

INTEGRATED
NATURAL
RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT
PLAN
2002 - 2006

U.S. ARMY ALASKA
VOLUME 3 – FORT WAINWRIGHT

FINAL
AUGUST 2002



INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2002-2006

U.S. ARMY ALASKA
VOLUME 3 – FORT WAINWRIGHT

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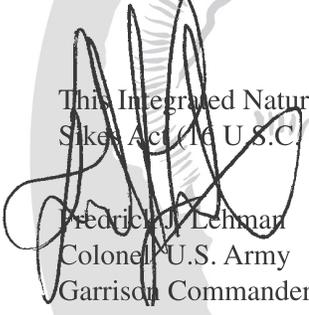
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APPROVAL

This Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan meets the requirement of the
Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a et seq.) as amended.


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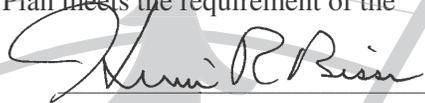
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

APPROVAL

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DEC 19 2002

Henri Bisson
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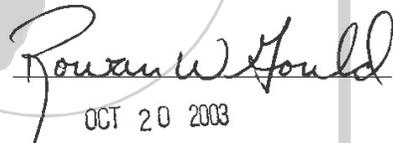
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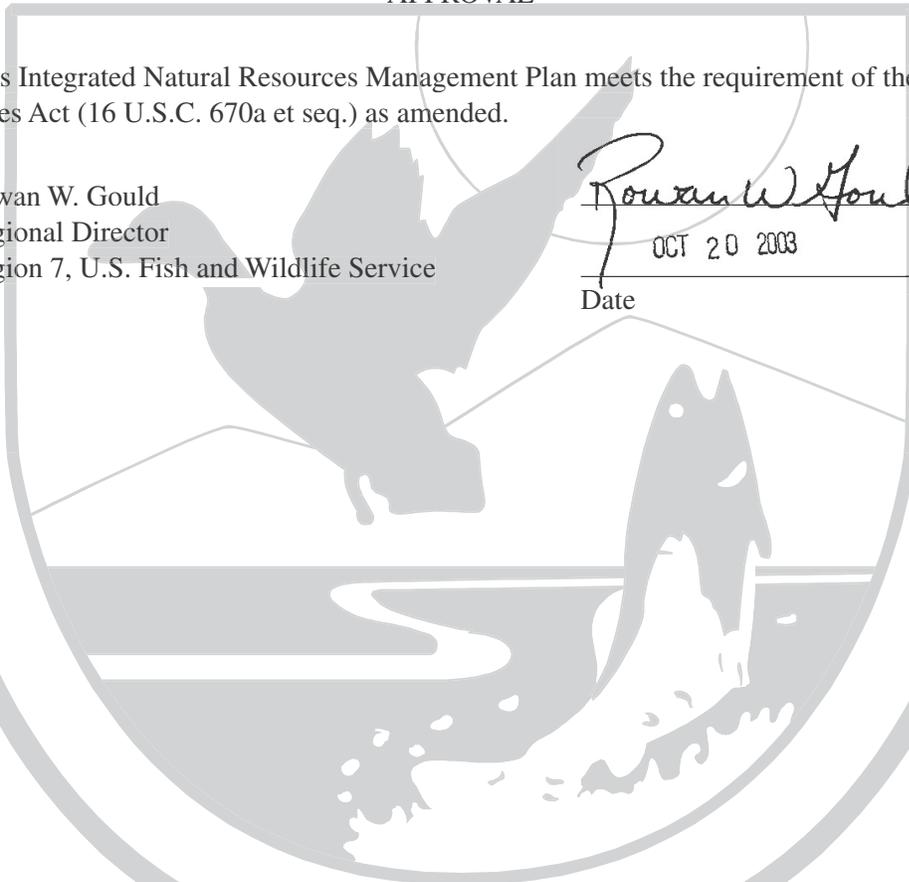
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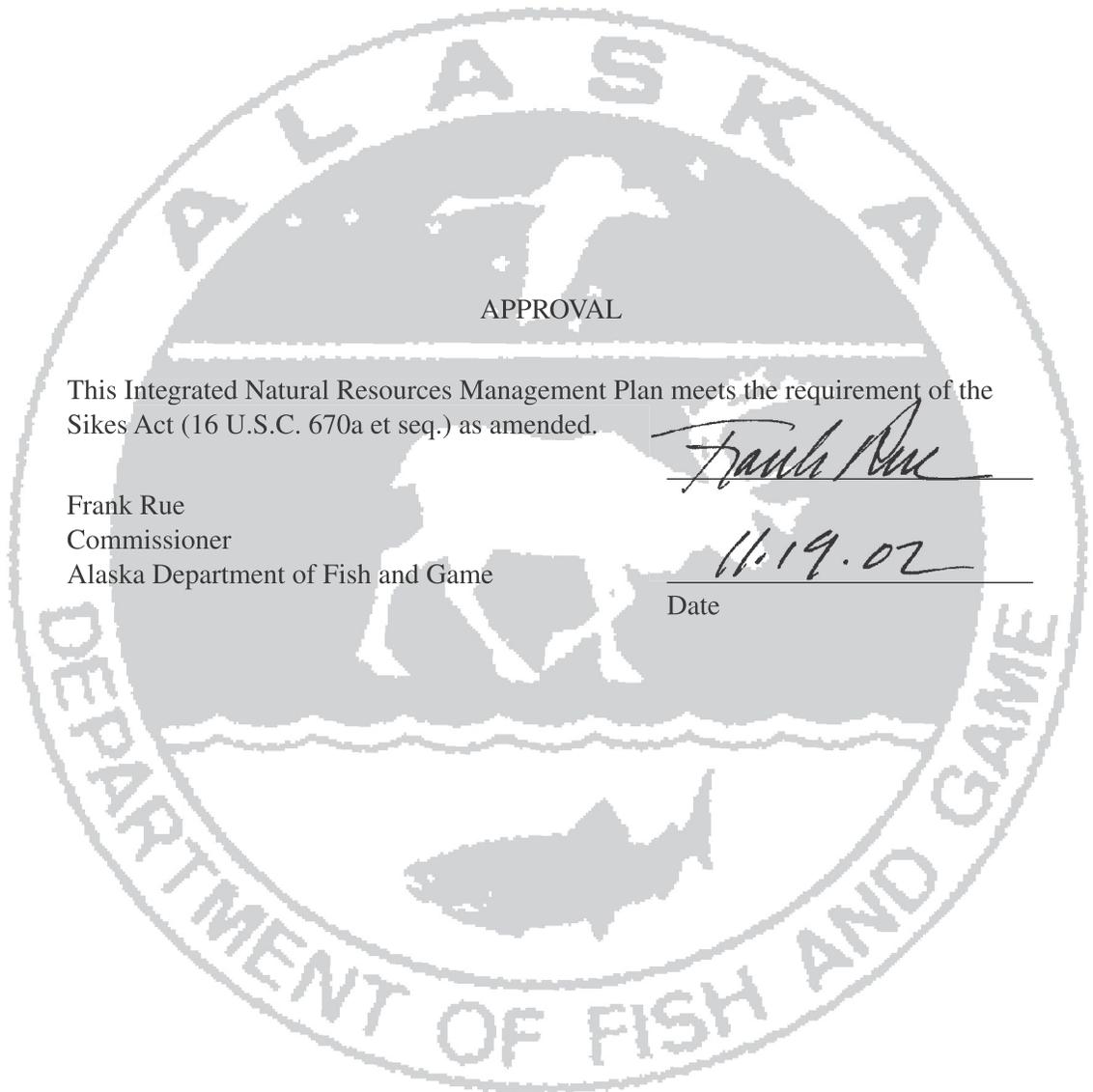
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APPROVAL

This Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan meets the requirement of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a et seq.) as amended.

Frank Rue
Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Frank Rue

11.19.02

Date

Preface



*Alaska is cold, numbing wind-chill that kills, called The Hawk;
Unconquered bear and trusting ptarmigan; Months of darkness, months of daylight;
Coiling northern lights; towering, jagged mountains; treacherous glaciers;
And the chilling, plaintive howl of wolves echoing across the still moonlit steppe.*

*The land is rich;
The citizens are independent and tough;
And the soldiers are the [172nd Infantry Brigade].¹*

U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, is proud of its contribution toward the defense of the United States of America. For over 50 years, Fort Wainwright has trained soldiers and other members of the United States Armed Forces in skills needed to win on the harshest battlefields of the world. The mission of Fort Wainwright has changed over the decades... from the defense of Alaska in World War II to today's peacetime mission of worldwide deployment to protect the United States' interests and

to defend Alaska. Training opportunities provided at Fort Wainwright are first rate today, just as they have been over the decades.

The land and its natural resources are vital to the well-being of Fort Wainwright. A huge stewardship responsibility comes with these public lands. U.S. Army Alaska is committed to that stewardship role. Both land and natural resources management have improved over the years and will continue to do so.

¹Adapted from the Introduction, *Natural Resources Conservation Program* (Quirk, Gossweiler, and Kiker. 1978).

These lands are critical to the military mission and are important to the well-being of our community and to the nation's environmental health.

This Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan is Fort Wainwright's plan of action for the care and wise use of the lands entrusted to the U.S. Army. While the plan covers a five-year period, the philosophy behind it will guide natural resource management over a much longer period of time.

Fort Wainwright is committed to using an ecosystem management approach in its natural resources program. This approach helps protect biological diversity and facilitates sound decisions regarding the use of renewable natural resources to support both the military mission and needs of the region.

Abundant and diverse natural resources and a healthy environment... now and forever... this is the commitment of U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

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ACRONYMS

ABR	Alaska Biological Research
ACC	Alaska Administrative Code
ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
AFB	Air Force Base
AFS	Alaska Fire Service
AFTAC	Air Force Technical Applications Center
ALCOM	Alaska Command
ALMAT	Army Land Management Advisory Team
AMT	Alaska Meteorological Team
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
AR	Army Regulation
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act
ARTEP	Army Training and Evaluation Program
ASDZ	Automated Surface Danger Zone
ATTACC	Army Training and Testing Area Carrying Capacity
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
AWSS	Area Weapons Scoring System
BASH	Bird Air Strike Hazard
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CALFEX	Combined Arms Live-Fire Exercise
CEMML	Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act
CFI	Continuous Forest Inventory
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COE	Corps of Engineers
CONUS	Continental United States
CRM	Cultural Resources Manager
CRREL	Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory
CRTC	Cold Regions Test Center
CSU	Colorado State University
CWA	Clean Water Act
DA	Department of the Army
DAMO-TR	Directorate of Training
dbh	diameter breast height
DOC	Directorate of Contracting
DOD	Department of Defense
DOI	Department of Interior
DOL	Directorate of Logistics
DPCA	Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities
DPTSM	Directorate of Plans, Training, Security and Mobilization
DPW	Directorate of Public Works

DZ	Drop Zone
EA	Environmental Assessment
EA	Environmental Awareness
EBS	Environmental Baseline Survey
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ELS	Ecological Land Survey
EO	Executive Order
EOD	Explosive Ordnance Disposal
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPR	Environmental Program Requirements
EQR	Environmental Quality Report
ERD	Environmental Resource Division
FGDC	Federal Geographic Data Committee
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FNSB	Fairbanks North Star Borough
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FY	Fiscal Year
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMU	Game Management Unit
gpm	gallons per minute
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRTS	Gerstle River Test Site
GVEA	Golden Valley Electric Association
HQDA	Headquarters, Department of the Army
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
ICUZ	Incompatible Use Zones
IFS	Integrated Facility System
IISC	ITAM Installation Steering Committee
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
IPA	Intergovernmental Personnel Act
IPMP	Installation Pest Management Plan
IRP	Installation Restoration Plan
ISR	Installation Status Report
ITAM	Integrated Training Area Management
ITC	Installation Training Capacity
LCTA	Land Condition-Trend Analysis
LEIS	Legislative Environmental Impact Statement
LRAM	Land Rehabilitation and Management
LTA	Local Training Area
MACOM	Major Command
MAPS	Measuring Avian Productivity and Survival
MFE	Major Flying Exercise
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOUT	Military Operations in Urban Terrain
mph	miles per hour
MPRC	Multi-Purpose Range Complex
MRE	Meals Ready to Eat
MSR	Main Supply Route

NBC	Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOV	Notice of Violation
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWTC	Northern Warfare Training Center
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
OAS	Office of Aircraft Services
ODCSOPS	Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations and Plans
ORISE	Oak Ridge Institute of Science and Education
ORV	Off-Road (Recreational) Vehicle
PAO	Public Affairs Office
PL	Public Law
PLO	Public Land Order
PMC	Plant Material Center
PMO	Provost Marshals Office
POL	Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants
PSWCD	Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RETS	Remote Electronic Target Sensing
RFMSS	Range Facilities Management Support System
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
RPMP	Real Property and Master Planning
RTLPL	Range and Training Land Program
RTSA	Range, Target, STRAC Application
SAIA	Sikes Act Improvement Amendments
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SJA	Staff Judge Advocate
SMOTE	Spatial Management of Training Environment
SPOT	Satellite Probatoire d'Observation de la Terre
SRP	Site Rehabilitation Prioritization
SUSV	Small Unit Support Vehicle
TA	Training Area
TAPS	Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
TARP	Training Area Recovery Plan
TCC	Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.
TFIU	Training Facility Inventory/Utilization
TFTA	Tanana Flats Training Area
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TOC	Tactical Operations Center
TRADOC-ATSC	US Army Training and Doctrine Command
TRI	Training Requirements Integration
TSI	Timber Stand Improvement
TSSDS	Tri-Service Spatial Data Standards
UAF	University of Alaska Fairbanks
US	United States

USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USAEC	United States Army Environmental Center
USAF	United States Air Force
USARAK	United States Army Alaska
USARPAC	United States Army Pacific Command
USC	United States Code
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WES	Waterways Experiment Station
YTA	Yukon Training Area (also referred to as Yukon Maneuver Area)

Executive Report



“We do not own this land; we are caretakers of the land and the plant and animal species that inhabit it. The American people entrust the land to our care, and we shall fulfill their trust. We shall conserve and protect these resources for the future”²

This Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) will guide implementation of the natural resources program on Fort Wainwright, Alaska, from 2002 through 2006. The INRMP is designed to conserve Fort Wainwright’s land and natural resources and ensure compliance with related environmental laws and regulations. The plan also ensures the maintenance of high quality training lands to accomplish U.S. Army Alaska’s critical military mission.

Scope

This plan applies to organizations internal and external to Fort Wainwright that are involved with, or

interested in, the management or use of Fort Wainwright’s land and natural resources for military and nonmilitary purposes. This plan applies to active duty units, National Guard and Reserve Components, directorates, private groups, and individuals. This INRMP falls within the framework of the U.S. Army Alaska (USARAK) Range Development Plan and is an integral part of the Fort Wainwright Installation Master Plan. This INRMP will guide the natural resources management of Fort Wainwright for the next five years (2002-2006) and will provide a solid foundation from which to build and continue the program beyond 2006.

²Robert M. Walker, Assistant Secretary of the Army, Testimony before Congress, July 11, 1995.

Relationship to the Military

Fort Wainwright provides most of the combat training for U.S. Army soldiers in Alaska. These soldiers are among the most specialized military professionals in the world, and they train in some of the world's harshest environments. Fort Wainwright hosts training for other members of the nation's Armed Forces, from Marines stationed in Hawaii to Air Force pilots and crew members who defend our nation from the air.

This INRMP supports the military mission by protecting and enhancing training lands upon which the mission is critically dependent. It also describes recreational opportunities associated with natural resources for the Fort Wainwright community, thus supporting the USARAK commitment to both the Quality of Life and the Army Communities of Excellence programs.

Impacts of military activities upon natural resources and means to mitigate these impacts are described in this plan. However, this INRMP does not evaluate Fort Wainwright's military mission, nor does it replace any need or requirement for environmental documentation of the military mission at Fort Wainwright.

Environmental Compliance

This INRMP is required by the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a et seq.), Department of Defense Instruction 4715.3 (*Environmental Conservation Program*), and Army Regulation (AR) 200-3 (*Natural Resources – Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management*). This plan describes how USARAK will implement provisions of AR 200-3 and local regulations, most notably AR 190-13 (*Enforcement of Hunting, Trapping and Fishing on Army Lands in Alaska*) (U.S. Army, Alaska 1994) and AR 350-2 (*Range Regulation*) (U.S. Army, Alaska 1995). This INRMP helps USARAK comply with other federal and state laws, most notably laws associated with environmental documentation, wetlands, endangered species, water quality, and wildlife management.

This INRMP has the signatory approval of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), to acknowledge its compliance with the Endangered Species Act. USFWS review of the INRMP is considered informal consultation with regard to the Endangered Species Act.

The Sikes Act, as amended in November 1997, requires that an INRMP include:

- Fish and wildlife management, land management, forest management, and fish and wildlife-oriented recreation.
- Fish and wildlife habitat enhancements or modifications.
- Wetlands protection, enhancement, and restoration where necessary for support of fish, wildlife, or plants.
- Integration of, and consistency among, the various activities conducted under the plan.
- Establishment of specific natural resources management goals and objectives and time frames for proposed action.
- Sustainable use by the public of natural resources to the extent that the use is not inconsistent with the needs of fish and wildlife resources.
- Enforcement of applicable natural resources laws (including regulations).
- No net loss in the capability of military installation lands to support the military mission of the installation.
- Review of this INRMP and its effects every five years.
- Provisions for spending hunting and fishing permit fees exclusively for the protection, conservation, and management of fish and wildlife, including habitat improvement, and related activities in accordance with INRMP.
- Exemption from procurement of services under Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76 and any of its successor circulars.

- Priority for contracts involving implementation of this INRMP to state and federal agencies having responsibility for conservation of fish and wildlife.
- Public access to the military installation that is necessary or appropriate for sustainable use of natural resources by the public to the extent that such use is consistent with the military mission and the needs of fish and wildlife resources, subject to requirements necessary to ensure safety and military security.

The *Fort Wainwright Yukon Maneuver Area Proposed Resource Management Plan* (RMP) (BLM and U.S. Army 1994) requires that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) participate with the Army, USFWS, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) in developing a habitat management plan. The BLM will also be a signatory agency in any revision of the cooperative agreement (as required by the Sikes Act). It also requires the Army to develop a forest management plan and recreation activity management plan for the lands withdrawn by PL 106-65. This INRMP and corresponding activity plans satisfy the above BLM requirements.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to consider the environmental consequences of proposed major federal actions. Installations are directed by AR 200-2 (*Environmental Effects of Army Actions*) and NEPA to integrate environmental analysis as much as practicable with other environmental reviews, laws, directives, and executive orders. USARAK has met this requirement by preparing a single environmental document; an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been integrated into this INRMP to provide a comprehensive description, analysis, and evaluation of all environmental components proposed in the Fort Wainwright INRMP.

Ecosystem Status

Fort Wainwright has four vegetative types: moist tundra; treeless bogs; open, low-growing spruce forests; and closed spruce-hardwood forests (Viereck and Little 1972). The installation has a wide

variety of flora and fauna, none of which are classified as threatened or endangered. Although the natural resources program affects many species, moose (*Alces alces*), ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*) are the most intensively managed by ADF&G.

The quality of both surface and groundwater is assumed to be good, with the exception of localized pollution associated with past activities, mostly within the Main Post area. Due to this contamination, Fort Wainwright has been declared a “Superfund” site under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). There have been no indications of changes in the quality of surface water since Army occupation of the land. Trends in biological diversity are not documented, but there is no reason to suggest that Army activity on the land has adversely affected biological diversity. Effects of military use on soils are primarily evident in the Main Post area.

The installation’s capability to support its current military mission is stable. The capability of the land to produce forest products has steadily improved since large-scale timber removal has not occurred and the forest is maturing, especially in areas where fires have been minimized. The post can clearly continue to support its small fuel wood and Christmas tree program.

The capability of the ecosystem to support hunting, fishing, and trapping continues to be good. Fishing opportunities have increased in some areas due to stocking. Agriculture is not a viable option on Fort Wainwright.

Partnerships

This INRMP cannot be implemented by USARAK alone. In accordance with land withdrawal legislation and the ecosystem management philosophy, USARAK is forging partnerships with various agencies to manage its natural resources. Major partners in the implementation of this plan are the BLM, USFWS, and ADF&G. Other partners in this effort include universities, other federal and state agencies, native groups, contractors, and private citizens.

Plan Components

This document guides the natural resources management program at Fort Wainwright. Chapter 1 of this INRMP outlines goals and objectives in five general areas: military readiness, stewardship, quality of life, compliance, and program integration. It also contains a general description of Fort Wainwright's military mission. The integration of NEPA compliance within this INRMP is also discussed. Chapter 2 describes Fort Wainwright's climate, land base, facilities, and natural resources, including a brief history of their management. The plan identifies internal and external parties involved in implementation of this INRMP.

Ecosystem management is the underlying philosophy of the plan, a departure from USARAK's traditional multiple-use approach. This new approach is consistent with recent changes in laws and Department of Army policies. Ultimately, the INRMP will serve as a tool to help natural resources personnel implement ecosystem management philosophies at Fort Wainwright. Ecosystem management will continue to allow for the use of natural resources on Fort Wainwright for both military and other human-related values and purposes. Ecosystem management protects properties and functions of natural ecosystems. Since these ecosystems often go beyond installation boundaries, management of Fort Wainwright's natural resources will include more emphasis on partnerships with its neighbors.

This INRMP is organized to promote the management of lands and natural resources in an integrated manner. The Ecosystem Management chapter (Chapter 3) deals with aspects of overall natural resources management: inventory and monitoring, protection and damage prevention, natural resources management, awareness, and enforcement. Within the remaining resources management chapters (Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7), programs for Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM), fish and wildlife management, soil erosion control, water quality management, integrated pest control, natural resources law enforcement, research programs, and conservation education are described. Additional chapters discuss outdoor recreation associated with natural resources, protec-

tion of cultural resources during natural resources management activities, and the use of NEPA to conserve natural resources. Chapter 8 describes specific measures to implement this plan. The environmental consequences of implementing each resources management alternative are discussed in Chapter 9.

Planned Major New Initiatives

Fort Wainwright's INRMP includes a description of ongoing natural resources programs and projects. It is anticipated all of these will be continued or completed. There are important new initiatives proposed within this INRMP, including the following programs:

- Implementing ecosystem management philosophy
- Implementing revised Outdoor Recreational Vehicle (ORV) policy (Section 6.2.4 and Figures 6-1a and b)
- Implementing a new recreational use impact study (Section 6.2.4 and Figure 6-1d)
- Implementing a new training area rotation rest and rehabilitation program (Section 4.1.4.1 and Section 4.2.4.2)
- Implementing conservation law enforcement (Section 6.3)
- Implementing a water quality monitoring protocol (Section 4.2.3)

Ongoing Planning Activities

USARAK recognizes that this INRMP is not all encompassing. USARAK will, in coordination with other agencies, develop specific management action plans to be incorporated into this INRMP as they are completed. Descriptions of these plans (listed below), their compliance authorities, and budget priorities can be found in Appendix D.

- Ecosystem Management Action Plan
- Habitat Management Action Plan
- Wetlands Management Action Plan
- Forest Management Action Plan

- Special Interest Areas Conservation Action Plan
- Outdoor Recreation Management Action Plan
- Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Action Plan
- Landscaping Action Plan
- Fire Management Action Plan
- Soil Resources Management Action Plan
- Aerial Monitoring Action Plan

While work on specific action plans remains to be completed, this INRMP uses existing information as a basis to continue and improve natural resources management concurrent with planning activities. Preparation and implementation of an INRMP, including updates to occur every five years, is required by law regardless of the stage of program development. The INRMP is not a static product. Rather, it is a dynamic mechanism to guide program operation for the next five years (2002-2006).

Benefits and Costs

Military Mission Benefits: Implementation of this plan will improve the quality of Fort Wainwright's training lands and will improve long-range planning at Fort Wainwright. The INRMP will enhance mission realism by increasing training actions, as well as providing for more intensive planning of missions.

Environmental Benefits: The plan provides the basis for the conservation and protection of natu-

ral resources. It will reduce vegetation loss and soil erosion due to military activities, reduce the potential for environmental pollution and provide for biodiversity conservation. Plan implementation will increase overall knowledge of Fort Wainwright ecosystems through surveys and research.

Other Benefits: Troop environmental awareness will be enhanced for military training at Fort Wainwright. Both community relations and Fort Wainwright's environmental image will be enhanced. Quality of life for the Fort Wainwright community and its neighbors will be improved. Plan implementation will decrease long-term environmental costs and reduce potential liabilities from environmental noncompliance.

Costs: It will cost about \$3,057,250 annually during 2002-2006 to implement this INRMP. Funding will be provided primarily either from environmental or training funds designated for implementation of the ITAM program. Plan implementation will require staffing at the same level as in recent years, with the exception of additional contract personnel to implement ITAM and other new programs.

Summary

The actions within this INRMP will comply with environmental laws, conserve and protect Fort Wainwright's natural resources, improve Fort Wainwright's relationship with the public, and enhance the military mission. While this plan will not resolve all existing and/or future environmental issues, it does provide the guiding philosophy, personnel, and means to work toward resolution of such issues.

