



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fish and Aquatic Conservation

Sikes Act Coordination

Working with the Department of Defense to Conserve Fish and Wildlife Resources

Partnering for Conservation Success

Enacted in 1960, the Sikes Act enhances cooperation between the Department of Defense, Fish and Wildlife Service and States to promote fish and wildlife conservation on military lands while continuing to support their military mission.

The Sikes Act prioritizes the need for cooperative fish and wildlife conservation. Together, the partnering agencies plan and implement natural resource programs for military installations, while ensuring that military operations are not compromised. Over 300 military installations currently have natural resources significant enough to require Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs).

WHAT WE DO

Cultivate Conservation Partnerships:

- Coordinate Sikes Act issues at the national level with DoD, all military branches, and the States.
- Create and participate in field-level multi-agency teams to manage and enhance natural resources.
- Provide unique fish and wildlife conservation expertise through reimbursable agreements.

Consult and Support:

- Review INRMPs and work with installations to improve conservation planning.

- Evaluate potential effects of military activities on fish and wildlife.
- Identify conservation and recreation opportunities.
- Support recovery of over 400 threatened and endangered species.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Conservation Examples:

- FWS, the Marine Corps and Air Force cooperated to bring Arizona's Sonoran pronghorn population from near-extinction at just 21 animals to 202.
- The Okaloosa darter was downlisted from endangered to threatened due in part to conservation efforts on Eglin Air Force Base in Florida.
- Cooperative efforts at Ft. Bragg allowed the Army installation to surpass recovery goals for red-cockaded woodpecker.

Policy Milestones:

- Collaborated with DoD to issue Guidelines for Streamlined INRMP Review, July 2015.
- Issued Guidelines for Coordination on Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans, June 2015.
- National Defense Authorization Act of 2014 reauthorized Sikes Act and provided collaborative funding tools.
- Signed MOU with State and DoD on cooperative natural resource management on military installations, July 2013.

THE AIR FORCE PARTNERSHIP

In 2013, FWS and the Air Force established a new national agreement under the Sikes Act. This agreement allows FWS to provide significantly increased fish and wildlife conservation expertise to the Air Force. This partnership has:



FWS works with Vandenberg AFB which supports 20 percent of the Pacific coast population of the federally listed Western snowy plover.

- Implemented approximately 130 on-the-ground projects annually to manage and conserve fish and wildlife.
- Funded over \$14M in projects in FY16.
- Improved management decisions affecting 115 listed species.
- Provided 24 fish and wildlife biologists to guide conservation efforts on 9.8 million acres of land, including 235,000 acres of wetland.
- Increased the number of compliant INRMPs to 94%.
- Improved administrative efficiencies to better support the Air Force Wildland Fire Center.
- Established the Peninsular Florida Landscape Conservation Cooperative, prioritizing and focusing conservation efforts, while alleviating encroachment threats to Air Force missions.

For more information about Sikes Act Coordination, contact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Sikes Act Coordinator, Jarrad Kosa, at 703/358-2542 or visit us on the Internet at https://www.fws.gov/fisheries/sikes_act/

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