Department of Defense

INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 4715.03

USD(AT&L)

SUBJECT: Natural Resources Conservation Program

References: See Enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction:

a. Reissues and renames Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.3 (Reference (a)) in accordance with the authority in Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 5134.01 (Reference (b)) and the guidance in DoDD 4715.1E and DoDI 4715.5 (References (c) and (d)) to establish policy and assign responsibilities for compliance with applicable Federal, State, and local statutory and regulatory requirements, Executive Orders (E.O.s), Presidential memorandums, and Department of Defense (DoD) policies for the integrated management of natural resources including lands, air, waters, coastal, and nearshore areas managed or controlled by DoD.

b. Develops new policy and updates policy for the integrated management of natural resources (including biological and earth resources) on property and lands managed or controlled by DoD.

c. Implements new Natural Resources Conservation metrics.

d. Provides procedures for DoD Components and installations for developing, implementing, and evaluating effective natural resources management programs.

2. APPLICABILITY. This Instruction:

a. Applies to:

(1) The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments (including their Reserve Components), the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of DoD, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities in DoD (hereafter referred to

collectively as the "DoD Components") that are granted authority for natural resources management.

(2) All DoD operations, activities, real property, and property interests owned, leased, permitted, or controlled in the United States, including public lands withdrawn from all forms of appropriation pursuant to public land laws and reserved for use by DoD, as well as State lands used for military training and testing. DoD operations, activities, and installations in the United States; U.S. territories, trusts, and possessions; and Government-owned and contractor-operated facilities. Outside the United States, Reference (d) shall apply, consistent with international agreements, status of forces agreements, final governing standards (FGS) issued for host nations, or where no FGS have been issued, the criteria consistent with DoD 4715.05-G (Reference (e)).

b. Does NOT apply to:

(1) Operations and activities outside the United States, which shall follow the policy and guidance set forth in References (d) and (e), E.O.s 12114 and 12915 (References (f) and (g)), and Service-specific regulations.

(2) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works.

3. DEFINITIONS. See Glossary

4. POLICY. It is DoD policy that:

a. The principal purpose of DoD lands, waters, airspace, and coastal resources is to support mission-related activities. All DoD natural resources conservation program activities shall work to guarantee DoD continued access to its land, air, and water resources for realistic military training and testing and to sustain the long-term ecological integrity of the resource base and the ecosystem services it provides, in accordance with section 670a-670o of title 16, United States Code (U.S.C.) (also known as and hereafter referred to as the "Sikes Act" (Reference (h))).

(1) DoD shall manage its natural resources to facilitate testing and training, mission readiness, and range sustainability in a long-term, comprehensive, coordinated, and cost-effective manner pursuant to DoDD 3200.15 (Reference (i)).

(2) DoD shall demonstrate stewardship of natural resources in its trust by protecting and enhancing those resources for mission support, biodiversity conservation, and maintenance of ecosystem services.

(3) DoD shall manage DoD lands, waters, airspace, and coastal resources or natural resources for multiple uses when appropriate, including sustainable yield of all renewable resources, scientific research, education, and recreation.

(4) All DoD natural resources conservation programs shall be integrated with mission activities, installation planning and programming, and other activities as appropriate.

b. All DoD facilities and installations shall plan, program, and budget to achieve, monitor, and maintain compliance with all applicable Federal natural resources statutory and regulatory requirements, E.O.s, and Presidential memorandums.

c. DoD shall follow an ecosystem-based management approach to natural resources-related practices and decisions, using scientifically sound conservation procedures, techniques, and data.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES. See Enclosure 2.

6. PROCEDURES. See Enclosure 3.

7. INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS. Reporting requirements in this Instruction are covered in DoDI 4715.6 (Reference (j)) and in RCS DD-A&T(A) 1997.

8. RELEASABILITY. UNLIMITED. The Instruction is approved for public release and is available on the Internet from the DoD Issuances Website at http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives.

9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Instruction is effective upon its publication to the DoD Issuances Website.

Ashton B. Carter
Under Secretary of Defense
Acquisition, Technology and Logistics

FEB 14 2011

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ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES

(a) DoD Instruction 4715.3, "Environmental Conservation Program," May 3, 1996
(b) DoD Directive 5134.01, "Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (USD(AT&L))," December 9, 2005
(c) DoD Directive 4715.1E, "Environment, Safety, and Occupational Health (ESOH)," March 19, 2005
(d) DoD Instruction 4715.5, "Management of Environmental Compliance at Overseas Installations," April 22, 1996
(e) DoD 4715.05-G, "Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document," May 1, 2007
(f) Executive Order 12114, "Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions," January 4, 1979
(g) Executive Order 12915, "Federal Implementation of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation," May 13, 1994
(h) Sections 470–470x-6[1], 590a–590q3[2], 668-668d[3], 670a–670o[4], 703–712[5], 1361–1423h[6], 1431–1445c-1[7], 1451–1466[8], 1531–1544[9], 3501–3510[10], 4701–4751[11] of title 16, United States Code
(i) DoD Directive 3200.15, "Sustainment of Ranges and Operating Areas (OPAREAs)," November 21, 2003
(j) DoD Instruction 4715.6, "Environmental Compliance," April 24, 1996
(k) Executive Order 13423, "Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management," January 24, 2007
(l) DoD 7000.14-R, "Department of Defense Financial Management Regulations (FMRs)," current edition
(m) DoD Instruction 4715.10, "Environmental Education, Training and Career Development," April 24, 1996
(n) Office of Management and Budget Guidance, "Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies," October 10, 2001
(o) Executive Order 13186, "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds," January 10, 2001

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[1] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as the "National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA)."
[2] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as "Soil Conservation."
[3] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as "Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, as amended."
[4] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as the "Sikes Act."
[5] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as the "U.S. Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)."
[6] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as the "Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended."
[7] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as the "National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended."
[8] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as "Coastal Zone Management."
[9] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as "The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA)."
[10] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as the "Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982, as amended."
[11] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as the "Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990."

(p) Memorandum of Understanding Between the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "Promote the Conservation of Migratory Birds," July 31, 2006
(q) Parts 13, 15, 21.15, and 22 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations
(r) DoD Instruction 4150.07, "DoD Pest Management Program," May 29, 2008
(s) Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species," February 3, 1999, as amended
(t) Sections 7701–7772 of title 4, United States Code
(u) DoD Instruction 4710.02, "DoD Interactions with Federally-Recognized Tribes," September 14, 2006
(v) Sections 1588(a)(2), 2665, 2667(d) and (e), 2694b and c, and 2825 of title 10, United States Code
(w) Pages 8931 through 8950 of Volume 72, Federal Register, "Migratory Bird Rule"
(x) Section 21.210 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulation
(y) Title 42, United States Code[12]
(z) DoD 4160.21-M, "Defense Material Disposition Manual," August 1997
(aa) Memorandum of Understanding Among the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, "Cooperative Integrated Natural Resources Management Program on Military Installations," January 31, 2006
(ab) Sections 1341(a)(1)(B) and 1535-1536[13] of title 31, United States Code
(ac) DoD Instruction 1100.21, "Voluntary Services in the Department of Defense," March 11, 2002
(ad) Executive Order 13514, "Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance," October 8, 2009
(ae) Pages 62565 through 62572 of Volume 65, Federal Register
(af) Executive Order 13508, "Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration," May 15, 2009
(ag) Executive Order 11990, "Protection of Wetlands," May 24, 1977, as amended
(ah) White House Office on Environmental Policy, "Protecting America's Wetlands: A Fair, Flexible, and Effective Approach," August 24, 1993
(ai) Title 33, United States Code
(aj) Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management," May 24, 1977, as amended
(ak) Presidential Memorandum, "Environmentally and Economically Beneficial Practices on Federal Landscaped Grounds," April 26, 1994
(al) DoD Instruction 6055.06, "DoD Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Program," December 21, 2006
(am) Environmental Protection Agency Memorandum, "Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Fires," April 23, 1998
(an) Executive Order 13089, "Coral Reef Protection," June 11, 1998
(ao) Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites," May 24, 1996
(ap) Department of Defense "Chesapeake Bay Strategic Action Plan," September 30, 2010[14]
(aq) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook," March 1998
(ar) Part 230 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations

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[12] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as the "National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended."
[13] Also known and referred to in this Instruction as the "The Economy Act."
[14] Available at http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net/

(as) Chapter 5 of title 32, United States Code

ENCLOSURE 2

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (ACQUISITION, TECHNOLOGY, AND LOGISTICS) (USD(AT&L)). The USD(AT&L), in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall oversee implementation of this Instruction.

2. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT) (DUSD(I&E)). The DUSD(I&E), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(AT&L), shall:

a. Develop additional natural resources conservation policy and establish guidance, where necessary, in accordance with Reference (c).

b. Designate responsibilities and provide procedures for implementing the DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program, including designating Military Department leads for specific natural resources issues.

c. Ensure that a conservation ethic is integrated throughout DoD through education, training, and awareness programs.

d. Ensure that readiness, sustainability, cost-effective policies, and the military mission are facilitated through sustained use of natural resources.

e. Support DoD Component natural resources conservation budget requirements.

f. Monitor implementation of this Instruction, including adherence to funding priorities for conservation in Enclosure 4, the use of Natural Resources Conservation metrics in Enclosure 5, and the periodic review of the DoD Component natural resources conservation programs.

g. Identify opportunities for improved efficiency through increased interagency and DoD Component cooperation, information sharing, technology demonstration and transfer, and public communication.

h. Coordinate with Heads of the DoD Components to prioritize, establish, or promote appropriate partnerships with Government and private organizations to advance natural resources conservation initiatives that support DoD missions.

i. Review all DoD issuances and identify appropriate linkages between natural resources issues and other DoD programs.

j. Coordinate with the Heads of the DoD Components to establish goals and objectives for the DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program.

(1) Integrate the DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program with other DUSD(I&E) activities, including, but not limited to, business enterprise integration, environmental management, safety, occupational health, facilities, global climate change, ecosystem services, renewable energy, installations requirements, geographic information systems (GIS), environmental management systems (EMS), the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative, project planning programs, and range and training area management and sustainment programs.

(2) Incorporate the DoD Natural Resources Conservation program into DoD EMS policy and guidance to ensure that strategies are established to support environmental leadership programs, policies, and procedures, and establish and implement natural resources compliance audit programs and policies in accordance with E.O. 13423 (Reference (k)).

k. Coordinate with other Federal agencies and with State agencies on natural resources conservation matters of national or regional significance and scope.

l. Work with the DoD Components to develop and implement a process to accurately account for natural resources in DoD 7000.14-R (Reference (l)).

m. Identify and provide to the Director, Defense Research and Engineering (DDR&E) natural resources conservation research and technology requirements.

n. Gather information from the DoD Components at each Environmental Management Review (EMR) and prepare a consolidated DoD response for the Annual Report to Congress (ARC) statutory reporting requirements in section 2 of Enclosure 5.

o. Oversee the DoD Conservation Committee, which shall:

(1) Be chaired by the DoD Deputy Director, Natural Resources, or other designated representative of the DUSD(I&E) consistent with the Conservation Committee charter.

(2) Recommend natural resources policy and program improvements to senior leadership, including support and coordination of natural resources management programs with the Deputy Assistant Secretaries.

(3) Review, analyze, and make recommendations on natural resources conservation issues of common interest to the DoD Components.

(4) Review compliance with this Instruction.

(5) Develop, prioritize, strategize, and coordinate natural resources management programs through the DoD Components at the national and regional levels.

(6) Identify the need for and facilitate periodic natural resources training opportunities for DoD Components employees and other Federal agency and State employees when it is beneficial to DoD interests consistent with DoD Instruction 4715.10 (Reference (m)).

(7) Review, modify or update as necessary the DoD Natural Resources Conservation metrics in Enclosure 5.

p. Engage, as deemed appropriate, national land use strategies with Federal agencies to initiate, coordinate, and integrate land use and conservation on Federally-held properties to support national defense. Such engagement will be coordinated at the national levels for DoD, DoD Components, and the Federal agencies.

3. DDR&E. The DDR&E, under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(AT&L), shall develop an integrated and coordinated science and technology program to address the Natural Resources Conservation Program requirements identified by the DUSD(I&E).

4. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PERSONNEL AND READINESS) (USD(P&R)). The USD(P&R), in coordination with the USD(AT&L) and in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Manage the DoD Conservation Law Enforcement Program consistent with sections 1531–1544 of Reference (h) (also known and hereafter referred to as the "Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA)"); sections 703-712 of Reference (h) (also known and hereafter referred to as the "Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)"); and 1361-1423h of Reference (h) (also known as the "Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended").

b. Manage the DoD Conservation Law Enforcement Consortium's Partner Organization relationship with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

c. Incorporate natural resources conservation policies into DoD education, training, construction, and instruction programs.

d. Identify opportunities for efficiencies in providing natural resources conservation training through increased interagency and DoD Component cooperation.

5. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER) (USD(C))/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO). The USD(C)/CFO, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall provide fiscal policies and guidance in order to plan, budget, and execute congressional direction and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) requirements throughout DoD.

6. DIRECTOR, OPERATIONAL TEST AND EVALUATION (DOT&E). The DOT&E, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Incorporate natural resources conservation values into its programs.

b. Ensure that sufficient qualified personnel and training are available to carry out the requirements of this Instruction.

7. HEADS OF THE OSD AND DoD COMPONENTS. The Heads of the OSD and DoD Components with natural resources management responsibilities shall:

a. Integrate the DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program with mission activities and all other applicable installation plans and programs.

b. Ensure compliance with this Instruction, including compliance and coordination by tenant activities, lessees, contractors, and operators on lands for which the DoD Component has a direct real estate interest and for which the management has been outsourced by privatization initiatives or Enhanced Use Lease Agreements.

c. Develop and implement programs to monitor, achieve, and maintain compliance with applicable Federal statutory requirements as required by the references in Enclosure 1.

d. Plan, program, and budget resources necessary to establish, execute, monitor, and maintain integrated natural resources conservation programs, consistent with Enclosure 4, other DoD guidance and fiscal policies, and future deadlines.

e. Ensure scientifically sound, innovative, and effective stewardship of natural resources under their jurisdictions.

f. Ensure that installations prepare, maintain, and implement Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the appropriate State fish and wildlife management agency(s), and ensure that those plans are fully coordinated with appropriate installation offices responsible for preparing, maintaining, and implementing other programs and plans that may affect land used or be affected by land use decisions, to include but not be limited to operation and training plans, range sustainment plans, installation master plans, outdoor recreation plans, integrated cultural resources management plans, pest management plans, and other installation plans as appropriate.

g. Ensure that internal natural resources self-assessments and external INRMP reviews are conducted as appropriate on all installations with significant natural resources.

(1) Conduct internal natural resources self-assessments annually on all installations that have an active INRMP. These reviews shall use the Natural Resources Conservation Metrics described in Enclosure 5. External tri-partite stakeholders (i.e., USFWS, State, and the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service shall be invited to participate.

(2) Provide the DUSD(I&E) or designated representative a list of all installations that have undertaken annual reviews, on a fiscal-year basis, including information on stakeholder participation and a summary of the seven focus areas for the Natural Resource Conservation metrics in Enclosure 5.

(3) Conduct external INRMP reviews for operation and effect no less than every 5 years for all installations with INRMPs using the Natural Resources Conservation metrics. The 5-year period dates from the last review at which external regulatory stakeholders participated.

(4) Update or revise INRMPs as necessary based on the results of these reviews.

h. Present annual reviews on the status of the DoD Components natural resources conservation programs to the DUSD(I&E) or designated representative.

i. Advise and consult on natural resources conservation issues and policies of general DoD interest through participation in the DoD Conservation Committee.

j. Promptly notify the DUSD(I&E) of significant natural resources conservation issues that have the potential for OSD involvement.

k. Ensure that proven and scientific data collection methods and sampling techniques are used to develop and update natural resources inventories in accordance with the OMB Guidelines (Reference (n)) and to conduct monitoring of all appropriate INRMP actions.

l. Develop and issue appropriate guidance and regulations on how to achieve natural resources goals for necessary facilities plans.

m. Ensure all necessary federally threatened and endangered species management and recovery efforts on DoD lands and waters are conducted in accordance with ESA and other legal mandates.

n. Implement migratory bird protection and conservation in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and implementing documents.

(1) Migratory Birds. DoD Components shall, where appropriate, protect migratory bird species pursuant to the MBTA; E.O. 13186 (Reference (o)); and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DoD and USFWS (Reference (p)).

(2) Bald and Golden Eagles.

(a) DoD Components shall protect bald eagles pursuant to ESA where appropriate. DoD shall continue to implement military readiness activities in accordance with part 15 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) (Reference (q)).

(b) DoD shall protect the bald eagle pursuant to sections 668-668d of Reference (h) (also known as the "Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, as amended") and MBTA in accordance with parts 13 and 22 of Reference (q), regardless of Federal listing status.

o. Ensure invasive species management measures are consistent with DoDI 4150.07 (Reference (r)); E.O. 13112 (Reference (s)); sections 7701-7772 of title 4, U.S.C. (Reference (t)); and sections 4701-4751 of Reference (h) (also known as the "Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990"). These management measures shall be addressed in the INRMP.

p. Ensure DoD operations, activities, projects, and programs that affect the land, water, or other natural resources of any coastal zone are consistent with sections 1431-1445c-1, 1451-1466, and 3501-3510 of Reference (h) (also known as the "Natural Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended," "Coastal Zone Management," and the "Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982, as amended"). If relevant expenditures are necessary, the actions shall be coordinated with the Department of the Interior in accordance with section 3505 of the ESA.

q. Ensure compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act including the requirement for all Federal agencies to obtain authorization from NOAA Fisheries Service or the USFWS on actions that may take or effect marine mammals.

r. Review, provide comments, and coordinate on proposed natural resources-related Federal rules and regulations (e.g., critical habitat designations, recovery plans, and listing decisions), as appropriate.

s. Implement a program for the development, enhancement, operation, and maintenance of outdoor recreation resources at all appropriate military installations. These resources shall be made available to the public whenever feasible.

(1) In developing facilities and conducting programs for outdoor recreation at installations, consistent with the primary military mission of the installation, DoD Components shall ensure, to the extent reasonably practicable, that outdoor recreation opportunities (including fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, boating, and camping) made available to the public also provide access for persons described in subparagraph 7.s.(2) when topographic, vegetative, and water resources allow access for such persons without substantial modification to the natural environment.

(2) Persons referred to in subparagraph 2.s.(1) are disabled veterans, military dependents with disabilities, and other persons with disabilities, when access to a military installation for such persons and other civilians is not otherwise restricted.

(3) DoD Components shall carry out these paragraphs in consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, national service, military, and veterans organizations, and sporting organizations in the private sector that participate in outdoor recreation projects for persons described in subparagraph 2.s.(2).

8. SECRETARY OF THE ARMY. The Secretary of the Army, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Provide oversight and management of the DoD Forestry Reserve Account Program through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Energy, Installations and Environment.

(1) Monitor financial management of the account in accordance with Chapter 16 of Volume 11A of Reference (l).

(2) Direct distribution of funds to and report deposits from the Military Departments.

b. Annually provide an assessment of DoD Component natural resources technology progress and needs through the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics.

9. SECRETARY OF THE NAVY. The Secretary of the Navy, in addition to the responsibilities in section 7 of this enclosure, shall:

a. Provide oversight and management of the DoD Coral Reef Protection Program, DoD Chesapeake Bay Program, and activities associated with the National Ocean Council through the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment.

b. Plan, program, and budget for activities necessary to support the programs and activities described in paragraph 9.a. of this enclosure.

ENCLOSURE 3

PROCEDURES

1. INRMP PREPARATION, REVIEW, AND IMPLEMENTATION

a. Each DoD Component should ensure, to the extent practicable, that current and planned installation programs, plans, and projects that affect natural resources are integrated and compatible with INRMPs.

b. All natural resources compliance requirements should be categorized based on the Programming and Budgeting Priorities for Natural Resources Programs in Enclosure 4. All recurring and nonrecurring projects shall be funded consistent with timely execution to meet future deadlines.

c. All DoD Components shall, in a regionally consistent manner, and to the extent practicable and using the best science available, utilize existing tools to assess the potential impacts of climate change to natural resources on DoD installations, identify significant natural resources that are likely to remain on DoD lands or that may in the future occur on DoD lands and, when not in conflict with mission objectives, take steps to implement adaptive management to ensure the long-term sustainability of those resources.

d. INRMPs shall be prepared, maintained, and implemented for all installations and ranges that contain significant natural resources for which DoD has authority for or control of natural resources management. INRMPs shall integrate information relevant to natural resources with all other installation and range planning documents. Each INRMP shall:

(1) Incorporate the principles of ecosystem-based management.

(2) Contain information needed to make appropriate decisions about natural resources management.

(3) Maintain a relevant and updated baseline list of plant and animal species located at each installation for all pertinent taxonomic and regionally important groups.

(4) Ensure that biologically or geographically significant or sensitive natural resources, such as ecosystems or species, are monitored and managed for their protection and long-term sustainability.

(5) Ensure no net loss to the training and testing capability and capacity of the installation and range and enhance those capabilities to the maximum extent practicable.

e. Pursuant to the Sikes Act, INRMPs must be reviewed as to operation and effect on a regular basis, but no less often than every 5 years, by DoD, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries Service, and State fish and wildlife agencies. This review must be documented and signed by these

parties. The review will determine whether existing INRMPs are being implemented to meet Sikes Act requirements and are contributing to the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations. At a minimum, reviews shall assess conservation goals and objectives and the status of the Natural Resources Conservation metrics described in Enclosure 5.

(1) Each installation shall establish and maintain communications with the appropriate USFWS, State fish and wildlife agency offices, and when applicable, with NOAA Fisheries Service to identify, address, and resolve INRMP issues.

(2) Each installation shall evaluate and incorporate appropriate information from other Federal and State natural resources management plans and agreements (e.g., State Wildlife Action Plans, USFWS Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, Bird Conservation Plans, Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles).

(3) DoD Components shall afford federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaska native entities, and Native Hawaiian organizations that have a cultural or historical affiliation with the lands encompassed by the installation an opportunity to consult on the development of the INRMP where tribal treaty rights, sacred sites, burial sites, or other rights to natural and cultural resources potentially may be affected pursuant to DoDI 4710.02 (Reference (u)).

(4) The requirement to review the INRMPs on a regular basis, but no less often than every 5 years, does not mean that every INRMP must be revised when it is reviewed. The Sikes Act specifically directs that the INRMPs be reviewed "as to operation and effect," emphasizing that the review is intended to determine whether existing INRMPs are being managed to meet the requirements of the Sikes Act and contribute to the conservation and restoration of natural resources on military installations in accordance with the Sikes Act.

f. Procedures to comply with federally-listed threatened and endangered species management and recovery efforts on DoD lands and waters shall be included in the INRMP and shall emphasize military mission requirements and interagency cooperation during consultation, species recovery planning, and management activities.

(1) DoD Components shall implement effective conservation and management programs for federally listed species to help preclude the need for critical habitat (CH) designation. To preclude CH designation, INRMPs for installations with federally listed species must provide adequate protection and a benefit to the species. DoD Components shall participate in the CH rule-making process when the installation is within an area proposed for CH designation for an ESA-listed species.

(2) In coordination with their chain of command the DoD Components must comment on the benefits of the INRMP and the mission, and other relevant impacts for any CH proposed for designation on the installation. Though CH proposed on nonessential lands of an installation may not impact missions, there is no guarantee such lands may not be mission-critical in the future. Maintaining flexibility to use DoD land is paramount to the DoD mission.

(3) After concurrence from the appropriate chain of command, DoD installations may participate in off-installation conservation banks and recovery credit systems for federally listed threatened or endangered species.

(a) DoD installations should follow formal consultation procedures, appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, and legal review.

(b) These actions should be undertaken only if doing so contributes to military testing, operations, training, or other military activity and the recovery of the species; is cost-effective; and supports an installation INRMP species recovery plans or other USFWS or NOAA Fisheries Service-approved documents in accordance with section 2694c of title 10, U.S.C. (Reference (v)).

(4) Off-site mitigation may provide a preferred alternative to meet species protection, recovery, and ecosystem goals and meet future mission requirements. Habitat enhancement or restoration on DoD property may also be an acceptable means for mitigating mission impacts to listed species.

g. To the extent practicable, all DoD Components shall establish policy and procedures for the management of species at risk (SAR) to prioritize proactive management of those species that, if listed, could adversely impact military readiness. Program objectives shall focus on efforts that have the greatest potential to prevent the listing of SAR (e.g., habitat conservation, planning level surveys, monitoring). Protecting these species is critical; therefore, the installation INRMP should consider funding for SAR protection a high priority.

h. DoD Components shall seek to minimize impacts on migratory birds and address effects of activities on migratory birds in INRMPs and appropriate NEPA documents. DoD Components shall:

(1) Develop and implement appropriate conservation measures if a proposed action may have a significant adverse effect on a migratory bird population as stated in Volume 72, Federal Register (Reference (w)).

(2) Assess the effects of non-military-readiness activities on migratory birds pursuant to NEPA as stated in Reference (p).

(3) For military-readiness activities, confer and cooperate with USFWS if a proposed action may have a significant adverse effect on a migratory bird population as stated in Reference (w).

i. The installation INRMP shall include management measures for biosecurity, in Reference (s), to prevent introduction or spread of noxious species and stray or feral animals that affect natural resources or, alternatively, reference control measures included in the Integrated Pest Management Plan and include that plan as an appendix item consistent with Reference (r). In

addition, the installation should control pests to minimize impacts to the natural environment, in-water species, and species vulnerable to pesticides such as amphibians.

j. The management and conservation of natural resources within DoD control, including planning, implementation, oversight, and enforcement functions, are inherently governmental functions that shall not be contracted. Pursuant to the Sikes Act, DoD Components that have contractor-operated installations or facilities shall ensure that contract instruments clearly address contractor and Government functions as they relate to natural resources.

k. Conventional procurement methods, as well as cooperative agreements pursuant to section 670c-1 of the Sikes Act, may be used to accomplish work identified in installation INRMPs. According to section 21.210 of title 32, CFR (Reference (x)), the authority and responsibility for awarding grants and cooperative agreements is vested in the Head of each DoD Component that has such authority. Priority shall be given for the procurement of INRMP implementation and enforcement services to Federal and State agencies having responsibility for the conservation or management of fish and wildlife in accordance with section 670a(d) of the Sikes Act.

l. DoD Components shall ensure that sufficient numbers of professionally trained natural resources management personnel and natural resources law enforcement personnel are available and assigned responsibility to manage their installations' natural resources. Necessary supplemental training to ensure the proper and efficient management of those resources shall be provided in a timely manner (e.g., Naval Civil Engineer Corps Officers School's Natural Resources Compliance Course, DoD Sikes Act Training Course).

m. The natural resources identified on installations proposed for closure shall be addressed during disposal and reuse planning in accordance with sections 4321 through 4347 of title 42, U.S.C. (also known and hereafter referred to as "NEPA of 1969, as amended" (Reference (y))). Where appropriate, and in accordance with laws, policies, and procedures governing property disposal pursuant to DoD 4160.21-M (also known as the "Defense Materiel Disposition Manual" (Reference (z)), the DoD Components shall give priority to providing excess property to conservation agencies or organizations.

2. PARTNERSHIPS

a. Each DoD installation with significant natural resources shall follow the procedures established in the MOU among DoD and USFWS (Reference (aa)).

b. DoD installations may enter into cooperative agreements with States, local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and individuals to provide for the maintenance and improvement of natural resources or conservation research on or off DoD installations. If pertinent to the mission, DoD installations may enter into interagency agreements with other Federal agencies for inventories, monitoring, research, minor construction and maintenance, public awareness, natural resources program support, conservation law enforcement, and other work that supports the DoD conservation program in accordance with section 1535-1536 of title 31, U.S.C. (also known as "The Economy Act" (Reference (ab))).

c. Participants should ensure coordination with all appropriate internal DoD offices and organizations.

d. Each partnering or cooperating agreement in which DoD formally participates should recognize that:

(1) Actions specified in those agreements should not detract from the military mission.

(2) The DoD cannot commit funding unless expressly authorized by an act of Congress, and funds are appropriated for this purpose in accordance with section 1341(a)(1)(B) of Reference (ab).

e. DoD installations may use appropriate partnerships and volunteers to enhance natural resources conservation programs, when practicable, in accordance with DoDI 1100.21 (Reference (ac)). Work shall be performed under the direction of Federal employees and, when practicable, under the direction of professionally trained natural resources personnel.

3. BIODIVERSITY

a. Ecosystem-based management will:

(1) Avoid single-species management and implement an ecosystem-based multiple species management approach, insofar as that is consistent with the requirements of the ESA.

(2) Use an adaptive management approach to manage natural resources such as climate change.

(3) Evaluate and engage in the formation of local or regional partnerships that benefit the goals and objectives of the INRMP.

(a) Due to policy and fiscal implications, partnerships involving external stakeholders or multiple Military Services require proper advanced coordination through DoD Component chains of command.

(b) Natural resources personnel must be included in the planning and implementation phases of all resulting agreements.

(4) Use the best available scientific information in decision-making and adaptive management techniques in natural resource management.

(5) Foster long-term sustainability of ecosystem services.

b. Biodiversity conservation on DoD lands and waters should be followed whenever practicable to:

(1) Maintain or restore remaining native ecosystem types across their natural range of variation.

(2) Maintain or reestablish viable populations of native species on an installation, when practical.

(3) Maintain ecological processes, such as disturbance regimes, hydrological processes, and nutrient cycles, to the extent practicable.

(4) Manage and monitor resources over sufficiently long time periods to allow for adaptive management and assessment of changing ecosystem dynamics (i.e., incorporate a monitoring component to management plans).

c. Each DoD Component should use heritage and other natural resources database networks whenever appropriate.

d. DoD shall, to the best of its ability, implement conservation and management efforts to further the conservation of State-listed species when such action is practicable and does not conflict with legal authority, military mission, or operational capabilities.

e. DoD shall identify, prioritize, monitor, and control invasive and noxious species and feral animals on its installations whenever feasible. Accordingly native species should be used, where feasible, to restore any habitats from which native species are removed or controlled.

f. DoD shall restore or rehabilitate altered or degraded landscapes and associated habitats to promote native ecosystems and land sustainability when such action is practicable and does not conflict with military mission or capabilities consistent with E.O. 13514 (Reference (ad)).

4. LAND MANAGEMENT

a. DoD Components shall assess installation lands for forestry and agricultural outlease suitability. Any such uses shall support the military mission, be addressed in and compatible with the INRMP, and be consistent with long-term ecosystem-based management goals that place ecological sustainability objectives above revenue optimization goals. Forestry proceeds shall be distributed in accordance with section 2665 of Reference (v).

(1) Agricultural and forest products shall not be given away, abandoned, carelessly destroyed, used to offset contract costs, or traded for services, supplies, or products, or otherwise improperly removed. Rental payments may be applied consistent with applicable terms of agricultural leases for goods and services.

(a) Marketable forest products requiring removal, including those on lands designated for privatization, must be disposed of by the Military Service or the value of the forest products will be deposited into the Military Service forestry account. Marketable forest

products shall not be abandoned, destroyed, or donated. Forest products may be sold for salvage when their condition or value is adversely affected by natural disasters, insect damage, or other events. Forest products include, but are not limited to, standing timber/trees, downed trees, and pine straw.

(b) Marketability must be appraised by the Military Service with input from a professional forester. Facilities proposing to remove forest products must consider the environmental consequences of removal, prepare appropriate documentation required by NEPA, and comply with appropriate and applicable Federal, State, and local environmental regulations including but not limited to sections 470–470x-6 of Reference (h) (also known and hereinafter referred to as the "National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA)"), National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System construction permit(s), and erosion sediment control plan(s).

(c) Each agricultural outlease must require lessee adherence to a conservation plan and the installation Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan that details the best management practices to sustain natural resources and protect Government interests pursuant to the lease consistent with Federal contracting guidelines and in accordance with section 2667 of Reference (v). Each agricultural outlease shall use organic methods or best management practices to limit use of pesticides whenever possible.

(2) Forest products may be commercially harvested to generate electricity, heat, steam, or for other uses only if such harvest is consistent with military mission support, the principles of ecologically sustainable management, and the Sikes Act, and if the Military Service's forestry account is paid fair market value. Proceeds for the forest products used for these purposes must be deposited into the Military Service's forestry account in accordance with section 2665 of Reference (v).

(a) DoD shall continue conservation reimbursable programs on land reported as excess until transfer of title occurs. That portion of the proceeds from sales of land that is attributable to the value of standing timber on the land sold will be deposited in the Military Service's forestry account.

(b) Agricultural proceeds shall be used exclusively to fund natural resources management program requirements and the administrative expenses of agricultural leases in accordance with section 2667 of Reference (v). Authorized uses of agricultural outlease funds include personnel salaries (limited to professional and technical support of the agricultural outlease programs in support of management goals and objectives), implementation of INRMPs, and equipment and improvements to the land if the equipment and improvements provide net benefit to the installation's natural resources programs.

b. DoD Components shall use a watershed-based approach to manage operations, activities, and lands to avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands, ground water, and surface waters on or adjacent to installations in accordance with the guidelines and goals established in the Unified Federal Policy for a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management,

pages 62565 through 62572 of Volume 65, Federal Register (FR) (Reference (ae)) and E.O. 13508 (Reference (af)).

(1) DoD Components shall ensure no net loss of size, function, and value of wetlands, and will preserve the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out activities in accordance with E.O. 11990 (Reference (ag)) and the White House Office on Environmental Policy (Reference (ah)).

(2) When avoidance of wetlands and other waters of the United States is not practicable, and impacts have been minimized, participation in an approved off-site mitigation bank or in-lieu fee instrument is encouraged as sound conservation planning and is authorized by section 2694b of Reference (v). Off-site mitigation may provide a preferred alternative to meet watershed protection and ecosystem goals and meet future mission requirements. The enhancement, creation, or restoration of wetlands or streams on DoD property may also be an acceptable means for mitigating mission impacts on wetlands to meet permit conditions as required by section 1344 of title 33, U.S.C. (Reference (ai)).

(3) In the event that discharges of pollutants into wetlands or other U.S. waters are necessary, DoD Components will ensure appropriate permits are obtained and mitigation completed as required by section 1344 of Reference (ai).

(4) DoD Components shall comply with applicable nonpoint source laws respecting the control and abatement of water pollution in accordance with section 1323 of Reference (ai). DoD shall incorporate the best management practices for runoff for the State in which the installation is located to minimize nonpoint sources of water pollution. DoD shall prevent and control soil erosion, and implement soil conservation measures in accordance with 590a–590q3 of Reference (h) (also known as "Soil Conservation").

c. Adverse impacts on floodplains shall be avoided when possible. The direct or indirect support of floodplain development shall be avoided where there is a practicable alternative in accordance with E.O. 11988 (Reference (aj)).

d. Environmentally and economically beneficial landscaping practices shall be used on all DoD lands consistent with the Presidential Memorandum (Reference (ak)). Each installation shall, to the extent practicable, conserve and protect water resources, use locally adapted native plants, avoid using invasive species, and minimize the use of pesticides and supplemental watering in accordance with Reference (ak).

e. All DoD Components shall manage fuel loads, provide adequate planning for wildland fire management and implement prescribed burn programs where appropriate. Responses to wildfire shall be conducted in a manner that preserves health, safety, and air quality; protects facilities; and facilitates the health and maintenance of natural systems. This management shall reduce the potential for wildfires, function as an ecosystem-based management tool, integrate applicable State and local permit and reporting requirements, and be consistent with DoDI 6055.06 and the current Environmental Protection Agency Memorandum (References (al) and (am)).

5. COASTAL RESOURCES

a. DoD Components shall avoid impacting coral reefs and protect and enhance coral reef ecosystems. The identification, assessment, and monitoring of coral reefs within or in proximity to DoD installations or operational areas shall be accomplished to avoid, minimize, or address potential impacts to these resources in accordance with E.O. 13089 (Reference (an)).

b. DoD shall, as practicable, manage its operations, activities, and natural resources to avoid or minimize adverse effects to natural resources on, adjacent to, or in close proximity to DoD lands or near-shore areas.

c. DoD Installations shall complete planning-level surveys, as defined in the Glossary, to characterize significant installation and near-shore natural resources.

d. DoD Components shall establish procedures to ensure that no federally funded projects disrupt the undeveloped and unprotected coastal barriers of the Coastal Barrier Resource System unless those expenditures are for military activities essential to national security.

6. FUND-PRODUCING PROGRAMS

a. Equipment procured with conservation reimbursable funds shall not be transferred outside of the installation natural resources program's ownership.

b. Salvage value for equipment procured with conservation reimbursable authority shall be deposited into the DoD Component's timber or agricultural/grazing outlease proceeds account.

c. Hunting, fishing, and access permitting and fees, if collected, must be deposited and used pursuant to the Sikes Act, and should be used only on the installation where collected.

(1) Collections will be used exclusively for fish and wildlife conservation and management on the installation where collected. Uses may include funding of partnerships and cooperative or research agreements with appropriate agencies.

(2) All revenue collected from permit and license fees for hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive wildlife activities shall be maintained and used at the installation level to support wildlife and habitat management pursuant to section 670a(b)(3) of the Sikes Act.

(3) An installation shall use the same fee schedule for all participants, with the exception of senior citizens, children, and the handicapped. Membership in any installation club or organization will not give members priority in participating in hunting, fishing programs, or other consumptive and non-consumptive outdoor recreation opportunities.

7. ACCESS

a. DoD lands, waters, and coastal resources shall be made available to the public for the educational or recreational use of natural resources when such access is compatible with military mission activities, ecosystem sustainability, and with other considerations such as security, safety, and fiscal soundness.

b. INRMPs shall describe areas and conditions appropriate for public access.

(1) Federal or State conservation officials shall be given access to DoD-controlled natural resources to conduct official business pursuant to applicable requirements of laws and regulations (e.g., section 1531 of the Sikes Act) and an installation's operational, security, and safety policies and procedures.

(2) Military installations shall ensure, where practicable and when not in conflict with mission objectives or the INRMP, that active and retired Military Service members and disabled veterans have access to its lands and waters for hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive use of wildlife.

(3) Members of Native American, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native tribes, bands, nations, pueblos, villages, or communities may have access to DoD sites and resources that are of religious importance, or that are important to the continuance of their cultures consistent with the military mission, E.O. 13007 (Reference (ao)), appropriate laws and regulations, and subject to safety and security. Members of federally recognized Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiian organizations shall also have access to installations for the purposes of non-commercial gathering of botanical and mineral resources for traditional cultural use.

(4) DoD installations shall be available to the public for hunting where such programs exist and when not in conflict with mission or environmental and natural resources conservation program goals.

(5) Opportunities for public access shall be equitably and impartially allocated consistent with the parameters outlined herein.

8. PUBLIC AWARENESS. DoD shall engage in public awareness and outreach programs to educate DoD personnel and the public regarding the resources on military lands and DoD efforts to conserve those resources.

9. SPECIAL DESIGNATION. Areas on DoD installations that contain natural resources (e.g., ecological, scenic, recreational, or educational) that warrant special conservation efforts may be designated as special natural areas, where such conservation is consistent with the military mission. Such areas should be reassessed if mission requirements change or if the property becomes excess and requires disposal. The INRMP shall address special management provisions necessary for the conservation of each area.

10. CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT. DoD Components shall coordinate with appropriate agencies to support conservation law enforcement to enforce Federal and applicable State laws and regulations pertaining to the management and use of the natural resources under their jurisdiction.

11. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.

a. Installations shall ensure that documents and other data provided to the public do not disclose information on the location or character of natural resources that may:

(1) Create substantial risk of harm, theft, or destruction of such resources.

(2) Invade privacy.

(3) Trespass on Government property.

(4) Violate Federal law or regulation.

(5) Interfere with or disclose sensitive information regarding the installation's mission.

(6) Interfere with the rights guaranteed to Native American groups in accordance with sections 470w-3(a), 470w-3,470hh(a), and 470hh of NHPA.

b. Installations may provide this information to other agencies and other parties in accordance with DoD Component policies and procedures.

12. PROPERTY TRANSFERS. Before acquiring, disposing, or realigning DoD properties or property interests, the DoD Component with responsibility for the property shall:

a. Identify all significant natural resources on the property and determine whether they may be affected by the action.

b. Ensure that permitted, significant, or museum-housed natural resources-related objects and documents are identified and conserved.

13. CONSERVATION CREDITS.

a. DoD Components may make payments to a conservation bank or in-lieu-fee program in accordance with section 2694c of Reference (v).

b. DoD Components shall ensure the USFWS Director's approval to create conservation banks on DoD lands.

(1) DoD Components shall not create conservation banks on DoD fee-owned or withdrawn lands to sell, trade, or transfer credits to non-DoD entities.

(2) DoD Components shall not restrict the use of DoD fee-owned or withdrawn lands such that the lands may be unavailable for otherwise appropriate mission uses.

ENCLOSURE 4

PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETING PRIORITIES FOR NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS

1. RECURRING NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

a. Administrative, personnel, and other costs associated with managing the DoD Natural Resources Conservation Program that are necessary to meet applicable compliance requirements in Federal and State laws, regulations, E.O.s, and DoD policies, or in direct support of the military mission.

b. DoD Components shall give priority to recurring natural resources conservation management requirements associated with the operation of facilities, installations, and deployed weapons systems. These activities include day-to-day costs of sustaining an effective natural resources management program, as well as annual requirements, including manpower, training, supplies, permits, fees, testing and monitoring, sampling and analysis, reporting and recordkeeping, maintenance of natural resources conservation equipment, and compliance self-assessments.

2. NON-RECURRING NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS. DoD Components shall prioritize non-recurring requirements using these classifications:

a. Current Compliance. Includes installation projects and activities to support:

(1) Installations currently out of compliance (e.g., received an enforcement action from an authorized Federal or State agency or local authority).

(2) Signed compliance agreement or consent order.

(3) Meeting requirements with applicable Federal or State laws, regulations, standards, E.O.s, or DoD policies, including those listed in Enclosure 1.

(4) Immediate and essential maintenance of operational integrity or military mission sustainment.

(5) Projects or activities that will be out of compliance if not implemented in the current program year. Those activities include:

(a) Environmental analyses for natural resources conservation projects, and monitoring and studies required to assess and mitigate potential impacts of the military mission on conservation resources.

(b) Planning documentation, master plans, compatible development planning, and INRMPs.

(c) Natural resources planning-level surveys.

(d) Reasonable and prudent measures included in incidental take statements of biological opinions, biological assessments, surveys, monitoring, reporting of assessment results, or habitat protection for listed, at-risk, and candidate species so that proposed or continuing actions can be modified in consultation with the USFWS or NOAA Fisheries Service.

(e) Mitigation to meet existing regulatory permit conditions or written agreements, such as those required in chapter 26 of Reference (ai), and included in documents required by the DoD Chesapeake Bay Strategic Action Plan (Reference (ap)).

(f) Nonpoint source pollution or watershed management studies or actions needed to meet compliance dates cited in approved State coastal nonpoint source pollution control plans, as required to meet consistency determinations consistent with Coastal Zone Management.

(g) Wetlands delineation critical for the prevention of adverse impacts to wetlands, so that continuing actions can be modified to ensure mission continuity, as required by chapter 26 of Reference (ai).

(h) Compliance with missed deadlines established in DoD executed agreements (e.g., Reference (ap)).

b. Maintenance Requirements. Includes those projects and activities needed to meet an established deadline beyond the current program year and maintain compliance. Examples include:

(1) Compliance with future deadlines.

(2) Conservation, GIS mapping, and data management to comply with Federal, State, and local regulations, E.O.s, and DoD policy.

(3) Efforts undertaken in accordance with non-deadline specific compliance requirements of leadership initiatives.

(4) Wetlands enhancement to minimize wetlands loss and enhance existing degraded wetlands as required in chapter 26 of Reference (ai).

(5) Conservation recommendations in biological opinions issued pursuant to the ESA.

c. Enhancement Actions Beyond Compliance. Includes those projects and activities that enhance conservation resources or the integrity of the installation mission, or are needed to address overall environmental goals and objectives, but are not specifically required by law, regulation, or E.O., and are not of an immediate nature. Examples include:

(1) Community outreach activities, such as International Migratory Bird Day, Earth Day, National Public Lands Day, Pollinator Week, and Arbor Day activities.

(2) Educational and public awareness projects, such as interpretive displays, oral histories, Watchable Wildlife areas, nature trails, wildlife checklists, and conservation teaching materials.

(3) Restoration or enhancement of natural resources when no specific compliance requirement dictates a course or timing of action.

(4) Management and execution of volunteer and partnership programs.

ENCLOSURE 5

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION METRICS

1. Natural Resources Conservation metrics are used to assess the overall health and trends of each installation's natural resources program and to identify and correct potential funding and other resource shortfalls. The Sikes Act requires each installation with significant natural resources to report annually on the status of its INRMP implementation.

2. The DoD Components shall report progress toward meeting natural resources conservation program measures of merit to DUSD(I&E) at each EMR, and to Congress in the Defense Environmental Programs ARC. Each installation with significant natural resources shall report:

a. The installation name and State.

b. If the installation meets Sikes Act requirements.

c. If annual feedback has been received from the USFWS or NOAA Fisheries Service.

d. If annual feedback has been received from the State fish and wildlife agency.

e. Funding requirements in reporting per fiscal year to implement the INRMP.

(1) Amount required for recurring projects.

(2) Amount required for non-recurring projects.

3. The DoD Components shall use Natural Resources Conservation metrics to assess INRMP implementation, measure conservation efforts, ensure no net loss of military testing and training lands across the various installations, understand the conservation program's installation mission support, and indicate the success of partnerships with the USFWS, State fish and wildlife agencies, and, when applicable, with NOAA Fisheries Service. Seven focus areas assess requirements, goals, and objectives of the Sikes Act annually for each installation with an INRMP:

a. INRMP project implementation.

b. Federally listed species and critical habitat.

c. Partnerships effectiveness.

d. Fish and wildlife management and public use.

e. Team adequacy.

f. Ecosystem integrity.

g. INRMP impact on the installation mission.

4. Each Military Department may define the seven focus areas to assess its specific program requirements, goals, and objectives. At a minimum, the Military Departments shall use the focus areas listed in paragraphs 3.a. through 3.g. of this enclosure to assess:

a. INRMP Project Implementation

(1) Are INRMP projects, including follow-up inventorying and monitoring work, properly identified, developed, and submitted for funding?

(2) Has project funding been received, obligated, and expended?

(3) Have projects been completed and do they meet expected objectives?

b. Listed Species and CH

(1) Are conservation efforts effective?

(2) Does the INRMP provide conservation benefits necessary to preclude CH designation?

(3) Are SAR identified and are steps being undertaken to preclude listing?

c. Partnerships Effectiveness

(1) Has the INRMP review team (i.e., DoD, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries Service, and State fish and wildlife agencies) been effective in ensuring the INRMP's implementation?

(2) Are other partnerships needed to meet the INRMP goals?

(3) Have other partnerships been effectively used to meet INRMP goals?

d. Fish and Wildlife Management and Public Use

(1) Are public recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing available to base residents and employees?

(2) Are public recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing available to the public?

e. Team Adequacy

(1) Is the installation's natural resources team adequately resourced to fully implement the INRMP?

(2) Is the installation's natural resources team adequately trained to fully implement the INRMP?

(3) Does the installation encourage retaining existing natural resources personnel to maintain corporate knowledge and manage resources with the most qualified professionals to support the military mission?

f. Ecosystem Integrity

(1) To what extent are the installation's native ecological systems currently intact?

(2) In what ways are an installation's various habitats susceptible to change or damage from different stressors?

(3) What stressors affect each habitat type?

g. INRMP Impact on the Installation Mission. To what degree (i.e., high, medium, or low) is the INRMP and its associated actions supporting the installation's ability to sustain the current and potential future military mission?

GLOSSARY

PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CH	critical habitat
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DDR&E	Director, Defense Research and Engineering
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDD	DoD Directive
DoDI	DoD Instruction
DOT&E	Director, Operational Test and Evaluation
DUSD(I&E)	Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)
EMR	environmental management review
EMS	environmental management systems
E.O.	Executive order
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FGS	final governing standards
FR	Federal Register
GIS	geographic information systems
INRMP	integrated natural resources management plan
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense
SAR	species at risk
U.S.C.	United States Code
USD(AT&L)	Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics)
USD(C)/CFO	Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer
USD(P&R)	Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

PART II. DEFINITIONS

Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purposes of this Instruction.

adaptive management. The process of implementing policy decisions as scientifically driven management experiments that test predictions and assumptions in management plans and using the resulting information to improve the plans.

agricultural outlease. The leasing of property for agricultural purposes, including but not limited to, converting or manipulating natural habitats for cultivation, grazing, rangeland, and cropland.

best management practices. Resource management decisions that are based on the latest professional and technical standards for the protection, enhancement, and rehabilitation of natural resources. Best management practices include schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce pollution. Best management practices also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and control practices.

biodiversity. The variety of life forms and the ecological processes that sustain it. Biodiversity includes the number and variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, the communities and ecosystems in which they occur, and the ecological and evolutionary processes that keep them functioning, yet ever-changing and adapting for a given geographic area.

candidate species. Plant and animal taxa considered for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Species in accordance with ESA. These are taxa for which the USFWS has sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" (Reference (aq)).

CH. The specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with ESA on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed upon a determination by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

coastal. Mean high water level landward to the boundaries influenced by nearshore waters (e.g., dunes, mangroves, beaches).

Coastal Barrier Resource System. A series of designated undeveloped coastal barriers established by the Coast Barrier Resources Act.

conservation. Planned management, use, and protection of natural and cultural resources to provide sustainable use and continued benefit for present and future generations, and the prevention of exploitation, destruction, waste, and neglect.

conservation bank. A parcel of land containing natural resources values that are conserved and managed in perpetuity, through a conservation easement held by an entity responsible for enforcing the terms of the easement, for specified listed species and used to offset impacts occurring elsewhere to the same resource values on non-bank lands.

conservation ethic. An ethic of resource use, allocation, and protection focused on maintaining the health of the natural world, including its functions, habitats, and biological diversity.

conservation reimbursable programs. Consists of three individual and distinct program areas: Forestry, Agriculture/Grazing, and Hunting and Fishing. These programs exist to provide ecosystem-level management that supports and enhances the land's ability to support each installation's respective military mission while simultaneously obtaining ecologically sustainable results that satisfy all federally mandated requirements for natural resources. Program revenues are generated through the sale of forest products, collection of lease payments for agriculture and grazing out leases, and collection of fees for hunting and fishing permits.

ecosystem. A dynamic and natural complex of living organisms interacting with each other and with their associated physical environment.

ecosystem-based management. A goal-driven approach to managing natural and cultural resources that supports present and future mission requirements; preserves ecosystem integrity; is at a scale compatible with natural processes; is cognizant of nature's timeframes; recognizes social and economic viability within functioning ecosystems; is adaptable to complex and changing requirements; and is realized through effective partnerships among private, local, State, tribal, and Federal interests. Ecosystem-based management is a process that considers the environment as a complex system functioning as a whole, not as a collection of parts, and recognizes that people and their social and economic needs are a part of the whole.

ecosystem services. The benefits obtained from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services such as nutrient cycling that maintain the conditions for life on Earth.

heritage database network. A database network that provides precise locations and conditions of known listed and at-risk species and ecological communities, and can be used to identify critical habitats, to aid in land use planning, guide natural resources use and development decisions, and to set conservation priorities. The heritage database network allows for consistent collecting and managing of data to be shared and combined regionally, nationally, and internationally, leading to effective ecosystem-based management.

in-lieu fee program. A program involving the restoration, establishment, enhancement, or preservation of species habitat through funds paid to a governmental or non-profit natural resources management entity to satisfy compensatory mitigation requirements for impacts to listed species.

INRMP. An integrated plan focused, to the maximum extent practicable, on ecosystem-based management that shows the interrelationships of individual components of natural resources management (e.g., fish and wildlife, forestry, land management, outdoor recreation) to mission requirements and other land use activities affecting an installation's natural resources. INRMPs ensure natural resources conservation programs and military operations are integrated and consistent with stewardship and legal requirements through cooperation among DoD, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries Service, and State fish and wildlife agencies.

INRMP revision. An INRMP that requires significant edits because of changes to mission or natural resources, comments received from a review for operation and effect, or other changes.

INRMP update. An INRMP that requires minor edits to address new information or management priorities.

installation. An installation includes any land or interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department, except land under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Civil Works, as described in the Sikes Act.

invasive species. With respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material, whose introduction or presence may cause environmental or economic harm or harm to human health.

listed species. State or federally listed species, as well as species listed pursuant to the ESA.

military mission. Military testing, operations, training, or other military activity or military construction.

mitigation. Lessening the adverse effects an undertaking may cause relative to natural resources. Mitigation can include limiting the magnitude of the action; repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected resource; avoiding the effect altogether; reducing or eliminating the effect over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and compensating for the effect by providing substitute resources or environments.

mitigation bank. A site, or suite of sites, where resources (e.g., wetlands, streams, riparian areas) are restored, established, enhanced, or preserved for the purpose of providing compensatory mitigation for impacts authorized by permits according to part 230 of title 40, CFR (Reference (ar)).

multiple use. The integrated, coordinated, and compatible use of natural resources to achieve a combined sustainable yield of desired goods, services, and direct and indirect benefits while supporting and enhancing the military mission and observing stewardship responsibilities.

native species. With respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs naturally in that ecosystem.

natural resources. All elements of nature and their environments of soil, sediments, air, and water. Those consist of two general types, as follows:

earth resources. Nonliving resources such as minerals and soil components.

biological resources. Living resources such as plants and animals.

natural resources management professional. A person who has obtained a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in biology, ecology, or other appropriate and related discipline from an accredited college or university. A trained natural resources management professional may not necessarily be qualified as a natural resources technician and may need to complete additional appropriate training to perform management duties.

natural resources self-assessment. A multimedia inspection or evaluation of an installation's natural and cultural resources program. External conservation self-assessments are conducted by designated DoD representatives from outside the installation being inspected. Internal conservation self-assessments are usually conducted by installation personnel.

natural resources technician. A staff person who performs routine natural resources management and compliance functions. This individual must complete appropriate relevant training and should seek the advice of a qualified natural resources management professional when technical expertise is needed to make decisions or decision recommendations.

nearshore areas. All submerged lands titled to the military and all other submerged lands that are adjacent to installations that extend from the mean high water level, offshore to the boundary of any security areas controlled by the Military Services.

nonpoint source. Pollution from many diffuse sources caused by rainfall, snowmelt, or atmospheric deposition over, above, and through the ground, which picks up and carries natural and human-made pollutants (e.g., fertilizers, oil, salt, sediments, bacteria, pesticides) and deposits them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and groundwater sources.

non-recurring natural resources management requirements. Projects and activities needed to manage, maintain, rehabilitate, and improve natural resources under DoD control through a comprehensive program that provides for long-term stewardship of DoD natural resources while ensuring sustainability of the military mission.

operation and effect. A review to determine whether existing INRMPs are being implemented to meet Sikes Act requirements and contribute to the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations.

planning-level survey. An inventory of an installation's inventories, management plans, personnel, training, supplies, equipment, and other management tools to identify future actions and resources needed for the installation to comply with the requirements of this Instruction.

recovery credit. The development and accrual of credits, which would accomplish recovery tasks and have a net benefit to recovery for the target species and a subsequent Federal action, which uses (i.e., debits) some portion of the credits, as part of the Federal action to offset adverse effects.

rehabilitation. The process of restoring a degraded environment to improve ecological function and increase suitability for habitation.

renewable resources. Natural resources that can never be used up completely, or can be replaced or replenished naturally over time. Renewable resources may be consumed without threat to future consumption as long as the use does not surpass production of new resources.

restoration. The process of reestablishing or returning to the former, original, or unimpaired condition, to the extent possible, to reestablish a functional ecosystem.

significant natural resources. Resources identified as having special importance to an installation or its ecosystem. Natural resources may be significant on a local, regional, national, or international scale. All threatened or endangered species, and species at-risk, are significant natural resources that normally will require an INRMP. Installations that actively manage fish and wildlife, forestry, vegetation and erosion control, agricultural outleasing or grazing, or wetlands protection should be evaluated for significance, but normally will require an INRMP. An evaluation for significance should also consider the degree of active management, special natural features, aesthetics, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the ecological context of the installation.

SAR. Includes species on lists maintained by USFWS, NOAA Fisheries Service, and state agencies as threatened or endangered or candidates for such lists. SAR also includes species whose designation as threatened or endangered may require conservation efforts significantly impacting a military mission.

State-owned Army or Air National Guard Installations. Land owned and operated by any of the several States, the District of Columbia, the commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, or the Virgin Islands, even though the facility is not under the jurisdiction of DoD, when such land is used for training the National Guard pursuant to chapter 5 of title 32, U.S.C. (Reference (as)), with funds provided by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department. Such installations shall be deemed to be lands or other geographical areas designated for the use of DoD.

stewardship. The management of resources entrusted to DoD care in a way that preserves and enhances the resources and their benefits for present and future generations.

sustainable yield. Managing a renewable natural resource to provide an annual or periodic yield of goods, services, and direct and indirect benefits, into perpetuity. That may include, but is not limited to, maintaining economic benefits, ecological processes and functions, and biodiversity.

tribe. A federally recognized Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of Interior list of tribes published in the Federal Register as described in paragraph 3.5 of Reference (u).

wetlands. Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support and that, under normal circumstances, do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. See section 328 of Reference (ai). Wetlands also are defined in Reference (ag) as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas, and all waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.