



Maintaining and Implementing Sustainable INRMPs Course Offerings

Project # 08-395

Background:

In 2007, Legacy funded a project to design a classroom course that encouraged tri-party cooperation in the implementation and review/revision of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs). The course brought together the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), state fish and wildlife Agencies (represented by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)), and DoD personnel. The course provided training and allowed a forum for participants to learn about each other's concerns, perspectives, and needs concerning INRMP maintenance and implementation.



Objective:

The purpose of this project was to execute the *Maintaining and Implementing Sustainable INRMPs* course in select USFWS regions. These workshops had two goals: first, they sought to improve INRMPs by providing information and training to DoD natural resources managers; second, they focused on developing and improving cooperative partnerships between DoD, USFWS, and AFWA.

Summary of Approach:

Booz Allen staff met with the Deputy Director, Natural Resources (DDNR) in early 2008 to determine the locations for the next two offerings of the classroom course. When identifying which regions and participants to involve, we considered the status of the current tri-party relations and INRMP implementation. Once the DDNR selected the East Coast and West Coast locations, we then moved forward with all of the preparations necessary for planning this workshop. Tasks included coordinating with USFWS' Sikes Act

Coordinator to identify and invite USFWS staff and state agency personnel; researching and confirming the hotel; developing fact sheets, instructor's guide, facilitator instructions, a participant's workbook, and other course materials; updating the attendees with workshop information; facilitating and recording the meeting; and creating and distributing meeting minutes.

Benefit:

The gathering of selected experts from various geographic regions and from USFWS, AFWA, and DoD served as a forum for discussion. As a result, this course set the standard for tri-party cooperation when developing and implementing INRMPs across the country, embodying the spirit of the Tri-Party Memorandum of Understanding, signed January 2006. As this Sustaining INRMPs course gains momentum, the INRMPs themselves will improve and a true partnership between DoD, USFWS, and AFWA should gain stability over time.

Accomplishments:

This project executed two offerings of the course: March 2008 in San Diego, CA, and September 2008 at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. Four instructors from the DoD headquarters level and the USFWS lead the courses, training nearly 100 people in total. Course attendees gained valuable insight into the Sikes Act; their roles and responsibilities for implementing and upholding the Act; tools at their disposal for implementing sustainable INRMPs; and approaches for working together. In addition, attendees forged new working relationships with their counterparts at other federal and state agencies.

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