

**APPENDIX H  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

# **Environmental Assessment**

## **Implementation of an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan**



### **Camp Stanley Storage Activity Boerne, Texas**

**September 2007**

## **DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **AGENCY**

The Camp Stanley Storage Activity (CSSA), which is under the jurisdiction of McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, U.S. Army Field Support Command, Army Materiel Command, U.S. Army.

### **BACKGROUND**

CSSA is proposing to implement the most current Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The CSSA INRMP serves as the Installation Manager's comprehensive plan for natural resource management to attain and sustain stewardship requirements while enhancing the facility mission. The scope of the INRMP covers all CSSA mission lands, which encompass both the inner and outer cantonments of the installation.

### **NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

Under the No Action alternative, natural resources decision-making would not be formally integrated with other mission activities and there would be no consistent framework for implementing natural resources programs. Natural resources-related compliance activities would continue to be implemented at the installation on an as needed basis. This alternative will not alter current CSSA environmental programs or CSSA natural resources management.

### **PROPOSED ACTION**

The Proposed Action is to implement the most current INRMP at CSSA. The Proposed Action provides an integrated and comprehensive method for managing natural resources at the installation to support the military mission. The INRMP defines roles and responsibilities for natural resources management at all levels within CSSA. The Proposed Action establishes specific goals and objectives for initiating projects to monitor, protect, manage, and utilize natural resources at the installation. It is anticipated that the INRMP will be implemented in 2006 and that there will be a 5-year plan period during which the INRMP will serve as the primary management tool for natural resources on CSSA.

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

Baseline conditions of the affected environment for many resource areas would not change under the No Action alternative, and benefits realized under the Proposed Action would not be achieved. There will be no impacts since there will be no change in operations or activities.

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

**Land Use.** Land use practices are not expected to significantly change. No significant impacts to land use will occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

**Air Quality.** Implementation of INRMP goals that involve the use of mechanical grassland equipment has the potential to result in minor, short-term increases in air emissions and dust generation. Emissions from these and other management activities, such as heavy equipment operation and soil disturbance, were considered to be negligible.

Increased air emissions would result from prescribed burning, which is proposed as a habitat management practice. The greatest conservative annual emissions estimate from the

Proposed Action prescribed burning activities would be carbon monoxide (675.5 tons per year), which will equate to 8 percent of the PM<sub>10</sub> emissions within Air Quality Control Region 217. Emissions will be temporary and will be eliminated after burning is completed. A conformity determination is not required. No significant impacts will occur.

**Noise.** Implementation of the proposed INRMP goals that involve the use of heavy equipment have the potential to result in minor, short-term increases in noise. These activities will occur infrequently for relatively short periods of time, and the noise will be similar to noise generated by routine activities at CSSA. Therefore, significant increases in noise levels will not occur under the Proposed Action.

**Geologic Resources.** The potential for soil erosion to occur will temporarily increase during implementation of the proposed INRMP goals involving the use of heavy equipment or other ground-disturbing activities. Best Management Practices (BMP) will be implemented during these projects to ensure that potential short-term impacts are minimized and not significant. The long-term benefits of these projects will also offset any short-term impacts. Therefore, there will be no significant impacts to geologic resources under the Proposed Action.

**Water Resources.** The proposed INRMP recommends measures that have the potential to significantly improve water quality at CSSA. These include riparian planting, erosion and sediment control, wetlands protections, and most notably, vegetation management activities. The Proposed Action has no potential to affect groundwater at CSSA. No significant impacts to water resources at CSSA as a result of the Proposed Action will occur.

**Biological Resources.** By developing methods to improve range conditions and increase biodiversity, implementation of the Proposed Action is expected to have ecological benefits; therefore, no significant impacts will occur.

**Cultural Resources.** Implementation of the Proposed Action has no potential to impact historic architectural resources at the installations. The Proposed Action does not include any activities that will result in ground disturbances at CSSA, with the exception of the potential use of heavy equipment during vegetation management projects. Potential cultural resources constraints will be evaluated during development of any vegetation management plans to ensure that impacts are avoided. No significant impacts will occur.

**Socioeconomic Resources.** No significant long-term economic changes will occur because the military mission and number of personnel working at the installations would not change. The majority of the proposed INRMP activities will occur within the installation boundaries. Implementation of prescribed burning at CSSA under Land and Watershed Management projects will generate smoke that has potential to travel off-post to surrounding residential communities. The prescribed burning plan that will be developed prior to conducting burns would include specific smoke management measures to minimize smoke impacts to local communities. Minority or low-income citizens will not be disproportionately impacted by the Proposed Action. No significant impacts will occur.

**Hazardous and Toxic Materials.** The Proposed Action will include chemical treatment for fire ant control. Chemical treatment for fire ants in a wildlife habitat will only be considered for areas that have an excess of 20 fire ant mounds per acre. Pesticides used for fire ant control would be used according to guidelines presented in the CSSA Pest Management Plan, and would be used outside established karst buffer zones. Therefore, no significant impacts will occur.

**Cumulative Impacts.** A cumulative impact is that which could result from incremental effects of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and planned actions. The Proposed Action will not contribute to adverse environmental impacts at or in the vicinity of

CSSA. Rather, implementation of the Proposed Action will provide cumulative benefits to local and regional natural resources. Integration of the proposed INRMP with mission planning, land use planning, and other CSSA environmental programs, will help to ensure that cumulative impacts will not occur and that benefits are maximized.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

The No Action Alternative and Proposed Action will not impose adverse environmental impacts on adjacent populations. Therefore, no disproportionately high and adverse impacts will occur to minority and low-income populations.

## **DECISION**

Based on my review of the facts and analyses contained in the attached EA and incorporated by reference, I conclude that implementation of the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action will not have a significant impact, either by itself or when considering cumulative impacts. Accordingly, requirements of NEPA, regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality, and 32 Code of Federal Regulations 651 (Army Regulation 200-2) are fulfilled and an environmental impact statement is not required.

### **Approved by:**

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**Jason Shirley**  
**Installation Manager**

**Date**

### **Recommended for Approval by:**

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**Glaré Sanchez**  
**Environmental Program Manager**

**Date**