



**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fisheries and Habitat Conservation
Division of Federal Program Activities
April 2002**

**Report to Congress
*Sikes Act and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans
Activities and Expenditures in FY 2001***



U.S. Army Fort Hood and FWS biologist Krishna Costello.
A partnership to protect migratory songbirds at Ft. Hood, TX. USFWS photo

Executive Summary

The Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 (SAIA) requires that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), in consultation with State fish and wildlife agencies, submit a report to Congress each year detailing our expenditures for the development and implementation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs), in cooperation with the Department of Defense (DoD).

The SAIA requires the DoD to prepare INRMPs for relevant installations and coordinate the plans with the Service and States. The SAIA states that INRMPs shall reflect the mutual agreement of installation commanders, the Service, and the States.

The Service assisted military installations in developing and implementing INRMPs by providing technical expertise to achieve environmental compliance and fully realize opportunities to enhance and recover fish and wildlife. The Service assisted the DoD's efforts to complete INRMPs by: (1) participating in site visits and interagency meetings; (2) conducting fish, wildlife, and plant surveys and studies; (3) conducting habitat assessments; (4) monitoring fish and wildlife populations; (5) rearing and stocking recreational fisheries; (6) developing and implementing habitat restoration plans; and (7) developing and implementing public recreation programs for hunting, fishing, bird watching, and environmental education activities.

The Service and States were heavily involved in development, review, and/or implementation of INRMPs for 308 DoD installations in fiscal year 2001. Nationally, the Service expended \$926,460 of appropriated funds and staff hours equal to over 34 full-time employees (FTEs). The 31 states that reported their fiscal year 2001 expenditures to the Service spent a total of \$544,586 of state funds and 44 FTEs. Additionally, the DoD provided \$4,193,100 to the Service and \$402,140 to the States to fund activities on military lands. Of the over \$4 million provided to the Service, \$2,889,037 (69 percent) was provided to support 12 FTEs who worked solely at Fort Carson and Pueblo Depot in Colorado.



Complementary Missions

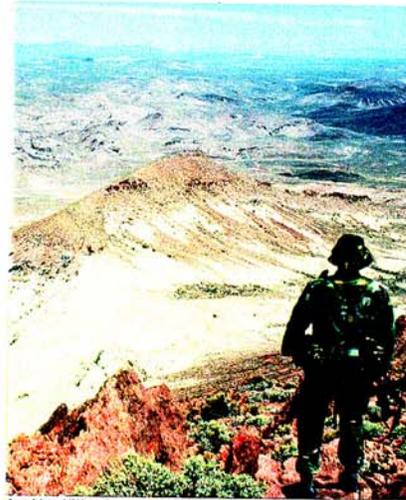
The Department of Defense manages approximately 25 million acres of land on more than 425 major military installations in the United States. Limits on access due to security and safety concerns have sheltered many of these lands from development and other adverse impacts. Military lands contain rare and unique plant and animal species and native habitats such as old-growth forests, tall-grass prairies, and vernal pool wetlands. Over 300 threatened and endangered species live on DoD-managed lands.

The DoD has embraced its stewardship responsibilities for natural resources on lands it manages. The biggest land management challenge for the DoD is to balance the need to use its air, land, and water resources for military training and testing with the desire to conserve these resources for future generations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established effective partnerships with the military services to facilitate proactive natural resource management on installations while enabling the military to successfully carry out its missions.

The Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 (SAIA) broadened the scope of DoD natural resources programs, integrated natural resource programs with operations and training, embraced the tenets of conservation biology, invited public review, and strengthened funding for conservation activities on military lands. The SAIA requires the development and implementation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) for relevant installations and mandates that plans be prepared in cooperation with the Service and State fish and wildlife agencies. The SAIA anticipated a truly collaborative process and full involvement of natural resource agencies. Additionally, INRMPs are to provide for public access to installations for enjoyment of natural resources, when practicable. However, INRMPs cannot compromise military preparedness.



The SAIA states that INRMPs shall reflect mutual agreement of the installation commanders, the Service, and the States. The goal is to reach agreement on the entire plan; however, it is a requirement that INRMPs reflect agreement on elements of the plan within the scope of the Service's and State's legal authorities. Several statutes guide the Service's involvement in environmental planning, including the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. The SAIA neither enlarges nor diminishes parties' legal authorities.



Looking NW to Stonewall Mtn. from Tolicha Peak--Nellis AFB, Nev.
Astragalus funereus habitat

Collaborative Partnerships

The Service implements its responsibilities under the Sikes Act by: (1) Evaluating the impacts of installation mission and activities on fish and wildlife; (2) Ensuring that habitat important to fish and wildlife is taken into consideration in the development of INRMPS; (3) Identifying opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife resources for public benefits while accomplishing other DoD mission objectives; and (4) Providing technical assistance to installations to ensure that fish and wildlife resources and their public benefits are considered during planning.



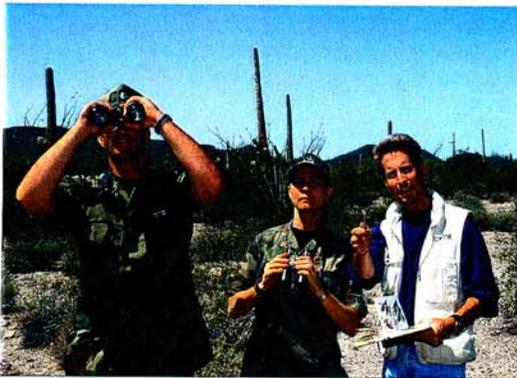
Due to the extraordinary effort required to complete INRMPS for nearly 400 installations by November of 2001, the Service coordinated extensively with the DoD and devoted additional staff and other resources to facilitate the review and approval process within our agency. In 1999, the Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DoD for the “Ecosystem-Based Management of Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Resources on Military Lands.” The MOU defined what INRMPS must address, specified areas in which the Service has expertise and may be of assistance, and identified the respective responsibilities of the DoD and Service. An interagency working group (the Sikes Core Group), consisting of staff from the Headquarters of the Service, DoD, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, met throughout 2001 to coordinate the INRMP effort. The group continues to meet to further coordinate and improve the process of development, review, approval, and implementation of INRMPS.

In response to recommendations from the Interagency Sikes Core Group, the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service issued a memorandum in January, 2001, designating lead offices and Regional and Washington Office coordinators for SAIA activities, and requiring INRMPS to be signed/approved by Regional Directors, to ensure consistency and comprehensive review of the plans. The Service and the DoD held a National Sikes Act Workshop in March of 2001, for field, regional, and Headquarters staff, as well as State agencies, to develop a plan to implement SAIA requirements. Workshop participants established INRMP review workload management objectives and procedures for agency review. After the workshop, additional guidance was provided to Regional Directors. This included Service/State internal INRMP review and coordination procedures, factors for consideration during INRMP reviews, and a draft INRMP workload management matrix.

As a result of the workshop and meetings of the Interagency Sikes Core Group, the Group is developing an interagency workload matrix to collaboratively track the progress of INRMP development, review, and approval. One key point emphasized at the workshop was that INRMPS are not static, but are dynamic plans that will be reviewed by installations every year in order to evaluate their implementation and effectiveness and allow for modifications as needed; INRMPS are coordinated with other agencies at least every 5 years. Both the Service and the DoD foresee greater coordination during yearly reviews of these plans; they will continue to provide a truly cooperative approach to natural resources management on military lands and support the mission of each installation.

Expenditures

For the past 3 years we have reported to Congress various costs of implementing the requirements of the Sikes Act Improvement Act. This includes our costs plus those of State fish and wildlife agencies. In fiscal year 2001, the Service coordinated with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and individual States to achieve additional completeness, consistency, and accuracy in reporting their expenditures to us. The following discussion for fiscal year 2001 includes information on State expenditures from 31 States that responded to our request for expenditure information. Table 1 identifies the States that provided data for this report. The Service will continue to coordinate our efforts with States and work to improve reporting in future years.



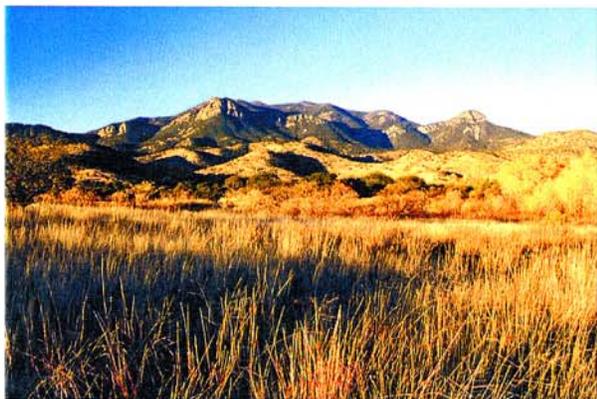
Biological survey at Goldwater Air Force Range, Arizona
Photo by Doug Ripley/U.S. Air Force

In fiscal year 2001, the Service and State fish and wildlife agencies were heavily involved in development, review, and/or implementation of INRMPs for 308 military installations in the United States. Much of the workload occurred in Service Regions 1, 4, and 5. These Regions include the east and west coasts of the U.S. and the Pacific Islands (Figs. 1 and 2).

The Service assisted military installations in developing and implementing INRMPs by providing technical expertise to achieve environmental compliance and fully realize opportunities to enhance and recover fish and wildlife resources. The Service's expenditures in fiscal year 2001 were for the following activities:

- Developing, reviewing, and processing INRMPs
- Endangered Species Act consultations
- Site visits and interagency meetings
- Fish, wildlife and plant surveys and studies
- Habitat assessments
- Monitoring of fish and wildlife populations
- Fish rearing and stocking activities
- Developing and/or implementing habitat restoration and habitat management plans, such as nuisance species control activities
- Participating on Regional Environmental Planning Committees with installations
- Developing and implementing recreation programs, including fishing, hunting, bird-watching, and environmental education activities

Nationally, the Service expended \$926,460 of existing appropriated funds (primarily project planning funds) and staff hours equal to over 34 full-time employees (FTEs) for work done pursuant to the SAIA in fiscal year 2001. States reported spending \$544,586 and 44 FTEs. The DoD provided the Service with approximately \$4,193,100 for activities conducted on or for military lands, and provided \$402,140 to States. Of the \$4,193,100 in DoD funding to the Service, \$2,889,037 (69%) was provided to support approximately 12 FTEs who worked solely at Fort Carson and Pueblo Depot in Colorado. Figure 3 compares Service and reported State expenditures of appropriated funds to DoD funding. Figures 4 to 9 show Service and reported State expenditures of money and staff time and DoD funding in each Service Region.



Mountain and grassland habitats are conserved for a variety of wildlife species at Fort Huachuca. U.S. Army photo

Continued Commitment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is committed to improving and expanding our existing partnerships with the DoD, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. We look forward to opportunities to work cooperatively with military installations to develop and implement effective Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans, which are designed to conserve natural resources and promote public access and recreation, while enhancing military preparedness through improved stewardship of the land.

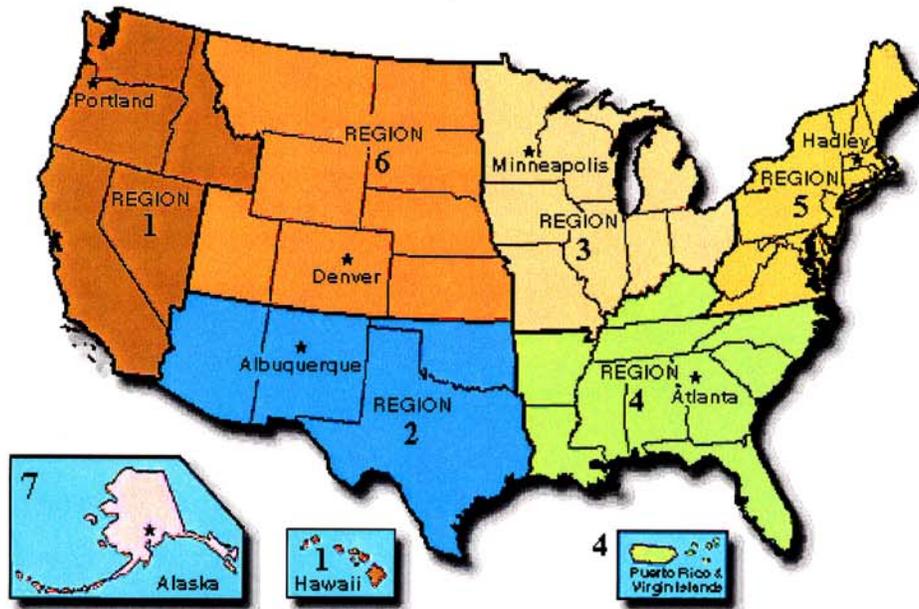
This report was prepared by Ms. Jeanette Gallihugh, National Sikes Act Coordinator for the Service. For additional information, please contact Ms. Gallihugh or Dr. Benjamin N. Tuggle, Chief, Division of Federal Program Activities, at 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 400, Arlington, Virginia, 22203; phone (703) 358-2161; or by email Benjamin_Tuggle@fws.gov or Jeanette_Gallihugh@fws.gov.

Table 1. State Sikes Act Expenditures Reported to the USFWS for FY2001.

USFWS Region	States that Reported Sikes Act Expenditures
<p>Region 1 Portland, OR</p>	<p>Idaho Washington</p>
<p>Region 2 Albuquerque, NM</p>	<p>Arizona New Mexico Oklahoma Texas</p>
<p>Region 3 Ft. Snelling, MN</p>	<p>Indiana Michigan Minnesota Ohio</p>
<p>Region 4 Atlanta, GA</p>	<p>Alabama Florida Georgia Tennessee</p>
<p>Region 5 Hadley, MA</p>	<p>Connecticut D.C. Delaware Massachusetts Maryland Maine New Hampshire New Jersey New York Pennsylvania Rhode Island Virginia Vermont West Virginia</p>
<p>Region 6 Lakewood, CO</p>	<p>Kansas South Dakota Utah</p>
<p>Region 7 Anchorage, AK</p>	<p>Alaska</p>

Figure 1. USFWS Regions.

* = Regional Office



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Regions

Figure 2. Number of Installations for which the USFWS and States Reported Expenditures in FY2001
(by USFWS Region)
Total = 308 Installations

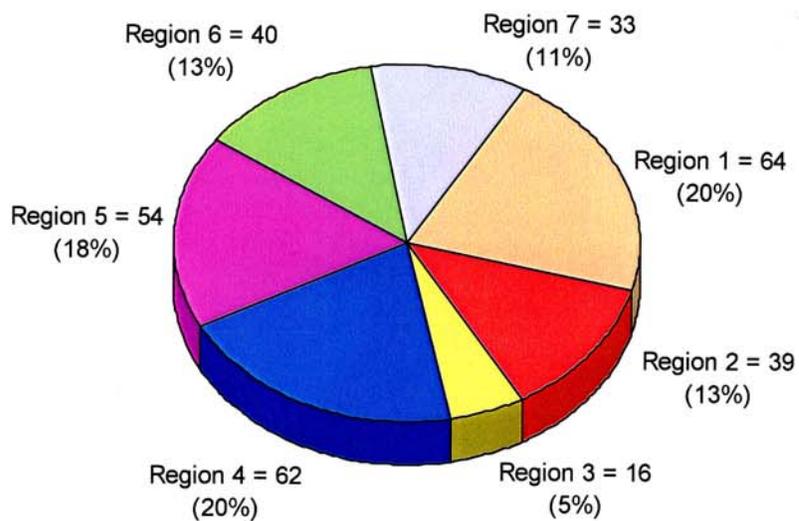


Figure 3. Comparison of USFWS appropriated funds and Reported State Expenditures to DOD Funding for Sikes Act Activities in FY2001

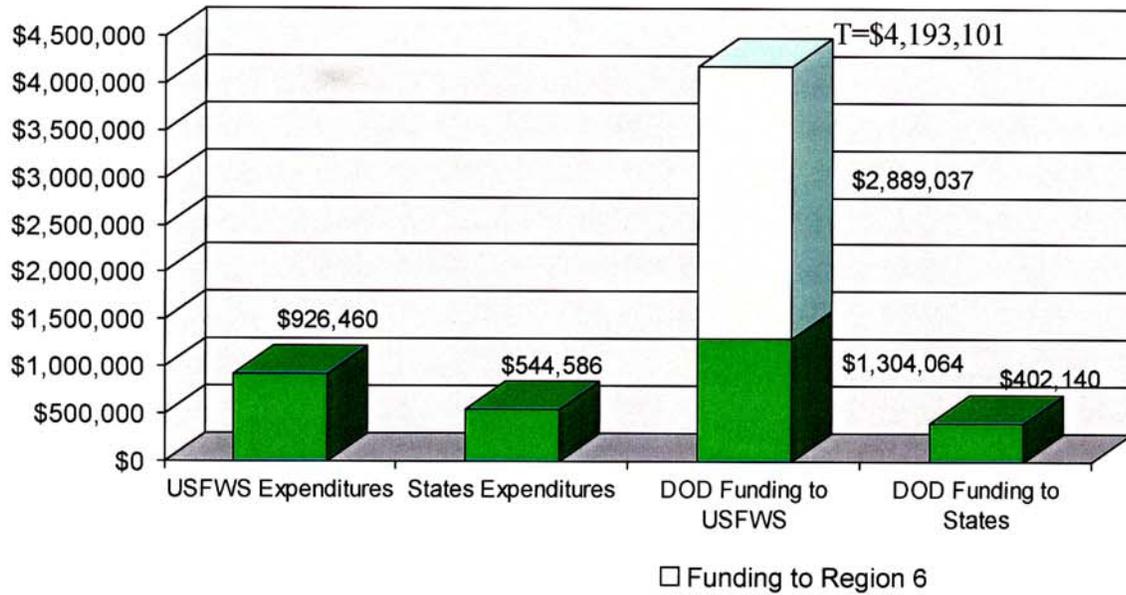


Figure 4. USFWS Expenditures (appropriated funds) on Sikes Act Activities in FY2001 (by USFWS Region)
 Total = \$926,460

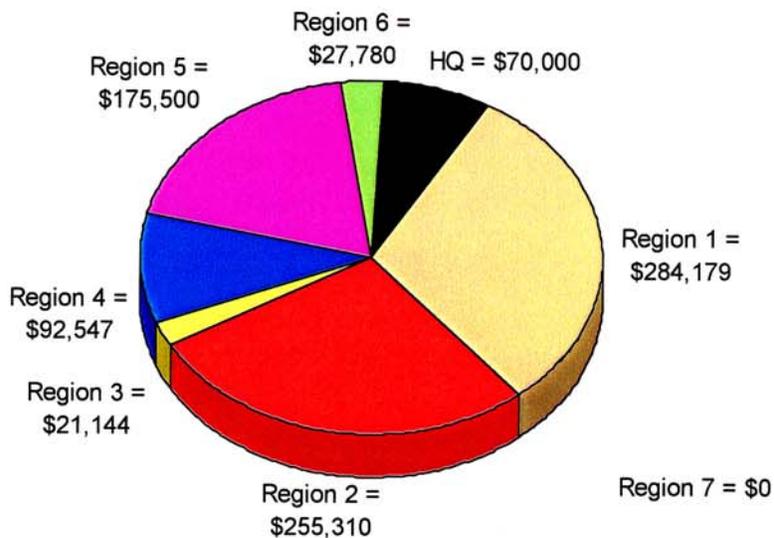


Figure 5. USFWS FTEs Expended on Sikes Act Activities in FY2001 (by USFWS Region)
 Total = 34.4

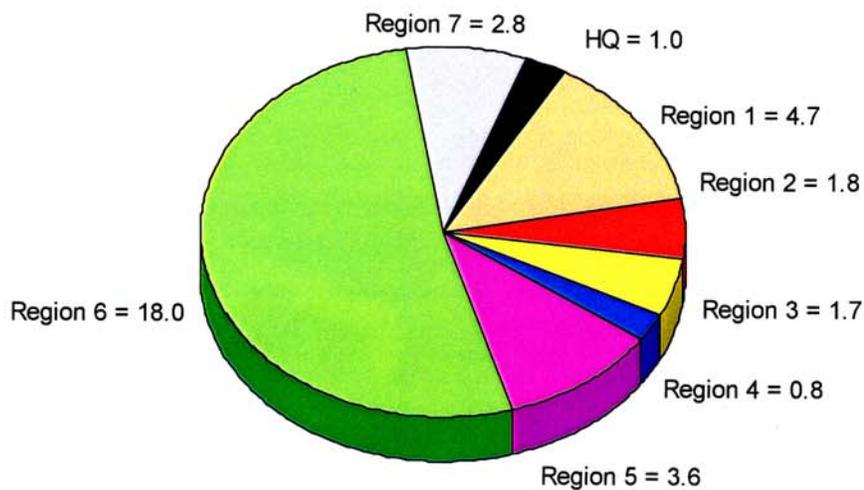


Figure 6. State Reported Expenditures on Sikes Act Activities in FY2001
 (by USFWS Region)
 Total = \$544,586

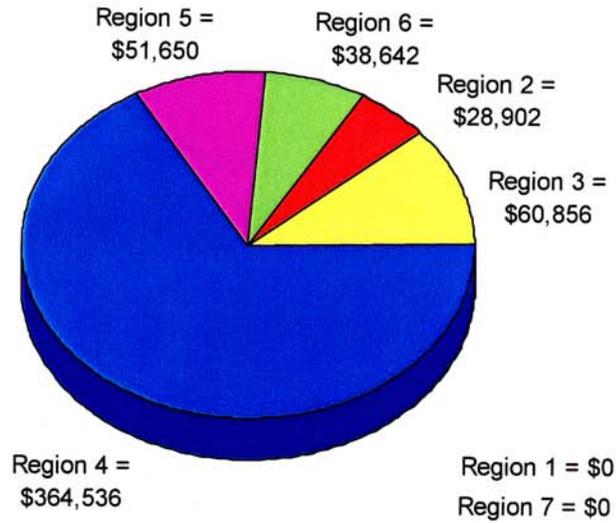


Figure 7. State Reported FTEs Expended on Sikes Act Activities in FY2001
 (by USFWS Region)
 Total = 43.9

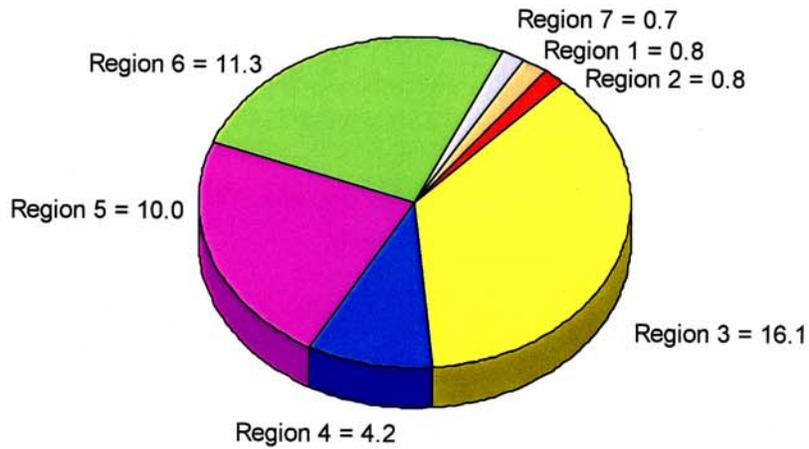


Figure 8. DOD Funding to the USFWS
in FY2001 (by USFWS Region)
Total = \$4,193,101

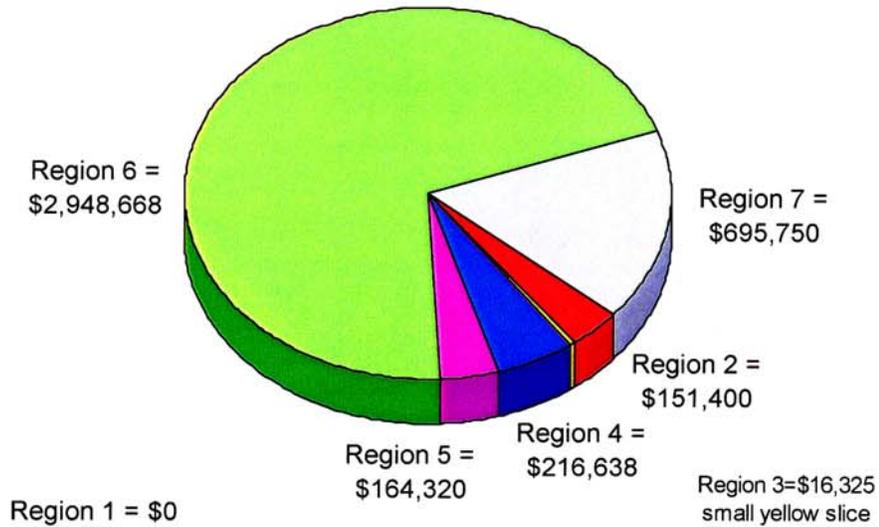


Figure 9. DOD Funding to the States
in FY2001 (by USFWS Region)
Total = \$402,140

