

WHY SHOULD THE AIR FORCE BE CONCERNED ABOUT BIODIVERSITY?

First and foremost, Federal laws encourage it; secondly, Air Force directives mandate responsible stewardship of natural resources on Air Force lands; and lastly, it's the right thing to do.

BIODIVERSITY REFERENCES

Following is a list of documents which directly or indirectly relate to biodiversity. Become familiar with them and understand how you can play a part.

- AFI 32-7064, *Integrated Natural Resources Management*
- DODI 4715.3, *Environmental Conservation Program*
- E.O. 11988, Floodplains Management
- E.O. 11990, Protection of Wetlands
- Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Sikes Act "Conservation Programs on Military Reservations"

Other publications addressing *biodiversity* :

- *Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands*
(<http://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Biodiversity/biodiversity.html#contents>)
- *DoD Commander's Guide to Biodiversity*
- *Defending our Heritage*
- For more on ecosystem services and biodiversity management:
(<http://esa.sdsc.edu/daily.htm>)



If you want additional information or have questions on biodiversity, call HQ AFCEE/ECC at DSN 240-3808 or (210) 536-3808

HQ AFCEE CONSERVATION AND PLANNING DIRECTORATE
CONSULTANT DIVISION
3207 NORTH ROAD
BROOKS AFB TX 78235-5363

Visit our website at: www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/ec/cnr/cnr.htm

BIODIVERSITY



Maintain and improve the sustainability and native biological diversity of terrestrial and aquatic, including marine, ecosystems while supporting human needs, including the DoD mission.

Sherri Wassermann-Goodman
Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security)
"Ecosystem Management Policy Directive" 1994

HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE

WHAT IS BIODIVERSITY?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life forms: the different plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems they form.

Biodiversity is the product of hundreds of millions of years of evolutionary history.

While *Biodiversity* has many different definitions, it has one common benefit -- the preservation of ecosystems that support and sustain a varied mix of plant and animal life.

Biodiversity demonstrates that all living organisms, including man, are linked and all actions by man have impacts on the natural environment and other organisms.



SUSTAINING BIODIVERSITY

Here are a few tips on how to promote biodiversity:

- Wherever practical, convert improved and semi-improved lands to their natural state—the benefits are twofold, it enhances biodiversity while reducing grounds maintenance.
- Native plant species are your first choice in developing your installation's landscape plant list.



- Protect areas that possess unique ecosystems. Plan and design walkways that allow people to enjoy nature without damaging it.
- Promote civic pride in your installation's contributions to environmental stewardship. Encourage base projects that foster development of wildlife habitats. Youth group projects could include planting species that provide a food source to a variety of native birds and animals and building bird/bat houses and feeders that encourage the nesting of desired species.
- Educate and inform people living and working on the installation about threatened and endangered species that exist on the installation. Explain the conservation measures taken to protect them and what they can do to ensure their survival. Prepare information packages and briefings

to commanders, newcomers, squadrons, EPC/ELC meetings, Airman Leadership School, articles in base and local newspapers.

- Don't introduce exotic plant species that can become invasive and adversely impact native vegetation and wildlife habitats. In some areas, invasive species have taken over and dominated natural areas to the detriment of local species. Controlling these aggressive species can be costly and manpower intensive.
- Look for opportunities to enhance the environment. At one base for example, native wildflower seeds were scattered across a capped landfill to transform it into a visually pleasing feature. It was a win-win situation—it stabilized the soil while at the same time enhancing the landscape character.
- The Installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan identifies both installation and local community stakeholders in Natural Resources Management. Promote partnerships with these stakeholders. Develop good working relationships with them. Promote and seek out involvement with and by the local communities.



The mission of the Department of Defense is more than aircraft, guns, and missiles. Part of the defense job is protecting the lands, waters, timber, and wildlife — the priceless natural resources that make this great nation of ours worth defending . . .

General Thomas D. White
Air Force Chief of Staff, 1957-1961