

# DoD PIF Key Focus Area: Habitat and Species Management

## *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 **habitat and species management**, which enables DoD to better integrate programs for migratory and resident birds into existing natural resources and land management programs.

### Goal

Encourage developing and implementing optimal habitat and species management practices to advance mission requirements and support DoD goals and objectives.

### Background

Birds serve as health indicators for the environments that provide us with clean air and water, fertile soils, abundant wildlife, and the natural resources on which we depend. Human activities can influence our nation's birds significantly, often in a negative way. Major challenges affecting bird populations include residential and commercial development, agriculture, energy production, invasive and problematic species, pollution, and climate change.

Migratory birds use habitats on many military installations for breeding, as migratory stopover sites, and as wintering grounds. Using trained biologists and strong, science-based programs, DoD manages habitats and the bird species that depend on them, in ways that help sustain both the military mission and continuing recovery programs for threatened and endangered species and species of concern. DoD also works to reduce invasive species impacts through appropriate proactive habitat and species management. By encouraging the development and implementation of optimal habitat and species management practices, DoD PIF

can advance mission requirements while supporting conservation goals and objectives.

### Priorities

DoD PIF developed the following priorities to help DoD achieve its habitat and species management goals:

- Educate installation managers about DoD PIF efforts to demonstrate the importance of including bird conservation management and avian protection methods in Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) and National Environmental Policy Act documents.
- Assist military installation personnel with questions about INRMP project planning and implementation for migratory bird habitat and species management.
- Encourage proactive management to avoid and prevent species from becoming listed.
- Concentrate management actions to control invasive species that negatively affect native habitats important to migratory birds and other native wildlife.
- Facilitate the identification, development, and dissemination of conservation measures, lessons learned, and best management practices.
- Help installations find habitat and species information important for migratory bird management.
- Ensure installations have or know where to find accurate and current species of interest lists (threatened/endangered, species at risk, state listed, invasive, etc.).
- Prioritize species and habitats on DoD lands that may need special attention or protection.



*DoD funded several multi-year projects to manage Piping Plovers and their habitats on military installations.  
Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

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**Enabling the Mission, Defending the Resources**  
Department of Defense Natural Resources Program