



# Department of Defense **INSTRUCTION**

**NUMBER 4715.03**

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USD(AT&L)

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Conservation Program

References: See Enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction:

a. Reissues and renames Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.3 (Reference (a)) in accordance with the authority in DoD Directive (DoDD) 5134.01 (Reference (b)) and the guidance in DoDD 4715.1E and DoD Instruction (DoDI) 4715.5 (References (c) and (d)) to establish policy and assign responsibilities for compliance with applicable Federal statutory and regulatory requirements, executive orders (E.O.), and Presidential Memorandums for the integrated management of natural resources including lands, air, waters, coastal, and near-shore areas managed and/or controlled by the Department of Defense.

b. Implements policy established in Reference (a) for the integrated management of natural resources (including biological and earth resources) on property and lands managed and/or controlled by the Department of Defense.

c. Implements new Natural Resources Conservation Metrics.

d. Provides procedures for the DoD Conservation Committee.

2. APPLICABILITY. This Instruction:

a. Applies to:

(1) OSD, the Military Departments (including their Reserve Components), the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the "DoD Components").

(2) All DoD operations, activities, real property, and property interests owned, leased, permitted, and/or controlled in the United States, including public lands withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under public land laws and reserved for use by the Department of Defense, as well as State lands used for military training and testing.

b. Does NOT apply to:

(1) Operations and activities outside the United States. These shall follow the policy and guidance set forth in Reference (d), DoD 4715.05-G (Reference (e)), E.O. 12114 (Reference (f)), E.O. 12915 (Reference (g)), and Service-specific regulations.

(2) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works.

3. DEFINITIONS. See Glossary

4. POLICY. It is DoD policy that:

a. The principal purpose of DoD lands, waters, airspace, and coastal resources is to support mission-related activities. All DoD natural resources conservation program activities shall work to guarantee the Department of Defense continued access to its land, air, and water resources for realistic military training and testing and to sustain the long-term ecological integrity of the resource base and the ecosystem services they provide.

(1) The Department of Defense shall manage its natural resources to facilitate testing and training, mission readiness, and range sustainability in a long-term, comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective manner.

(2) The Department of Defense shall demonstrate stewardship of natural resources in its trust by protecting and enhancing those resources for mission support, biodiversity conservation, and maintenance of ecosystem services.

(3) The Department of Defense shall manage for multiple uses when appropriate, including sustainable yield of all renewable resources, scientific research, education, and recreation.

(4) All DoD natural resources conservation programs shall be integrated with mission activities, installation planning and programming, and other activities as appropriate.

b. All DoD facilities and installations shall plan, program, and budget to achieve, monitor, and maintain compliance with all applicable Federal natural resources statutory and regulatory requirements, E.O.s, and Presidential Memorandums.

c. The Department of Defense shall follow an ecosystem-based management approach to natural resources-related practices and decisions, using scientifically sound conservation procedures, techniques, and data.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 2.

6. PROCEDURES. See Enclosure 3.

7. RELEASABILITY. UNLIMITED. The Instruction is approved for public release and is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Web Site at <http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives>.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Instruction is effective immediately.

Ashton B. Carter  
Under Secretary of Defense for  
Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics

Enclosures

1. References
2. Responsibilities
3. Procedures
4. Programming and Budgeting Priorities for Natural Resources Program
5. Natural Resources Conservation Metrics

Glossary

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ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

- (a) DoD Instruction 4715.3, "Environmental Conservation Program," May 3, 1996
- (b) DoD Directive 5134.01, "Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L))," December 9, 2005
- (c) DoD Directive 4715.1E, "Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH)," March 19, 2005
- (d) DoD Instruction 4715.5, "Management of Environmental Compliance at Overseas Installations," April 22, 1996
- (e) DoD 4715.05-G, "Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document," May 1, 2007
- (f) Executive Order 12114, "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions," January 4, 1979
- (g) Executive Order 12915, "Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation," May 13, 1994
- (h) Executive Order 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management," January 24, 2007
- (i) DoD 7000.14-R, "Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation (FMRS)," varies by volume
- (j) Office of Management and Budget Guidance, "Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies," October 10, 2001
- (k) Title 16, United States Code
- (l) Executive Order 13186, "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds," January 10, 2001
- (m) "Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds," July 2006
- (n) Parts 13, 21.15, and 22 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations
- (o) DoD Instruction 4150.07, "DoD Pest Management Program," May 29, 2008
- (p) Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species," February 3, 1999, as amended
- (q) Sections 7701-7772 of title 4, United States Code, "Plant Protection Act,"
- (r) Sections 670a-670o of title 16, United States Code, The Sikes Act
- (s) DoD Instruction 4710.02, "DoD Interactions with Federally-Recognized Tribes," September 14, 2006
- (t) DoD Memorandum, "Implementation of Sikes Act Improvement Amendments: Supplemental Guidance Concerning Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) Reviews," November 1, 2004
- (u) Sections 1588(a)(2), 2665, 2667(d) and (e), 2694(b) and (c), and 2825 of title 10, United States Code
- (v) Section 21.210 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulation of the DoD Grant and Agreement Regulations
- (w) Sections 1996 and 4321 through 4347 of title 42, United States Code
- (x) "Memorandum of Understanding Among the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies For a

Cooperative Integrated Natural Resources Management Program on Military Installations,” January 2006

- (y) Sections 1341(a)(1)(B) of title 31, United States Code
- (z) DoD Instruction 1100.21, “Voluntary Services in the Department of Defense,” March 11, 2002
- (aa) Pages 62565 through 62572 of Volume 65, Federal Register
- (ab) Executive Order 11990, “Protection of Wetlands,” May 24, 1977, as amended
- (ac) White House Office on Environmental Policy, “Protecting America's Wetlands: A Fair, Flexible, and Effective Approach,” Aug 24, 1993
- (ad) Sections 328, 404, 1251, 1323, 1344, and 2701 of title 33, United States Code
- (ae) Executive Order 11988, “Floodplain Management,” May 24, 1977, as amended
- (af) Presidential Memorandum, “Environmentally and Economically Beneficial Practices on Federal Landscaped Grounds,” April 26, 1994
- (ag) Page 40837 of Volume 60, Federal Register, August 10, 1995
- (ah) DoD Instruction 6055.06, "DoD Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Program," December 21, 2006
- (ai) Environmental Protection Agency, “Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires,” April 23, 1998
- (aj) Executive Order 13089, “Coral Reef Protection,” June 11, 1998
- (ak) Executive Order 13007, “Indian Sacred Sites,” May 24, 1996
- (al) “Department of Defense Chesapeake Bay Strategic Action Plan,” November 7, 2008

ENCLOSURE 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY, AND LOGISTICS (USD(AT&L)). The USD(AT&L), in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall oversee implementation of this Instruction.

2. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT) (DUSD(I&E)). The DUSD(I&E), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(AT&L), shall:

a. Establish additional natural resources conservation policy and guidance, where necessary, in accordance with Reference (c).

b. Designate responsibilities and provide procedures for implementing the DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program, including designating Military Department leads for specific natural resources issues.

c. Ensure that a conservation ethic is integrated throughout the Department of Defense through education, training, and awareness programs.

d. Ensure that readiness, sustainability, cost-effective policies, and the military mission are facilitated through sustained use of natural resources.

e. Support DoD Component natural resources conservation budget requirements.

f. Monitor implementation of this Instruction, including adherence to funding priorities for conservation (Enclosure 4), the use of natural resources conservation metrics (Enclosure 5), and the periodic review of the DoD Component natural resources conservation programs.

g. Identify opportunities for improved efficiency through increased interagency and DoD Component cooperation, information sharing, technology demonstration and transfer, and public communication.

h. Coordinate with Heads of the DoD Components to prioritize, establish, or promote appropriate partnerships with Government and private organizations to advance natural resources conservation initiatives that support DoD missions.

i. Review all DoD issuances and identify appropriate linkages between natural resources issues and other DoD programs.

j. Coordinate with the Heads of the DoD Components to establish goals and objectives for the DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program.



(1) Integrate the DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program with other installations and environment programs, including, but not limited to, business enterprise integration, environmental management, safety, occupational health, facilities, global climate change, ecosystem services, renewable energy, installations requirements, geographic information systems (GIS), environmental management systems (EMS), the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative, and project planning programs.

(2) Incorporate natural resources into EMS to ensure that strategies are established to support environmental leadership programs, policies, and procedures, and establish and implement natural resources compliance audit programs and policies in accordance with E.O. 13423 (Reference (h)).

k. Coordinate with other Federal agencies and with State agencies on natural resources conservation matters of national or regional scope.

l. Work with the Department of Defense, to develop and implement a process to accurately account for natural resources in DoD Financial Management Regulations (Reference (i)).

m. Identify and provide to the Director, Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E) natural resources conservation research and technology requirements.

n. Gather information from the DoD Components and prepare a consolidated DoD response for the Annual Report to Congress (ARC) statutory reporting requirements (Enclosure 5).

o. Oversee the DoD Conservation Committee, which shall:

(1) Be chaired by the DoD Deputy Director, Natural Resources or other designated representative of the DUSD(I&E) consistent with its charter.

(2) Recommend natural resources policy and program improvements to senior leadership, including support and coordination of natural resources management programs with the Deputy Assistant Secretaries.

(3) Review, analyze, and make recommendations on natural resources conservation issues of common interest to the DoD Components.

(4) Review compliance with this Instruction.

(5) Develop, prioritize, strategize, and coordinate natural resources management programs through the DoD Components at the national and regional levels.

(6) Facilitate periodic natural resources training opportunities for DoD Components employees and other Federal agency and State employees when it is beneficial to DoD interests.

3. DDR&E. The DDR&E, under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(AT&L), shall develop an integrated and coordinated science and technology program to address the natural resources conservation program requirements identified by the DUSD(I&E).

4. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PERSONNEL AND READINESS (USD(P&R)). The USD(P&R), in coordination with the USD(AT&L), in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

- a. Manage the DoD Conservation Law Enforcement Program.
- b. Manage the DoD Conservation Law Enforcement Consortium's Partner Organization relationship with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
- c. Incorporate natural resources conservation values into DoD education, training, construction programs, and performance evaluation policies.
- d. Identify opportunities for efficiencies in providing natural resources conservation training through increased interagency and DoD Component cooperation.

5. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER) (USD(C))/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO). The USD(C)/CFO, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

- a. Establish objectives, guidance, requirements, and procedures requiring identification of natural resources management costs across all functional areas.
- b. Establish natural resources management programming and budgeting policy that incorporates statutory and regulatory drivers, mission priorities, and funding responsibility aligned with management authority for mission activities entailing natural resources risks.

6. DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION (DOT&E). The DOT&E, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

- a. Incorporate natural resources conservation values into its programs.
- b. Ensure that sufficient qualified personnel and training, sufficient with the DoD Components, are available to carry out the requirements of this Instruction.

7. HEADS OF THE OSD AND DoD COMPONENTS. The Heads of the OSD and DoD Components shall:

a. Integrate the DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program with mission activities and all other applicable installation plans and programs.

b. Ensure compliance with this Instruction, including compliance by tenant activities, lessees, contractors, and for operators on lands for which the management has been outsourced under privatization initiatives or Enhanced Use Lease Agreements. Develop and implement programs to monitor, achieve, and maintain compliance with applicable Federal statutory requirements and State regulations as required by references in Enclosure 1.

c. Plan, program, and budget resources necessary to establish, execute, monitor, and maintain integrated natural resources conservation programs, consistent with Enclosure 4, other DoD guidance and fiscal policies, and future deadlines.

d. Ensure scientifically sound, innovative, and effective stewardship of natural resources under their jurisdictions.

e. Ensure that installations prepare, maintain, and implement INRMPs in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and State agencies, and ensure that those plans are fully coordinated with appropriate installation offices responsible for preparing and maintaining training plans and master plans.

f. Ensure that internal natural resources self-assessments and external INRMP reviews are conducted as appropriate on all installations with significant natural resources. Promptly correct identified problem areas using the specific funding priority mechanisms utilized by the appropriate DoD Component.

(1) Conduct internal natural resources self-assessments annually on all installations that have an active INRMP. These reviews shall use the Natural Resources Conservation Metrics described in Enclosure 5. External regulatory stakeholders (i.e., USFWS, State) shall be invited.

(2) Provide the DUSD(I&E) or designated representative a list of all installations that have undertaken annual reviews, on a fiscal-year basis, including information on stakeholder participation and a summary spreadsheet of the focus area scores for the seven Natural Resource Conservation Metrics for each installation that held a review by December 31st of each year.

(3) Conduct external INRMP reviews no less often than every 5 years for all installations with INRMPs using the Natural Resources Conservation Metrics in Enclosure 5 of this Instruction. The 5-year period dates from the last review at which external regulatory stakeholders participated.

(4) Update or revise INRMPs as necessary based on the results of these reviews.

g. Present annual reviews on the status of the DoD Components conservation programs to the DUSD(I&E) or designated representative.

h. Advise and consult on natural resources conservation issues and policies of general DoD interest through participation with the DoD Conservation Committee and DUSD(I&E).

i. Promptly notify the DUSD(I&E) of significant natural resources conservation issues.

j. Ensure that proven and scientific data collection methods and sampling techniques are used to develop and update natural resources inventories in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget “Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies” (Reference (j)) and to conduct monitoring of all appropriate INRMP actions.

k. Develop and issue appropriate guidance and/or regulations on how to achieve natural resources goals for necessary facilities plans.

l. Ensure all necessary federally threatened and endangered species management and recovery efforts on DoD lands and waters are conducted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (Chapter 35 of Reference (k)) and other legal mandates.

m. Implement migratory bird protection and conservation in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

(1) Migratory Birds. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (sections 703-712 of Reference (k)); E.O. 13186 (Reference (l)); and the DoD-USFWS Memorandum of Understanding to Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds (Reference (m)).

(2) Bald Eagles

(a) DoD Components shall protect bald eagles under the ESA where appropriate. The Department of Defense shall continue to implement military readiness activities in accordance with title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (Reference (n)).

(b) The Department of Defense shall protect the bald eagle under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the MBTA in accordance with sections 668-668d of Reference (k) and parts 13 and 22 of Reference (n), regardless of Federal listing status.

n. Ensure invasive species management measures are consistent with DoDI 4150.07 (Reference (o)); E.O. 13112 (Reference (p)); sections 7701-7772 of title 4, U.S.C. (Reference (q)); or sections 4701-4751 of Reference (k). These management measures shall be addressed in the INRMP.

o. Ensure DoD operations, activities, projects, and programs that affect the land, water, or other natural resources of any coastal zone are consistent with chapters 32, 33, and 55 of Reference (k). If relevant expenditures are necessary, the actions shall be coordinated with the Department of the Interior in accordance with section 3505 of Reference (k).

8. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY. The Secretary of the Army, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

- a. Provide oversight and management of the DoD Forestry Reserve Account Program through the Assistant Secretary of Army for Installations and Environment.
- b. Monitor financial management of the account in accordance with Volume 11A, Chapter 16 of Reference (i).
- c. Direct distribution of funds to and report deposits from the Military Departments.

9. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY. The Secretary of the Navy, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

- a. Provide oversight and management of the DoD Coral Reef Protection Program through the Assistant Secretary of Navy for Installations and Environment.
- b. Plan, program, and budget for activities necessary to support the Coral Reef Program.

ENCLOSURE 3

PROCEDURES

1. INRMP PREPARATION, REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION

a. Each DoD Component should ensure that current and planned installation programs, plans, and projects that affect natural resources are integrated and compatible with the INRMPs.

b. All natural resources compliance requirements should be categorized based on the Programming and Budgeting Priorities for Natural Resources Programs (see Enclosure 4). All recurring and nonrecurring projects shall be funded consistent with timely execution to meet future deadlines.

c. All DoD Components shall, to the extent practicable and utilizing the best science available, use existing vulnerability assessment tools to assess the potential impacts of global climate change to natural resources on DoD installations, identify significant natural resources that are likely to remain or become viable on DoD lands, and, when not in conflict with mission objectives, take steps to implement adaptive management to ensure the long-term sustainability of those resources.

d. INRMPs shall be prepared, maintained, and implemented for all installations and/or ranges that contain significant natural resources and shall integrate information relevant to natural resources with all other installation and/or range planning documents. Each INRMP shall:

(1) Incorporate the principles of ecosystem-based management.

(2) Contain information needed to make appropriate decisions about natural resources management.

(3) Ensure that biologically or geographically significant or sensitive natural resources, such as ecosystems or species, are monitored and managed for their protection and long-term sustainability.

e. INRMPs must be reviewed as to operation and effect on a regular basis, but no less often than every 5 years, by the Department of Defense, USFWS, and State fish and wildlife agencies, and the review must be documented and signed by these parties. The review will determine whether existing INRMPs are being implemented to meet Sikes Act (Reference (r)) requirements and are contributing to the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations. At a minimum, reviews shall assess conservation goals and objectives and the status of the Natural Resources Conservation Metrics described in Enclosure 5 of this Instruction.

(1) Each installation shall establish and maintain communications with the appropriate USFWS, State fish and wildlife agency offices, and when applicable, with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) to identify, address, and resolve INRMP issues.

(2) Each installation shall evaluate and incorporate appropriate information from other Federal and State natural resources management plans (e.g., State Wildlife Action Plans).

(3) DoD Components shall afford Native American tribes, entities, and organizations that have a cultural or historical affiliation with the lands encompassed by the installation an opportunity to consult on the development of the INRMP where tribal treaty rights, sacred sites, burial sites, or other rights to natural and cultural resources potentially may be affected, in accordance with DoDI 4710.02 (Reference (s)).

(4) The requirement to review the INRMPs on a regular basis, but no less often than every 5 years, does not mean that every INRMP must be revised when it is reviewed. The Sikes Act specifically directs that the INRMPs be reviewed "as to operation and effect," emphasizing that the review is intended to determine whether existing INRMPs are being managed to meet the requirements of the Sikes Act and contribute to the conservation and restoration of natural resources on military installations in accordance with the OSD DoD Memorandum (Reference (t)) and Reference (k).

f. Procedures to comply with federally listed threatened and endangered species management and recovery efforts on DoD lands and waters shall be included in the INRMP and shall emphasize military mission requirements and inter-agency cooperation during consultation, species recovery planning, and management activities.

(1) DoD Components shall implement effective conservation and management programs for federally listed species to help preclude the need for critical habitat (CH) designation. To preclude CH designation, INRMPs for installations with federally listed species must provide adequate protection and a benefit to the species. DoD Components shall participate in the CH rule-making process when the installation is within an area proposed for the designation of CH for an ESA-listed species.

(2) DoD installations may participate in conservation banks and/or recovery credit systems for federally listed threatened or endangered species, following formal consultation procedures, if doing so contributes to the military mission and the recovery of the species, is cost-effective, and supports an installation INRMP, USFWS recovery plans, or other USFWS-approved documents in accordance with section 2694(c) of title 10, United States Code (Reference (u)).

(3) Installations must comment on the benefits of the INRMP and the mission, economic, and other relevant impacts for any CH proposed for designation on the installation. Though CH proposed on nonessential lands of an installation may not impact missions, there is no guarantee such lands may not be mission-critical in the future. The ability to maintain flexibility in the use of DoD land is paramount to the DoD mission.

g. To the extent practicable, all DoD Components shall establish policy and procedures for the management of species at risk (SAR). A SAR program will give high priority to proactive management of those species that, if listed, could adversely impact military readiness. Program objectives shall focus on efforts that have the greatest potential to prevent the listing of SAR (e.g., habitat conservation, planning level surveys, monitoring). Protecting these species is critical; therefore, funding for their protection should be considered a high priority in the installation INRMP.

h. For non-readiness activities, DoD Components shall seek to minimize impacts on migratory birds and address effects of activities on migratory birds in INRMPs and appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents.

i. The installation INRMP shall include management measures for the control of pests that affect natural resources or, alternatively, reference control measures included in the Integrated Pest Management Plan and include that plan as an appendix item consistent with Reference (o).

j. The management and conservation of natural resources under DoD control, including planning, implementation, oversight, and enforcement functions, are inherently governmental functions that shall not be contracted. In accordance with Reference (k), DoD Components that have contractor-operated installations or facilities shall ensure that contract instruments clearly address contractor and Government functions as they relate to natural resources.

k. Conventional procurement methods, as well as cooperative agreements in accordance with section 670c-1 of Reference (k), may be used to accomplish work identified in installation INRMPs. According to section 21.210 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations (Reference (v)), the authority and responsibility for awarding grants and cooperative agreements is vested in the Head of each DoD Component that has such authority. Priority shall be given for the procurement of INRMP implementation and enforcement services to Federal and State agencies having responsibility for the conservation or management of fish and wildlife in accordance with section 670a(d) of Reference (k).

l. DoD Components shall employ adequate numbers of professionally trained civilian natural resource technicians and management professionals in permanent Federal Government career positions to manage their installations' natural resources. Necessary supplemental training to ensure the proper and efficient management of those resources shall be provided in a timely manner (e.g., the Naval Civil Engineer Corps Officers School's Natural Resources Compliance Course, the DoD Sikes Act Training Course).

m. The natural resources identified on installations proposed for closure shall be addressed during disposal and reuse planning in accordance with the NEPA, sections 4321 through 4347 of title 42, U.S.C. (Reference (w)). Where appropriate, and in accordance with requirements governing property disposal, the DoD Components shall give priority to providing excess property to conservation agencies or organizations.



## 2. PARTNERSHIPS

a. Each DoD installation with significant natural resources shall follow the procedures established in the Memorandum of Understanding for a Cooperative Integrated Natural Resources Management Program on Military Installations (Reference (x)).

b. Cooperative agreements may be entered into with States, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals to provide for the maintenance and improvement of natural resources or conservation research on or off DoD installations, if pertinent to the mission. Interagency agreements may be entered into with other Federal agencies. These agreements may be used for inventories, monitoring, research, minor construction and maintenance, public awareness, natural resources program support, conservation law enforcement, and other work that supports the DoD conservation program.

c. Each partnering or cooperating agreement in which the Department of Defense formally participates should recognize that:

(1) Actions specified in those agreements should not detract from the military mission.

(2) The Department of Defense cannot commit funding before the Congress makes it available in accordance with section 1341(a)(1)(B) of title 31, U.S.C. (Reference (y)).

(3) Participants should ensure coordination with all appropriate internal DoD offices and organizations.

c. DoD installations may use appropriate partnerships and volunteers to enhance natural resources conservation programs, when practicable, in accordance with DoDI 1100.21 (Reference (z)). Work shall be performed under the direction of Federal employees and, when practicable, under the direction of professionally trained natural resources personnel.

## 3. BIODIVERSITY

a. Ecosystem-based management will:

(1) Avoid single-species management and implement an ecosystem-based multiple species management approach, insofar as that is consistent with the requirements of the ESA, (chapter 35 of Reference (k)).

(2) Use an adaptive management approach to manage natural resources.

(3) Evaluate and engage in the formation of regional partnerships that benefit the goals and objectives of the INRMP.

(a) Due to policy and fiscal implications, partnerships involving external stakeholders and/or multiple Services require proper coordination through DoD Component chains of command.

(b) Natural resources personnel must be included in the planning and implementation phases of all resulting agreements.

(4) Use the best available scientific information in decision-making and adaptive management techniques in natural resource management.

(5) Foster long-term sustainability of ecosystem services.

(6) Accommodate use of those ecosystem services in a sustainable manner.

b. Biodiversity conservation on DoD lands and waters should be followed whenever practicable to:

(1) Maintain or restore remaining native ecosystem types across their natural range of variation.

(2) Maintain or reestablish viable populations of native species on an installation's areas of natural habitat, when practical.

(3) Maintain ecological processes, such as disturbance regimes, hydrological processes, and nutrient cycles, to the extent practicable.

(4) Manage resources over sufficiently longtime periods for changing system dynamics (i.e., incorporate a monitoring component to management plans).

c. Each DoD Component should use heritage database networks, as defined in the Glossary, whenever appropriate.

d. The Department of Defense shall, to the best of its ability, implement conservation and management efforts to further the conservation of federally-listed species, as well as State-listed species when such action is practicable and does not conflict with military mission or capabilities.

e. The Department of Defense shall identify, prioritize, monitor, and control for invasive species on its installations whenever feasible.

f. The Department of Defense shall restore or rehabilitate altered or degraded landscapes and associated habitats.

#### 4. LAND MANAGEMENT

a. DoD Components shall assess installation lands for forestry and agricultural outlease suitability. Any such uses shall support the military mission and be addressed in the INRMP, and shall be consistent with long-term ecosystem-based management goals that place ecological sustainability objectives above revenue optimization goals. Forestry proceeds shall be distributed in accordance with section 2665 of Reference (u).

(1) Agricultural and forest products shall not be given away, abandoned, carelessly destroyed, used to offset contract costs, or traded for services, supplies, or products, or otherwise improperly removed. Rental abatements may be applied under applicable terms of agricultural leases for goods and services.

(a) Marketable forest products requiring removal, including those on lands designated for privatization, must be disposed of by the Military Service or the value of the forest products will be deposited into the Military Service forestry account. Marketable forest products shall not be abandoned, destroyed, or donated. Non-marketable forest products may be salvaged. Forest products include, but are not limited to, standing timber/trees, downed trees, and pine straw.

(b) Marketability must be appraised by the Military Service with input from a professional forester. Facilities proposing to remove forest products must consider the environmental consequences of removal, prepare appropriate documentation under NEPA, and comply with appropriate and applicable Federal, State, and local environmental regulations, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System construction permit(s), and erosion sediment control plan(s).

(c) Each agricultural outlease must require lessee adherence to a conservation plan that details the best management practices to sustain natural resources and protect Government interests under the lease consistent with Federal contracting guidelines and in accordance with section 2667 of Reference (u).

(2) Forest products may be harvested to generate electricity, heat, steam, or for other uses only if such harvest is consistent with military mission support, the principles of ecologically sustainable management, and the Sikes Act, and if the Military Service's forestry account is paid fair market value. Proceeds for the forest products used for these purposes must be deposited into the Military Service's forestry account in accordance with section 2665 of Reference (u).

(a) The Department of Defense shall continue conservation reimbursable programs on land reported as excess until transfer of title occurs. That portion of the proceeds from sales of land that is attributable to the value of standing timber on the land sold will be deposited in the Military Service's forestry account.

(b) Agricultural proceeds shall be used exclusively to fund natural resources management program requirements and the administrative expenses of agricultural leases in accordance with section 2667 of Reference (u). Authorized uses of agricultural out lease funds include personnel salaries (limited to professional and technical support of the agricultural out

lease programs in support of management goals and objectives), implementation of INRMPS, and equipment and improvements to the land if the equipment and improvements provide net benefit to the installation's natural resources programs.

b. DoD Components shall use a watershed-based approach to manage operations, activities, and lands to avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands, ground water, and surface waters on or adjacent to installations in accordance with the guidelines and goals established in the Unified Federal Policy for a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management, Pages 62565 through 62572 of Volume 65, Federal Register (FR) (Reference (aa)).

(1) DoD Components shall ensure no net loss of size, function, and value of wetlands, and will preserve the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out activities in accordance with E.O. 11990 (Reference (ab)) and White House Office on Environmental Policy (Reference (ac)).

(2) When avoidance of wetlands and other waters of the United States is not practicable, and impacts have been minimized, participation in an approved off-site mitigation bank or in-lieu fee instrument is encouraged as sound conservation planning and is authorized by section 2694(b) of Reference (u). Off-site mitigation may provide a preferred alternative to meet watershed protection and ecosystem goals and meet future mission requirements. The enhancement and/or restoration of wetlands or streams on DoD property may also be an acceptable means for mitigating mission impacts on wetlands to meet permit conditions as required by section 1344 of title 33, United States Code (Reference (ad)).

(3) In the event that discharges of pollutants into wetlands or other U.S. waters are necessary, DoD Components will ensure appropriate permits are obtained and mitigation completed as required by section 1344 of Reference (ad).

(4) DoD Components shall comply with applicable nonpoint source laws respecting the control and abandonment of water pollution in accordance with section 1323 of Reference (ad). The Department of Defense shall incorporate best management practices regarding runoff of the State in which the installation resides to minimize nonpoint sources of water pollution. The Department of Defense shall prevent and control soil erosion, and implement soil conservation measures in accordance with chapter 3B of Reference (k).

c. Adverse impacts on floodplains shall be avoided when possible. The direct or indirect support of floodplain development shall be avoided where there is a practicable alternative in accordance to E.O. 11988 (Reference (ae)).

d. Environmentally and economically beneficial landscaping practices shall be used on all DoD lands consistent with the Presidential Memorandum and Page 40837 of Volume 60, FR (References (af) and (ag)). Each installation shall, to the extent practicable, use locally-adapted native plants and minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides.

e. All DoD Components shall manage fuel loads and provide adequate planning for prescribed burn programs, and respond to wildfire in a manner to preserve health, safety, and air

quality; protect facilities; and facilitate the health and maintenance of natural systems. This management shall reduce the potential for wildfires; function as an ecosystem-based management tool; integrate applicable State and local permit and reporting requirements; and be consistent with DoDI 6055.06 and the current Environmental Protection Agency Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires (References (ah) and (ai)).

## 5. COASTAL

a. DoD Components shall, to the maximum extent practicable, avoid impacting coral reefs, and protect and enhance coral reef ecosystems. The identification, assessment, and monitoring of coral reefs within or in proximity to DoD installations or operational areas shall be accomplished to avoid, minimize, or address potential impacts to these resources in accordance with E.O. 13089 (Reference (aj)).

b. The Department of Defense shall, as practicable, manage its operations, activities, and natural resources to avoid or minimize adverse effects to natural resources on, adjacent to, or in close proximity to DoD lands or near shore areas.

c. The Department of Defense shall complete planning level surveys, as defined in the Glossary, to characterize significant installation and/or near shore natural resources.

d. DoD Components shall establish procedures to ensure that no Federal funds are expended in the undeveloped and unprotected coastal barriers of the Coastal Barrier Resource System unless those expenditures are for military activities essential to national security.

## 6. FUNDING PROGRAMS

a. Equipment procured with conservation reimbursable funds shall not be transferred to tables of distributions and allowance outside of the installation natural resources program's ownership. Salvage value for equipment procured with conservation reimbursable authority should be deposited into the DoD Component's timber or agricultural/grazing outlease proceeds account.

b. Hunting, fishing, and access permitting and fees, if collected, must be deposited and used in accordance with Reference (k) and Reference (i), and should be used only on the installation where collected.

(1) Collections will be used exclusively for fish and wildlife conservation and management on the installation where collected. Uses may include funding of partnerships and cooperative or research agreements with appropriate agencies.

(2) All revenue collected from permit and license fees for hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive wildlife activities shall be maintained and used at the installation level to support wildlife and habitat management in accordance with section 670a(b)(3) of Reference (k).

c. An installation will use the same fee schedule for all participants, with the exception of senior citizens, children, and the handicapped. Membership in any installation club or organization will not give members priority in participating in hunting, fishing programs, or other consumptive and non-consumptive outdoor recreation opportunities.

d. Leasing of DoD lands must be consistent with the goals and objectives of the INRMP as required by Reference (k).

## 7. ACCESS

a. DoD lands, waters, and coastal resources shall be made available to the public for the educational or recreational use of natural resources when such access is compatible with military mission activities, ecosystem sustainability, and with other considerations such as security, safety, and fiscal soundness.

b. INRMPs shall describe areas and conditions appropriate for public access.

(1) Federal or State conservation officials shall be given access to DoD-controlled natural resources to conduct official business consistent with applicable requirements of laws and regulations (e.g., section 1531 of Reference (k)) and an installation's operational, security, and safety policies and procedures.

(2) Military installations shall ensure, where practicable and when not in conflict with mission objectives or the INRMP, that active and retired Service members and disabled veterans have access to its lands and waters for hunting, fishing, and/or non-consumptive use of wildlife.

(3) Native Americans may have access to DoD sites and resources that are of religious importance, or that are important to the continuance of their cultures consistent with the military mission, appropriate laws and regulations (Reference (ak)) and regulations, and subject to the same safety, security, and resource considerations as the general public.

(4) DoD installations shall manage game species and their habitats for enhanced and expanded hunting opportunities when not in conflict with mission or Natural Resource Conservation goals.

(5) Opportunities for the above access shall be equitably and impartially allocated after such considerations have been taken into account.

8. PUBLIC AWARENESS. The Department of Defense shall engage in public awareness and outreach programs to educate the public regarding the resources on military lands and DoD efforts to conserve those resources.

9. SPECIAL DESIGNATION. Areas on DoD installations that contain natural resources (ecological, scenic, recreational, or educational) that warrant special conservation efforts may be designated as special natural areas, as defined in the Glossary, where such conservation is consistent with the military mission. Such areas should be reassessed if mission requirements change, or if the property becomes excess and requires disposal. The INRMP will address special management provisions necessary for the conservation of each area. DoD Components shall coordinate with appropriate agencies to support conservation law enforcement to enforce Federal and applicable State laws and regulations pertaining to the management and use of the natural resources under their jurisdiction.

10. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION. When an installation determines that the disclosure of information on the location or character of natural resources may create a substantial risk of harm, theft, or destruction of such resources, invasion of privacy, trespass on Government property, violation of Federal law or regulation, interference with or disclosure of sensitive information regarding the installation's mission, and/or interference with the rights guaranteed to Native American groups in accordance with sections 470w-3(a), 470w-3, 470hh(a), and 470hh of Reference (k), the installation shall ensure that documents and other data provided to the public do not disclose such information. That information may be provided to other agencies and other parties in accordance with DoD Component policies and procedures.

11. PROPERTY TRANSFERS. Before acquiring, disposing, or realigning DoD properties or property interests, the DoD Component with responsibility for the property involved shall:

- a. Identify all significant natural resources on the properties and determine whether they may be affected by the action.
- b. Ensure that permitted, significant, or museum-housed natural resources-related objects and documents are identified and conserved.

12. CONSERVATION CREDITS. DoD Components shall not engage in Conservation Market-Based Credit sales, trade, exchange, or use other forms of offsets of DoD land, air, and water resources to outside interested parties. Use of markets for environmental and ecosystem services through voluntary market mechanisms, such as environmental credit trading and mitigation banking, is precluded as it is a form of encroachment on military lands. Conservation credits shall not be sold, traded, or exchanged outside DoD installations. Military lands should not be set aside as permanent environmental preserves. The Department of Defense must maintain the flexibility to adapt its defense mission to political and technological developments. Wetlands or endangered species mitigation or any other type of in-perpetuity land protection requirements should be established off the installation, unless such permanent protection provides a mission benefit now and into the future.

ENCLOSURE 4PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING PRIORITIES  
FOR NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS1. RECURRING NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT  
REQUIREMENTS

a. Activities needed to cover the recurring administrative, personnel, and other costs associated with managing the Department of Defense's natural resources conservation program that are necessary to meet applicable compliance requirements (Federal and State laws, regulations, Presidential E.O.s., and DoD policies) or that are in direct support of the military mission.

b. Environmental management activities associated with the operation of facilities, installations, and deployed weapons systems. These activities include day-to-day costs of sustaining an effective natural resources management program, as well as annual requirements, including manpower, training, supplies, permits, fees, testing and monitoring and/or sampling and analysis, reporting and recordkeeping, maintenance of natural resources conservation equipment, and compliance self-assessments.

2. NON-RECURRING NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS.

These are projects and activities needed to manage, maintain, rehabilitate, and improve natural resources under DoD control through a comprehensive program that provides for long-term stewardship of DoD natural resources while ensuring sustainability of the military missions. Non-recurring requirements may be prioritized using the following classification:

a. Current Compliance. Includes projects and activities needed because an installation is currently out of compliance (has received an enforcement action from a duly authorized Federal or State agency, or local authority); has a signed compliance agreement or has received a consent order; has not met requirements based on applicable Federal or State laws, regulations, standards, Presidential E.O.s, or DoD policies, including those listed in Enclosure 1; and/or are immediate and essential to maintain operational integrity or sustain readiness of the military mission. These funding requirements also include projects and activities needed that are not currently out of compliance (deadlines or requirements have been established by applicable laws, regulations, standards, DoD policies, or Presidential E.O.s., but deadlines have not passed or requirements are not in force) but shall be if projects or activities are not implemented in the current program year. Those activities include:

(1) Environmental analyses for natural resource conservation projects, and monitoring and studies required to assess and mitigate potential impacts of the military mission on conservation resources.

(2) Planning documentation, master plans, and INRMPs.



(3) Planning level surveys of natural resources.

(4) Biological assessments, surveys, monitoring, reporting of assessment results, or habitat protection for listed, at-risk, and candidate species so that proposed or continuing actions can be modified in consultation with the USFWS or the NOAA Fisheries Service.

(5) Mitigation to meet existing regulatory permit conditions or written agreements, such as those required under sections 1251 et seq. of Reference (ad), and included in documents required by Reference (ag).

(6) Nonpoint source pollution or watershed management studies or actions needed to meet compliance dates cited in approved State coastal nonpoint source pollution control plans, as required to meet consistency determinations under section 1456 of Reference (k).

(7) Wetlands delineation critical for the prevention of adverse impacts to wetlands, so that continuing actions can be modified to ensure mission continuity, as required by section 1251 et seq. of Reference (ad).

(8) Efforts to achieve compliance with requirements that have deadlines that have already passed, as cited in DoD executed agreements, such as support for the Chesapeake Bay Agreement Action Plan.

b. Maintenance Requirements. Includes those projects and activities needed that are not currently out of compliance (deadlines or requirements have been established by applicable laws, regulations, standards, Presidential E.O.s., or DoD policies) but deadlines have not passed or requirements are not in force, but shall be out of compliance if projects or activities are not implemented in time to meet an established deadline beyond the current program year. Examples include:

(1) Compliance with future requirements that have deadlines.

(2) Conservation, GIS mapping, and data management in order to be in compliance with Federal, State and local regulations, Presidential E.O.s, and DoD policy.

(3) Efforts undertaken in accordance with non-deadline specific compliance requirements of leadership initiatives in accordance with “Department of Defense Chesapeake Bay Strategic Action Plan” (Reference (al)).

(4) Wetlands enhancement to minimize wetlands loss and enhance existing degraded wetlands as required under Reference (ab) and sections 1251 et seq. of Reference (ad).

c. Enhancement Actions Beyond Compliance. Includes those projects and activities that enhance conservation resources or the integrity of the installation mission, or are needed to address overall environmental goals and objectives, but are not specifically required under law, regulation, or E.O., and are not of an immediate nature. Examples include:

(1) Community outreach activities, such as International Migratory Bird Day, Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, Pollinator Week, and Arbor Day activities.

(2) Educational and public awareness projects, such as interpretive displays, oral histories, “watchable wildlife” areas, nature trails, wildlife checklists, and conservation teaching materials.

(3) Restoration or enhancement of natural resources when no specific compliance requirement dictates a course or timing of action.

(4) Management and execution of volunteer and partnership programs.

ENCLOSURE 5

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION METRICS

1. Natural Resources Conservation Metrics are used to assess the overall health and trends of each installation's natural resources program and to identify and correct potential funding and other resource shortfalls. The Sikes Act requires each installation with significant natural resources to report annually on the status of its INRMP implementation.

2. The following elements are established as formal measures of merit for a natural resources conservation program. Progress toward meeting these measures of merit shall be reported to leadership at each Environmental Management Review, and in the Defense Environmental Programs Annual Report to Congress. Specifically, for each installation with significant natural resources, report:

a. The installation name and State.

b. The year the most recent INRMP was reviewed or revised for operation and effect whichever is latest. If the revision of the INRMP is the most recent version, the revision in this case is the one that would require the signatures of the USFWS and State fish and wildlife agencies.

c. If the installation meets Sikes Act requirements.

d. If annual feedback has been received from the USFWS.

e. If annual feedback has been received from the State fish and wildlife agency.

f. Funding requirements in reporting fiscal years to implement the INRMP.

(1) Amount required for recurring projects.

(2) Amount required for non-recurring projects.

3. Additional Natural Resources Conservation Metrics are established as described in this enclosure as a tool to conduct the INRMP annual reviews. The Natural Resources Conservation Metrics assist decision makers in assessing INRMP implementation and measuring how well conservation efforts are being applied while ensuring no net loss of military training lands across the various installations. These metrics provide a better understanding of a conservation program's support of the installation mission and are an indication of the success of partnerships with the USFWS, State fish and wildlife agencies, and, when applicable, with NOAA. Seven focus areas assess requirements, goals, and objectives of the Sikes Act annually for each installation with an INRMP:

- a. INRMP project implementation
- b. Listed species and critical habitat
- c. Partnerships' effectiveness
- d. Fish and wildlife management and public use
- e. Team adequacy
- f. Ecosystem integrity
- g. INRMP impact on the installation mission

4. Each Military Department may define the seven focus areas to assess its specific program requirements, goals, and objectives. At a minimum, the focus areas listed in paragraphs 3.a. through 3.g. of this enclosure should be able to assess the following for each installation:

a. INRMP Project Implementation

(1) Are INRMP projects, including follow-up inventorying and monitoring work, properly identified, developed and submitted for funding?

(2) Has project funding been received, obligated, and expended?

(3) Have projects been completed and do they meet expected objectives?

b. Listed Species and Critical Habitat

(1) Are conservation efforts effective?

(2) Does the INRMP provide conservation benefits necessary to preclude CH designation?

(3) Are SAR identified and are steps being undertaken to preclude listing?

c. Partnerships Effectiveness

(1) Has the INRMP review team (DoD, USFWS, and State fish and wildlife agencies) been effective in ensuring the INRMP's implementation?

(2) Are other partnerships needed to meet the INRMP goals?

(3) Have other partnerships been effectively used to meet INRMP goals?

d. Fish and Wildlife Management and Public Use

(1) Are public recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing available to base residents and employees?

(2) Are public recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing available to the public?

e. Team Adequacy. Is the installation's natural resources team adequately resourced and trained to fully implement the INRMP?

f. Ecosystem Integrity

(1) What percent of the installation's native ecological systems are currently intact?

(2) What percent of the installation's various habitats are susceptible to change/damage from different stressors?

g. INRMP Impact on the Installation Mission. To what degree (high/medium/low) is the INRMP and its associated actions supporting the installation's ability to sustain the current and potential future military mission?

## GLOSSARY

### PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CH	critical habitat
DDR&E	Director, Defense Research and Engineering
DoDD	DoD Directive
DoDI	DoD Instruction
DOT&E	Director, Operational Test and Evaluation
DUSD(I&E)	Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations & Environment)
EMS	Environmental Management Systems
E.O.	executive order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FR	Federal Register
GIS	geographic information systems
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense
SAR	species at risk
U.S.C.	United States Code
USD(AT&L)	Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics
USD(C)/CFO	Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### PART II. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise indicated, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this DoD Instruction.

agricultural outlease. The leasing of property for agricultural purposes, including but not limited to, converting/manipulating natural habitats for cultivation, grazing, rangeland, and/or cropland.

best management practices. Resource management decisions that are based on the latest professional and technical standards for the protection, enhancement, and rehabilitation of natural resources. Best management practices include schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce pollution. Best management practices also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and control practices.

biodiversity. The variety of life forms and the ecological processes that sustain it. Biodiversity includes the number and variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, the communities and ecosystems in which they occur, and the ecological and evolutionary processes that keep them functioning, yet ever-changing and adapting for a given geographic area.

candidate species. Any species, plant or animal, which is being considered for listing as threatened or endangered by Department of the Interior, but is not yet subject of a proposed rule. Includes species at risk that are eligible for listing under the ESA.

coastal. Mean high water level landward to the boundaries influenced by near-shore waters (dunes, mangroves, beaches, etc.).

conservation. Planned management, use, and protection of natural and cultural resources to provide sustainable use and continued benefit for present and future generations, and the prevention of exploitation, destruction, waste, and/or neglect.

conservation reimbursable programs. Consists of three individual and distinct program areas: Forestry, Agriculture/Grazing, and Hunting and Fishing. These programs exist to provide ecosystem-level management that supports and enhances the land's ability to support each installation's respective military mission while simultaneously obtaining ecologically sustainable results that satisfy all federally mandated requirements for natural resources. Program revenues are generated through the sale of forest products, collection of lease payments for agriculture and grazing out leases, and collection of fees for hunting and fishing permits.

CH. Habitat determined by USFWS to be important and essential to the survival of a threatened or endangered species and that requires special management and protection.

ecosystem. A dynamic and natural complex of living organisms interacting with each other and with their associated physical environment.

ecosystem-based management. A goal-driven approach to managing natural and cultural resources that supports present and future mission requirements; preserves ecosystem integrity; is at a scale compatible with natural processes; is cognizant of nature's timeframes; recognizes social and economic viability within functioning ecosystems; is adaptable to complex and changing requirements; and is realized through effective partnerships among private, local, State, tribal, and Federal interests. Ecosystem-based management is a process that considers the environment as a complex system functioning as a whole, not as a collection of parts, and recognizes that people and their social and economic needs are a part of the whole.

ecosystem services. The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services such as nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

heritage database network. A database network that provides precise locations and conditions of known listed and at-risk species and ecological communities, and can be used to identify critical habitats, to aid in land use planning, guide natural resource use/development decisions, and to set conservation priorities. The heritage database networks allow for consistent collecting and managing of data to be shared/combined regionally, nationally, and internationally, leading to effective ecosystem-based management.

INRMP. An integrated plan based, to the maximum extent practicable, on ecosystem-based management that shows the interrelationships of individual components of natural resources management (e.g., fish and wildlife, forestry, land management, and outdoor recreation) to mission requirements and other land use activities affecting an installation's natural resources. INRMPs ensure natural resources conservation programs and military operations are integrated and consistent with stewardship and legal requirements through cooperation between the Department of Defense, USFWS, and State fish and wildlife agencies.

installation. A grouping of facilities, located in the same vicinity, that support particular functions, including testing and training ranges and Guard lands on which Federal training occurs.

invasive species. With respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material, whose introduction/presence may cause environmental or economic harm or harm to human health.

listed species. State and federally listed species, as well as species in accordance with Reference (k).

mitigation. Lessening the adverse effects an undertaking may cause relative to natural or cultural resources. Mitigation can include limiting the magnitude of the action; repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected resource; avoiding the effect altogether; reducing or eliminating the effect over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and/or compensating for the effect by providing substitute resources or environments.

mitigation banking. Actions taken to compensate for future adverse effects of undertakings by providing substitute resources or environments in advance of any specific undertaking.

multiple use. The integrated, coordinated, and compatible use of natural resources so as to achieve a sustainable yield of a mix of desired goods, services, and direct and indirect benefits while protecting the primary purpose of supporting and enhancing the military mission and observing stewardship responsibilities.



Native Americans. American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

native species. With respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

natural resources. All elements of nature and their environments of soil, sediments, air, and water. Those consist of two general types, as follows:

earth resources. Nonliving resources such as minerals and soil components.

biological resources. Living resources such as plants and animals.

natural resources self-assessment. A multimedia inspection or evaluation of an installation's natural and cultural resources program. External conservation self assessments are conducted by designated DoD representatives from outside the installation being inspected. Internal conservation self-assessments are usually conducted by installation personnel.

natural resources technician. A staff person who performs routine natural resources management and compliance functions. This individual must complete appropriate relevant training, and should seek the advice of a qualified natural resources management professional when technical expertise is needed to make decisions or decision recommendations.

natural resources management professional. A person who has obtained a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in biology, ecology, or other appropriate and related discipline from an accredited college or university. A trained natural resources management professional may not necessarily be qualified as a natural resources technician and may need to complete additional appropriate training to perform management duties.

near-shore areas. All submerged lands titled to the military and all other submerged lands that are adjacent to installations that extend from the mean high water level, offshore to the boundary of any security areas controlled by the Military Services.

nonpoint source. Pollution from many diffuse sources caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground, which picks up and carries natural and human-made pollutants (e.g., fertilizers, oil, salt, sediments, bacteria, and pesticides) and deposits them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and/or groundwater sources.

operation and effect. A review to determine whether existing INRMPs are being implemented to meet the requirements of the Sikes Act and contribute to the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations.

rehabilitation. The process of restoring a degraded environment in order to improve ecological function and increase suitability for habitation.

renewable resources. Natural resources that can never be used up completely, or can be replaced/replenished naturally over time. Renewable resources may be consumed without threat to future consumption as long as the use does not surpass production of new resources.

restoration. The process of reestablishing or returning to the former, original, or unimpaired condition, to the extent possible, in order to reestablish a functional ecosystem.

SAR. Includes species on lists maintained by USFWS, NOAA Fisheries Service, and State agencies as threatened or endangered, or are candidates for such lists. SAR also includes species that could be added to any such list due to current status and whose conservation, if not addressed, would severely impact the military mission.

significant natural resources. Resources identified as having special importance to an installation and/or its ecosystem. Natural resources may be significant on a local, regional, national, or international scale. All threatened, endangered and at-risk species are significant natural resources that normally will require an INRMP. Installations that actively manage fish and wildlife, forestry, vegetation and erosion control, agricultural outleasing or grazing, or wetlands protection should be evaluated for significance, but normally will require an INRMP. An evaluation for significance should also consider the degree of active management, special natural features, aesthetics, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the ecological context of the installation.

special natural areas. All areas officially recognized as having special attributes, including areas with botanical, ecological reserve, geological, natural resources, riparian, scenic, zoological, and watchable wildlife qualities.

stewardship. The management of resources entrusted to DoD care in a way that preserves and enhances the resources and their benefits for present and future generations.

survey. An inventory of an installation's inventories, management plans, personnel, training, supplies, equipment, and other management tools to identify future actions and resources needed for the installation to comply with the requirements of this Instruction.

sustainable yield. Managing a renewable natural resource to provide an annual or periodic yield of goods, services, and direct and indirect benefits, into perpetuity. That may include, but is not limited to, maintaining economic benefits, ecological processes and functions, and biodiversity.

tribe. A federally-recognized Native American group or organization.

undertaking. A project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; and those requiring a Federal permit, license, or approval.

wetlands. Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support and that, under normal circumstances, do support a prevalence of

vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. See section 328 of Reference (ad).