U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fisheries and Habitat Conservation

Sikes Act Coordination

Working with the Department of Defense to Conserve Fish and Wildlife Resources on Military Bases

Fisheries & Habitat Conservation

The Sikes Act — A Dynamic Partnership:

The biggest land management challenge for the DoD continues to be balancing 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 helps the DoD meet this challenge under the Sikes Act by providing expertise in managing fish and wildlife and their habitats to maximize conservation without compromising the military mission.

Above: Military bases are comprised of 25 million acres of land.

The biggest land management challenge for the Department of Defense (DOD) may be the need to use its air, land, and water resources for Military training and testing while conserving natural resources for future generations. The Fish and Wildlife Service and State fish and wildlife agencies help DOD meet this challenge under the Sikes Act.

The Sikes Act requires the development and implementation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) for Military installations. INRMPs, prepared in cooperation with the Service and State fish and wildlife agencies, integrate natural resource programs with military operations and training and their implementation does not compromise the capability of DOD lands to support the military mission.

WHAT DOES THIS PROGRAM DO?

- Coordinates with the military services and the States to maximize the conservation of natural resources on Military installations.

HOW DO WE DO IT?

- Create effective partnerships at the field office/installation/State office level to develop effective INRMPs, implement the plans, and monitor implementation.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE ALREADY?

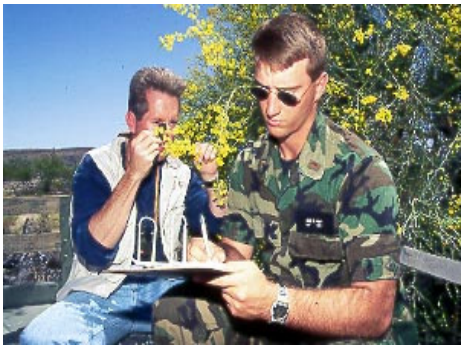
- Worked with our partners in the Military and States to complete over 350 INRMPs.

HOW DOES THE PUBLIC BENEFIT?

- INRMPs seek to maximize opportunities for appropriate public access to military installations for recreational purposes (hiking, hunting, fishing, bird watching, etc.).
- INRMPs contribute to efforts to preserve the Nation's biodiversity for future generations.

WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?

- Increase the Service's early and ongoing involvement in development and revision of INRMPs to improve the effectiveness of the plans with regards to conservation.
- Find more ways to assist the military services in implementing INRMPs.



Above: INRMPs reflect the mutual agreement of the Military, the States and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Above: The Sikes Act ensures that military bases maintain habitat for realsistic training.

Above: INRMPs address diverse natural resource issues.

For more information about Sikes Act Coordination, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at 202/208-6394 or visit us on the Internet at http://fisheries.fws.gov/.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
800/344-WILD
http://www.fws.gov

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