



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT
600 ARMY PENTAGON
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DAIM-ED-N (200-3)

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Goals and Implementing Guidance for Natural Resources Planning Level Surveys (PLS) and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to specify Army goals and provide implementing guidance for completing natural resources Planning Level Surveys (PLS) and the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP).

2. The Defense Planning Guidance establishes goals to have PLS completed by FY 1998 and an INRMP approved at each installation by FY 2000. DOD will track Army's progress towards these goals. MACOMs must: (1) ensure that installations use the Environmental Program Requirements Report, to program and budget for PLS and the INRMP as Class I requirements; and (2) have a progressive plan to meet the completion date goals. HQDA will track execution and measure progress toward these goals using the Army Compliance Tracking System and Environmental Compliance Assessment System.

3. Installations must coordinate completion of the PLS and the INRMP with those offices responsible for development of real property master plans and mission operations. MACOMs will review and approve INRMPS.

4. The availability of training land in the future will be largely determined by what is done today to properly integrate land use and natural resources management. First priority is to have PLS and the INRMP completed at all installations classified by the Integrated Training Area Management program as Category I and II. The enclosure provides specific implementing guidance for completing PLS and for the preparation and execution of the INRMP.

DAIM-ED-N (200-3)

SUBJECT: Army Goals and Implementing Guidance for Natural
Resources Planning Level Surveys (PLS) and Integrated
Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)

Enclosure



RANDOLPH W. HOUSE

Major General, GS

Assistant Chief of Staff

for Installation Management

ARMY GOALS AND IMPLEMENTING GUIDANCE FOR NATURAL
RESOURCES PLANNING LEVEL SURVEYS (PLS) AND INTEGRATED
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP) *

1. REFERENCES.

a. DOD Instruction 4715.3, "Environmental Conservation Program," 3 May 96.

b. AR 200-3, 28 Feb 95, Natural Resources -- Land, Forest and Wildlife Management.

c. Memorandum, DASA-ESOH, Conservation Policy, 3 Jul 95.

d. Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Program Strategy, 17 Aug 95, HQDA, DAMO-TRS.

e. ITAM Annual Program Plan for FY 97, 22 Dec 96.

2. PURPOSE. The primary purpose for completing planning level surveys (PLS) and the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) is to ensure that natural resource conservation measures and Army activities on mission land are integrated and are consistent with Federal stewardship requirements (references 1a, 1b, and 1c).

3. OBJECTIVES. The objectives of the planned, deliberate management of natural resources are: (1) support the installation operational mission; (2) meet stewardship requirements; and (3) enhance quality of life for DOD personnel.

4. SCOPE. All CONUS and certain OCONUS (US Army Europe, US Army South, and Eighth US Army) installations (federally owned or federally funded) having 500 or more acres of mission land shall complete PLSs and complete and execute a valid (current and approved) INRMP. MACOMs should request HQDA (DAIM-ED-N) approval to include smaller installations or exempt larger installations. The focus of the INRMP is the management of mission lands. INRMPs for applicable OCONUS installations should reflect Status of Forces Agreements and relevant host nation policies for natural resources management.

5. DEFINITIONS.

a. PLANNING LEVEL SURVEYS. The PLS are installation-wide inventories to characterize essential components of the installation natural resources -- landform, soil, water, and biota. The kinds, locations, and sensitivity of the resources serve as the foundation for environmental planning, including preparation of the INRMP.

b. INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN. The INRMP is the Installation Commander's comprehensive plan for deliberately managing natural resources to attain and sustain stewardship requirements while optimizing primary activities on mission land, and, where compatible, conducting secondary activities.

c. MISSION LAND. Mission land is defined as the area (typically unimproved acres outside the cantonment area) where military operations are, or could be, conducted. Mission land includes training land (maneuvers, firing, ranges, impact areas) and those acres that are, or could be, used for testing, munitions handling and storage, buffers, and security zones.

d. ARMY ACTIVITIES ON MISSION LAND. All ongoing and proposed activities on an installation that have the potential to use or consume natural resources on mission land shall be assessed and specified in the INRMP.

(1) PRIMARY ACTIVITY. The activity which justifies the Army having land; i.e., execution of mission operations (training, testing, storage, production, etc).

(2) SECONDARY ACTIVITY. All other activities (commercial forestry, agriculture and grazing leases, fishing and hunting, outdoor recreation, and mining), that have the potential to compete with the primary activity, either by using needed space or by the additional consumption of natural resources.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. ODEP: The Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM) is the HQDA proponent for PLSs and INRMPs and exercises overall responsibility for PLSs and INRMPs through the Office of the Director of Environmental Programs (ODEP).

b. DAMO-TRS: The Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans (ODCSOPS) is the Army proponent for the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) program which plays a part in INRMP implementation (reference 1d).

c. AEC: The Commander, U.S. Army Environmental Center (AEC), under the direction of the Director of Environmental Programs, is responsible for technical support and oversight.

d. MACOMs: MACOMs have oversight responsibility for their installations to complete PLS and budget for, prepare, and execute INRMPs.

e. INSTALLATIONS: Installations are responsible for all activities necessary to complete PLSs and to prepare, implement, and maintain the INRMP.

7. COORDINATION. Completion of the PLS and the INRMP must be coordinated with those installation offices that can use planning level survey data and INRMPs in the decision-making process. This coordination will ensure that PLS data can be used by automated systems and that INRMPs meet user needs. Specifically, those installation offices that have a functional linkage to the HQDA offices discussed below must be coordinated with.

a. ACSIM, Plans and Operations. The PLS and INRMPs will provide necessary information for the development of installation real property master plans, the governing documents for installation development and real property mission support. The information is necessary to make logical unit stationing, specific project siting decisions, and land use relationships. These surveys and plans will also provide necessary background information for installation real property master plan NEPA documentation.

In addition, the PLS and INRMPs will provide vital information used in doing installation carrying capacity analyses both of land and infrastructure.

b. DCSOPS, Training Directorate. Completion of PLS and preparation of INRMPs will help achieve optimal and sustained use of lands for the execution of training and testing.

(1) There is a relationship between PLS and Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Program, Land Condition Trend Analysis (LCTA) procedures. In general, PLS are "fence-to-fence" and provide basic information necessary to practice stewardship. They are updated periodically. LCTA (including LCTA 11) is spot survey and monitoring to produce data related to the specifics of cause and effect relationships between mission/training/testing activity and natural resources conditions. PLS methods are prescribed and resourced through the Conservation component of Army's Environmental Program. LCTA is prescribed and resourced through the ITAM component of the Army's Training Program.

(2) On installations that have the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) program, the ITAM Workplan will be a primary implementation vehicle of the INRMP. The proponent for the INRMP will coordinate with the ITAM proponent and ensure that the INRMP reflects mission requirements for ranges and land and that secondary activities (commercial forestry, agriculture and grazing leases, fishing and hunting, and outdoor recreation) on mission land do not compete with mission requirements for land either by using needed space or by the additional consumption of natural resources.

8. REQUIREMENTS.

a. STEWARDSHIP. It is Army policy to manage installations on an ecosystem basis. Army's stewardship requirements are to sustain natural resources on an ecosystem scale and to comply with law; plans will be written to reflect this scope.

(1) MAINTAIN SURFACE WATER QUALITY. Ensure that turbidity and sediment levels do not irreparably degrade aquatic biota and habitat on an ecosystem scale or significantly impact shallow ground water aquifers.

(2) MAINTAIN SOIL PRODUCTIVITY. Keep soil erosion within tolerance limits as defined in a soil survey, restore and stabilize degraded soils and maintain long-term productivity on an ecosystem scale.

(3) MAINTAIN NATIVE BIODIVERSITY. Maintain native plant species and plant communities in association with native faunal species on an ecosystem scale.

(4) MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE WITH CONSERVATION LAW. Ensure that Army activities and actions comply with natural resources laws and executive orders. Applicable OCONUS installations should ensure this policy is consistent with final governing standards and the overseas environmental baseline guidance document.

b. PLANNING LEVEL SURVEYS. Installations must conduct PLS as the foundation for natural resources management planning, including preparation of the INRMP. For installations that have not completed their PLS (part or all), the INRMP shall be written or modified to include completion of these surveys. PLS include spatial products that can be hard-copy maps, GIS data layers, or both according to installation needs and capabilities. PLS must include:

(1) TOPOGRAPHY. At a minimum, this is a map that shows elevation, elevation contours, and associated data consistent with U.S. Geological Survey standards and topographic map products.

(2) WETLANDS. At a minimum, this survey shall describe and map the distribution and extent of wetlands consistent with the SOW as defined in the Army/USFWS MOA.

(3) SURFACE WATERS. At a minimum, this is a survey that describes and maps the distribution and extent of surface waters, consistent with U.S. Geological Survey standards.

(4) SOILS. At a minimum, this survey shall classify, categorize, describe, and map soils by map unit, and meet current National Cooperative Soil Survey standards and procedures.

(5) FLORA. At a minimum, this is an installation-wide vascular plant survey that produces a list of plant species with verified nomenclature, classification and annotation compatible with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service's Plant List of Accepted Nomenclature, Taxonomy, and Symbols (PLANTS).

(6) VEGETATION COMMUNITIES. At a minimum, this survey, including field data, shall describe and map the distribution and extent of plant alliances (alliances are characterized by a diagnostic species or group of diagnostic species usually occurring in the dominant and uppermost stratum; similar to cover type). Positional and classification accuracy shall be field checked.

(7) THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES. At a minimum, this survey shall produce a map that shows the kinds and known distribution of Federally endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species occurring on the installation.

(8) FAUNA. At a minimum, this survey, including field data, shall describe and map the distribution and extent of sensitive species (e.g., locally rare and keystone).

c. INRMP must satisfy the following:

(1) Consistent with the installation's PLS, characterize the kinds of natural resources under management or indicate that the purpose of the INRMP is to conduct PLS.

(2) Assess how ecological resources are functioning in the landscape relative to Army stewardship requirements for ecological sustainment and compliance.

(3) Assess how ecological resources should function in the landscape relative to Army stewardship requirements for ecological sustainment and compliance.

(4) Assess what specific actions are necessary to meet Army stewardship requirements for ecological sustainment and compliance and set goals for measuring progress and sustainment.

(5) Optimize access and use of ecological resources for conducting primary activities, consistent with stewardship requirements for ecological sustainment and compliance.

(6) Ensure secondary activities do not conflict with primary activities in space and time or exceed resource capacities for ecological sustainment. The INRMP must address the impact of reimbursable activities (commercial forestry and ag-grazing) on the composition, structure, and function of natural communities and biological diversity.

(7) On installations where ITAM is fielded, integrate the components of the ITAM program as a primary implementation vehicle of the INRMP and ensure the INRMP reflects mission requirements for ranges and land (current and future) as developed through the Ranges and Training Land Program, specifically the Range Development Plan.

(8) Contain a detailed schedule of work (projects, milestones, labor, equipment). necessary to meet stewardship requirements and ensure no net loss of lands for accomplishing primary activities.

(9) Estimate resources (funds, staff, etc) required to execute the plan.

(10) Integrate and append the Endangered Species Management Plan, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, and ITAM workplan (where applicable).

(11) Be integrated with other plans/programs (e.g. master plan, Range and Training Land Program, and cultural resources management program).

(12) Include and integrate pest management activities that are driven by natural resources management issues.

d. NEPA APPLICATION. INRMPs shall comply with NEPA process requirements specified in AR 200-2. The NEPA process is a decision-making tool that ensures coordinated planning and identifies and discloses environmental impacts to both the decision-maker and the public. Implementation of the INRMP shall serve as the proposed action and NEPA documentation should be scoped to address appropriate alternatives and issues.

e. PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVAL. Cooperative efforts, among the USFWS, state fish and game agency, and Army shall be accomplished within the framework of the INRMP, starting at the Preliminary Draft INRMP stage. The Preliminary Draft INRMP and any major revision thereof shall be forwarded to the MACOM for approval. MACOM natural resources staff, real property management staff, and mission operations staff will review the draft plan for its adherence to stewardship requirements (environmental staff), consistency with real property master plans (master planning staff), and focus on and integration with the primary activity (operations staff). After incorporation of MACOM requirements, the Draft INRMP is subjected to public comment through the NEPA process, finalized by the installation (Final INRMP), signed by the installation commander, and, on the fish and wildlife aspects of the INRMP, signed (or concurred with in coordination letter) by the state wildlife agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The signed INRMP is provided to the MACOM and is executable after notification from the MACOM.

f. REVISIONS. The INRMP must be reviewed annually by the installation and a determination made if the plan must be updated to attain Army objectives for mission and stewardship. Each updated INRMP shall not be considered approved or executable until approved by the MACOM. INRMPs must be updated by the installation and approved by the MACOM at least every 5 years. MACOMs must ensure that revised plans are based on current information, including updated PLSs.

g. REPORTING PROGRESS. Installations will report the status of natural resources PLS completed, INRMPs prepared, approved, executed and revised, and other data in accordance with existing reporting requirements and HQDA data calls.

9. IMPLEMENTATION. MACOMs shall ensure that the chronological implementation of PLS and INRMPS at installations follows the prioritization categories established by the ITAM Annual Program Plan for FY 97 (reference 1e). Prioritization categories are listed in the Appendix.

APPENDIX

List of ITAM Category I and II Installations (by MACOM)

Category I	Category II
AMC White Sands MR Yuma PG	AMC Aberdeen PG Dugway PG
USAREUR Grafenwoehr Hohenfels	USAREUR none
EUSA none	EUSA Area I(North)
FORSCOM Bragg Carson Pinon Canyon Drum Hood Irwin Polk Stewart Yakima	FORSCOM Campbell Lewis Riley
MDW none	MDW AP Hill
NGB Orchard (GF) Shelby/McCain	NGB Blanding Grayling/Custer Gruber Ripley Roberts/Obispo
USARPAC Pohakuloa Schofield Barracks Greely Richardson Wainwright	USARPAC none
TRADOC Benning Bliss Knox Sill	TRADOC Huachuca Jackson L.Wood Rucker
USARC none	USARC McCoy