

## SECTION 6 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

### 6.1 PROPOSED ACTION

Implementation of the overall natural resources management approach contained in the INRMP has no potential to cause significant adverse impacts. The management approach would result in several long-term benefits to resources, including land use, geological resources, water resources, and biological resources.

Many of the project-specific management goals contained in the proposed INRMP would involve natural resources inventory and monitoring, data analysis, information management, natural resource protection measures, and/or program and policy development. All these actions are designed to provide long-term benefits to natural resources, and normally can be handled as Categorical Exclusions in accordance with AR 200-2 and NEPA. Consequently, the Proposed Action would have little potential to result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Potential short-term, minor impacts to air quality, noise, geological resources, and water resources, were identified for a limited number of project-specific INRMP goals. These potential impacts are associated with prescribed burning and mechanical vegetation management at CSSA. Each project-specific goal would produce long-term benefits that would offset any short-term potential impacts. The applicability of the General Conformity Rule to the Proposed Action was determined by estimating emissions from the proposed prescribed burning. The applicability analysis indicated that *de minimis* thresholds for air pollutants would not be exceeded. Therefore, a written Conformity Determination is not required for the Proposed Action, and impacts to air quality would not be significant. No significant adverse impacts would result from implementation of the project-specific INRMP management goals.

### 6.2 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action alternative, the proposed INRMP would not be implemented, and natural resources would continue to be managed in accordance with existing directives and procedures. Prior to development of the proposed INRMP, CSSA operated under a formal natural resources management program, or an INRMP. 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. 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.

### 6.3 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the analyses contained in this EA, it has been determined that the known and potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the physical, cultural, and natural environment

would be of a positive nature. Implementation of the proposed INRMP would result in the efficient management of natural resources at CSSA. The INRMP establishes explicit responsibilities, standard operating procedures, and long-range goals for managing natural resources in compliance with all applicable federal laws, regulations, and DA guidelines. As a result, all natural and human resources under CSSA control would receive more consideration and protection than previously afforded.

Based on the analyses presented in this EA, implementing the Proposed Action would have no significant adverse impacts to the environment. This EA supports a Finding of No Significant Impact. Accordingly, implementation of the CSSA INRMP would not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.