



DoD Partners in Flight Program Management and Technical Support for 2009

Project # 09-1717

Background:

Migratory birds are well studied by many groups and have significant legislative requirements. 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.

Objective:

The DoD Partners in Flight Program represents DoD in the bird conservation initiatives, and facilitates the exchange of information regarding bird conservation and management within the DoD natural resources community. This project provides support for the major components of that effort, including a full time program coordinator, information and outreach materials, and support for vital regional and national conservation projects.

Summary of Approach:

The DoD Partners in Flight program sustains and enhances the military testing, training, and safety mission through proactive, habitat-based management strategies that maintain healthy landscapes and training lands. The DoD PIF Strategic Plan identifies actions that support and enhance the military mission while also working to secure bird populations. These actions can be incorporated into installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans and Bird/Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) plans. DoD PIF representatives assist installation natural resources managers in improving the monitoring and inventory, research and management, and education programs involving birds and their habitats. DoD PIF works beyond installation boundaries to facilitate cooperative partnerships, determine the current status of bird populations, and prevent the listing of additional birds as threatened or endangered. The program coordinator coordinates with USFWS on migratory bird regulations, and facilitates development of migratory bird guidance for INRMPs and NEPA documents. 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. Up-to-date migratory bird information is communicated to installation personnel through an

email listserve, regular newsletter, and web site.

Participating in partnerships, such as PIF, also helps DoD to more effectively meet its stewardship responsibility to conserve our nation's biodiversity.

Benefit:

Because Partners in Flight focuses on partnerships and science to accomplish conservation objectives, installations derive the benefit from the initiative's goals: facilitate cooperative partnerships, determine the current status of migratory birds and causes of population fluctuations, identify and maintain priority habitats for migratory birds. This allows installation natural resources personnel to proactively manage DoD lands to sustain healthy populations and minimize or prevent the future listing of additional species as threatened or endangered.

Accomplishments:

The DoD Partners in Flight Program was actively involved in migratory bird policy actions and conservation partnership. The DoD PIF Program Coordinator provides staff support for the Office of Secretary of Defense in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative and the Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds (per Executive Order 13186). DoD PIF Representatives reviewed 36 bird-related Legacy Resource Management Program pre-proposals totaling \$4.8 million, then reviewed and ranked the 21 full proposals (\$2.6 million in requests). Technical sessions were held at the annual National Military Fish and Wildlife Association training workshop, including a plenary session on the power of partnerships at the concurrent North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. Development of updated priorities, goals and objectives for the Program was completed at the annual planning meeting. These will form the basis for bird conservation priorities in the upcoming 3rd edition of the Strategic Plan.

Contact Information:

Chris Eberly
Program Coordinator
DoD Partners in Flight
540-349-9662
ceberly@dodpif.org
www.dodpif.org

