



Considerations and Recommendations When Developing Department of Defense Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans

Project # 07-356

Background:

During 2005, in order to improve Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) by addressing lessons learned over the previous four years, representatives from the Military Services and Department of Defense (DoD) met for two days to discuss and come to a consensus on a INRMP template. In 2007 the DoD Legacy Program funded the test application of the template to Fort Drum, NY to ultimately help identify considerations and recommendations for INRMP development that would be applicable across DoD.

Objective:

The object for this Legacy project was to develop a suite of considerations and recommendations from the test application of the INRMP template. The aim of these prescriptions was to:

- Give stakeholders a better foundation from which to participate in the development, revision, and implementation of INRMPs,
- Make it easier for stakeholders to review the INRMP,
- Ensure that State Comprehensive Conservation Wildlife Plans are addressed in the INRMPs,
- Help promote stakeholder cooperation,
- Help promote early coordination and review,
- Reduce costs,
- Promote in-house INRMP development,
- Promote range sustainability and protect the military mission and,
- Serve as a tool to best articulate DoD and Military Service conservation expectations in the INRMP.

Summary of Approach:

This project began in April 2007. The prescriptions were developed by applying the 2005 INRMP template to a DoD installation and then examining the resulting document. The U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC) took the lead on behalf of DoD and the Services.

Fort Drum, a 107,000+ acre Army installation in northern New York, agreed to help test the new template and develop the prescriptions. Raymond

Rainbolt, Fort Drum's Fish & Wildlife Program Manager took the lead at the installation to be the primary facilitator, organizer, and author of Fort Drum's INRMP. Mr. Rainbolt also provided the final recommendations.

Sikes Act subject matter experts (SASME) were assembled to assist in analysis of resulting model INRMP and to help develop the recommendations. The SASME included representatives from Navy Facility Headquarters, USAEC, U.S. Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Installation Management Command and DoD Partners in Flight. Other contributors included Fort Drum staff as well as INRMP stakeholders representatives from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Benefit:

An easy to read, well written INRMP is crucial to the successful operation of any installation with significant natural resources. The prescriptions resulting from this exercise will serve as a valuable tool to anyone writing or updating an installation INRMP.

Accomplishments:

The resulting document contains a list of recommendations that correspond to each section of the standard INRMP.

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