

Environmental Management Procedure (EMP) 4.4.6.10

Subject: Natural Resource Program Management

1. Purpose and Policy:
 - A. Purpose: This procedure establishes the standards for the management of the installation natural resource program to include wildlife and habitat management, wetlands protection and preservation, and forest management.
 - B. Policy: To conserve, protect and enhance natural resources and manage biological diversity (game and non-game wildlife and habitats) through conservation, protection, and enhancement of natural ecosystems, in a sustainable manner, to meet present and future DOD mission goals and objectives.
2. Document Control: This is a controlled document. Controlled documents are updated as required, reviewed at least annually, and re-dated if changed. Any documents to include blank forms appearing in paper form are not controlled and should be checked against the file version prior to use on the:

JBLE – Eustis Environmental website: <http://www.jble.af.mil/Units/Army/Eustis-Enviromental/>
3. References:
 - A. JBLE-I 32-101, Environmental Management
 - B. EMP Dictionary
 - C. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 1 INRMP
 - D. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 2 Invasive Species Management
 - E. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 3 Wildlife & Habitat Mgmt
 - F. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 4 Deer Mgmt
 - G. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 5 Turkey Mgmt
 - H. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 6 Furbearer Mgmt
 - I. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 7 Wetlands Management
 - J. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 8 Commercial Forestry
 - K. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 9 Urban Forestry
 - L. EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 10 Non-Recreational Wildlife Harvest Programs
4. Scope: This EMP applies to all Activities and personnel, including military, civilians, vendors, suppliers, and contractor personnel who enter JBLE-Eustis. The definition of an Activity can be found in JBLE I 32-101.
5. Roles and Responsibilities:

- A. Commanders, Directors, and Leaders of Activities will:
 - (1). Ensure all assigned activity personnel are aware of organization and individual responsibilities to protect and sustain natural resources.
 - (2). Ensure all training or operational events are vetted through the Environmental Impact Assessment Process (EIAP) that ensures compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify natural resource impacts and required mitigation.
 - (3). Conduct training activities in accordance with this regulation to minimize damage to natural resources.
 - B. The Director of Force Support Division (FSD) will manage the installation recreational hunting and fishing programs in coordination with the CED/EE Natural Resources Program Manager.
 - C. Army Support Activity (ASA) will:
 - (1). Execute the Installation Training Area Management (ITAM) program.
 - (2). Coordinate ITAM activities with the CED/EE.
 - (3). ASA will coordinate with CED/EE for assistance with Timber Stand Improvements (TSI) and other forestry operations in support of the ITAM program on training lands.
 - D. The Civil Engineer Division (CED) Director will exercise staff responsibility for the natural resources management program. CED/EE will coordinate execution of the program with the Conservation Branch Chief serving as the installation Natural Resources Program Manager.
 - E. CED/EE will:
 - (1). Prepare, coordinate, maintain and implement the installation Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) IAW EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 1.
 - (2). Provide technical expertise and guidance to land users for protecting, preserving and sustaining natural resources.
 - (3). Review all installation plans and EIAP documents for natural resource impacts.
 - (4). Provide technical assistance to the Force Support Division (FSD) for recreational hunting and fishing programs to ensure compliance with requirements of the INRMP.
 - (5). Ensure that natural resources and ecosystem requirements are addressed in all land leases and out grants
6. Procedures:
- A. The CED/EE Natural Resources Program Manager will:
 - (1). Perform an annual review of the INRMP and generate an Annual INRMP Review Summary with input from ASA, FSD, 733 Security Squadron and Master Planning (Engineer Flight, CED). Consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries following preparation of the Summary and obtain regulatory agency concurrence and approval/signature from the 633 ABW Commander or designated agent.
 - (2). Update the INRMP every 5 years with review/input from FSD, ASA, 733 Security Squadron and Master Planning (Engineer Flight, CED). Consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service and

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Obtain 633 ABW Commander approval and signature. Obtain US Fish and Wildlife Service and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries signatory concurrence.

- (3). Develop a timber inventory and update every ten years. Execute a commercial forest annual work plan based on the INRMP, natural resource program initiatives, ITAM program requirements, the Fort Eustis master plan, Army/Air Force initiatives or on outside community requirements.
- (4). Submit requests for funding.
- (5). Coordinate with the ASA to ensure all installation training and operations are compatible with sustainment of natural resources on JBLE-E. At a minimum, ASA will ensure:
 - (a). Activity training/operations personnel are aware of training/operational issues affecting natural resources sustainment.
 - (b). Planned training/operations will not have unwanted or illegal impact on natural resources
 - (c). Training maps are annotated or overlaid to reflect natural resource restrictions or issues
 - i. Natural resource program requirements outside the established annual work plan will be addressed by revising the plan or augmenting the natural resource staff to ensure mission accomplishment. Unplanned natural resource program requirements may come from changes to Army training requirements
 - ii. Unanticipated construction and range upgrades
 - iii. Weather related requirements (storms, drought, etc.)
 - iv. Request from regulators or the surrounding community
- (6). Maintain all required documents and records.
- (7). Execute Cantonment Area Land Management
 - (a). Natural resource management in the cantonment areas addresses two areas:
 - i. Loss of green space due to construction of buildings or other facilities within the cantonment area.
 - ii. Management of the cantonment area green space (i.e. urban forest, mowing areas, and decorative plantings).
 - (b). Develop green space goals and coordinate through the EIA process to ensure appropriate and practical green space mitigation is included in all construction and renovation projects.
 - (c). Promote use of native species and prevent establishment of monocultures when possible in landscaped areas. .
 - (d). Develop plans to reduce mowed areas in the cantonment area when such areas can be converted into early successional or forested habitat.
 - (e). Manage the urban forest in the cantonment area by advising Activities to avoid damage or death of trees by:

- i. Maintaining an appropriate drip line for trees.
- ii. Avoiding soil compaction within the drip line.
- iii. Avoiding cutting, trimming and pruning of trees by unqualified persons.
- iv. Avoiding construction or practices that lead to excessive water runoff or ponding of water around most tree species.
- v. Avoiding damage to tree root systems from operation of equipment, vehicles and heavy operating equipment.
- vi. Avoiding topping of trees.
- vii. Having all tree work will be performed under the direction of a Certified Arborist.
- viii. Reporting any tree considered to meet the definition of a hazard tree to CED/EE.

(8). Execute Fish & Wildlife and Habitat Management

- (a). Conduct surveys/inventories of plants/vegetation communities, fish, arthropods & wildlife and associated habitats, identify any declining wildlife populations, adverse forest insect issues, forest health, and identify any degrading habitats.
- (b). Develop plans to mitigate declining wildlife populations and to restore degrading habitats or convert non-native habitat to native habitat.
- (c). Manage wildlife and habitats IAW EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 1.
- (d). Support the hunting and trapping programs by:
 - i. Collecting biological data from harvested deer and turkey to analyze the health of individuals and the population, and identify habitat/resource issues IAW EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 4 and Tab 5.
 - ii. Setting harvest regulations based on population data.
 - iii. Utilizing the Deer Population Reduction Program (DPOP) to remove deer from special areas not normally open to recreational hunting.
 - iv. Conducting annual population estimate determination.
 - v. Maintaining trapping data of furbearer populations IAW EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 6.

(9). Execute Wetlands Management

- (a). Maintain wetlands and keep an inventory of wetlands on the installation IAW EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 7.

(10). Execute Forestry Management

- (a). Develop or update an annual timber inventory in accordance with the commercial forestry portion of the INRMP, construction projects that involve timber area clearing, and other applicable factors (e.g. storm damage).

- (b). Manage commercial and urban forestry IAW EMP 4.4.6.10 Tab 8 and Tab 9.
 - (c). Issue firewood permits when appropriate and only if compliance is met with existing quarantines associated with insect pests or other conditions.
 - (d). Load mulch for customers from its facility when available and only if compliance is met with existing quarantines associated with insect pests or other conditions. Loading mulch is restricted to one day per week set by CED/EE.
- B. CED (Operations and Engineering Flights) will coordinate with CED/EE concerning forestry impacted by construction or other projects.
- C. Installation Activities/Project Proponents will:
- (1). Utilize the EIA process to identify any impacts to natural resources of the planned training, operation, or action and the required mitigation.
 - (2). Use the EIA process to determine if planned actions have an impact on wetlands areas.
 - (3). Coordinate with CED/EE, Natural Resources Manager at least 6-8 months prior to commencement of work to submit Joint Permit Applications with supporting documentation to Virginia Marine Resources Commission for any projects with potential wetlands or surface water/sediment impact.
 - (4). Provide fees for wetland/stream permit applications, compensatory mitigation and public notices (such as notices to be placed in the Daily Press by regulatory authorities) and plan actions well in advance to compensate for time needed by regulatory agencies to process permits. Permit applications for wetlands are reviewed by the US Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Virginia Marine Resources Commission and Newport News Wetlands Board.
 - (5). Maintain at least a one hundred (100)-foot upland vegetated buffer around wetlands and streams with perennial flow for all actions.
 - (6). Avoid filling, excavation of, digging in, driving of vehicles in, releasing hazardous substances into, destruction or removal of vegetation associated with or any other activity that otherwise alters or damages the chemical, physical or biological characteristics of wetlands.
 - (7). Avoid capturing, collecting, killing or otherwise harassing wildlife and reporting wildlife issues to the Environmental Element for action.
 - (8). Avoid cutting or removing trees without prior coordination with CED/EE Natural Resources Manager.