



Fisheries  
& Habitat  
Conservation

## 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*

### *The Sikes Act — A Dynamic Partnership:*

*Enacted in 1960, The Act requires development and implementation of Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) for military installations.*

*INRMPs, prepared in cooperation with USFWS and States, balance conservation with military operations.*

*USFWS resource management expertise helps DoD maximize conservation without compromising the military mission.*

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 Resources 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?**

##### ***Cultivate Strong Partnerships:***

- Coordinate Sikes Act issues at the national level with DoD, all military branches, and the States.
- Create and participate in field-level partnership teams to develop, implement and monitor INRMPs.
- Signed a new MOU in January 2006.

##### ***Consult and Evaluate:***

- Review INRMPs: over 350 completed to date.
- Evaluate potential impacts of military activities on fish and wildlife.
- Ensure that important habitat is considered in INRMPs.
- Conduct Endangered Species Act consultations.
- Identify recreation and conservation opportunities like fish stocking, hunting and fishing management, and exotic species control.

#### **RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ISSUES**

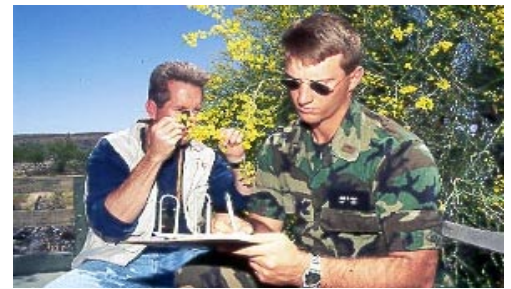
- 33 cooperatively-funded agreements were initiated between USFWS and DoD in FY 2004.
- 178 INRMP's were reviewed and/or implemented in FY 2004.
- \$5,768,886 was spent by USFWS to conduct Sikes Act work in FY 2004.
- National Defense Authorization Act of 2004 was amended the Endangered Species Act to preclude designation of critical habitat on many DoD lands subject to the Sikes Act: 71 installations have since been exempted from critical habitat designation.

#### **WHAT MORE CAN WE DO?**

- Worked with the military early in the INRMP review process.
- Coordinate with installations on fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation and research projects.

#### **HOW DOES THE PUBLIC BENEFIT?**

- INRMPs maximize opportunities for public recreational on military land.
- INRMPs help preserve America's biodiversity for future generations.
- INRMPs provide realistic training areas to ensure military readiness..



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



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

**For more information about Sikes Act Coordination, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at 703/358-2161 or visit us on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/>.**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
800/344-WILD  
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