



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fisheries and Habitat Conservation
Division of Federal Program Activities
March 2003

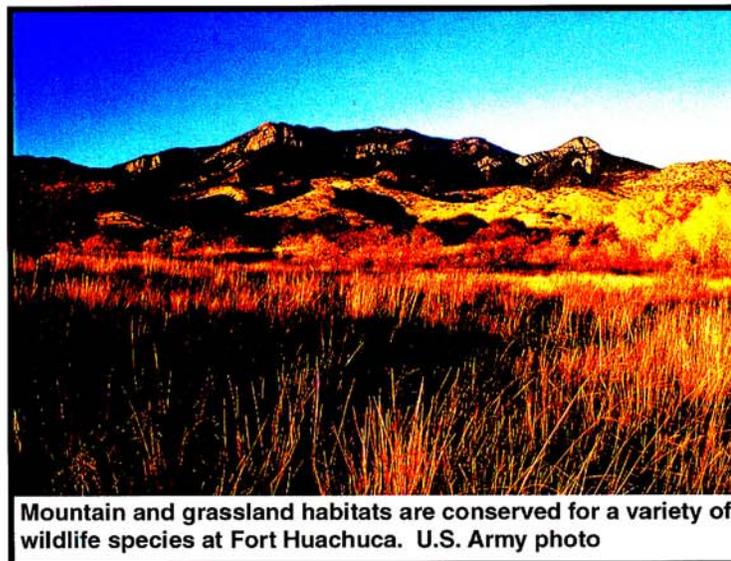
Report to Congress
*Sikes Act and
Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans
Activities and Expenditures in FY 2002*

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 Resources 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 the States. The SAIA states that INRMPs shall reflect the mutual agreement of installation commanders, the Service, and the States. The Service has worked extensively with military installations to 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.

The Service and State fish and wildlife agencies were involved in the development, review, and/or implementation of INRMPs for 225 military installations in fiscal year 2002. Nationally, the Service expended a total of \$3,129,894 and staff hours equal to approximately 30 full-time employees (FTEs). The Service expended \$897,117 of its own appropriated funds and \$2,232,777 of DoD-provided funds. Of the \$2.2 million that DoD provided to the Service, \$1,437,803 (64 percent) was provided to support 14 FTEs who worked solely at Fort Carson/Pinyon Canyon and Pueblo Depot in Colorado. The 36 states which reported their expenditures to the Service spent a total of \$2,075,838, and staff hours equal to approximately 27 FTEs. The States expended \$1,772,060 of their own funds and \$143,272 of DoD-provided funds.



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

Complementary Missions

The Department of Defense manages approximately 25 million acres of land on its 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 the natural resources on the 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 collaborative natural resource management on installations while the military continues to successfully carry out its missions.

The Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 broadened the scope of DoD natural resource 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 Resources Management Plans for relevant installations and mandates that the plans are to be prepared in cooperation with the Service and the State fish and wildlife agencies. The SAIA anticipated a truly collaborative process and full involvement of natural resource agencies.

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 the INRMPs reflect agreement regarding the conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources. 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 or diminishes each party's legal authorities. Additionally, when practicable, INRMPs provide for public access to installations for enjoyment of natural resources. However, INRMPs cannot compromise military preparedness.



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; and (3) Identifying opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife resources for public benefits while accomplishing other DoD mission objectives.

The Service exerted tremendous effort to help the DoD meet the November 2001 statutory deadline for the completion of INRMPs for approximately 380 installations across the Nation. The Service's cooperation and coordination on INRMPs is a continuing process. INRMPs are reviewed by installations on a yearly basis and our feedback will be requested concerning the implementation and effectiveness of the plans. Every 5 years INRMPs go through a formal review process that involves a public comment period and coordination again with the Service and States.

The Service is actively engaged in coordination with the military and States through the Sikes Act Core Group, which includes representatives from the DoD and each of the military services, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Service's National Sikes Act Coordinator in the Division of Federal Program Activities, and staff from the Endangered Species Program. The interagency Core Group, which meets in Washington D.C., is continuing work on a number of efforts to improve coordination and cooperation among our agencies. In fiscal year 2002, the Core Group assisted the DoD in developing revised Sikes Act guidance for the military services. The Fish and Wildlife Service is in the process of finalizing similar national guidance to provide consistency in interpretation, and direction for implementation, of SAIA requirements. Our revised guidance will emphasize the importance of internal and external coordination, conducted in an expeditious manner, to effectively conserve, protect, and manage fish and wildlife resources on military lands.



Expenditures

For the past 4 years we have reported to Congress various costs of implementing the requirements of the SAIA. This includes our costs plus those of State agencies. In fiscal year 2002, 36 States, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Columbia reported that they expended staff time and money on Sikes Act-related activities. For the purpose of this report, the term States will include U.S. territories and D.C. Table 1 identifies the States that reported expenditures and the corresponding Service Region.

In fiscal year 2002, the Service and States expended funds and staff time to assist in development, review, and/or implementation of INRMPs for 225 military installations in the United States. The highest workloads were in Service Region 1 (59 installations), Region 4 (48 installations), and Region 2 (43 installations), see Figures 1 and 2.

The Service and State agencies assisted military installations in developing and implementing INRMPs by providing technical expertise to achieve environmental compliance and fully realize opportunities for the enhancement and restoration of fish and wildlife resources. The Service's and States' expenditures in fiscal year 2002 were for the following activities:

- ◆ Reviewing and processing INRMPs
- ◆ Endangered Species Act consultations
- ◆ Installation site reviews and interagency meetings
- ◆ Technical assistance in planning and developing INRMPs
- ◆ Field technical assistance, such as wildlife surveys and habitat assessments
- ◆ INRMP implementation activities, such as fish stocking, exotic species control, and hunting and fishing programs

Nationally, the Service expended a total of \$897,117 of appropriated funds and staff hours equal to approximately 30 FTEs for work done pursuant to the SAIA in fiscal year 2002. Due to competing high priority needs and budget constraints, the Service has never requested appropriations under SAIA authority. Our Sikes Act-related activities, therefore, have been accomplished primarily with project planning subactivity appropriated funds and carried out by staff tasked with other priority assignments. The Service will continue to fulfill our Sikes Act duties in this manner. However, we are working with the DoD to seek ways to improve our capabilities to be more effective and expeditious in our Sikes Act-related work.

States reported expending \$1,772,060 of their own funds and 27 FTEs. The DoD provided the Service with approximately \$2,232,777 for activities conducted on or for military lands, and provided \$143,272 to States. Of the \$2,232,777 in DoD funding to the Service, \$1,437,803 (64%) was provided for approximately 14 FTEs who worked solely at Fort Carson/Pinyon Canyon and Pueblo Depot in Colorado. Figure 3 compares Service and State expenditures of appropriated funds to DoD-provided funds. Figure 4 shows Service expenditures of appropriated funds according to Region and Figure 5 shows Service expenditures of DoD-provided funds according to Region.

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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife 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.

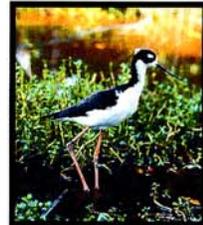
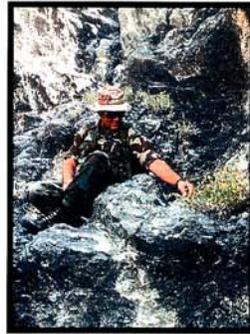


Table 1. States that reported Sikes Act expenditures to the Service for FY 2002.

USFWS Region	States that Reported Sikes Act Expenditures
Region 1 Portland, OR	California Hawaii Idaho Nevada Oregon Washington (Plus Guam and N. Mariana)
Region 2 Albuquerque, NM	Arizona New Mexico Oklahoma Texas
Region 3 Ft. Snelling, MN	Iowa Indiana Minnesota Missouri Ohio
Region 4 Atlanta, GA	Alabama Florida Georgia Kentucky Louisiana Mississippi North Carolina
Region 5 Hadley, MA	Delaware Massachusetts Maryland Maine New Jersey New York Pennsylvania Rhode Island Virginia (Plus District of Columbia)
Region 6 Lakewood, CO	Colorado Kansas Montana Wyoming
Region 7 Anchorage, AK	Alaska

Figure 1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regions.

* = Regional Office

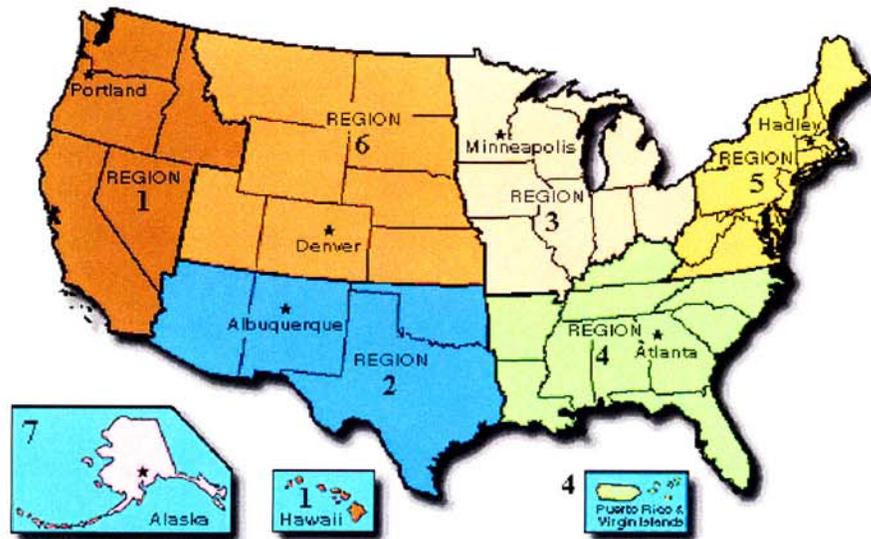


Figure 2. Number of Installations for which the Service and States Reported Expenditures in FY2002
Total = 225 Installations

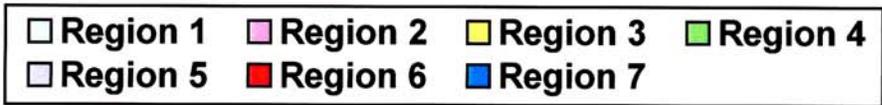
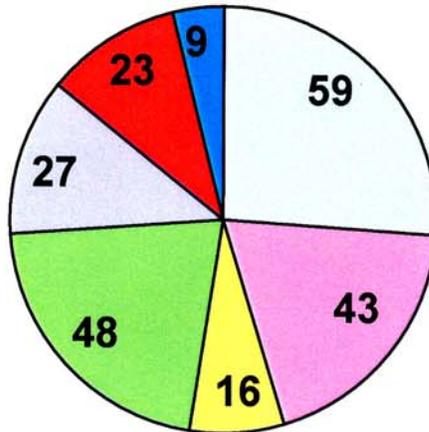


Figure 3. Comparison of Service and State Expenditures of Appropriated Funds to DoD Provided Funding for Sikes Act Activities in FY2002

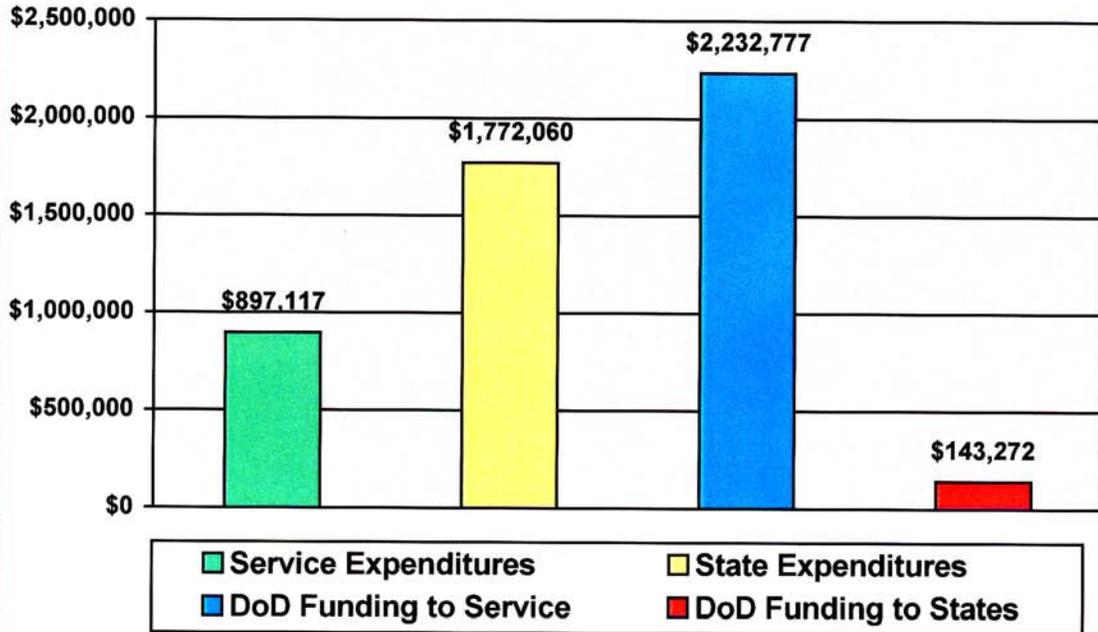


Figure 4. Service Expenditures of Appropriated Funds on Sikes Act Activities in FY2002

Total = \$897,117

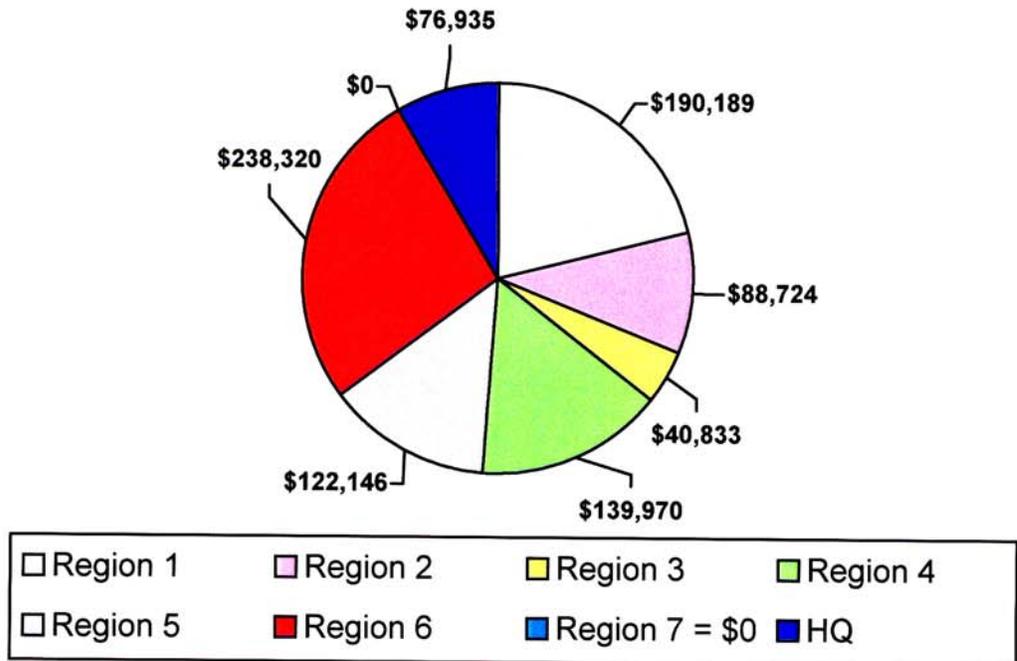


Figure 5. Service Expenditures of DoD-Provided Funds on Sikes Act Activities in FY2002

Total = \$2,232,777

