

CHAPTER 15

SUMMARY

15.1 INRMP Purpose

As discussed in Chapter 1, the purpose of this INRMP is to guide natural resources management for the next 5-year period (fiscal years 2007-2011) in support of the military mission aboard MCB Camp Lejeune.

The objectives described in Chapters 4 through 14 are meant to move this management effort toward meeting the intent of the 6 drivers outlined in Chapter 3:

1. Preserving the integrity of the amphibious maneuver areas, including Onslow Bay, New River and the adjoining training areas and airspace of Camp Lejeune
2. Preserving the integrity of Camp Lejeune as a combined arms training base by ensuring the continued viability of its impact areas and associated training
3. Enhancing future training uses of Camp Lejeune ranges, training areas and airspace by fully integrating the Land Use Master Plan and Range Transformation Plan
4. Ensuring Camp Lejeune supports all required military training activities while complying with the Endangered Species Act and other wildlife requirements
5. Ensuring Camp Lejeune supports continued military training use of New River and Onslow Bay by complying with the Clean Water Act
6. Ensuring the viability of New River Air Station as an aviation facility through the elimination of bird and wildlife strike hazards to aircraft while complying with the Endangered Species Act and other wildlife regulatory requirements

This INRMP identifies 153 actions and measures of success to meet the objectives. These actions include “must fund” actions (funding class 0 or 1) that must be performed to maintain compliance with laws and regulations, and desirable actions (funding class 2 or 3) which will be carried out if funding and personnel are available. Some of the actions meet multiple objectives (e.g., restoring longleaf pine, Enforcing BO 11017.1f), while others meet a specific objective. All have specific cost figures and responsible personnel. See Appendix R for a summary of “must fund” and class 2/3 actions.

Camp Lejeune has a well-established record of providing measurable and important benefits to species. Chapter 4 describes how the RCW population has increased from 31 clusters in 1981 to 81 clusters in 2005, making Camp Lejeune’s population the fastest growing population of RCWs known. This INRMP builds on the previous decades of sound stewardship and beneficial natural resource management.

15.2 INRMP Provides Adequate Management for Species

The USFWS may decline to designate critical habitat where there exists a plan that provides for the adequate management or protection for listed species. The USFWS uses the following three-point criteria to determine if an INRMP provides adequate management or protection.

1. **The plan provides a conservation benefit to the species.** The cumulative benefits of the management activities identified in a management plan, for the length of the plan, must maintain or provide for an increase in a species' population, or the enhancement or restoration of its habitat within the area covered by the plan [i.e., those areas deemed essential to the conservation of the species]. A conservation benefit may result from reducing fragmentation of habitat, maintaining or increasing populations, insuring against catastrophic events, enhancing and restoring habitats, buffering protected areas, or testing and implementing new conservation strategies. This revised INRMP provides many benefits to listed species including: RCW habitat protection and restoration, RCW cluster management, sea turtle habitat protection, and piping plover habitat protection.
2. **The plan provides certainty that the management plan will be implemented.** Persons charged with plan implementation are capable of accomplishing the objectives of the management plan and have adequate funding for the management plan. They have the authority to implement the plan and have obtained all the necessary authorizations or approvals. An implementation schedule (including completion dates) for the conservation effort is provided in the plan. Camp Lejeune's conservation program is adequately funded and has a well-trained staff of biologists, foresters, enforcement personnel, technicians, and contractors to ensure plan implementation.
3. **The plan provides certainty that the conservation effort will be effective.** The following criteria are considered when determining the effectiveness of the conservation effort. The plan includes (1) biological goals (broad guiding principles for the program) and objectives (measurable targets for achieving the goals); (2) quantifiable, scientifically valid parameters that will demonstrate achievement of objectives, and standards for these parameters by which progress will be measured, are identified; (3) provisions for monitoring and, where appropriate, adaptive management; (4) provisions for reporting progress on implementation (based on compliance with the implementation schedule) and effectiveness (based on evaluation of quantifiable parameters) of the conservation effort are provided; and (5) a duration sufficient to implement the plan and achieve the benefits of its goals and objectives.

As described in the previous chapters and in Appendices C and D, this revised INRMP provides the necessary objectives, monitoring, measurable standards for success, and provisions for future reporting to ensure effectiveness of the conservation effort for the following species: red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), rough-leaved loosestrife (*Lysimachia asperulaefolia*), sea-beach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), Hirsts' panic grass (*Dicanthelium hirstii*), and coastal goldenrod (*Solidago villosicarpa*).

15.3 INRMP Provides a Benefit to Known Species

The Endangered Species Act was revised via the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004. It states that, “The Secretary [of the Interior] shall not designate as critical habitat any lands or other geographical areas owned or controlled by the Department of Defense, or designated for its use, that are subject to an integrated natural resources management plan prepared under section 101 of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a), if the Secretary determines in writing that such plan provides a benefit to the species for which critical habitat is proposed for designation.” An installation may have its INRMP obviate the need for critical habitat designation if the INRMP provides a benefit to listed species, and manages for the long-term conservation of the species. This revised INRMP specifically addresses the benefits of management of these actions for these species or habitats. The benefits are clearly identifiable in the document and are included in the table of contents of the INRMP.

The USFWS has used the following three-point criteria to determine if the INRMP provides a benefit to the species:

1. **A current INRMP must be completed and provide a benefit to the species.** This revised INRMP includes the provisions of previous consultations with US Fish and Wildlife Service and provides many benefits to listed species including: RCW habitat protection and restoration, RCW cluster management, bald eagle habitat protection, sea turtle habitat protection, sea beach amaranth habitat protection, rough leaved loosestrife habitat protection, and piping plover habitat protection
2. **The plan provides assurances that the conservation management strategies will be implemented.** Camp Lejeune’s conservation program has a history of adequate funding and has a well-trained staff of biologists, foresters, enforcement personnel, technicians, and contractors to ensure plan implementation.
3. **The plan provides assurances that the conservation management strategies will be effective, by providing for adaptive management.** Camp Lejeune and the US Fish and Wildlife work closely together on a variety of endangered and threatened species issues. The management programs and Base directives to avoid and minimize impacts to the species are consistent with current and ongoing section 7 consultations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Camp Lejeune’s monitoring, adaptive management approach, and on going cooperative relationship with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the section 7 consultation process ensure that conservation efforts identified in the INRMP for the listed species present at Camp Lejeune will be effective.

As described in the previous chapters and in Appendices C and D, this revised INRMP meets the “Provides a Benefit” criteria for the following species: red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), rough-leaved loosestrife (*Lysimachia asperulaefolia*), sea-beach amaranth (*Amaranthus pumilus*), Hirsts’ panic grass (*Dicanthelium hirsitii*), and coastal goldenrod (*Solidago villosicarpa*).

15.4 Compliance with Other Environmental Requirements

Land management has the potential to affect regulated resources other than endangered species, such as wetlands, cultural resources, water quality and air quality. As part of the NEPA process,

other regulatory agencies and the public have had the opportunity to comment prior to finalizing the INRMP. In addition, some permits or approvals may be necessary prior to implementing some INRMP actions. For example, Section 106 consultation with the State (of North Carolina) Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act is required for some ground disturbing activities. In some cases, it may be necessary to secure a permit prior to initiating a project (e.g., Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act). Appropriate permits will be required prior to implementing site-specific projects listed in this revised INRMP.

15.5 INRMP Benefits

15.5.1 Environmental Benefits

The actions described in this INRMP provide a clear benefit to the natural resources of Camp Lejeune for the 5-year period 2007-2011. These include, for example, actions 4.1-4.29 that continue and expand RCW conservation and management, including:

- new efforts to integrate RCW and forest management (e.g., developing RCW habitat model, and RCW partition management)
- modifying forest data collection to improve understanding of good quality habitat
- continued surveying and monitoring of RCW population

and actions 4.30-4.54 that protect other threatened and endangered species and habitat on Base.

The INRMP also provides for continued support of efforts to protect natural communities to avoid future military restrictions and participation in migratory bird protection and management efforts. Under forestry and forest protection actions, the INRMP provides for continued planning and data collection, updated GIS records, and actions to minimize impacts of prescribed burning and damaging insects and diseases. The INRMP also addresses continued compliance with timber marking and sales and use of best management practices to protect forest, soil and water resources.

Actions 9.1-9.6 and 10.1-10.6 specifically address wetland, soil and water management and include direction on continuing to protect and monitor training impacts on wetlands, conserving and restoring eroded areas, and stabilizing and restoring coastal dunes. Actions 11.1-11.26 address wildlife management for both game and non-game species, and include continued data collection, development of an annual wildlife clearing management plan, and improving habitat for non-game species and waterfowl. BASH and depredation permits are also included in these actions.

Finally, the INRMP provides for environmental benefits through continued and expanded participation in regional conservation efforts such as migratory bird counts, the Conservation Working Group and Onslow Bight conservation efforts, and suggests improvements for conservation education aboard the Base.

15.5.2 Military Mission Benefits

Integration of natural resources management with mission support and training requirements and responsibilities will help ensure Camp Lejeune meets the challenges of combat readiness homeland security, bio-terrorism, and ecosystem health, while fulfilling its stewardship and

regulatory responsibilities. Implementation of this plan will better integrate sustainable natural resource management with mission support and training requirements and responsibilities, affording more realistic training opportunities in support of the base mission.

The INRMP benefits military actions in at least five ways:

1. It facilitates compliance with environmental laws and regulations such as Sikes Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and obviates the need for Federal critical habitat designation.
2. It provides actions that support training activities, while still providing protection to the environment and threatened and endangered species (e.g., continuing the military impact monitoring, reducing RCW restricted acres, identifying species of concern before they restrict military actions, reducing wildland fire threat with an aggressive prescribed fire program, rotating out and restoring eroded training areas so that they will be available for future use).
3. It provides for programs to deal with bird/aircraft strike hazards and wildlife damage.
4. It provides for increased education of Marines and visiting units to promote responsible use of training areas and ranges in order to avoid future restrictions of military actions.
5. It provides for regional conservation and encroachment partnering initiatives to reduce or prevent current and future mission restrictions.

15.5.3 Relational Benefits

This INRMP provides continual support for Camp Lejeune's community relations. It includes specific actions to continue recreational and educational activities aboard the Base, such as maintaining and improving access to New River for fishing and boating and continued stocking of game fish and provision of public fishing and hunting permits.

The document also considers and recommends actions dealing with encroachment, public and military awareness of on-going environmental efforts, and a program for field trips and presentations for students of DOD schools.

Finally, as with any planning process, this INRMP allows for continued cooperation with federal and state natural resources agencies such as USFWS, NC Wildlife Resource Commission, and the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

15.6 Conclusion

This revised INRMP reflects Camp Lejeune's approach to natural resource management actions and summarizes baseline information and agreements through which compliance with regulatory and planning processes, such as those provided by SAIA, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Clean Water Act (CWA) is accomplished. It provides the guidance and direction for natural resource management activities and serves as the foundation for sustaining and enhancing the military mission.