

DoD PIF Key Focus Area: Communicating Guidance and Policies

Bird Conservation in the Military



Mission

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

DoD Partners in Flight

The Department of Defense (DoD) Partners in Flight (PIF) Program identifies strategies, goals, and priorities for eight key areas that support and enhance the military mission: stewardship, partnerships/cooperation, communications, habitat and species management, bird/animal aircraft strike hazard, monitoring, research, and information and education. These goals and priorities outline the DoD PIF Program vision for developing and implementing conservation actions that support the mission while minimizing impacts to bird species and their habitats. One of these key focus areas is **communicating guidance and policies**, which enables DoD to better integrate programs for migratory and resident birds into existing natural resources and land management programs.

Focus Area Goal

Ensure that productive and effective communication about bird conservation policy and guidance is available and accessible throughout DoD.



*Communicating guidance and policy on how to avoid collisions with Golden Eagles and other bird species is a DoD PIF priority.
Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

Background

Communication is key to addressing the needs of DoD's various stakeholders and providing up-to-date guidance to all military personnel. Before any policy or formal document is finalized, coordination must occur among all affected parties, from DoD leadership to the operational community to the biologists. Once policy is established, adherence and implementation depend on communicating the proper information to the appropriate personnel in a timely manner. Internal installation-level partners such as training/testing components, facilities/public works departments, environmental planners, and other intra-departmental environmental programs must have the opportunity to comment on all relevant draft guidance and policy documents, and should be kept informed of the status of these documents. By ensuring this level of communication, DoD PIF can better ensure that established policy provides the necessary guidance to the appropriate personnel.

Priorities

DoD PIF developed the following priorities to help DoD achieve its goal of communicating guidance and policies:

- Promote the availability of migratory bird guidance documents to installations for Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) and National Environmental Policy Act use.
- Provide a forum within DoD to discuss mission-conservation conflicts.
- Give priority to implementing conservation actions that benefit species of concern and prevent population declines.
- Provide and disseminate guidance on implementing Executive Order 13186, *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, its associated DoD/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Memorandum of Understanding, and the Migratory Bird Rule.
- Coordinate and provide technical assistance on emerging issues and policy/guidance needs.

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