

DoD MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

THE DoD PARTNERS IN FLIGHT POLICY

Promote and support our partnership role in the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats by protecting vital DoD lands and ecosystems, enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining healthy and productive natural systems consistent with the military mission.

The strategy described in this document will enable DoD to better integrate programs for migratory and resident birds into existing natural resources and land management programs. New and innovative management techniques aimed at protecting priority bird species will be an integral part of the planning and decision-making processes. Implementation of this strategy will allow DoD natural resources managers to determine best management practices based on regional or physiographic delineations rather than on a species basis. This ecosystem management approach provides a framework to consider the biological diversity on military lands in the context of the surrounding landscape. This approach will improve long-term planning and efficiency and promote better integration of mission and resource requirements.

PROGRAM - WIDE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary goals and objectives of the DoD Partners in Flight program are to:

- Apply information collected from this partnership program to support DoD mission requirements
- Take proactive management actions to prevent bird species from reaching threatened or endangered status
- Facilitate cooperative partnership efforts consistent with the military mission
- Determine the status of migratory and resident bird populations on DoD lands and the causes of population fluctuations
- Reduce bird aircraft strike hazard risks through implementation of mobile radar
- Maintain and restore priority habitats on DoD lands for migratory and resident bird populations
- Reduce or eliminate pesticide use in sensitive habitats, especially in and around wetlands and riparian areas
- Reduce the spread and impact to birds and their habitats of invasive and nuisance species on military lands, including feral and free-roaming cats



Black-bellied Whistling Duck
Photo by Michael Stobbsfeld

DOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

PARTNERSHIPS

The international Partners in Flight (PIF) program is an umbrella network of agencies, corporations, and non-governmental organizations. Department of Defense (DoD) bird conservation programs are a vital part of this network. Through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other groups, DoD works to develop cooperative programs and projects with PIF partner organizations. Partnering ensures a focused and coordinated approach for the conservation of resident and neotropical migratory birds and their habitats.

As signatories to the federal PIF Memorandum of Agreement, the DoD military service branches are part of the national PIF Management and Joint Steering Committees. A lead DoD representative, appointed by the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environment), and a fulltime program manager promote and coordinate PIF efforts within DoD. In addition, DoD has established a network of biologists and natural resource managers to represent DoD in the various regional and technical PIF working groups. The role of DoD PIF Working Group representatives is to cultivate and maintain positive working relationships with partners, develop cooperative agreements for implementing bird conservation programs and projects on military lands, and facilitate communication and information sharing across geographical and political boundaries. These working group representatives promote implementation of local and regional conservation objectives such as establishing habitat corridors that encompass DoD and adjacent lands. They also participate and provide leadership in various state, regional and national PIF working groups and committees.

A STRATEGY FOR DOD ACTION

The DoD PIF program includes four regional working groups (Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, West) and six technical working groups (Monitoring, Research, Communications, Education, BASH, International). These groups identify actions compatible with the military mission that achieve the overall PIF goal of maintaining secure populations of priority birds.

The following eight pages highlight key issues facing each of the national PIF regional and technical working groups, their goals and objectives, and DoD priority support efforts.



Snowy Owl
Photo by Michael Stubblefield