

## **CHAPTER 13**

### **NATURAL RESOURCES INCLUDING ENDANGERED SPECIES**

#### **13-1 SCOPE**

This Chapter contains criteria to insure proper protection, enhancement and management of natural resources affected by DOD installations and activities . This includes plants and animal species declared protected by the U.S. or Japanese governments.

#### **13-2 DEFINITIONS**

13-2.1 Action. All activities or programs of any kind funded or carried out, in whole or in part, on DOD controlled installations.

13-2.2 Adverse Affect. Actions which alter the quality of natural resources.

13-2.3 Agriculture. The business of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock.

13-2.4 Conservation. The planned management and use of natural resources to insure their availability for present and future use and enjoyment.

13-2.5 Natural Resources. Includes all land forms, soils, waters, and their associated flora and fauna.

13-2.6 Natural Resources with Cultural Significance. Natural scenery or views including mountains, valleys, and sea shores with cultural value; gardens with historic value; natural objects such as praying rocks, trees, caves, and springs; and any other natural entity of cultural importance. Since these resources have both natural and cultural significance, their inclusion in the Cultural Resources Management Plan is essential. (See Table 12-1, Protected Cultural Resources). Specially designated flora/fauna such as rare, threatened or endangered species and historic environmental conservation areas, though considered to have cultural significance, are covered in this Chapter.

13-2.7 Natural Resource Manager. A person formally designated in writing by the commanding officer to represent the command in natural resource matters.

13-2.8 Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP). An integrated plan providing the installation with a thorough inventory of all natural resources found on the installation. The plan offers ecologically sound cost effective management suggestions for the management of those resources.

13-2.9 Non- Point Source Pollution. Water pollution usually associated with storm run off across sites disturbed by construction, agricultural, training, urbanization or other soil disturbing activities. The silt and chemical residues generated by non-point source pollution smothers and severely damages aquatic species.

13-2.10 Protected Species. Plants and animals considered to be in danger of extinction under either U.S. law, host nation law, or a treaty in which the U.S. is a party. The listing of protected species may be found in the current species list published under the authority of the laws in Appendix C.

13-2.11 Subject Matter Experts. Persons who have completed a university degree program in one of the natural resource sciences courses and have specific experience in the subject issue. Expertise is available from the Engineering Field Divisions (EFD), local universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) i.e. World Wildlife Fund, and Wild Bird Society of Japan.

## *USFJ ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNING STANDARDS*

13-2.12 Wetlands. Areas inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and a duration to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adopted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands frequently occur where the land and water meet; the dynamic nutrient rich interface of these two elements are extremely productive and essential to the life cycle of a large number of species.

### **13-3 PERSONNEL AND TRAINING**

13-3.1 Level of Expertise. Where practicable, and if warranted by abundant natural resources, the designated Natural Resources Manager will have a university degree in one of the natural resource disciplines. If a manager without specific training is designated Natural Resource Manager, resource decisions should include written documentation that a subject matter expert was consulted.

13-3.2 Training /Continuing Education. The Natural Resources Manager will remain current on all DOD, service component, and government of Japan actions affecting the natural resources program. This includes, but is not limited to attendance at annual workshops, training courses, and conferences.

### **13-4 CRITERIA**

13-4.1 Management. Installations should manage natural resources using a sound approach to maximize mission effectiveness while protecting the long term environmental diversity through the use of conventional conservation practices. The installation commander will take measures to resolve or mitigate situations in which natural resources are adversely affected by the military mission.

13-4.2 Natural Resources Management Plans. Each installation will maintain a current Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). Installations without a current NRMP should request funding for the development of a plan. The NRMP will be reviewed annually and revised and reissued every five years.

13-4.3 Content of Natural Resources Management Plans. NRMP will contain a complete inventory of all natural resources found on the installation including: geological, topography soils, wetlands, flood plains, scenic areas, vegetation, agricultural use, Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) issues, climatic conditions, surface waters, hydrology, outdoor recreation use, wetlands, and wildlife. The NRMP will detail topics such as endangered species, migratory birds, erosion control, special habitats, applicable U.S and, host country laws. The NRMP will offer management objectives for all resource values identified and provide a ten year plan to implement those management recommendations.

13-4.4 Protected Species Lists. The Natural Resources Manager is responsible for maintaining, at the installation, the current list of species protected under U.S and Government of Japan wildlife laws. (Protected species laws are found in Appendix A). The Natural Resources Manager should inform the installation commander annually, in writing, of all protected species found on the installation. In addition, the installation commander should be informed of any listing changes should they occur.

13-4.5 Protection of Natural Resources in Training Areas. Commanders should ensure that natural resources are identified and protected in current or proposed training areas. Action officers, in concert with the Natural Resources Manager, should strive to confine high impact training to degraded areas, low impact training to relatively intact areas, and declare sensitive areas "off limits". Restoration and/or mitigation should be initiated in areas adversely affected by training.

13-4.6 Natural Resources Site Review. Before beginning any major action (See Section 17-2.7) regardless of funding source, installations and activities must conduct an analysis of the proposed site to determine the impact on natural resources.

### **13-5 SPECIAL TOPICS**

## *NATURAL RESOURCES INCLUDING ENDANGERED SPECIES*

13-5.1 Wetlands, Flood plains, and Drainage Ways. Where feasible wetlands, flood plains and drainage ways should not be used for facility development but should be used for open space and recreation.

13-5.2 Non -Point Source Pollution. Installations should implement erosion/ sediment control measures to prevent discharge of silt into nearby waters. Control measures include the use of vegetative covers, construction of diversion drains, grading management, filter strips, and use of sediment basins. Training areas are extremely vulnerable to vehicle erosion and should be managed accordingly.

13-5.3 Introduction of Exotic Plants and Animals. No exotic plants and animals should be introduced to DOD installations. If discovered on the installation, escaped exotic plants and animals, should be immediately protected. Inform the EEA for further coordination and action. Installation staff should assist in regional weed/pest control efforts if requested by the Government of Japan.

13-5.4 Agricultural Activities on Installation. All agricultural activities on installation controlled lands should be reviewed annually. Particular attention should be directed to soil and erosion control measures, pesticide use with impacts on human health and wildlife, and disposal of agricultural chemicals. The installation should maintain a list of farmers with contact numbers and map of specific land area farmed by the individuals.

13-5.5 Education. The natural resource values found on the installation provide an opportunity for the understanding and enjoyment of nature. The NRMP, which describes and interprets those values, should be made available to schools, scout groups, MWR, installation publications, and other interested parties to assist in the full utilization and benefit of the natural resources. Volunteer programs, which enhance natural resources, should be encouraged and organized by the Natural Resources Manager.

13-5.6 Forests. Trees and forestry plantings have both environmental and recreational value. They should not be carelessly destroyed. Woodland management options should be carefully evaluated considering multiple-use potentials, with particular consideration given to a desirable balance of military, natural resource, and public recreation uses. Contact COMUSJAPAN for forestry program information.

13-5.7 Outdoor Recreation. Providing recreational opportunities for DOD families is encouraged. Installations should investigate the potential for hiking, boating/water sports, fishing, cycling, jogging, picnicking, nature walks scenic vistas. All outdoor recreation should be evaluated and documented in the NRMP as to compatibility with the military mission, sustained carrying capacity, and impacts on the resource. Recreation with adverse impacts should be mitigated or abandoned.

**TABLE 13-1  
INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN OUTLINE**

1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS: The Natural Resource Management Plan will be modified as needed, and:
  - a. Must have a consistent format within each service component and be reviewed and approved in accordance with service component directives.
  - b. Should be set up for each camp or distinct geographic area. Remote sites can be consolidated for documentation purposes, but they should each be specifically addressed therein.
  - c. Must ensure that any newly acquired land is immediately incorporated into the Natural Resource Management Plan. Any land released is dropped from the NRMP; inventory records will be maintained for five additional years and copies turned over to the affected agency.
  - d. Must identify the key people and phone numbers of all affected City, Prefectural level and DFAB offices.
  - e. Must be prepared by, or in coordination with, professionally trained natural resource management personnel.
2. NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORIES MUST:
  - a. Provide a detailed description of ground and surface waters (including fresh and salt water), wetlands, flood plains, highly erosive soils, threatened and endangered species populations and habitats, forests and woodland areas (including urban forests), native grasslands or other unique vegetation, and recreational areas (including fishing/hunting areas and watchable wildlife areas) whenever these natural resources occur on an installation.
  - b. As needed, group inventories for unique habitats, such as coastal zones, together.
  - c. Group and/or identify native plant and animal species.
3. NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION/MANAGEMENT PLANS MUST:
  - a. Provide for sustained yield of renewable resources.
  - b. Provide for conservation and management plans for inventory items mentioned above including goals, restoration, improvement, preservation, and wise-use methods; and assign responsibilities for implementation; establish monitoring systems; and provide for enforcement.
  - c. As needed, provide a separate management plan section for unique habitats, such as coastal zones.
  - d. Include enough detail to allow easy implementation and monitoring.
4. Preparation of this plan is inter-dependent with successful multiple land uses on Installations. Refer to Table 13-2, A General System for Multiple Land Use Management Plan to ensure proper coordination and integrated of the Natural Resource Management Plan.

**TABLE 13-2  
MULTIPLE LAND USE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

<b>Master Plan</b>	<b>Comprehensive Land Use Planning and Management Plan</b>	
<p><b>Installation Assets Description</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Acreage</li> <li>2. Regional Setting</li> <li>3. Topographic Features</li> <li>4. Climatic conditions</li> <li>5. Historic/Cultural Resources</li> <li>6. Vegetation Cover Types</li> <li>7. Soils</li> <li>8. Water Resources</li> <li>9. Fish &amp; Wildlife Types</li> <li>10. Endangered Species</li> <li>11. Wetlands</li> <li>12. Marine &amp; Coastal Resources</li> <li>13. Geologic Features</li> <li>14. Other Geophysical Features</li> </ol>	<p><b>Location &amp; Description of Existing Land Uses</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administration &amp; Housing</li> <li>2. Transportation Network</li> <li>3. Training &amp; Range Areas</li> <li>4. Historic/Cultural Sites</li> <li>5. Hunting &amp; Fishing Areas</li> <li>6. Endangered Species Habitat</li> <li>7. Preserves/Refuge Areas</li> <li>8. Wildlife Habitat</li> <li>9. Managed Landscape</li> <li>10. Outdoor Recreation</li> <li>11. Utility Networks &amp; Structures</li> <li>12. Borrow/Waste Disposal Areas</li> <li>13. Other</li> </ol>	<p><b>Integration &amp; Execution</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Training Area Plan</li> <li>2. Development Plans</li> <li>3. Forest Management Plan</li> <li>4. Fish &amp; Wildlife Plan</li> <li>5. Grounds/Landscape Plan</li> <li>6. Outdoor Recreation Plan</li> <li>7. Water Use Plans</li> <li>8. Soil Conservation Plans</li> </ol> <p>Budget through Local Annual Operating Budget or Other DOD Programs such as the Legacy Resource Program</p>

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