



BMPs

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs) FOR SMALL ARMS RANGES

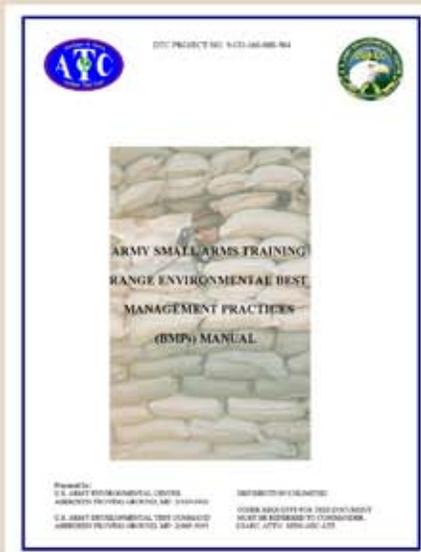


The U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC) leads and executes environmental programs and provides environmental expertise that enables Army training, operations, acquisition and sustainable military communities. USAEC supports the Army's mission of readiness and training by consistently integrating environmental compliance into all aspects of base operations; and promoting the well-being of Soldiers and Family members, civilian employees, and citizens of neighboring communities. Although USAEC's programs vary in subject matter and scope, each program is dedicated to furthering the Army's mission

through environmental sustainability.

Small arms ranges are essential to weapons training and the mission of the U.S. Army. Bullets are often fragmented and pulverized upon impact with backstops, berms, or bullet traps located on the range. Normal range use may produce soil contaminated with metals, primarily lead, from the spent rounds. However, by implementing management practices, potential environmental and occupational health issues associated with range operation and maintenance can be alleviated.

The fact that lead is accumulating in the environment as a result of active small arms range use does not alone constitute a problem. The determination of appropriate response actions at an active range should result from an assessment of the potential fate of the lead being placed on the range. The initial unit for assessment of small arms range areas is the watershed or sub-watershed scale. A firing range and its surrounding areas should be examined as a whole to identify their potential effects on each other and the contribution(s) each make to environmental concerns. Typically there is an entire series or complex of ranges near each other. The watershed scale of a range assessment takes into consideration the combined or cumulative effects of the entire range complex on the watershed(s) in which they lay.



For more information

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The Army Small Arms Training Range Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual is for use by Army installations for identifying, via an internal evaluation of small arms ranges, the potential for metal munitions constituents transport and erosion concerns associated with routine training activities at operational small arms firing ranges. The small arms range area evaluation procedures, range operation and management strategies, and ways to modify ranges discussed in the BMP manual are designed to be low-cost and easily feasible approaches for any installation to use to support the sustainment of small arms range activities.

The Army's BMP Manual is intended to be a reference guide for Army installation and range personnel for use in maintaining the long-term sustainability of their operational small arms ranges and range areas. Proactive, environmentally sound management of range areas may allay State and Federal environmental regulatory agency concerns with the use of small arms munitions. This manual aims to illustrate the ability to proactively improve both the environmental conditions of a range and the range's mission of troop training and readiness.

The Director of Training for the U.S. Army has endorsed the BMP manual. Installation personnel and range managers can use the BMP manual to select appropriate BMPs for an active small arms firing range, based on the combined results of the range assessment and the potential fate of lead on the range. The selected practices should be the minimum required to address the operation, site-specific condition, and range design feature or maintenance procedure that most effects lead transport. These actions may involve the prevention of lead migration, pollution prevention or removal of lead, promoting the long-term sustainability of Army small arms training ranges.

