

# DoD Partners in Flight

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### Supporting Mission through Bird Conservation

The primary goal of DOD Natural Resource Management Programs is to help ensure optimal access to and utilization of our ranges and training areas to support military readiness. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Executive Order 13186 (Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds), and the National Environmental Policy Act, require analysis of impacts of military activities on migratory birds. While sound natural resource management often directly supports both the goal and requirement, balancing the conservation of sensitive and protected resources, such as migratory birds with military testing, training and operations can present challenges.

DoD lands represent a critical network of habitats for migratory birds and natural ecosystems, and are managed through the preparation and implementation of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs). INRMPs guide the implementation of an installation's natural resource management activities in ways that ensure consistency with military mission objectives and that support "no net loss" of mission capability, while also providing for conservation, rehabilitation, and sustained multipurpose use of installation lands.

**DoD Partners in Flight** facilitates actions to conserve and enhance these valuable habitats and public lands in support of the military testing, training, and operational objectives. This network of DoD natural resource professionals work as DoD Partners in Flight Representatives to support and communicate with installation resource managers, state and regional Partners in Flight working groups, non-government organizations, academic researchers, and natural resource consultants to collectively promote and coordinate bird conservation across DoD lands

### Working Groups

- ◆ Research & Monitoring
- ◆ Climate Resilience & Adaptation
- ◆ Energy
- ◆ INRMP Guidance
- ◆ Seabirds
- ◆ Mission Sensitive Species
- ◆ NEPA Guidance
- ◆ Invasive Species
- ◆ Education & Outreach
- ◆ BASH
- ◆ NMFWA Bird Conservation Working Group
- ◆ Annual Reporting



# 2017 DoD PIF Accomplishments and Future Priorities

## DoD PIF Accomplishments

- ◆ Provided technical guidance to DoD leadership and resource managers on the implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and related Executive Orders. Ensured activities and relevant issues were properly communicated to Military Service and OSD Natural Resources leadership.
- ◆ Supported DoD's engagement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on policy, guidance, and other issues relevant to management and monitoring of migratory birds on military lands.
- ◆ Helped develop the *Addressing Migratory Bird Management in Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans – Guidance*.
- ◆ Instructed on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act at two U.S. Naval Civil Engineer Corps Officers School (CECOS) courses and other DoD training workshops.
- ◆ Identified the most hazardous species to a safe military flight environment, and initiated studies to decrease the threat from these hazardous species.
- ◆ Worked with NGO, and federal and state agency partners to establish an Avian Knowledge Network federal node to support required NEPA and impact analysis of DoD activities on migratory birds.

## DOD PIF Priorities

- ◆ Provide technical assistance to installation biologists to support overall management of migratory bird populations in support of federal statutes to enhance mission requirements and ensure migratory birds are sufficiently addressed in INRMPs.
- ◆ Coordinate and finalize the DoD list of Mission-Sensitive species, which are at-risk species that, if listed, would have the greatest impact to mission implementation. The list helps installations prioritize monitoring programs and NEPA documents, and guides the development and prioritization of conservation actions.
- ◆ Improve communication, coordination, and cooperation between Air Operations and Natural Resource programs including the integration of Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) plans into INRMPs to mitigate strike hazards.
- ◆ Identify emerging issues related to migratory bird management and mission requirements.



Teal—Chris Eberly