



U.S. Department of Defense

DOD

WILDLAND FIRE Management

Igniting Resilience:

Maintaining Mission Readiness
and Installation Resilience

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Program Support

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Fire and Emergency Management Programs





AGENDA

- DoD Structure
 - Mission, Program Scale and Scope
- Current Operating Picture
- Recent Wildfire Events and Impacts
- DoD Initiatives
 - DoD Cohesive Strategy
 - Increased Collaboration and Opportunities
 - Science and Technology Transfer





Department of Defense



Office of the Secretary of Defense



Department of the Army



Department of the Navy



Department of the Air Force



U.S. Marine Corps



U.S. Space Force

MISSION: Military Services manage lands and environmental programs to support the military's combat readiness mission by ensuring continued access to realistic training conditions, while simultaneously working to ensure the long-term sustainability of our nation's priceless natural heritage.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- DOD manages nearly 27 million acres across the U.S.
 - 538 Installations in all 50 states, US territories and foreign countries
 - Natural lands provide realistic training
 - Military mission drives land management goals and objectives
 - Home to over 500 Threatened & Endangered (T&E) species and 55 endemic species
 - Steward of expansive cultural resource values
- Active military missions create challenges for proactive fuels mitigation, beneficial fire use, and are ignition sources for wildfires





DoD addresses environmental justice by ensuring safe, healthy, and vibrant communities for our neighbors and Service members (and their families)

- 294,090 acres of wildfires annually require response from wildland fire personnel (80% of ignitions result from mission activities)
- 650,000+ acres of prescribed fire applied annually, promoting resilient landscapes

- 3,220 National Historic Landmarks assets
- 2,396 National Register of Historic Places listed assets
- 132,000+ archaeological sites

The Legacy Resource Management Program provides financial assistance to DoD for installation-specific efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage

The Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program manages DoD's legal and moral obligation to address environmental impacts from past military activity on Indian lands with maximum tribal participation, through government-to-government consultation

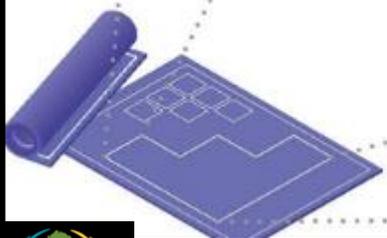
- 500+ federally-listed species (threatened and endangered)
- 500+ species at-risk
- 55 listed species and 74 species at-risk exist only on DoD lands



Many military installations offer amenities for military families, veterans, and the public to enjoy such as hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, sailing, golf, skeet and trap shooting, and horseback riding

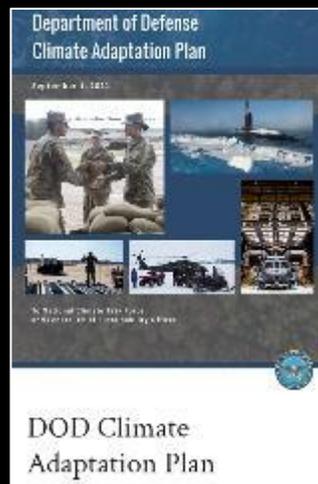
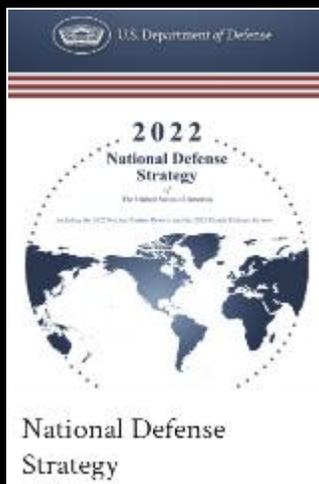
- 341 installations require Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans
- 331 installations require Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plans
- 3,400 DoD personnel are trained to initiate effective consultation with tribal governments

Environmental Planning
Proposed action, public involvement, decision





RECENT PROGRAM DRIVERS & EFFORTS



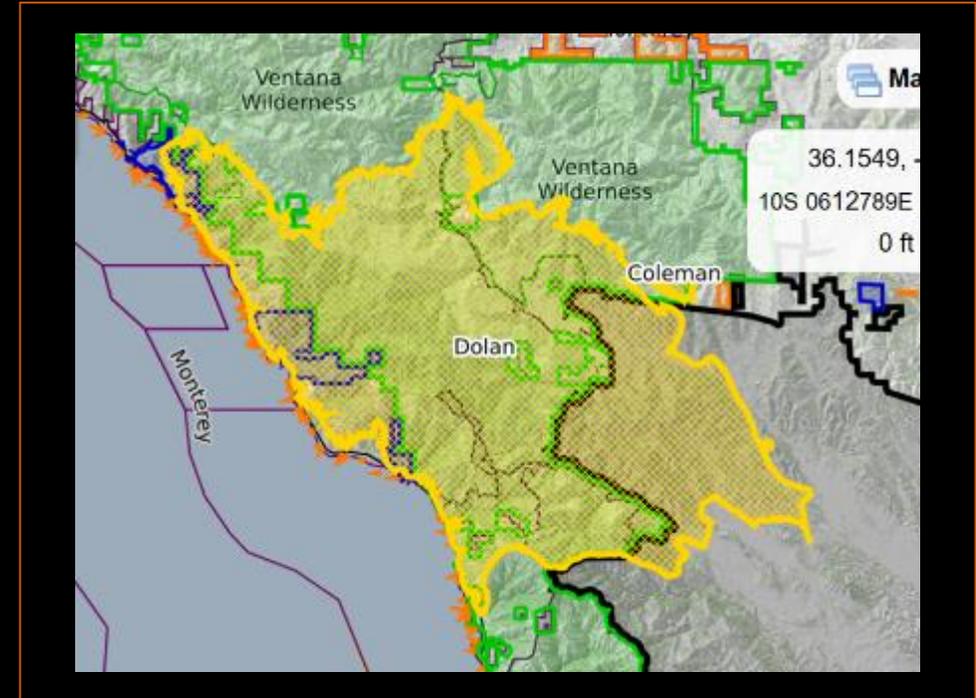
- Changing climate conditions identified as a critical national security issue and top management challenge
- Wildfire Identified as Primary Installation and Mission Risk





RECENT WILDFIRE IMPACTS

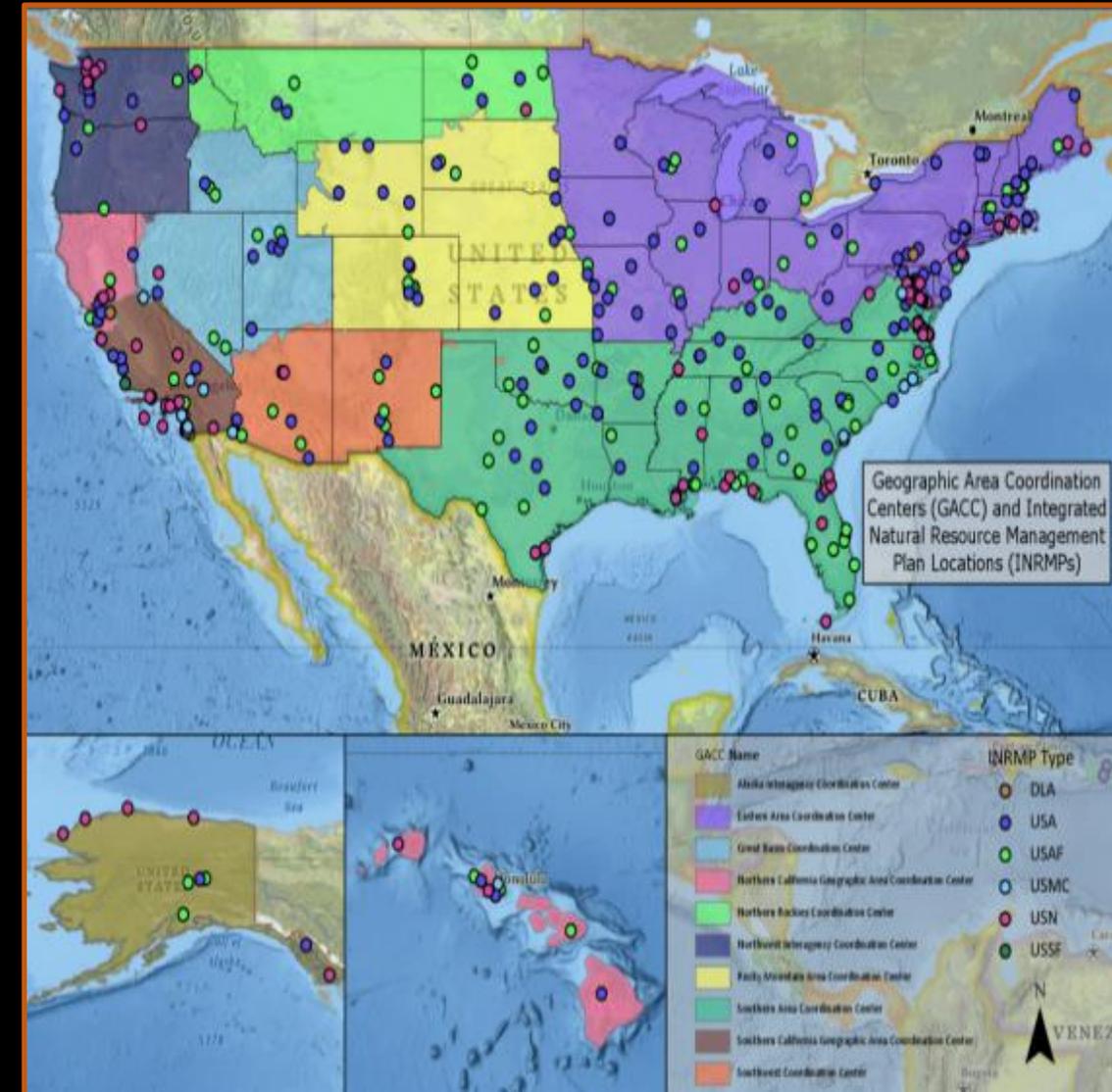
- Fort Hunter Liggett, CA – Dolan Fire 2020
 - Started off installation, 28k acres burned on installation (125k acres total)
 - Installation evacuations
 - Robust Rx fire history contributed to containment
- Fort Cavazos, TX – Crittenberger Fire 2022
 - Mission-caused, 19k acres
 - \$5.6mil infrastructure loss, \$2.1mil damage to targetry
- Pohakuloa Training Area, HI –Major Fire 2022
 - Mission caused, 20k acres
 - Impact to endangered species habitat
- Clear Space Force Base, AK – Anderson Complex 2023
 - Nearby fire: evacuations, smoke impacts
 - Temporary shut down of radar sites





PROGRAM HISTORY & CURRENT OPERATING PICTURE

- Fire management evolved organically, rising to unique land use challenges
- Robust fire history, created islands of biodiversity within landscapes that were significantly fire suppressed
- Approximately 19,000 DoD personnel have some responsibilities related to wildland fire
- Current standards for training, equipment, and operations vary across Military Services and installations
- No existing DoD issuance specifically guides wildland fire management
- Wildfire occurrence and severity increasing due to climate and vegetation conditions





DOD WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAMS

- DoD Manages roughly 1 million of wildland fire annually on its 27M acres:
 - 650,000 acres of Prescribed Fire
 - 350,000 acres of Wildfire
 - ~ 80% of ignitions on installations due to training and testing activities
- Program Focus – Prevention & Mitigation
 - Rx fires are frequently conducted around impact areas and ranges for wildfire mitigation
 - Rx fires support ecosystem restoration and management goals, while enhancing training lands

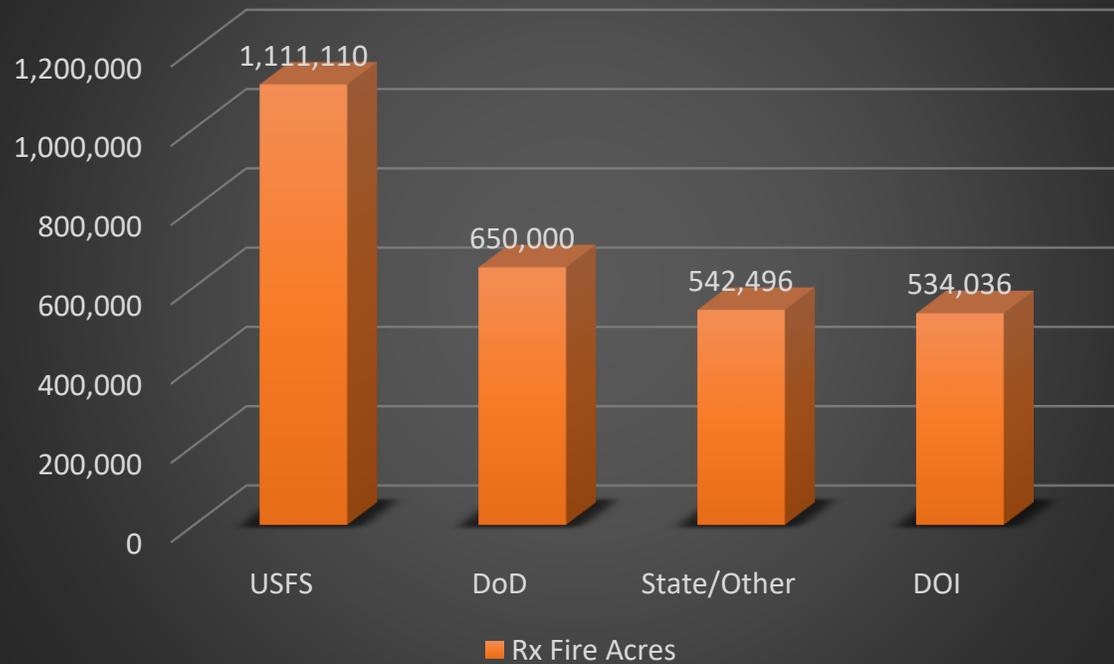


Military Service	Wildfire	Prescribed Fire
Army	240,000 acres	500,000 acres
Air Force	35,850 acres	135,000 acres
Navy/USMC	18,240 acres	15,000 acres

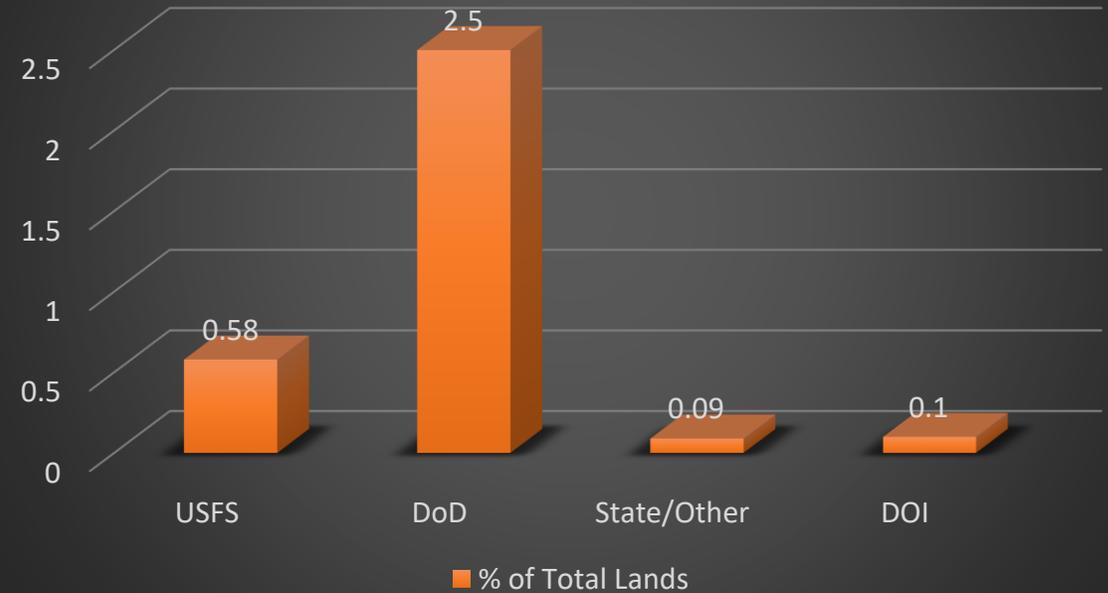


PRESCRIBED FIRE AT SCALE

Annual Rx Fire Acres



% of Total Lands Treated with Rx Fire





DOD CURRENT INITIATIVES

- Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) Wildland Fire Program
- **DoD Draft Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (CWFMS)**
- Data Call and Draft DoD Issuance for Wildland Fire Management
- DoD engagements
 - DoD Wildland Fire Working Group (WFWG)
 - National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) member
 - Wildland Fire Leadership Council (WFLC) member
 - Wildfire Resilience Interagency Working Group (WRIWG)
 - Wildfire Mitigation and Management Committee Aviation Report coord
 - Eastern Innovation Landscape Network (EILN)
- DoD Wildland Fire Science Initiative (SERDP-ESTCP) and Legacy Resources Management
- Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program (REPI)
- Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC)





ALIGNING WITH THE NATIONAL COHESIVE STRATEGY

- Increasing DoD presence and contribution to national wildland fire management and interagency initiatives
- Cohesive Strategy Regional Engagement
- Applying tenets of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy for installation resilience:
 - Fire Adapted Communities
 - Safe, Effective Wildfire Response
 - Resilient Landscapes
 - Science-backed and informed



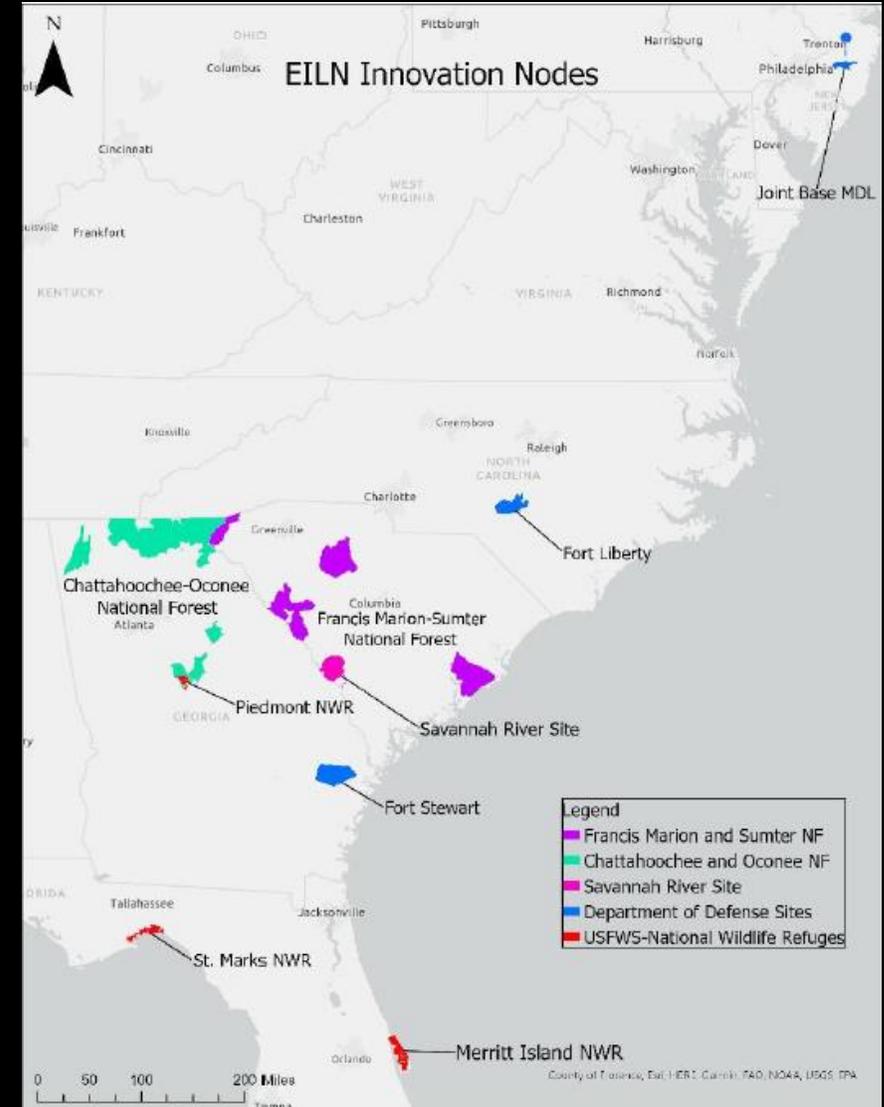


EASTERN INNOVATION LANDSCAPE NETWORK

- Interagency collaboration between DoD, USFS, and USFWS
- Accelerating management-relevant fire science innovation and technology transfer through co-production
- Intentional collaboration between the research community and fire managers and practitioners

EILN Priorities

- 3D Fuels Characterization Tools
- Next generation Fire Behavior Models





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