

CHAPTER 3

MILITARY DRIVERS AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO OBJECTIVES, AND COURSE OF ACTIONS AND MONITORING

3.1 Military Drivers

The mission of Camp Lejeune is to provide military training that promotes the combat readiness of operating forces. Camp Lejeune, like all military installations, has needs or drivers that must be satisfied for the installation’s readiness mission to continue without significant disruption. Additionally, legal or regulatory drivers, such as the federal Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, must be complied with in order to ensure continuance of the military mission. Unique to Camp Lejeune are installation-specific drivers that are defined by the Base’s mission, land uses to support the mission, geographic location and natural resources affected by the mission.

Identification of the primary military drivers at Camp Lejeune provided the basis for establishment of the natural resource management objectives in this INRMP. There are six primary military drivers for this revised INRMP:

- 1. Preserve the integrity of the amphibious maneuver areas, including Onslow Bay, New River and the adjoining training areas and airspace of Camp Lejeune.** Maintain the Installation’s viability as the finest amphibious training facility in the Marine Corps by continuing to maintain freedom of amphibious movement by a variety of military forces throughout the area, from the ocean and river, across the beaches and shorelines, through the air and into the training areas.



Fig 3-1 Marines using Onslow Beach to load equipment via LCU to amphibious ships offshore.



Fig 3-2 Navy LSD-class amphibious ship in Onslow Bay, supporting operations on Onslow Beach

- 2. Preserve the integrity of Camp Lejeune as a combined arms training base by ensuring the continued viability of its impact areas and associated training ranges.** Ensure the continued unrestricted use of the duded areas through mitigation efforts and other such actions designed to maintain the use of the training land-space,

air space, and waterways. Preserve all impact areas and training ranges from encroachment.



Fig 3-3. Marines exiting an MV-22 via Fast Rope .



Fig 3-4. Marines conducting live fire training with High Explosives in the G-10 Impact Area.

3. **Enhance future training uses of the Camp Lejeune ranges, training areas and airspace by fully integrating the Land Use Master Plan and Range Transformation Plan.** Focus future resource management efforts on support of the Camp Lejeune 2020 Range Transformation Plan (RTP), future weapons systems, Land and Training Area Requirements Study (LATARS), and training requirements driven by Force Structure Review Group and Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions. Enact long-range management actions designed to gain flexibility with the T&E species population and maximize the training value of the land and surrounding water and airspace while still meeting our stewardship responsibilities. Support the future transformation of the range complex while also enhancing the diversity of the ecosystem. Maximize future training opportunities off-base through innovative solutions like partnering with interested federal and state agencies and private conservation groups.



Fig 3-5. Marines conducting convoy security operations in the training areas of Camp Lejeune



Fig 3-6. An SOI Marine conducts qualification firing of the Squad Automatic Weapon on Range F-2

4. **Ensure Camp Lejeune supports all required military training activities while complying with the Endangered Species Act, and other wildlife requirements.** Comply in a manner that does not impede current training, increases the amount of land available for training, gains flexibility for future training requirements, and minimizes new environmental restrictions on the training complex. Protect other plant and animal species of concern/interest only to the extent that those protections do not impact or restrict necessary training activities. Manage recreational access and hunting opportunities on a not-to-interfere basis with military training requirements.



Fig 3-7. RCW buffer trees by Combat Town on Camp Lejeune.



Fig 3-8. RCW buffer trees painted black to reduce training restrictions.

5. **Ensure Camp Lejeune supports continued military training use of the New River and Onslow Bay by complying with the Clean Water Act.** Compliance should be in a manner that does not impede our current use and enhances our ability to provide sustainable training in such open water areas. This compliance must allow for future development and enhancement of the live fire range complex airspace.



Fig 3-9 Reconnaissance Marines training to conduct small boat insertions from the ocean onto Onslow Beach

- 6. Ensure 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.**



Fig 3-10. MV-22 Osprey on tarmac at MCAS New River.



Fig 3-11. Gulls and Terns on Tarmac at MCAS New River.

3.2 Relationship of Drivers to Objectives and the Course of Actions and Monitoring

Collectively, meeting the needs of these drivers ensures continued support of all aspects of military training at Camp Lejeune while still ensuring compliance with relevant environmental laws, regulations and other restrictions. Environmental compliance is one of the many tools used to allow Camp Lejeune to continue to effectively accomplish that mission.

Drivers provide the focus for management components found in chapters 4 through 14 that follow. Management components are resource areas upon which the revised INRMP focuses. They are grouped to address the specific resource management situation on Camp Lejeune. They include:

- Chapter 4 Threatened and Endangered Species Management**
- Chapter 5 Species at Risk and Natural Communities**
- Chapter 6 Migratory Birds**
- Chapter 7 Forest Management**
- Chapter 8 Forest Protection**
- Chapter 9 Wetlands Management**
- Chapter 10 Soil Conservation/Land Conservation**
- Chapter 11 Wildlife and Fisheries Management**
- Chapter 12 Public Access, Outdoor Recreation and Law Enforcement**
- Chapter 13 Regional Conservation**
- Chapter 14 Conservation Outreach/Education**

In addressing these specific management components, the INRMP specifies objectives and a course of actions and monitoring (appendix C) to achieve those objectives. In some cases, an action may apply to several different objectives. The objectives and actions are the direction for natural resource management activities for the life of the plan, in this case, the next five years. Whenever practical, the actions have units of measure and measure of success identified to allow the Base to quantitatively or qualitatively track progress toward the INRMP objectives.

Objectives are unique to a military installation. They fall within four broad categories:

- Support of mission requirements
- Compliance with natural resource protection laws
- Public access
- Participation in regional ecosystem initiatives

In some cases, objectives may take up to ten years to achieve. The important thing to remember is that in such longer-term projects, the Base program is moving toward some desired future condition, that condition is an improvement on the existing condition, and that the desired condition may take longer than five years to achieve.

3.3 Funding the Course of Actions and Monitoring

Action (or project) lists fall within two categories: those that must be implemented (“must fund”), and those that may be implemented if circumstances are favorable (e.g., mission requirements allow access to land to conduct the action and/or funding is available).

Accordingly, two lists of actions have been developed. “Must fund” conservation requirements are those actions that are required to meet recurring natural and cultural resources conservation management requirements (Class 0) or current compliance (Class 1) needs. These specific

actions (class 0 and 1) are the highest priority, and would be implemented, like all actions, subject to availability of funds.

By their very nature, funding must be sought for Class 0 and Class 1 actions because failure to fund and implement such actions could or would result in disruption of mission activities.

Examples of these types of actions include:

- Terms and conditions of Biological Opinions
- Terms and conditions of wetland fill permits
- Memorandum Of Agreement/Understanding commitments
- Vegetation management in support of mission requirements (e.g., vegetation management in a training drop zone)
- Silvicultural activities in support of mission requirements
- Erosion control measures required in order to remain in compliance with natural resources protection regulations

Each action is defined with a description that identifies:

- Funding class priority relative to other projects in the INRMP
- Specific action to be taken
- Narrative description, including regulatory approvals needed (if any)
- Driver for its need and objective(s) it will satisfy
- Measure of success, including timing of its accomplishment
- Monitoring unit of measure, if applicable

Not all actions listed in this INRMP are necessarily “must fund” type projects. The second list of actions (class 2 and 3) are all other valid natural resource-related projects that do not fall into Class 0 or Class 1 that would only be implemented given favorable circumstances.

All actions in this INRMP are subject to the availability of funds. Nothing in this INRMP shall be construed to be a violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 USC section 1341. While all Class 0 and Class 1 actions are usually funded, Class 2 and 3 actions are almost totally dependent on the availability of funding. However, from time to time, resources are made available from non-traditional sources to satisfy, for example, lower priority installation natural resources management objectives.

Both lists are important from a planning and NEPA compliance perspective. Both lists describe and define natural resources management activities for Camp Lejeune. Both lists serve the proposed action for Camp Lejeune over the course of the next five to ten years. Generally speaking, if a project were not on either list, especially if it is a Class 2 or 3-type project, it would not be considered during this 5-year INRMP planning cycle for implementation. Some type of NEPA compliance is required for almost any project. By listing actions in this INRMP, which must comply with NEPA, they can be considered for implementation if funding becomes available without handling them as separate or individual NEPA projects.

3.4 Role of Monitoring

A key element of ecosystem management is monitoring. Progress toward the conservation objectives outlined in this INRMP must be monitored so that management practices can be evaluated, future management needs identified, and adaptations made. This cyclic process of using monitoring to improve management is called “adaptive management”.

Federal law also requires monitoring. For example, species or habitat monitoring is required under the Endangered Species Act and water quality monitoring is required under the Clean Water Act.

Monitoring can include tracking trends, evaluating management actions, and providing adequate warning of undesirable ecological or environmental effects. Monitoring results can be used to determine if an ecosystem, community or, in some cases, an individual species, is moving in the direction of the specific objectives stated in this INRMP. Monitoring is repeated over time and requires somewhat of a schedule. This schedule can extend 5, 10, 20 or more years before a determination can be made that a particular action has been successful or a particular INRMP objective has been met. A good example would be achieving the desired future conditions for RCW habitat, which is discussed in Chapter 4.

Monitoring is essential for tracking and analyzing changes in population parameters (e.g., size, density and distribution) and habitat type and quality over time. It maintains an inventory of federally listed threatened and endangered species on Camp Lejeune (e.g., distributions, occurrences, breeding success, predation rates, incidental take, etc.), using high quality and up-to-date GIS maps.

The Base conducts surveys and monitoring for selected species for a variety of reasons. A high priority for natural resources management is the monitoring of federally listed threatened and endangered species on base, like RCW, to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements and to assist in the recovery efforts for those species. Selected candidate, rare, sensitive (e.g., state listed species, migratory birds), and other (e.g., game and exotic) species may also be surveyed or monitored. Monitoring on species-specific levels will help prepare the Base for potential future listings, assist with the management of consumptive recreational programs, evaluate the efficacy of management techniques, and provide additional indices of ecosystem health.

Utilizing monitoring techniques and analyzing accurate monitoring data, natural resource managers can assess and improve management decisions. When decisions are made with poor or inaccurate data, management actions are more likely to fail and to be questioned by stakeholders and the public.

Much of Camp Lejeune’s monitoring is accomplished by measuring the success of management actions. For example, for the management action “*Prescribe burn annually*” Camp Lejeune will prescribe burn and then measure the number of acres of prescribed burns annually. However, in certain cases, there is no direct management action other than the monitoring itself. For example: “*Collect and maintain data on the Gypsy Moth Trapping Program*”, the management action is monitoring.

In either case, in chapters 4 through 14 that follow, all monitoring and management actions are listed as “actions” with the associated objective(s) and in the Course Of Actions and Monitoring table.