

SECTION 3 NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNING STRUCTURE

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section presents the framework for natural resources planning and INRMP development and implementation at CSSA. The key steps to developing an effective INRMP include:

- Forming a planning team and identifying stakeholders;
- Assessing current natural resources programs;
- Identifying management issues and concerns;
- Developing overall natural resources program goals and project-specific goals; and
- Evaluating potential environmental consequences of proposed management activities and providing opportunities for public review.

Section 2 of this INRMP includes descriptions of existing natural resources at CSSA. The status of existing programs, management issues, and management goals are provided in Sections 4 through 8 of this INRMP. Five natural resources management program areas (land and watershed management, fish and wildlife management, rare species management, outdoor recreation, and information management) have been established to address relevant issues at CSSA. The program structure has been developed to facilitate issue identification and prioritization, as well as project funding, implementation, and tracking. Because of the inherent interaction of natural resources, overlap exists among programs. Therefore, all programs are integrated with each other, as well as with the overall land use and mission planning processes. The following management program areas are included in this INRMP:

Section 4 – Land and Watershed Management;

Section 5 – Fish and Wildlife Management;

Section 6 – Rare Species Management;

Section 7 – Outdoor Recreation Management; and

Section 8 – Information Management.

Some program areas typically addressed in Army INRMPs are not included in this INRMP because they are not applicable to CSSA. Specifically, the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Program is not addressed. CSSA is not currently classified as an ITAM installation based on its size and the type and magnitude of military field training that occurs.

The following subsections provide additional information about the overall natural resources planning process including responsibilities, stakeholder involvement, NEPA integration, staffing, funding, and the INRMP review and update process.

3.2 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.2.1 Camp Stanley Storage Activity

CSSA, a sub-installation of McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, is an Army Materiel Command (AMC) installation and is responsible for implementing this INRMP. Implementation will be the responsibility of the EPM. The Installation Manager of CSSA has overall responsibility for preparation and implementation of an INRMP that fulfills both stewardship and legal requirements. The EOM is assigned day-to-day responsibility for development and implementation of the INRMP.

3.2.2 Camp Bullis Military Reservation

Camp Bullis Military Reservation, an installation of Fort Sam Houston, is adjacent to CSSA and shares many natural resource management issues common to the region.

3.3 AGENCY INVOLVEMENT AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

In accordance with DA policy, this INRMP has been prepared in cooperation with the USFWS, and the NRCS. In addition to these federal agencies, preparation of the INRMP is in cooperation with the state agencies TPWD and TCEQ. A copy of the Draft INRMP will be provided to these agencies for review and input to the Final INRMP. The Final INRMP will be submitted to those agencies for concurrence and to establish a mutual agreement of the parties concerning conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources. The following cooperative federal agencies are involved with natural resource management activities:

- ***U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*** The USFWS is responsible for implementation of the ESA. The USFWS is available for consultation to ensure that CSSA complies with ESA-associated regulations. The USFWS Region 2 Ecological Services Austin Field Office has been consulted during development of the INRMP, and will provide clearance for activities that may affect federally listed endangered species habitat.

Further, CSSA has entered into a cooperative agreement with the USFWS Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge Fire Management Office will provide review of CSSA burn plans, with the possibility of providing training and assistance on prescribed burn operations.

- ***Natural Resources Conservation Service*** The NRCS will review and comment on scheduled resource management projects.
- ***Camp Bullis Military Reservation*** Camp Bullis Military Reservation is adjacent to CSSA and shares many natural resource management issues common to the region.

3.3.1 Cooperative State Agencies

The following cooperative state agencies are involved with natural resource management activities:

- ***Texas Parks and Wildlife*** The TPWD provides oversight and guidance for hunting and fishing activities at CSSA, including deer population analysis to determine target harvest numbers.

- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** TCEQ is responsible for protecting human health and the environment, ensuring clean air and an adequate supply of water, and ensuring safe and proper disposal of hazardous waste and pollutants. TCEQ is currently working closely with CSSA and CSSA contractors to assist CSSA in meeting environmental compliance requirements.

3.3.2 Other Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

The following agencies, organizations and interested parties may be involved in natural resource management activities:

- **Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG)** AACOG reviews planning and environmental documents from San Antonio's numerous military installations. AACOG has completed the Camp Bullis Joint Land Use Study which contains land use study information relevant to CSSA (AACOG 1995).
- **Neighbors** In addition to sharing a border with Camp Bullis Military Reservation, CSSA's neighbors include various residential developments and the nearby municipalities of Fair Oaks, and Leon Springs.

3.4 NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT AND PUBLIC REVIEW

NEPA (Public Law 91-190, 42 U.S. Code Section 4321), as amended in 40 CFR, requires federal agencies to take environmental consequences of proposed actions into consideration during the decision making process. The intent of NEPA is to protect, restore, or enhance the environment through informed government decisions. The Council on Environmental Quality was established under NEPA to implement and oversee federal policy in this process.

3.5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

3.5.1 Public Involvement and Review

Public review of NEPA-related documents, including the INRMP, occurs during designated public comment periods, as required by NEPA.

3.5.2 Potential Conflicts and Resolution

The CSSA EPM is responsible for identifying and resolving problems between mission activities and resource management associated activities and projects. In the event of any conflicts, the EPM will consult with the CSSA Installation Manager, as well as with federal and state resource agencies to identify appropriate solutions.

3.6 STAFFING

The CSSA Installation Manager has overall responsibility, and the EPM has day-to-day responsibility for developing and implementing the INRMP. The EPM also has responsibility for several other program areas, therefore, only a small percentage of the EPM's time is allocated to natural resources management at CSSA. The environmental management staff provide logistical and on-site support for the plan's implementation. Contractor staff are also relied upon for implementation of various projects, and coordination duties will be assigned to a contractor. Biologists from USFWS and TPWD, along with resource managers from NRCS and forestry

experts from the Texas Forestry Service provide technical direction on rare species management, brush management, and mitigative actions to control oak wilt infestations.

The primary funding source for implementing specific natural resources projects is the DA Conservation Program. The Environmental Program Requirements (EPR) report is the standard Army budgeting process used for identify programming, budgeting, and resource allocation needs to execute the Army EPR. Project-specific goals contained in this INRMP may be programmed through the EPR. Other potential funding sources for implementing the INRMP include: Real Property Operations and Maintenance and DoD Legacy Program funds. User fees associated with the hunting program are collected through the Wildlife Management Committee and are used for hunting-related projects.

3.7 PRIORITIZATION OF GOALS

Project-specific management goals and objectives have been established to address management issues, where appropriate, to provide a clear direction and concrete approach to natural resources planning. These project-specific goals are defined as project-level activities that CSSA intends to implement in an effort to fulfill the overall natural resources program goals. Project-specific goals are prioritized for implementation using the following criteria, and are applied to INRMP projects described in Sections 4 through 8:

- Compliance/Class 0 – Recurring Natural and Cultural Resources Conservation Management Requirements. This includes activities needed to cover the recurring administrative, personnel, and other costs associated with managing DoD’s conservation program that are necessary to meet applicable compliance requirements or that are in direct support of the military mission.
- Compliance/Class I – Current Compliance. This includes projects and activities needed because an installation is currently out of compliance; has signed a compliance agreement or has received a consent order; or has not met requirements based on applicable federal or state laws, regulations, standards, Executive Orders, or DoD policies; and/or are immediate and essential to maintain operational integrity or sustain readiness of the military mission.
- Maintenance/Class II – Maintenance requirements. This includes those projects and activities that are not currently out of compliance, but will be out of compliance if projects or activities are not implemented in time to meet an established deadline beyond the current program year.
- Stewardship/Class III – Enhancement Actions, Beyond Compliance. This includes those projects and activities that enhance natural resources or the integrity of the installation mission, or are needed to address overall environmental goals and objectives, but are not specifically required under regulation or Executive Order and are not of an immediate nature.

3.8 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Adaptive management is a systematic process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs. The concept employs management programs designed to experimentally compare selected policies or practices by evaluating alternative hypotheses about the system being managed. Adaptive

management incorporates research into natural resource management actions. Specifically, it is the integration of design, management, and monitoring to systematically test assumptions to learn from past management practices, and to adapt future management plans. Implementation of projects at CSSA associated with resource management activities will involve principles of adaptive management.

3.9 INRMP EVALUATION, REVISIONS, AND UPDATES

The INRMP will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Achievement of planned goals and objectives;
- Effectiveness of management standards and guidelines;
- Correctness of labor, resource, and budget planning; and
- Relevance of INRMP to new or changing conditions.

The INRMP will be updated at least every 5 years, or more frequently if the CSSA EPM determines the need to address new or changing natural resource conditions.