



But Can You Count Them?

Improving INRMPs

Report Documentation Page

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A good INRMP must meet three basic criteria

- Provide measurable conservation goals;
- Provide procedural clarity to military personnel; and
- Provide transparency to the public and independent scientific review.

Measurable Conservation Goals

“To cultivate in cadets optimum physical capability and personal health knowledge so that each can meet the physical requirements of the military profession and the broader demands of a healthy lifestyle”

- 42 push-ups in 2 minutes
- 53 sit-ups in 2 minutes
- 2 mile run in 15:54 minutes

-- *Preparing for West Point's
Third Century: A Summary of the
Years of Affirmation and Change
1986-1991*

-- minimum passing grade for a male cadet on AFPT

- Emphasize native plants, especially indicator species.
- Planning should be at the land association or land type scale, while management should be at the training area or watershed scale. Care should be taken to prevent creation of island populations, which deplete gene pools.
- Commodity production shall be a tertiary consideration. Primary goals are to support the military mission while protecting endangered species and their habitat.
- Adaptive management is a critical aspect of ecosystem management.
- The installation Master Plan must serve as the umbrella plan for integration of all other installation plans, including the INRMP.
- None of the current conservation management tools are to be categorically excluded from use.

INSTALLATION NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS (INRMPs)

Successful Air Force INRMP program is balancing environmental and operational needs

Summary of Success:

- The Air Force successfully coordinates with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (F&WS) to develop Installation Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) to meet requirements of federal, state and local standards of natural resource management.
- The Air Force requires 94 INRMPs, of which 92 are current.
- The INRMPs of 2 installations in northern California were successful in managing habitat for threatened or endangered species, and were recognized acceptable for exemption from a final F&WS ruling designation for 'Critical Habitat'.

-- Source: DENIX

TABLE 4-1. Federally listed riparian and estuarine/beach species population goals.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Least Bells Vireo	200 (territorial males)
Southwest Willow Flycatcher	20 (territorial males)
California Least Tern	[BO #1-6-95-F-02: Maintain the current population and promote its growth]
Western Snowy Plover	40 (breeding pairs)
Arroyo Southwestern Toad	Maintain Existing Habitat
Tidewater Goby	Maintain Existing Habitat

Is there Procedural Clarity?

“The Natural/Cultural Resources Branch makes recommendations for land use design and management considerations to trainers and planners and coordinates with them on properly scheduling and allocating land use for military training with minimum environmental damage. Interfacing land rehabilitation actions with training requirements ensures mission support. The degree of ITAM program success greatly depends on cooperation and coordination between resource users and managers.”

“[c]learly identify the person accountable for project implementation and mitigation requirements for each project.”

Status: “ongoing”

- Who normally proposes exercises?
- Which office reviews the proposal for environmental compliance?
- Who decides what mitigation and avoidance measures will be taken?
- Is there any monitoring of the training exercises for compliance?
- What office handles that monitoring?
- How and when are violations of mitigation requirements reported?
- To what office are they reported?
- Are data on the environmental effects of the training exercises collected; by whom?

Transparency

- Review at least annually (five-years now seems common);
- Involve outside scientists in evaluation;
- Provide copies of review to FWS for comment;
- Invite public comment on five-year reviews; and
- Make available on web site.