

UNCLASSIFIED**Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) Overview****Background**

- **Why do we need AKN?**
 - DoD has significant regulatory, management, and stewardship responsibilities related to migratory birds:
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
 - “Military Readiness Rule” (50 CFR § 21.15, Authorization of take incidental to military readiness activities)
 - Executive Order (EO) 13186 “Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds”
 - Data and information from ongoing surveys, inventories and monitoring are essential to make informed management decisions, efficiently and effectively meet regulatory requirements and conduct environmental analyses, and support planning to adaptively manage migratory bird populations in the context of mission activities.
 - DoD spends millions of dollars annually to collect avian data.
 - Need for a coordinated and comprehensive approach and centralized repository for DoD.

Overview of AKN:

- **What is AKN?**
 - A national federal clearinghouse for bird data from surveys and projects that contribute to research and monitoring data worldwide.
 - Houses decision support tools for assessing bird population health, status and trends, specific stressors, and conservation measures.
 - Mission is to support a network of people, data, and technology to improve bird conservation, management, and research across organizational boundaries and spatial scales.
 - Sustainable partnership based on contributions of data and information, all coalescing into a diversified cost-share driven collaboration among:
 - DoD
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - U.S. Forest Service
 - By using an enterprise system, AKN provides:
 - Visibility on avian species population trends and management across the Military Services and broader landscapes
 - A centralized, secure data repository
 - A permanent archive of all data records

Pros:

- Enterprise system

- Access to data for regulatory requirements, environmental analyses, and planning
- Eliminates data loss during personnel turnover
- Enables broad access to DoD and partner (Federal and non-governmental) avian data
- Ability to query across installations, Service Branches, and DoD
- Facilitates Service-wide and species data calls
- Consistent, useful avian data
 - Defined methodologies to ensure data collection efforts support goals
 - Uniform data reporting between and among Military Services
- Resourced (by OSD) via the Legacy Resource Management Program
- Tools to support analysis and conclusions in environmental planning documents, endangered species determinations, and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans
 - Information on birds on/near installations via decision-support tools
 - Trends on/near installations via data analysis tools
- Directly supports military mission and improves quality and effectiveness of bird conservation on DoD installations

Cons:

- Need to modify contracts to add language to use of AKN
- Large level of effort
 - Training
 - Data entry
- Cost
 - Partly mitigated by OSD supported funding

Action:

OSD mandates and supports the use of AKN for each DoD Component and requests they provide their staff the training and support needed to make AKN the best tool for DoD.