

SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

2.1 OVERVIEW

The Proposed Action would implement an INRMP at the CSSA. The Proposed Action would provide 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 would establish specific goals and objectives for initiating projects to monitor, protect, manage, and utilize natural resources at the installation. This EA evaluates both the overall management approach and the project-specific goals contained in the INRMP.

2.2 MANAGEMENT APPROACH

The management approach that would be implemented under the INRMP was developed under the following four concepts:

- Sustained use of lands for military training;
- Natural resources stewardship;
- Biodiversity protection; and
- Ecosystem management.

To achieve the missions of CSSA and maintain readiness standards, CSSA land must indefinitely support receipt, storage, and issuance of ordnance materiel, as well as quality assurance testing and maintenance of military weapons and ammunition. Consequently, land in support of this military mission is one of the most valuable assets of CSSA. Under the INRMP, sustainable use of the land would be achieved through management programs that integrate land uses required by the mission with sound natural resources management.

Natural resources stewardship is the management of natural resources with the goal of maintaining or increasing their value indefinitely. The stewardship goal of CSSA's INRMP is to sustain multiple uses of natural resources over the long-term, while promoting health of the ecosystems in which these activities occur. Multiple uses include, but are not limited to, mission activities, outdoor recreation, aesthetics, and ecosystem preservation.

Biodiversity is defined by the AR 200-3 as "...the variety of life and its processes, including living organisms, the differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur." Protecting and enhancing biodiversity is the overall goal of the CSSA INRMP. Management for biodiversity helps ensure ecosystem health, which in turn ensures sustainability of land used to accomplish the military mission.

Ecosystem management is a tool for CSSA to use, not only in its efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity, but also to sustain the use of its military land. This tool encourages management decisions to focus on natural resources at a community or ecosystem level rather than at a single species level. By maintaining or improving the quality, integrity, and connectivity of the ecosystem, individual species should prosper.

2.3 MANAGEMENT GOALS

The INRMP would include resource-specific management programs that cover the following components:

- Land and Watershed Management;
- Fish and Wildlife Management;
- Rare Species Management;
- Outdoor Recreation; and
- Information Management Program.

Management issues for each program are identified in the INRMP. Overall program goals and project-specific goals have been developed to address the management issues. The overall program goals specify the general management direction for each program such as supporting the military mission, ensuring no net loss of training capacity, compliance with regulations, protection of resources, and use of ecosystem management. The reader is referred to the INRMP for a detailed listing of overall program goals. The project-specific goals provide details regarding specific activities that would be implemented under the INRMP. All program goals and project-specific goals are based on available funding for the period of the INRMP. Sections 4 through 8 of the INRMP contain more detailed information on management programs, issues, goals, and objectives, and Section 9 of the INRMP contains information on implementation of the goals. Project-specific goals are not necessary for all resource areas of the programs at this time. It should be recognized that this does not imply that these resource areas are not subject to management. These resources areas would be managed in accordance with the overall program goals and applicable regulations. A list of the INRMP goals for CSSA is presented in Table 2.1.