



Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program

Program Background:

The Department of Defense (DoD) is steward of an estimated 29 million acres of land in the United States that contains both invaluable cultural and natural resources. In order to support military readiness while preserving the nation's natural and cultural heritage, the DoD Legacy Resource Management Program (Legacy) was established by Congress in 1990. The goal of the Legacy Program is to protect, enhance, and conserve natural and cultural resources using the three principles of stewardship, leadership, and partnership. The program is focused on ecosystem management, regional wide-spread conservation, partnerships, multidisciplinary integrated conservation efforts, and technological implementation.

In 1997 Legislation for National Defense Authorization Act was established, giving more definition to the Legacy Program. Funded projects must have regional or DoD-wide significance, meet legal requirements, and be effectively managed at the DoD level.

Legacy Goals:

The DoD Legacy Program's overall goal is to conserve and protect resources on military installations while preserving DoD's primary mission of military readiness. This is accomplished through the funding of projects that meet requirements upholding the Legacy goals in the defined areas of emphasis.



Petroglyphs, China Lake Air Warfare Center, CA

Areas of Emphasis:

The Legacy Program supports 12 areas of emphasis in order to preserve natural and cultural resources:

- Readiness and range sustainment,
- Cooperative conservation,
- Integrated natural resource management,
- Regional ecosystem management initiatives,
- National and international initiatives,
- Invasive species control,
- Monitoring and predicting migratory patterns of birds and animals,
- Cultural resource management,
- Historic preservation and force protection,

- Native American issues,
- Curation of archaeological collections, associated records and documents and management of archaeological sites, and
- Program management.

While similar, the Legacy Program is not a grant program and projects must meet certain criteria and review approval before funding is recommended. Funding of projects requires a contract between the project applicants and DoD, outlining expected results and deadlines for their work. Expected final products vary and may include (but are not limited to) items such as management plans, fact sheets, hardcopy or electronic reports, GIS data, and audio or visual representation of the completed project.



Least Turn (*Sterna Antillarum*) – Photo from Gulf Coastal Plain Ecosystem Partnership

Legacy Project Proposal Process:

In order for a project to be considered for funding, it must meet the 1997 legislations four criteria. Projects must:

- have regional or DoD-wide significance and involve more than one military department,
- be necessary to meet legal requirements *or* support military operations,
- be more effectively managed at the DoD level, and
- not be an Executive Agent responsibility.
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Legacy Resource Management Program funding is also only applicable to projects including:

- development of ecosystem wide land management plans,
- wildlife studies ensuring the safety of military operations,
- identification of Native American human remains and cultural items in the possession or control of the DoD, or discovered on land under the jurisdiction of the Department, to the appropriate Native American tribes,
- control of invasive species that may hinder military activities or degrade military training ranges, or