

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

PARTNERS  
IN *Flight*

STRATEGIC  
PLAN

THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT  
OF MIGRATORY AND RESIDENT LANDBIRDS  
AND THEIR HABITATS ON  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LANDS



# A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT



Migratory bird populations are declining throughout the Western Hemisphere. Many of these birds use military lands for feeding and resting during their migrations, and for nesting and breeding during the summer months. Because birds do not recognize geopolitical boundaries, it is up to all land managers to work cooperatively to stem declines in bird populations.

In 1991, the Department of Defense (DoD), through each of the military services, joined the Partners in Flight (PIF) initiative. DoD is now working in partnership with over 300 federal and state agencies and nongovernmental organizations for the conservation of Neotropical migratory and resident birds and their habitats. Through this partnership, DoD actively manages its natural resources to support mission needs and flight safety goals, while pursuing a sound conservation ethic that strives to benefit bird species throughout the Americas.

The DoD PIF program described here offers a coordinated framework for incorporating bird habitat management efforts into installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans. DoD's strategy focuses on inventory, on-the-ground management, education, and long-term monitoring to determine changes in migrant bird populations on DoD installations.

Our vision is to support the military's training and testing mission while being a vital and supportive partner in regional, national, and international bird conservation initiatives. Wherever possible, we will strive to implement cooperative projects and programs on DoD lands to benefit the health and well being of birds and their habitats.

Our mission is to ensure that all Services have access to the land, sea, and air resources necessary to ensure national security. We recognize that sustainable use of these resources aids the military mission and enhances the natural environment. I am very proud of the efforts our natural resources personnel put forth on a daily basis to accomplish this mission. I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically support the PIF program and look forward to DoD's leadership role in this important partnership.

*John Paul Woodley, Jr.*

John Paul Woodley, Jr.  
Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense  
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