellites used INRMP exclusion: 4(a)(3)(B)
  - Majority of recent occurrences – steelhead, salmon, sturgeon, southern resident killer whale
- 34 bases used readiness exclusion: 4(b)(2)
  - 1 since 2006 (two coral species)

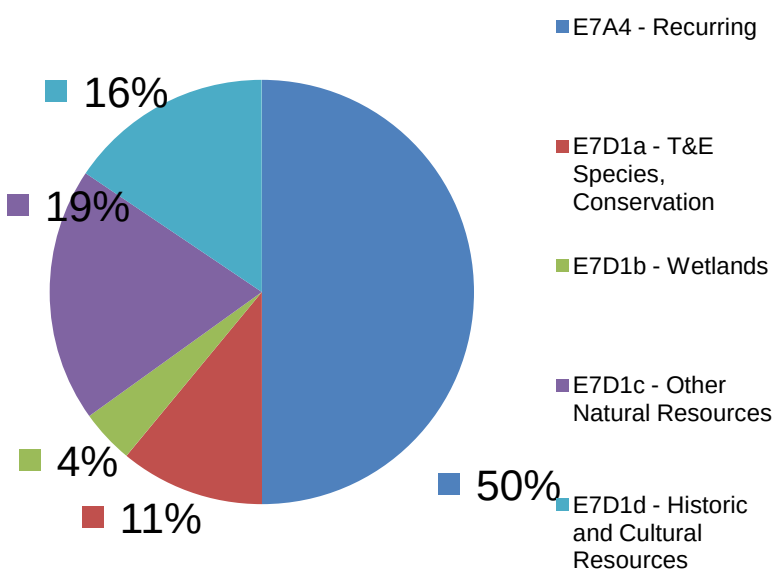
Conservation Expenditures

Front office query – what do we get for this level of investment?

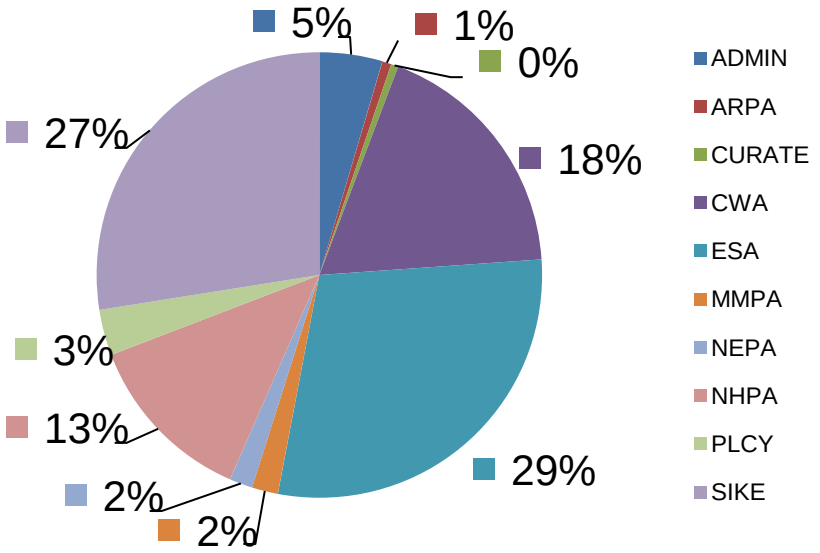
	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013
REQUEST	$320M	$380M	$379M
APPROP	$325M	$408M	
ACTUAL	$394M		

Two Ways to Track Conservation Expenditures

Budget Expenses per PB-28 Code



Budget Expenses per Media, Law or Regulation



Natural Resources Conservation Compliance Program Elements

PROPOSED

Natural Resources Pillar				
Program Area (Congressional Level)	Legal Drivers	Sub-Programs (DoD Level)	Activities (DoD Component level)	Description
Manpower		Contractor Civilian Government		U.S. government civilian, local national civilian, military,A1 and service contract manpower costs applicable to management of the environmental compliance program. Applicable contracted civilians refers to manpower needed to support the overall compliance program. This category includes all civilian and military manpower costs, but it does not include contract manpower costs associated with discrete, short-term, project, plan or study efforts. Example 1: Report under Manpower the government and contract support that covers management and/or implementation of multiple Natural Resource Programs. Example 2: Report under a specific Program Area the contract support required to deliver a discrete requirement under that program area. (e.g., support for Threatened and Endangered Species Program only).
Threatened and Endangered Species	Endangered Species Act	Threatened and Endangered Species; Candidate Species; Species at Risk	Assessment/Study (e.g., species research); Data collection and management; Inventories; Outreach; Management Plans (e.g., endangered species management plan); Monitoring; Mitigation; Program-specific Activities: - Habitat/species management; - Biological Opinion	The purpose of the ESA is to protect and recover imperiled species and the ecosystems upon which they depend. It is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). As a federal agency, the DoD is required to identify and protect the threatened or endangered species on its lands or in its waters, as well as all other listed species that it may jeopardize elsewhere.
Wetlands	Clean Water Act	Wetlands	Assessment/Study; Data collection and management; Monitoring; Permits and Fees; Other Program-specific Activities: - Wetlands mitigation; - Wetlands restoration	Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Activities include fill for development, water resource projects (such as dams and levees), infrastructure development (such as highways and airports) and mining projects. Section 404 requires a permit before dredged or fill material may be discharged into waters of the United States, unless the activity is exempt from Section 404 regulation (e.g. certain farming and forestry activities).

Natural Resources Conservation Compliance Program Elements

PROPOSED

Natural Resources Pillar				
Program Area (Congressional Level)	Legal Drivers	Sub-Programs (DoD Level)	Activities (DoD Component level)	Description
Integrated Natural Resource Planning	Sikes Act	Integrated Natural Resources Planning	Inventories; Management Plans (e.g., INRMP); Monitoring (e.g., invasive species, vegetation, fish and wildlife); Permit and Fees; Conservation Law Enforcement and compliance; Outreach; Program-specific Activities: - General Flora, Fauna and Habitat management; - Invasive Species Control; - Fisheries conservation and management; - Forestry;	The Sikes Act requires the Department of Defense (DoD) to prepare and implement Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) for all installations with "significant natural resources" in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the States. The Sikes Act states that INRMPs shall reflect the mutual agreement on the management of natural resources, by installation commanders, the USFWS, and the States. Military installations develop plans that will effectively conserve fish and wildlife resources and promote compatible outdoor recreation, while enhancing military preparedness through improved stewardship of the land.
Other Natural Resources	Marine Mammal Protection Act	Marine Mammal Protection	Assessment/Study; Inventories; Permit and Fees; Mitigation; Monitoring; Reporting	The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) prohibits, with certain exceptions, the hunt, capture, kill, or harassment of marine mammals in U.S. waters and by U.S. citizens on the high seas, and the importation of marine mammals and marine mammal products into the U.S.
	Other legislative requirements: MBTA – Migratory Bird Treaty Act; BGEPA – Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	Other Natural Resources	Monitoring; Permits; Outreach	The MBTA establishes a prohibition, unless permitted by regulations, to "pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention . . . for the protection of migratory birds . . . or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird." BGEPA prohibits the "take" (broadly defined) of bald or golden eagles.

Define Needs and Address Gaps

Strategic Planning
Scoping Workshops
Tools and Training

Strategic Planning

- DoD Natural Resources Strategy
- DoD Partners in Flight
- DoD Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

DoD Natural Resources Strategy

- Goal – Collaborate with the DoD Components to develop a 3-5 year strategy of the DoD Natural Resources Program
- Projected kickoff – October 2012

DoD PIF Strategic Plan

- Updated Plan identified actions that support and enhance the military mission while minimizing impacts to bird species and habitats
- Status – On hold
- Fact sheets describe goals and priorities for eight key focus areas:
  - Stewardship
  - Partnerships/Cooperation
  - Communications
  - Habitat and Species Management
  - Monitoring
  - Research
  - Information and Education
  - Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH)

DoD PARC Strategy

- Comments received on draft Strategy
- Status – Under revision
- Goal – Develop a DoD herpetofauna strategy that
  - Protects and sustains the military mission
  - Reduces and mitigates the threats to amphibians and reptiles on DoD lands
  - Raises public awareness
  - Helps support habitat management
  - Promotes the protection of ESA-listed and common species
  - Promotes proactive efforts to help preclude the need to list species that may impact mission activities
  - Highlights the ecological benefits from military natural resources programs

Scoping Workshops

- **Regional INRMP Integration Workshops**
  - Southeast (May 2006)
  - Southwest (December 2006)
  - Southern Plains (May 2007)
  - Mid-Atlantic (November 2007)
  - Northeast (June 3-4, 2008)
- **National and Regional TER-S Workshops**
  - National – June 2005
  - Hawaii/Pacific – June 2006
  - Southeast – February 2007
  - Southwest – October 2007
  - Pacific follow-up – Feb 2010

Tools and Training

Courses and Workshops

Tools

Natural Resources Courses

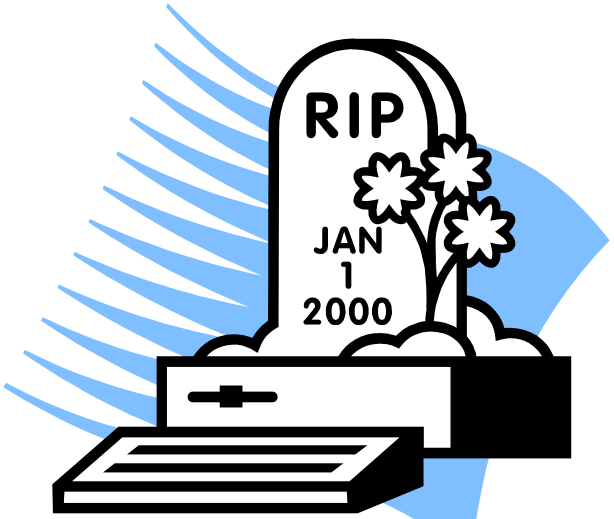
PREVIOUSLY OFFERED

- Sikes Act 101
- Sikes Implementation
- Endangered Species Act for DoD
- Course materials available on-line
  - http://www.Dodworkshops.org/Training.html
- No additional Legacy-sponsored course offerings projected
- Evaluating alternative training methods
  - e.g., webinars

Recent Informational Workshops

- Pollinators
- Plant Conservation
- Invasive Weeds
- Climate Change Tools
- White-nose Syndrome
- PARC Implementation

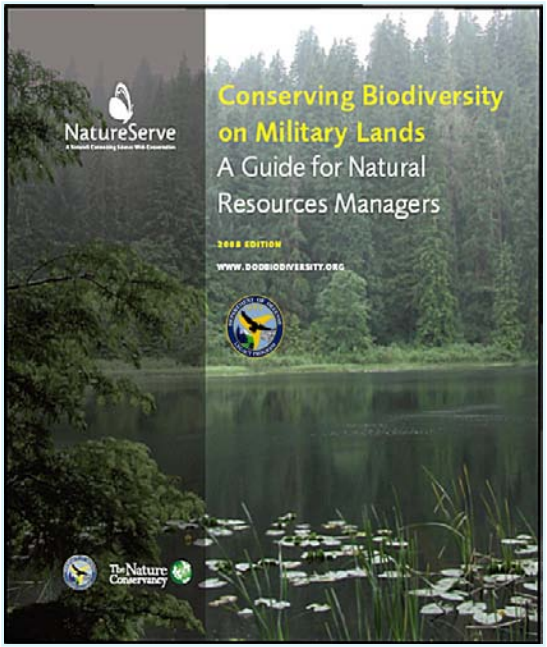
2013 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference

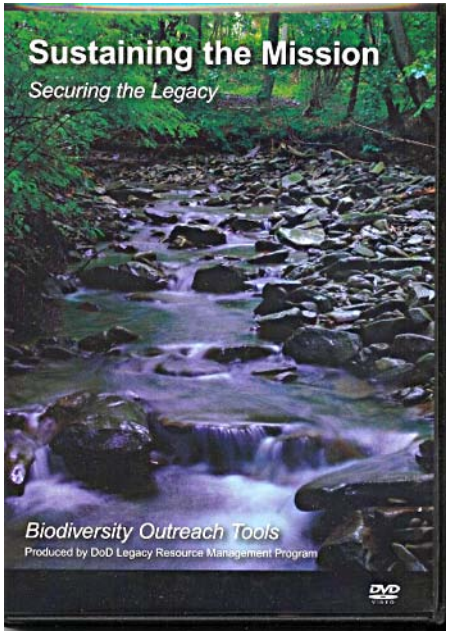


A VICTIM OF GSA EXCESSES

Biodiversity Tools

- Revised Handbook with Case Studies
- Biodiversity Outreach Toolkit (2 DVD-set)
- Biodiversity Conservation Toolbox
- http://www.dodbiodiversity.org





Bird Conservation Tools

- DoD-specific Training Course
- DoD Partners In Flight
  - http://www.dodpif.org
  - DoD PIF Strategic Plan
  - Coordinated Bird Monitoring Guidance
  - New Metrics
  - Fact Sheets
  - Priority Species of Concern

Invasive Species Outreach Toolkit

- http://www.dodinvasives.org/
- Invasive Species Resources
  - Commander's Guide!
  - Online Resources

Climate Change Vulnerability

- *Scanning the Conservation Horizon: A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment*
  - Overview of general principles of climate change vulnerability related to species and ecosystems
  - Description of various assessment approaches
  - Examples of currently used assessments
- www.nwf.org/vulernabiltyguide

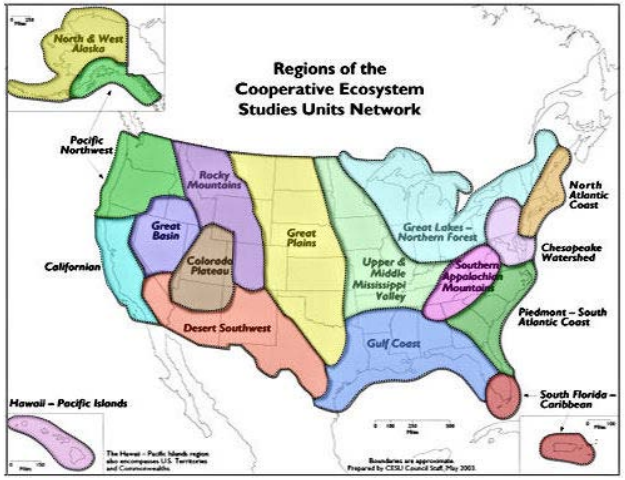
Enhance Outreach to Develop Partnerships

Cooperative Conservation: National Partnerships

- Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units (CESUs)
- Pollinator Partnership
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA)
- The Wildlife Society

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESUs)

- Currently a member of 14 CESU units
- CESU – New Region for 2012
  - Pacific Northwest
  - Great Basin – NOT!
    - DoD rejected for a 2nd time
- Ft. Worth District
  - 69 projects, $35.8M in FY 2011
  - Sliding scale fee



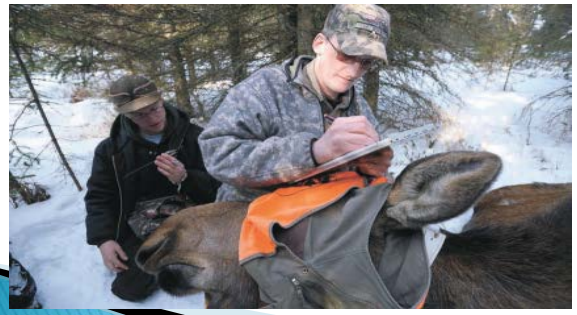
National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA)

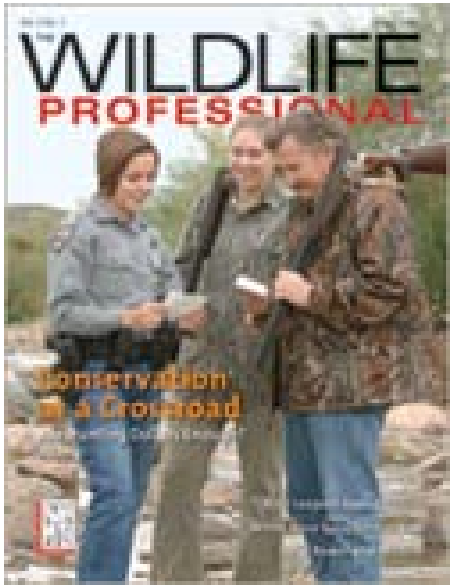
- http://www. nmfwa.org
- Working Groups
  - Invasive Species
  - Herpetology
  - Bats
  - Climate Change
  - Pollinators
  - Conservation Law Enforcement
  - BASH
  - Outdoor Recreation

The Wildife Society

- New Military Working Group

It's Not Just a Job . . .Managing natural resources on military lands
By Alison Dalsimer, Leslie Catherwood, and Chris Franke





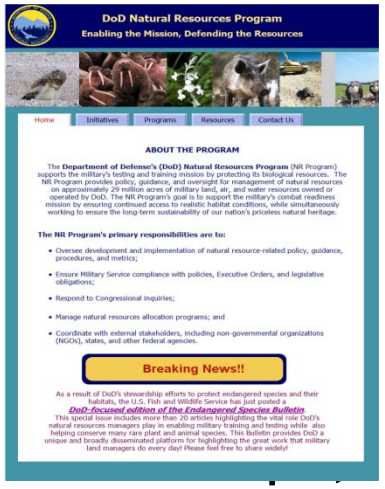
Cooperative Conservation: Regional Partnerships

- Ecosystem Management Initiatives
  - Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership
  - Mojave Desert
  - Sonoran Desert
  - Colorado Shortgrass Prairie
  - Puget Sound
- Weed Management Areas
- We Have the Authority to Partner!
  - Legacy Program (10 USC 2694)
  - Sikes Act (16 USC 670c-1
  - Economy Act (31 USC 1535 and 1536)

Cooperative Conservation: Local Partnerships

- National Public Lands Day
  - 41 DoD projects for 2011, 23 States
  - 15 AR, 10 AF, 6 NV, 1 MC. 5 NG projects
- Bat Conservation International
- Ducks Unlimited
- National Wild Turkey Federation

Websites



- DoDNaturalResources.net
  - New NR program fact sheets
  - Links to info on Invasives, Pollinators, DoD PIF, DoD PARC
- DENIX.osd.mil/NaturalResources
  - Reorganization underway
- DoDLegacy.org
  - Final project fact sheets and products
  - Current projects
  - FY 2013 RFP
    - Preproposals were due August 30

NR Program Fact Sheets

- Natural Resources Program
- T&E Species on DoD Lands
- INRMPs
- Species at-risk
- Invasive Species and DoD
- Pollinators
- DoD's response to Climate Change
- State fact sheets

Natural Selections

- Spring/Summer 2012 – Now Available!
  - Policy Focus
- Complemented by Natural Resources and Legacy “Blasts”
- Seeking your feedback and contributions

Natural Selections

Spring 2011

Department of Defense Natural Resources Program

NEW!

DoDI 4715.03, 14 February 2011

The recently updated DoD Instruction provides procedures for developing, implementing, and evaluating effective natural resources management programs at installations, i.e., the basic building blocks that natural resource managers can use to enable the mission, protect our precious natural heritage, and improve the quality of life for troops and their families. Refer to Naturally Speaking (p.2) for more information. The DoD Instruction also has been covered in the news. Peter Boice discusses it on The Pentagon Channel, Around the Services (April 22) as well as in blogs on DoD Live and Armed with Science.

2011 Sustaining Military Readiness Conference

July 25-29, Nashville, Tennessee

Call for Posters Ends June 1!

Sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense, this year's SMR conference will offer educational opportunities for DoD personnel and stakeholders interested in military training and testing, natural and cultural resources management, and sustainable and compatible land, air, sea, and frequency use. The agenda for the week features three dynamic plenary sessions, cross-cutting as well as track sessions, and more than 20 workshops.

For more information, visit www.smrconference.com.

IN THE NEWS Feral Swine, Overrunning America

By Keith P. Wehner, Assistant State Director, Wildlife Services (TN/KY)

Feral swine (*Sus scrofa*) have earned a reputation as a destructive invasive species throughout the United States, with damage costs far exceeding their recreational benefits. The number of states with wild pigs has doubled in the last 20 years to more than 31 states reporting self-sustaining wild populations. The natural range expansion of existing herds continues to be augmented by the intentional (and often unlawful) relocation of animals for hunting purposes.

Estimating wild populations can be difficult, but the 1991 national estimate of 1 to 2 million pigs transformed to an estimated 1.5 million animals by 2003. In Texas alone, Wildlife Services (WS), a program within the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), has seen similar population trends when responding to assistance with damage issues. About 6,000 feral swine were lethally removed from 10 states in 1999. By 2009, WS took more than 33,000 pigs from 28 states as part of its mission to safeguard agricultural, natural, and property resources as well as human safety.

Two characteristics of feral pigs contribute to their expansion: they breed prolifically and can thrive in nearly all North American habitats. Juveniles reach puberty at about 6 months, and adult females can have two litters annually of 3-8 piglets each. Groups of adult females and piglets, called sounders, roam territories leaving significant destruction in their wake. Sounders can decimate agricultural crops, manicured lawns, and sensitive ecosystems, seemingly overnight.

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8 – Legacy Invasive Species Tools and Partnerships
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Current Initiatives

- Compilation of Success Stories
  - *Endangered Species Bulletin* – May 20, 2011
  - Interviews
- Social Media
  - DoD Facebook page
  - DoD Blog
  - Twitter

Animation Videos

- The DoD Natural Resources Program
  - The DoD Natural Resources Program produced a video to highlight specific examples of what DoD is doing to benefit both mission and conservation objectives. The video's goal is to highlight projects that demonstrate how natural resources projects help sustain the mission.
- DoD Responding to Climate Change
  - Through the Legacy and SERDP Programs, DoD is implementing several strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts. This video introduces climate change and features projects on sea level rise and threatened and endangered species, as well as an overview of DoD's conservation funding programs.
- http://dodnaturalresources.net/Animation.html

Wildlife Trade Videos

- Caught in the Crosshairs: Combating the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Iraq & Afghanistan
- The Wildife Conservation Society (WCS) advised the Department of Defense on threats posed by the illegal wildlife trade to the overall combat mission in Iraq and Afghanistan. A new video, narrated by acclaimed actor/director and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity Edward Norton, informs U.S. military personnel about the consequences of buying illegal wildlife products when deployed or stationed overseas.
- For more information and the full-length video, go to: www.wcswildlifetrade.org/military
- For a link to the 5-minute version on WCS YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zipNe0rnu3E

Questions?