



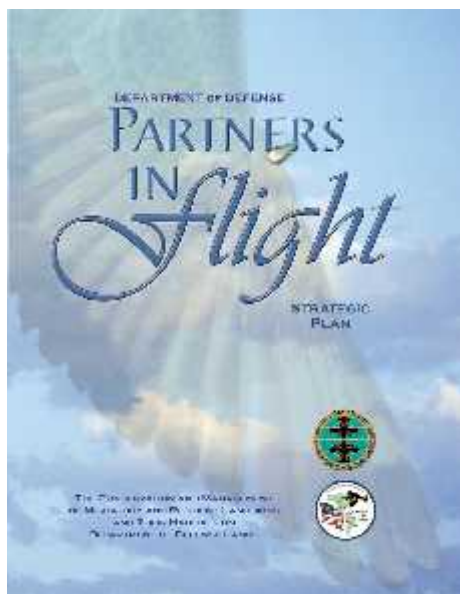
Department of Defense Partners in Flight

Fact Sheet #20
June 2010

Department of Defense Partners in Flight Program

Mission

To conserve migratory and resident birds and their habitats on Department of Defense lands.



The Strategic Plan and detailed Annual Report can be found at www.dodpif.org, or through the contact information on the next page.

2009 Annual Report

DoD Partners in Flight Program

Conserving Birds and Their Habitats

The Department of Defense (DoD) Partners in Flight (PIF) program sustains and enhances the military testing, training, and safety mission through proactive, habitat-based management strategies that maintain healthy landscapes and training lands. DoD PIF representatives assist installation natural resources managers in improving their monitoring and inventory, research and management, and education programs involving birds and their habitats. Bird conservation actions can be incorporated into installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans and integrated into Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) plans, where it does not create a mission conflict or safety hazard. DoD PIF works beyond installation boundaries to facilitate cooperative partnerships, determine the current status of bird populations, and prevent the listing of additional bird species as threatened or endangered. DoD PIF provides a scientific basis for maximizing the effectiveness of resource management, enhancing the biological integrity of DoD lands, and ensuring continued use of these lands to fulfill military training requirements. Participating in partnerships, such as PIF, also helps DoD to more effectively meet its trust responsibility to conserve our nation's biodiversity.

The DoD PIF Strategic Plan identifies actions that support and enhance the military mission while also achieving the overall PIF goal of maintaining secure populations of priority birds. Regional and Technical Working Groups pursue additional priorities, and a series of Fact Sheets identifies emerging programmatic priorities. An annual planning workshop of the DoD PIF Representatives provides guidance to monitoring strategies, priority species and ongoing bird conservation priorities for DoD. The

species of concern database helps installation managers identify priority bird species on every military installation to better focus monitoring efforts.



Cedar Waxwings range throughout North America. DoD lands may be most important during the non-breeding season when winter irruptions drive this and other Boreal species into the Lower 48 states. Photo: Chris Eberly

Partnerships and Leadership

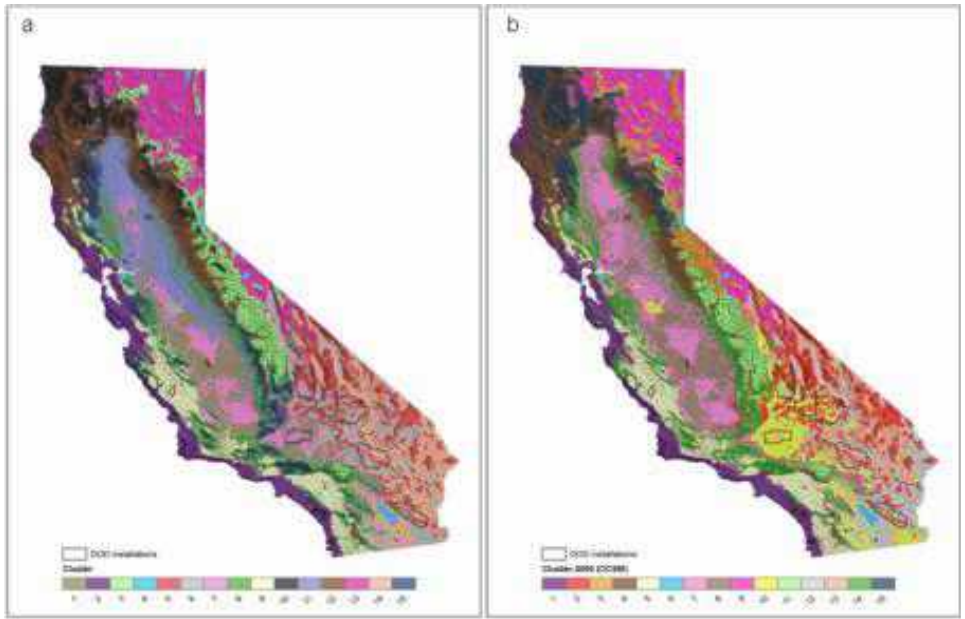
DoD is a member of the US Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), making DoD directly involved in tri-national conservation planning involving Canada, the US, and Mexico. DoD is actively involved in the newly formed Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds, created through Executive Order 13186 (*Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*). The DoD PIF Program Coordinator served as President of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association (NMFWA). The Program Coordinator and members of the DoD PIF Program represented DoD at national, regional, and state steering committee meetings of Partners in Flight, as well as relevant committees of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.

Accomplishments and Recognition

The DoD PIF Program Coordinator worked with US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) to customize and teach a special one-day version of the USFWS course, "Migratory Bird Conservation – A Trust Responsibility" at the Sustaining Military Readiness Conference. In addition, the Coordinator participated in the Sonoran Conservation Partnering Team meeting to help with discussions about Legacy funding of bird project ideas developed by the Team.

DoD PIF Representatives began work on a list of migratory bird species considered to be of highest "concern" to DoD (exclusive of Federally-listed and Hawaiian species). The emphasis is on those species having the highest potential to impact the future military mission should they become listed under the Endangered Species Act, with a secondary focus on those species with significant conservation concern on DoD lands during breeding, non-breeding, and/or migration. Each of the military service branches are involved in this process.

One of the major contributions of DoD PIF to the Legacy Program is the review process to evaluate all pre-proposal and full proposal submissions to the annual Legacy funding cycle. The network of DoD PIF Reps reviewed 27 bird-related pre-proposals for the 2010 Legacy funding cycle to see if each one meets required criteria to warrant a full proposal submission. Of these, 21 full proposals were then requested and reviewed in detail and scored in each of 10 criteria



Climate change is changing the way DoD resource managers must think about future conditions for habitat management. The DoD Legacy Program funded project #09-465 (PRBO Conservation Science) to help managers in California better understand climate model predictions and their potential impact on bird populations and their habitat conditions.

developed by the DoD PIF Program. A total of 10 projects were approved for \$1,083,000 in funding. Legacy funding for bird conservation projects has now exceeded \$33 million, including funding for management of the DoD PIF program.

Migratory Bird Legislation

The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) is a legally binding international treaty signed in 2001 by 12 countries. ACAP was created to halt the drastic decline of seabird populations in the Southern Hemisphere. The birds are threatened by introduced species on their breeding islands, pollution, and being taken as bycatch by longline fisheries (which kills more than 300,000 seabirds a year). Recent efforts have led to consideration of including birds in the Northern Hemisphere. DoD PIF participated in discussions about ACAP and DoD (especially the Navy) at the White House Council for Environmental Quality (CEQ) regarding the U.S. potentially becoming a signatory to ACAP. Navy vessels do not impact seabirds at sea, but DoD lands support significant nesting colonies of albatrosses and petrels.

Getting the Word Out

Educating both the military and the public is a vital function of the DoD PIF program. Outreach materials were produced, presentations and briefings were given, and articles were written. Ongoing support of International Migratory Bird Day links international outreach materials and events with local military communities. DoD PIF Representatives attend birding festivals and Earth Day events at military bases and other locations throughout the year. We are constantly confronted with the statement, "I didn't know DoD cared about birds or the environment!" Outreach remains a critical element of the success of all DoD natural resource programs. To form successful partnerships for conservation, the first step is educating potential partners about your priorities and what you do. DoD is committed to conservation birds and their habitats on DoD lands around the country and throughout the world.



Many migratory birds that breed on DoD lands compete for resources during the non-breeding with tropical species like the Emerald Tanager. The need for full life-cycle stewardship of migratory birds—conserving birds throughout their annual cycle of breeding, migration, and non-breeding—cannot be overstated. Photo: Chris Eberly

For more information on the DoD Partners in Flight Program:

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