

# DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (2019-2023)

STATE MILITARY RESERVE  
City of Virginia Beach, Virginia



Virginia Department of Military Affairs  
Virginia Army National Guard  
NGVA-FMO-ENV  
10<sup>th</sup> Street, Building 316, Fort Pickett  
Blackstone, Virginia 23824-6316

Draft – July 2019

**Proponent:** Virginia Army National Guard

**Affected Jurisdiction:** State Military Reserve, City of Virginia Beach, Virginia

**Programmed FY:** 2019-2023

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## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ORGANIZATION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the proposal to implement the State Military Reservation (SMR) Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) and provides National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for its implementation.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 C.F.R. 1500-1508), and 32 C.F.R. Part 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, Final Rule), the potential effects of the Preferred Action Alternative are analyzed. This EA will facilitate the decision-making process by the Virginia Army National Guard (VAARNG) and the National Guard Bureau (NGB) regarding the Preferred Action Alternative and its considered alternatives, and is organized as follows:

- **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:** Describes the Preferred Action Alternative and its considered alternatives; summarizes environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic consequences; and compares potential effects associated with the two considered alternatives, including the No Action Alternative.
- **SECTION 1 PURPOSE AND NEED:** Summarizes the purpose of and need for the Preferred Action Alternative, provides relevant background information, and describes the scope of this EA.
- **SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** Describes the Preferred Action Alternative.
- **SECTION 3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** Presents alternatives for implementing the Preferred Action Alternative, including applied screening criteria, alternatives retained for further analysis, and alternatives eliminated, as well as a brief explanation of the rationale for eliminating certain alternatives.
- **SECTION 4 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:** Describes relevant components of the existing environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic setting (within the Region of Influence [ROI]) of the considered alternatives.
- **SECTION 5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:** Identifies individual and cumulative potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of implementing the considered alternatives; and identifies proposed mitigation and management measures, as and where appropriate.
- **SECTION 6 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS:** Compares the environmental effects of the two considered alternatives and summarizes the significance of potential individual and cumulative effects from these alternatives.
- **SECTION 7 REFERENCES:** Provides bibliographical information for cited sources.
- **SECTION 8 LIST OF PREPARERS:** Identifies document preparers and their areas of expertise.
- **SECTION 9 AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED:** Lists agencies and individuals consulted during preparation of this EA.

**SIGNATURE PAGE**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**OF THE INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**FY 2019-2023**  
**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD – STATE MILITARY RESERVE**  
**June 2019**

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Commander, State Military Reserve

Date

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Division of Plans, Training and Security, Fort Pickett

Date

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Environmental Program Manager, VAARNG

Date

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Sikes Act Improvement Act (SAIA) of 1997 requires Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) for all Department of Defense (DoD) lands and waters that have significant natural resources. The INRMP is to be prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF).

This document addresses the proposal to implement the State Military Reserve (SMR) INRMP and provides National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for its implementation. The SMR INRMP covers FY 2019-2023. The proposed implementation of the INRMP is needed to comply with the Sikes Act and Army Regulation 200-1, ensure that all natural resources activities are integrated to prevent redundancy of effort, and manage SMR on an ecosystem basis to sustain the land for long term military training. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis may be required for specific projects, such as non-standard applications of pesticides and projects with potential impacts to threatened and endangered species. Consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is not necessary for the INRMP and will be conducted for future projects (federal “agency actions” under the ESA) on a case by case basis.

### **PURPOSE AND NEED**

The purpose of this Environmental Assessment (EA) is to address and evaluate the natural resources management actions outlined within the INRMP. This plan proposes a number of initiatives to protect and enhance the existing natural resources at SMR. The purpose of the recommended actions proposed in the INRMP and addressed in this EA are to assist the Virginia Army National Guard (VAARNG) in the maintenance and operation of existing facilities and activities, and in developing new facilities as needed, in compliance with federal and state legislation protecting natural resources. The actions are intended to ensure that natural resource conservation measures and ARNG activities on mission lands are integrated and are consistent with federal stewardship requirements and the greater military mission.

### **PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

The Preferred Action Alternative is to implement the SMR INRMP for FY 2019 to 2023. The Preferred Action Alternative will assist the VAARNG in the implementation of a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at the SMR while reaching goals needed to meet mission essential requirements.

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**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

There were two alternatives considered in the analysis. The No Action Alternative is to not implement an INRMP at SMR. The Preferred Action Alternative is the implementation of the SMR INRMP for FY 2019-2023. Implementing the SMR INRMP is the Preferred Action Alternative.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

No significant adverse environmental or socio-economic effects have been identified for implementing the Preferred Action Alternative. Per 32 C.F.R. 651.48(b)(1), INRMP implementation and the No Action Alternative will have no long-term direct or indirect impacts regarding the following areas, and they were eliminated from further discussion: noise, air quality, geology and topography, socioeconomic, environmental justice, hazardous and toxic materials/wastes, and infrastructure.

Effects on land use, soils, water resources, biological resources, and cultural resources are analyzed. The following table summarizes the overall consequences:

**Table 1. Preferred Action Alternatives Comparison**

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
Land Use	Less than significant adverse impacts are anticipated due to inefficient land use and minimal habitat protection.	Long-term significant beneficial impacts are anticipated due to more efficient land use and increase in habitat protection.
Air Quality	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Noise	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	Less than significant long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from dune erosion.	No impacts to geology, topography or soils are anticipated; long-term significant beneficial impacts due to reduced dune erosion.
Water Resources	Less than significant long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from erosion and nutrient runoff.	Long-term significant beneficial impacts from riparian habitat and wetland management.
Biological Resources	Long and short-term significant adverse impacts due to the discontinuation of monitoring and protective measures.	Long-term significant beneficial impacts to biological resources due to increased monitoring that will influence future management; short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts would be expected as a result of pest and invasive species management activities, however implementation of the NGB Integrated Pest

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Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
		Management Plan (IPMP) will ensure no adverse impacts occur.
Cultural Resources	No significant direct/indirect effects.	VAARNG performed tribal consultation because implementation of the INRMP may have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights, or Indian land. Responses indicated that implementing the INRMP would not adversely impact culturally significant tribal resources; no mitigation required.
Socioeconomics	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Environmental Justice	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Infrastructure	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based upon the findings of this EA, implementation of the Preferred Action Alternative will not result in adverse environmental or socio-economic impacts. The goals and purposes of the SMR INRMP are to protect and enhance the environment while maintaining “no net loss” of mission training land. Environmental impacts that were identified are minor and would be addressed using control measures and best management practices. Based on the findings of this EA, the VAARNG should implement the SMR INRMP for FY 2019 to 2023, as written and that a “Finding of No Significant Impact” (FONSI) be issued for the Preferred Action Alternative.

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## ACRONYMS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ARNG	Army National Guard
ARNG-I&E	Army National Guard Installations and Environment
ARPA	Archeological Resources Preservation Act (1979)
BMP	Best Management Practices
CAA	Controlled Access Area
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
C.F.R.	Code of Federal Regulations
CMI	Conservation Management Institute
CPLO	Community Planning Liaison Officers
CZM	Coastal Zone Management
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DA	Department of the Army
DCR	Department of Conservation and Recreation
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCC	Federal Consistency Certification
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GIS	Geographic Information System
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
IICEP	Intergovernmental Coordination of Environmental Planning
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
IPMP	Integrated Pest Management Plan
MEDAC	Military Economic Development Advisory Committee
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990)
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act (1969)

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NGB	National Guard Bureau
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act (1966)
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PLS	Planning Level Survey
ROI	Region of Influence
ROTC	Reserve Officers' Training Corps
SAIA	Sikes Act Improvement Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SMR	State Military Reserve
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
U.S.C.	United States Code
USFWS	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
VAARNG	Virginia Army National Guard
VDGIF	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
VDMA	Virginia Department of Military Affairs
VDOF	Virginia Department of Forestry

1 **1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PREFERRED ACTION**  
2 **ALTERNATIVE**

3 **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

4 This Environmental Assessment (EA) is written in support of the Integrated Natural Resource  
5 Management Plan (INRMP) that is proposed for State Military Reserve (SMR) by the Virginia Army  
6 National Guard (VAARNG) and the environmental effects that would result from the  
7 implementation of this plan. The intent of this plan is to facilitate the integration of natural  
8 resource management into the day-to-day activities of SMR, City of Virginia Beach, Virginia.

9 The Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1979 (SAIA) requires INRMPs for all Department of Defense  
10 (DoD) lands and waters that have significant natural resources. The overall goal of the INRMP is  
11 to ensure sound environmental stewardship of the public lands managed at SMR and the  
12 objective is to ensure that Army activities on mission land are integrated and consistent with  
13 federal land stewardship objectives. The SMR INRMP will serve as the principal management  
14 plan governing all natural resource activities on the installation and is based upon ecosystem  
15 management principles. In accordance with the Sikes Act, the INRMP will ensure there is no net  
16 loss in the capability of the installation lands to support the military mission.

17 The SMR INRMP covers fiscal year (FY) 2019 through 2023 and is a new INRMP. Section 101(b)(2)  
18 of the Sikes Act [16 U.S.C. 670a(b)(2)] states that each INRMP “must be reviewed as to operation  
19 and effect by the parties thereto (Army National Guard [ARNG], U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
20 [USFWS], National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Virginia Department of Game and  
21 Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)) on a regular basis, but not less often than every 5 years.” Additionally,  
22 annual reviews may be used, as appropriate, to determine if a formal review for operation and  
23 effect is warranted. Annual reviews are mandatory per DoD guidance and provide the  
24 foundation for the review for operation and effect of the INRMP. “The INRMP is not intended to  
25 function as a compilation of all natural resource management activities. Rather, the INRMP is  
26 intended to integrate natural resource management activities across the installation to meet the  
27 plan’s specific goals of sustaining and enhancing military training” (NGB Guidance 9 April 2012).  
28 This EA is a broad overview of the activities proposed in the INRMP, and future NEPA may be  
29 needed for projects to be implemented in the INRMP. Consultation under Section 7 of the ESA is  
30 not being conducted for the INRMP and will be conducted for future projects on a case by case  
31 basis.

32 This EA is prepared to comply with the requirements of the ARNG NEPA Handbook (2011),  
33 Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 40 C.F.R. Part  
34 1500-1508, and the Department of the Army’s Final Rule (32 C.F.R. Part 651) “Environmental  
35 Analysis of Army Actions” to consider environmental consequences when authorizing or  
36 approving major federal actions. Per amendments to 10 United States Code (U.S.C.) 10501,  
37 described in DoD Directive 5105.77 (21 May 2008), the National Guard Bureau (NGB) is a joint  
38 activity of the DoD. NGB serves as a channel of communication and funding between the US

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39 Army and state Guard organizations in the 54 US states and territories. The ARNG is a Directorate  
40 within NGB. ARNG Installations and Environment (ARNG-I&E) is the division within ARNG that is  
41 responsible for ARNG environmental matters, including the ARNG's compliance with the NEPA.  
42 As ARNG-I&E is the federal decision-maker concerning this Preferred Action Alternative and  
43 controls the federal funds that would be used for its implementation, this is a federal action.

44 **1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED**

45 The goal of the ARNG's environmental programs and policies is conserving the environment for  
46 mission sustainability (Department of Defense [DoD] Memorandum 4715.03 November 25, 2013).  
47 The proposed INRMP is intended for use by the NGB, and the VAARNG, as the primary tool for  
48 managing natural resources at SMR, in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32,  
49 Part 651 – Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 C.F.R. Part 651, 2002) and the provisions of  
50 the SAIA.

51 The purpose of the INRMP (Preferred Action Alternative) is to carry out a coordinated and  
52 integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at the  
53 SMR while reaching goals needed to meet mission essential requirements.

54 Management practices identified in this INRMP have been developed to enhance and maintain  
55 biological diversity within the Installation's boundary while providing connectivity the SMR  
56 ecosystem. Specifically, management practices strive to do the following:

- 57 1. Manage game and non-game species and their habitats to maintain biodiversity;
- 58 2. Promote the continued existence of federal and/or state rare species and the potential  
59 utilization of site resources by threatened or endangered species;
- 60 3. Maintain and protect Lake Christine as an asset to SMR, the military training mission, and  
61 the surrounding community;
- 62 4. Protect and enhance existing wetlands;
- 63 5. Protect, create and maintain pollinator habitat;
- 64 6. Maintain biological diversity in forested systems;
- 65 7. Reduction of pest populations through use of integrated combination of techniques;
- 66 8. Allow the use of SMR for natural resources-based activities in a manner that does not  
67 interfere with mission activities;
- 68 9. Consistency with the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) programs on SMR;
- 69 10. Undertake adaptation and resilience planning in order to incorporate potential climate  
70 change impacts in future plans and projects; and
- 71 11. Enforce applicable natural resource laws and regulations which are critical to the  
72 successful implementation of ecosystem management.

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73 Implementation of the program elements of the INRMP will support the VAARNG's continuing  
74 requirement to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission at SMR, practice sound resource  
75 stewardship, and comply with environmental policies and regulations.

76 The need for the Preferred Action Alternative is to:

- 77 1. Execute the INRMP to satisfy statutory and regulatory requirements, such as the SAIA (16  
78 U.S.C. § 670a et seq), AR 200-1 – Environmental Protection and Enhancement, and  
79 Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.03 – Environmental Conservation Program;  
80 and,
- 81 2. Ensure that natural resource compliance and conservation is maintained while reaching  
82 training goals needed to meet mission essential requirements.

### 83 **1.3 SCOPE OF THE EA**

84 This EA evaluates direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of implementing the proposed SMR  
85 INRMP. Some projects, such as non-standard applications of pesticides or projects that may  
86 affect an endangered species, would require additional NEPA analysis and consultation with the  
87 USFWS. The EA evaluates the No Action Alternative and the Preferred Action Alternative  
88 (implementation of the INRMP). Effects on land use, soils, water resources, biological resources,  
89 and cultural resources are analyzed. Consistent with 40 C.F.R. 1501.7(a)(3), this EA considers in  
90 detail impacts on those resources that have the potential to be affected by the implementation  
91 of the Preferred Action Alternative. These include land use, soils, water resources, biological  
92 resources and cultural resources. This EA is included as an appendix to the INRMP itself to reduce  
93 redundancy of information and appendices that are common to both documents. This EA is not  
94 a stand-alone document and must be read as part of the entire INRMP. Please refer to the SMR  
95 INRMP for additional information on the physical environment (Section 3); natural resources  
96 program management (Section 5); and implementation (Section 6).

### 97 **1.4 DECISION-MAKING**

98 If SMR determines that the implementation of the goals and actions defined in the 2019-2023  
99 INRMP would have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, an EIS will be  
100 prepared. Should SMR conclude that there would be no significant impacts, a Finding Of No  
101 Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared. The Chief of ARNG-I&E will sign the FONSI and a  
102 notice of availability will be published in local newspapers.

### 103 **1.5 PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT**

104 The SAIA requires INRMPs for all DoD lands and waters that have suitable habitat to support  
105 natural ecosystems. The INRMP is to be prepared with the USFWS, NOAA-NMFS and the VDGIF.  
106 Full implementation of this INRMP requires collaboration and coordination with many internal  
107 and external parties. Involvement of federal, state, and local agencies; federally recognized

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108 Native American Tribes; and concerned organizations and individuals are required per CEQ, 32  
109 C.F.R. 651 “*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*” and are a significant component of the  
110 INRMP development and EA process. To promote open communication and improve the  
111 decision-making process, VAARNG provides opportunities to participate in the INRMP review  
112 through the NEPA process. Correspondence is located in Appendix C of the SMR INRMP. The list  
113 of stakeholders can be found in Section 8.0 of this EA and additional information on stakeholders  
114 can be found in Section 1.4 of the INRMP.

115 **1.5.1 PUBLIC REVIEW**

116 The VAARNG will publish and distribute the draft FONSI, INRMP and EA for a 30-day public  
117 comment period, as announced in a Notice of Availability (NOA), in The Virginian-Pilot, a local  
118 Virginia Beach newspaper of general circulation. The locations the EA and draft FONSI will be  
119 available for public review will be listed in that NOA. The public may obtain information of the  
120 status of the draft FONSI and EA, as well as submit comments during the 30-day public review  
121 period, through the VAARNG Environmental Office, Fort Pickett Building 316 Blackstone, Virginia  
122 23824, (434) 298-6226.

123 **1.5.3 AGENCY COORDINATION**

124 The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451, et seq., as amended)  
125 provides assistance to states, in cooperation with federal and local agencies, for developing  
126 land and water use programs in the coastal zone. While state programs do not have jurisdiction  
127 on federal lands, the CZMA requires federal consistency for activities which have reasonably  
128 foreseeable effects on any coastal use (land or water) or natural resource of the coastal zone  
129 be consistent with the enforceable policies of a state’s federally approved coastal  
130 management program.

131 A request for CZMA Federal Consistency Certification (FCC) was submitted to the Virginia  
132 Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on April 12, 2017. The following Virginia state and  
133 local agencies participated in the review for the CZM FCC:

- 134 • DEQ
- 135 • Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
- 136 • Department of Health (VDH)
- 137 • Department of Historic Resources (DHR)
- 138 • Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC)

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139 The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), VDGIF, Virginia Department of  
140 Forestry (DOF) and the City of Virginia Beach were also invited to comment on the project.

141 In a letter dated June 28, 2017 DEQ concurred with the VAARNG that the INRMP proposal is  
142 consistent with the Virginia CZM Program provided all applicable permits and approvals are  
143 obtained. A copy of the DEQ correspondence is included in Appendix A.

144 **1.5.4 NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION**

145 The VAARNG has considered the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.02 *DoD*  
146 *Interactions with Federally-Recognized Tribes* (dated 24 September 2018); EO 13175; AR 200-1,  
147 *Environmental Protection and Enhancement* (Army Regulation 2007); NEPA; the NHPA; the  
148 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; and DHR guidance. Tribal  
149 consultation was initiated via a letter dated May 2, 2017 submitted by the VAARNG to seven  
150 federally recognized tribes recorded as having cultural affiliation and interest with the land area  
151 now comprising SMR. Additional emails and telephone calls made on May 31, 2017 and June 14,  
152 2017 to all tribes from which a response to the initial letter was not received. A copy of the  
153 memorandum documenting the coordination is included in Appendix C of the INRMP.

154 **1.6 NEPA, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AND PROCESSES**

155 SMR approved a Real Property Master Plan (RPMP) known as the Vision Plan (2012) and the  
156 associated EA in 2012. The plan was created in support of the statewide planning efforts of the  
157 Virginia Department of Military Affairs (VDMA). The Vision Plan provides a framework for future  
158 land use and facilities decisions and will be implemented in tandem with the INRMP.

159 **1.7 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

160 This EA was prepared for SMR in accordance with the ARNG NEPA Handbook (2011) and in  
161 compliance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and U.S. Army regulations, including  
162 the following:

- 163 • The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA Pub. L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347).
- 164 • The SAIA, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, codified at 16  
165 U.S.C. 670a et seq.
- 166 • The Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended by the National Defense Authorization  
167 Act of 2004, codified at 16 U.S.C. 1533(b)(2) and 1533 (a)(3)(b).
- 168 • AR 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement*, 13 December 2007.
- 169 • Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.03, Natural Resources Conservation  
170 Program, 18 March 2011.
- 171 • Department of Defense Memorandum, *Updated Guidance for Implementation of the*  
172 *Sikes Act Improvement Act*, 10 October 2002.

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- 173 • Department of Defense Memorandum, *Updated Guidance for Implementation of the*  
174 *Sikes Act Improvement Act – Supplemental Guidance Concerning INRMP Reviews*, 1  
175 November 2004.
- 176 • Department of the Army (DoA) Memorandum, *Guidance for Implementation of the Sikes*  
177 *Act Improvement Act*, 25 May 2006.
- 178 • Army National Guard Memorandum, *Guidance for the Creation, Implementation,*  
179 *Review, and Revision and Update of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans*,<sup>9</sup>  
180 April 2012.

181 The Code of Virginia §10.1-1188 requires that state agencies such as the VDMA prepare and  
182 submit an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to the Virginia DEQ for each major state project.  
183 DEQ, in turn, is responsible for carrying out Virginia's EIR procedures for distribution and comment  
184 by state agencies. DEQ's procedures allow the EA submittal developed in accordance with  
185 NEPA in fulfillment of the EIR requirement (DEQ 2004). A similar NEPA requirement, per Executive  
186 Order (EO) 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal programs, also requires submittal of the  
187 draft EA to the DEQ. The provisions of Executive Order 12372 of 14 July 1982 appear at 47 FR  
188 30959, 3 C.F.R., 1982 Comp., p. 197, unless otherwise noted. The same office of DEQ is  
189 designated to receive both EIRs and EA documents. The draft EA document has been submitted  
190 once to DEQ to comply with both the Code of Virginia §10.1-1188 and EO 12372. All applicable  
191 CZMA laws can be found in Table 2.

192 **Table 2. Coastal Zone Management Act Programs**

Resource	Agency	Applicable Law
Fisheries	1. VDGIF 2. VMRC	§29.1-100 thru 29.1-570 of the Code of Virginia §28.2-200 thru 28.2-713 of the Code of Virginia
Subaqueous lands	VMRC	§28.2-1200 <i>et seq.</i> Code of Virginia
Tidal Wetlands	1. VMRC 2. City of Virginia Beach Wetlands Board	§28.2-1300 <i>et seq.</i> Code of Virginia Sections 1400 thru 1418 of the Zoning Ordinance City of Virginia Beach
Coastal Primary Sand Dunes and Beaches	1. VMRC 2. City of Virginia Beach Wetlands Board	§28.2-1400 <i>et seq.</i> Code of Virginia Sections 1600 thru 1419 of the Zoning Ordinance City of Virginia Beach
Non-tidal Wetlands	DEQ	§62.1-44.15:20 <i>et seq.</i> Code of Virginia

193 The CZMA (16 U.S.C. § 1451, *et seq.*, as amended) requires federal consistency for activities  
194 which have reasonably foreseeable effects on any coastal use (land or water) or natural  
195 resource of the coastal zone be consistent with the enforceable policies of a state's federally  
196 approved coastal management program.

197 **2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE AND**  
198 **ALTERNATIVES**

199 **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

200 The Preferred Action Alternative is the implementation of the SMR INRMP for FY 2019-2023. The  
201 SMR INRMP is a document designed to integrate all aspects of natural resource management to  
202 accomplish military training and national environmental objectives. The basis of the SMR INRMP is  
203 ecosystem management and complying with the requirements of the Sikes Act. The DoD Natural  
204 Resources Conservation Program policy contained in DoDI 4715.03 (DoDI 4715.03) states that all  
205 installations must incorporate ecosystem management into their natural resources management  
206 strategy; the SMR INRMP is the vehicle to implement this policy. In compliance with the  
207 Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.); this EA is attached as an appendix to  
208 the INRMP and references appropriate sections of the INRMP where additional detailed  
209 information may be found. A full description of the INRMP background information and  
210 implementation can be found in Sections 1.0, 2.0 and 6.0 of the INRMP.

211 **2.2 ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT**

212 NEPA requires consideration of reasonable alternatives to the Preferred Action Alternative. Only  
213 alternatives that would reasonably meet the defined need for the Preferred Action Alternative  
214 were considered for detailed analysis in this EA. Because development of an INRMP is mandated  
215 under the Sikes Act, no other project alternatives have been developed or evaluated.  
216 Preparation and full implementation of the INRMP is a DoD requirement. Partial implementation  
217 of the INRMP is not feasible or legally sufficient. The No Action Alternative and the Preferred  
218 Action Alternative are the only alternatives carried throughout this EA.

219 **2.3 EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES**

220 **PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

221 The Preferred Action Alternative is to approve and implement the proposed INRMP at SMR,  
222 which collectively includes numerous tasks for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 through FY 2023. These tasks  
223 include information on 13 Management Goals and their Objectives and are detailed in the SMR  
224 Natural Resources Task List which is located in Appendix B of the INRMP and in INRMP Section 5.

225 This is a new INRMP and is consistent with the military use of the SMR and the requirements of the  
226 Sikes Act. The INRMP provides a strategy of planned projects and programs to integrate the  
227 entirety of the SMR's natural resource program with ongoing mission activities, allows for  
228 identification of potential conflicts between the SMR's mission and natural resources, and  
229 identifies compliance actions necessary to maintain the availability of mission-essential  
230 properties and acreage. In accordance with the SAIA (16 U.S.C. §670a et seq), INRMPs are  
231 updated annually and revised every five years. Tasks comprising the Preferred Action Alternative

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232 fall under 13 program areas on SMR. The goals and objectives of each program are summarized  
233 in Table 3 below:

234 **Table 3. INRMP Program Area Goals and Objectives**

	<b>GOALS</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>INRMP SECTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>5.2</b>
	Manage game and non-game species and their habitats to maintain biodiversity.	Maintain an inventory of all species that exist on the installation, wildlife habitat management, biodiversity, and recreational fishing.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>RARE, THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES AND HABITAT MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>5.3</b>
	Promote the potential utilization of site resources by threatened or endangered species.	To maintain habitat for potential utilization by rare species.	
		To monitor species on a regular basis to ensure that any rare species are identified and protected.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>5.4</b>
	Maintain and protect Lake Christine as an asset to State Military Reserve (SMR) and the surrounding community.	Protect surface waters from pollution as required under the Clean Water Act (CWA).	
		Ensure that the water quality in surface waters is maintained.	
		Enhance the potential of Lake Christine as a recreational resource for the VAARNG.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>WETLAND CONSERVATION</b>		<b>5.5</b>
	Protect and enhance existing wetlands.	Ensure compliance with federal and state wetland regulations.	
		Enhance wetlands through restoration activities.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>POLLINATOR HABITAT</b>		<b>5.6</b>
	Protect, create and maintain pollinator habitat.	Manage lands to increase pollinator habitat where possible.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>FOREST MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>5.7</b>
	Maintain biological diversity in forested systems.	Maintain forest areas through monitoring, surveys and the exclusion of specific uses.	
<b>7.</b>	<b>INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>5.8</b>
	Reduce pest populations through use of integrated combination of techniques.	Identify, prioritize, monitor, and control invasive and noxious species and feral animals on its installations whenever feasible.	

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	GOALS	OBJECTIVES	INRMP SECTION
<b>8.</b>	<b>OUTDOOR RECREATION</b>		<b>5.9</b>
	Allow the use of State Military Reserve for natural resources-based activities in a manner that does not interfere with mission activities.	Encourage outdoor recreation for military personnel and associated persons.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>5.10</b>
	Consistency with the CZM Program.	Compliance with provisions and permit requirements under enforceable laws, regulations, and advisory policies.	
		Identify and implement sound natural resources strategies that provide benefits to the ecosystem	
<b>10.</b>	<b>PUBLIC OUTREACH</b>		<b>5.11</b>
	Increase the public's awareness of environmental programs on SMR.	Educate the public through informational publications, presentations and encouraging public participation in special events.	
<b>11.</b>	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>		<b>5.12</b>
	Undertake adaptation and resilience planning in order to incorporate potential climate change impacts in future plans and projects.	Develop potential alternatives that may be used to address the physical impacts of climate change to both existing infrastructure and the natural environment.	
<b>12.</b>	<b>ENFORCEMENT</b>		<b>5.13</b>
	Enforce applicable natural resource laws and regulations which are critical to the successful implementation of ecosystem management.	Maintain compliance with all required environmental regulations.	

235 A complete Project Implementation schedule is included in SMR Natural Resources Task List is  
236 located in Appendix B of the INRMP.

237 **NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

238 Under NEPA, the No Action Alternative must be evaluated as a baseline by which to compare  
239 the Preferred Action Alternative. In this instance, the No Action Alternative is defined as a  
240 continuation of existing conditions with respect to natural resources management strategies at  
241 SMR. Under the No Action Alternative, VAARNG would conduct assessment of natural resources  
242 impacts from operations and maintenance of these facilities in a piecemeal fashion on a  
243 project-by-project basis. No overall natural resources strategy would be implemented.

244 **2.5 ALTERNATIVE COMPARISON MATRIX**

245 This section provides a summary matrix (Table 4) of the potential impacts of the No Action  
246 Alternative and the Preferred Action Alternative.

247 **Table 4. Alternative Comparison Matrix**

<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Preferred Action Alternative</b>
Land Use	Less than significant adverse impacts are anticipated due to inefficient land use and minimal habitat protection.	Long-term significant beneficial impacts are anticipated due to more efficient land use and increase in habitat protection.
Air Quality	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Noise	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	Less than significant long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from dune erosion.	No impacts to geology, topography or soils are anticipated; long-term significant beneficial impacts due to reduced dune erosion.
Water Resources	Less than significant long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from erosion and nutrient runoff.	Long-term significant beneficial impacts from riparian habitat and wetland management.
Biological Resources	Long and short-term significant adverse impacts due to the discontinuation of monitoring and protective measures.	Long-term significant beneficial impacts to biological resources due to increased monitoring that will influence future management; short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts would be expected as a result of pest and invasive species management activities, however implementation of the NGB Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) will ensure no adverse impacts occur.
Cultural Resources	No significant direct/indirect effects.	VAARNG performed tribal consultation because implementation of the INRMP may have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights, or Indian land. Responses indicated that implementing the INRMP would not adversely impact culturally significant tribal resources; no mitigation required.
Socioeconomics	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.

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<b>Resource Area</b>	<b>No Action Alternative</b>	<b>Preferred Action Alternative</b>
Environmental Justice	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Infrastructure	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.

249 **3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

250 This section summarizes the affected environment at SMR. It provides information to serve as a  
251 baseline from which to identify and evaluate effects resulting from implementation of the  
252 Preferred Action Alternative. Land use, soils, water resources, biological resources and cultural  
253 resources are discussed in Section 4.0 of the INRMP. This EA identifies the appropriate section of  
254 the INRMP where more detailed information can be found on the resources discussed in detail in  
255 this EA.

256 Under Section 307 of the CZMA, federal actions in coastal zones must be reviewed for  
257 consistency with state environmental regulations. SMR is located entirely within the coastal zone  
258 of Virginia, as established in the Commonwealth's CZMA. The enforceable regulatory programs  
259 comprising CZM Program include regulations for the management of coastal lands, fisheries,  
260 subaqueous lands, wetlands, coastal primary sand dunes, point and non-point source pollution,  
261 shoreline sanitation, and air pollution.

262 **3.1 LOCATION DESCRIPTION**

263 SMR, a state-owned facility, is located on General Booth Boulevard in the City of Virginia Beach,  
264 Virginia. The approximately 330-acre installation is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east,  
265 General Booth Boulevard to the west, Bird Neck Road to the south, and the Croatan residential  
266 neighborhoods to the north. The SMR property includes approximately 1,203 linear feet of beach  
267 front which extends to the mean low waterline. SMR is located on the U.S. Geological Survey  
268 (USGS) 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map for Virginia Beach, Virginia (1986 revision), directly south of  
269 Lake Rudee and Lake Wesley (Figure 1 and Figure 2). For more information concerning the  
270 geographic setting and location of SMR, see Section 2.0 of the SMR INRMP. Virginia Beach has a  
271 moderate climate throughout the year with an extended spring and fall. Daily temperatures  
272 range from an average of 40 degrees Fahrenheit (5 degrees Celsius) in January to  
273 approximately 80 degrees Fahrenheit (26 degrees Celsius) in July and August.

274 **3.2 LAND USE**

275 The landscape of SMR consists of 332 acres which contains of 150 acres of lawn and developed  
276 areas; 80 acres of forested areas; 20.9 acres of emergent wetlands and open water; and 8.8  
277 acres of beaches and dune along the shoreline. In all, there are 41 acres of wetlands and  
278 waters on SMR, including Lake Christine.

279 SMR provides a training and support area for the VAARNG, VAANG, out-of-state National Guard  
280 units, DoD units, and non-DoD customers (i.e. public safety, Reserve Officers' Training Corps  
281 (ROTC)) and other community partners. Firing range training at SMR is only performed between  
282 Labor Day and Memorial Day due to its proximity to Virginia Beach, a popular summer tourist  
283 location. All other training occurs 365 days a year. The facility is available to other military units  
284 as well as community service and professional groups when not in active use by the National

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285 Guard is available for community special events. The post supports the federal and state military  
286 mission by providing opportunities for meeting training requirements of assigned missions. SMR  
287 also serves as an intermediate staging base. Live fire crew-served weapons, such as tanks,  
288 artillery and mortars, and maneuver training are not performed at SMR. For more information  
289 concerning the land use at SMR and the surrounding areas, see Section 2 of the SMR INRMP.

290 **3.3 ELIMINATED RESOURCE AREAS**

291 Per 40 C.F.R. 1501.7(a)(3), CEQ recommends identifying and eliminating detailed study of the  
292 issues which are not significant, or which have been covered by prior environmental review,  
293 narrowing the discussion of these issues to a brief presentation of why they will not have a  
294 significant effect on the human environment or providing reference to their coverage  
295 elsewhere. Thus, INRMP implementation and the No Action Alternative will have no long-term  
296 direct or indirect impacts with regard to the following areas and they have been eliminated  
297 from further discussion:

298 **3.3.1 Noise**

299 Military training activities at the SMR generate noise. The natural resources management  
300 objectives and actions defined in the INRMP have no potential to affect existing noise levels.  
301 Noise levels from natural resource management activities would occur during normal working  
302 hours and be unnoticeable to the surrounding landowners. The Preferred Action Alternative  
303 would have no significant effect on the noise environment therefore noise issues are not  
304 considered further in this EA.

305 **3.3.2 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice**

306 The Preferred Action Alternative has no potential to affect socioeconomic conditions.  
307 Implementation of the goals and objectives of the INRMP will not involve gain or loss of  
308 personnel and, therefore, there is no potential to affect local or regional demography, housing,  
309 or public services. The implementation of the INRMP would take place on SMR and would not  
310 affect minority or low-income populations. The Preferred Action Alternative would therefore  
311 have no significant effect on these issues, and they are not considered further in this EA.

312 **3.3.3 Infrastructure**

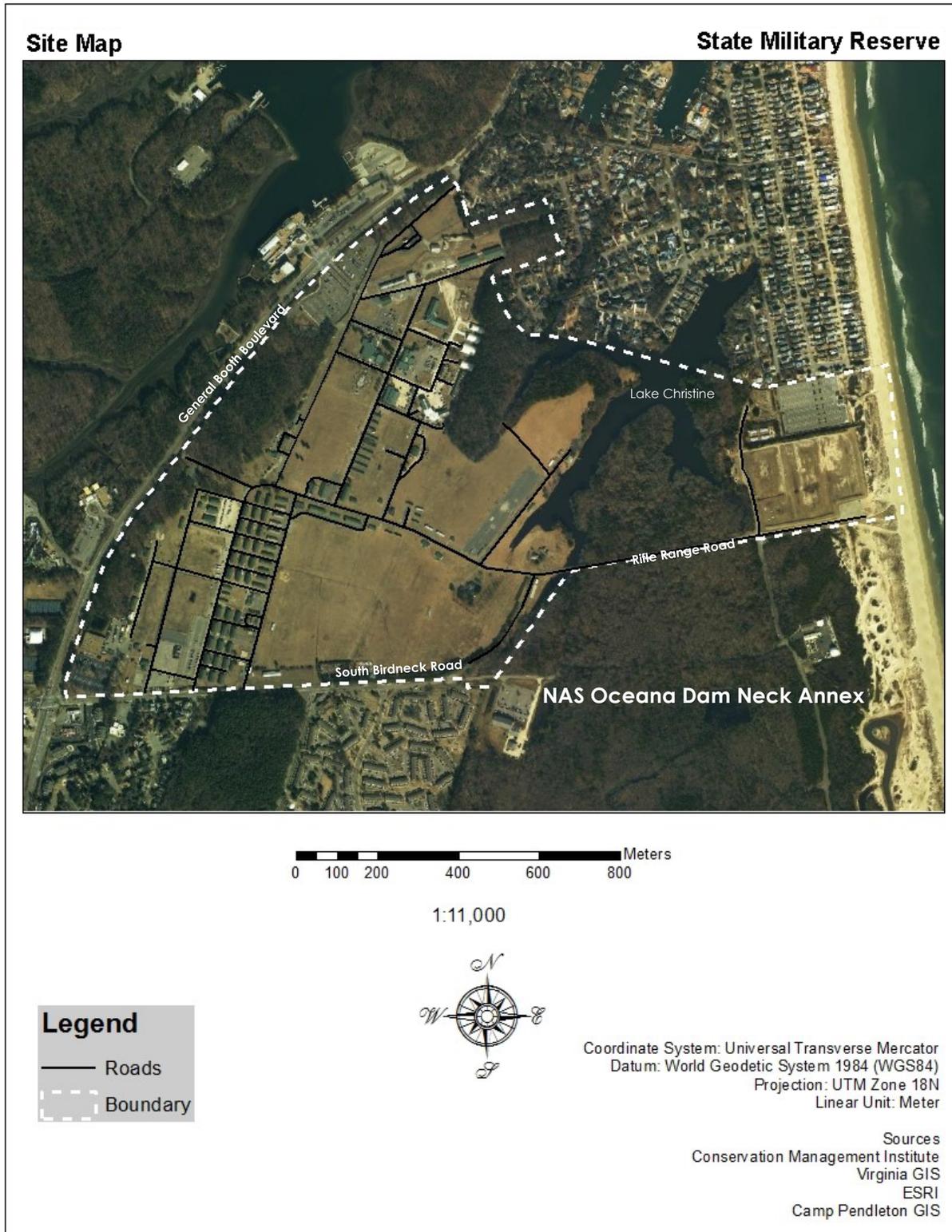
313 The Preferred Action Alternative would not affect the existing utilities serving SMR or increase  
314 demands on these utilities. No new infrastructure is proposed within the INRMP. The Preferred  
315 Action Alternative would have no significant effect on infrastructure, therefore, these issues are  
316 not considered further in this EA.

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317  
318 **Figure 1. Location of State Military Reserve.**

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320  
321

Figure 2. State Military Reserve Site Map.

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322 **3.3.4 Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste**

323 The Preferred Action Alternative would not affect the storage, use, or disposal of hazardous  
324 materials and hazardous wastes at SMR. Therefore, these are not considered further in this EA.

325 **3.3.5 Visual**

326 The Preferred Action Alternative will not have any significant effects on visual resources. No  
327 construction of infrastructure or buildings is proposed, and there are no forest management  
328 activities, such as timber harvest that might change the landscape. Therefore, visual resources  
329 are not considered further in this EA.

330 Table 5 lists the resources which are not considered in detail in the EA because the Preferred  
331 Action Alternative has no potential to measurably affect them:

332 **Table 5. SMR Resources with No Impacts.**

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
Air Quality	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Noise	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Socioeconomics	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Environmental Justice	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Infrastructure	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Visual	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.

333 **3.4 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY, AND SOILS**

334 **3.4.1 Geology**

335 SMR is located in the Atlantic Coastal Plain Physiographic Province. The Coastal Plain is  
336 underlain by layers of Cretaceous (65 to 146 million years ago) and younger clay, sand, and  
337 gravel that dip gently eastward (Frye 1986). Cretaceous sediments were deposited by rivers  
338 carrying sediment from the eroding Appalachian Mountains to the west. A layer of tertiary age  
339 (65 to 1.6 million years ago) marine sands approximately 1,000 feet thick overlays the older  
340 strata. The youngest deposits on the Coastal Plain are sand, silt, and mud presently being  
341 deposited in bays and along beaches.

342 **3.4.2 Topography**

343 The topography on SMR is characterized by relatively level ground that fluctuates around the 10-  
344 foot contour. The most prominent topographic features are the sand ridges and dunes that

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345 parallel the Atlantic Ocean for the entire 1,200 linear feet of beachfront on the facility. The  
346 dominant sand ridge is approximately 20 feet above mean sea level (msl) and extends to the  
347 south beyond the facility along the Virginia and North Carolina coast. The main post is  
348 characterized by relatively flat terrain that slopes gently from the southwest corner to the  
349 northeast corner. Elevations in this area range from approximately 15 feet msl to mean tide (0  
350 feet msl) in the tidal wetlands near General Booth Boulevard.

351 **3.4.3 Soils**

352 SMR is included in the Soil Survey of Virginia Beach, Virginia (USDA 1985). Most of the acreage  
353 has a slight erosion hazard and is poorly drained (Table 6). For more information concerning the  
354 soils at SMR, see Section 3.3 of the SMR INRMP.

355 **Table 6. Soil Characteristics**

Soil name	Erosion Hazard (Off-Road, Off-Trail)	Acres (approx.)	Drainage Class	Prime Farmland Designation
Acredale silt loam	Slight	62.32	Poorly drained	Prime farmland if drained
Augusta loam	Slight	41.56	Somewhat poorly drained	Prime farmland if drained
Beaches	Not rated	5.34	Excessively drained	Not prime farmland
Bojac fine sandy loam	Slight	14.14	Well drained	All areas are prime farmland
Chapanoke silt loam	Slight	34.89	Somewhat poorly drained	Prime farmland if drained
Duckston fine sand	Slight	25.66	Poorly drained	Not prime farmland
Nawney silt loam	Slight	1.4	Very poorly drained	Not prime farmland
Newhan fine sand	Moderate	8.47	Excessively drained	Not prime farmland
Rumford fine sandy loam	Moderate	4.76	Well drained	Not prime farmland
Tetotum loam	Slight	46.76	Moderately well drained	All areas are prime farmland
Udorthents, loamy and Udorthents-Urban land complex	Not rated	22.49	--	Not prime farmland
Urban land	Not rated	9.34	--	Not prime farmland
Yeopim silt loam	Slight	6.75	Moderately well drained	All areas are prime farmland

356 **3.5 WATER RESOURCES**

357 SMR is bordered on its eastern boundary by the Atlantic Ocean. Approximately 1,200 feet of the  
358 eastern boundary consists of beachfront. Lake Christine, a 30+ acre shallow, freshwater lake,  
359 comprises the largest water body occurring within the boundaries of the installation, with  
360 approximately 26 acres of the lake lying within the facility boundaries. A 0.2-acre stormwater  
361 retention pond is located near the southwest corner of the facility. Storm drainage on SMR  
362 consists of a combination of natural surface drainage courses and man-made systems. A total of  
363 eight inlets drain directly into Lake Christine. The water quality in Lake Christine is moderately  
364 poor due to its continued use as a stormwater management BMP. A detailed wetland  
365 delineation was conducted Stantec in 2017 and identified estuarine and palustrine ecological  
366 systems, as well as several small stream segments, on the SMR property.

367 SMR is underlain by several aquifers of variable depth separated by semi-confining units. The  
368 uppermost water table unit is the Columbia aquifer, which occurs at varying depths ranging  
369 from 20 feet to 120 feet below the ground surface (BGS). Other aquifers underlying SMR include  
370 the Yorktown-Eastover aquifer (approximately 140 to 400 feet BGS), the Chickahominy-Piney  
371 Point aquifer (approximately 800 to 950 feet BGS), the Upper Potomac aquifer (approximately  
372 1,100 to 1,200 feet BGS), the Middle Potomac aquifer (approximately 1,400 feet BGS), and the  
373 lower Potomac aquifer (approximately 1,900 feet BGS). The City of Virginia Beach supplies  
374 potable water to SMR (VDMA 2002).

375 SMR is located entirely within the coastal zone of Virginia, as established in the Commonwealth's  
376 CZMA. Virginia's CZM Program is a network of state agencies and local governments.  
377 Consistency with the CZM Program is based on compliance with provisions and permit  
378 requirements under enforceable laws, regulations, and advisory policies. The enforceable  
379 regulatory programs comprising CZM Program include regulations for the management of  
380 coastal lands, fisheries, subaqueous lands, wetlands, coastal primary sand dunes, point and non-  
381 point source pollution, shoreline sanitation, and air pollution. A determination of consistency for  
382 the EA and INRMP with the CZM program was issued by DEQ on June 28, 2017 (see Section  
383 1.4.3). One hundred (100) year floodplains are located along the western boundary of SMR and  
384 are associated with tributaries of Owl Creek. Floodplains associated with the Atlantic Ocean  
385 have been defined by FEMA as 100-year floodplains with velocity hazards (wave action) where  
386 base flood elevations have been determined. See Figure 7 in the INRMP.

387 The values attributed to these water resources generally involve recreation and aesthetics,  
388 surface water conveyance, and shallow groundwater recharge. For more information  
389 concerning water resources at SMR, see Sections 3.4, 3.5 and 3.6 of the SMR INRMP.

390 **3.6 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

391 Management of biological resources at SMR centers primarily on recording and investigating the  
392 various species that exist on the installation and concentrating training activities in developed

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393 areas of the installation. Information gathered during surveys will be used later to create  
394 programs for wildlife management and habitat protection based on the findings.

395 No federal threatened, or federal endangered plant or animal species are known to occur on  
396 SMR. Potential habitat exists for the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*, NLEB), which  
397 was listed by the USFWS on April 2, 2015, as threatened throughout its range under the ESA. There  
398 also exists the potential for the threatened Atlantic green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas mydas*),  
399 endangered loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys*  
400 *kempii*) to utilize the beach and primary dune effacement for nesting areas. Table 7 lists the  
401 species identified as having the potential to be located on SMR.

402 **Table 7. Threatened and Endangered Species**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
<b>Responsible Agency: USFWS (Federal) or VDGIF (State)</b>			
Northern long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened	Threatened
Little brown bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	N/A	Endangered
Tri-colored bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	N/A	Endangered
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Threatened	Threatened
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Threatened	Threatened
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii dougallii</i>	Endangered	Endangered
<b>Responsible Agency: NOAA-NMFS</b>			
Hawksbill Sea Turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Loggerhead Sea Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	Threatened
Green Sea Turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Endangered	Threatened
Leatherback Sea Turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Atlantic Sturgeon	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Endangered	Endangered
Shortnose Sturgeon	<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>	Endangered	Endangered

403 With regards to state endangered and threatened species, the federally sensitive, state  
404 endangered Rafinesque's eastern big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesquii*) was identified during  
405 a Conservation Management Institute (CMI) mammal survey of SMR in 2015, but the 2016 bat  
406 survey did not identify Rafinesque's eastern big-eared bat again. The state endangered little  
407 brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) was acoustically detected on SMR in 2016. The eastern box turtle (

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408 *Terrapene carolina Carolina*) was identified by CMI (2013) and is considered to have a high  
409 conservation need in Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan.

410 In addition, three state rare plant species (bighead rush [*Juncus megacephalus*], sea oats  
411 [*Uniola paniculata*], and live oak [*Quercus virginiana*]) have been previously confirmed within  
412 the installation boundaries. For more information concerning rare, threatened, or endangered  
413 species management at SMR, see Section 4.3 of the SMR INRMP.

414 The potential exists for migratory birds to use the base for nesting and wintering or for food while  
415 migrating through the area. Section 4.3.6.2 and Appendix E of the INRMP identifies species of  
416 migratory bird that could potentially use the habitats on SMR, including the federal threatened  
417 piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) and the federally  
418 endangered roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*). The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the  
419 peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) may also visit the base. For more information concerning  
420 migratory bird management at SMR, see Sections 4.3.3 and 4.3.6 of the SMR INRMP.

### 421 **3.7 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

422 The Cultural Resources Program focuses on areas of cultural and/or historic significance on SMR.  
423 These programs will not be discussed in detail in the INRMP as there are two separate  
424 documents, described below, which have been prepared to outline how these resources should  
425 be treated and maintained.

426 SMR will continue to follow the "*Maintenance and Treatment Program for Historic Properties at*  
427 *Camp Pendleton, Virginia Beach, and Fort Pickett, Blackstone*" (VDMA 2004), regarding cultural  
428 and historic areas on the installation. The current update includes additional information from  
429 two studies: (1) the completion of architectural and historic landscape survey and updating of  
430 the National Register of Historic Places SMR Historic District nomination was completed in 2014,  
431 and (2) a historic landscape study and plan which is in progress. The goal of the maintenance  
432 and treatment program is to assist VAARNG in developing an overall management program to  
433 preserve and protect its historic properties at SMR.

434 With guidance from the NGB, the VAARNG consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer  
435 (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), federal tribes, and other consulting  
436 parties to prepare and implement a Programmatic Agreement (PA) dealing with military training  
437 activities on VAARNG properties. The PA seeks to streamline the Section 106 review process and  
438 is intended to govern routine actions at facilities including SMR that will result in findings of "No  
439 Historic Properties Affected" or "No Adverse Effect" according to Section 106 of the NHPA. The  
440 PA was signed by all parties in December 2016.

441 In addition, SMR will follow the current "*Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan*  
442 *(ICRMP) for Facilities of the Virginia Army National Guard*" pertaining to cultural resources  
443 associated with the installation and will be updated annually according to guidance from the  
444 NGB. The ICRMP is designed to support the military mission by meeting the legal compliance

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445 requirements of federal historic preservation laws and regulations in a manner consistent with the  
446 sound principles of cultural resources stewardship. The ICRMP establishes priorities for the  
447 identification and evaluation of historic properties at VAARNG facilities.

448 No Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) or sacred sites are known to be present on SMR. There  
449 are 7 federally recognized tribes within the state of Virginia and 11 tribes that claim aboriginal  
450 land within the state:

451 Federally recognized tribes in Virginia:

- 452 • Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- 453 • Chickahominy Tribe – Eastern Division
- 454 • Monacan Indian Nation
- 455 • Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- 456 • Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- 457 • Nansemond Indian Tribe
- 458 • Rappahannock Tribe

459 State Tribes:

- 460 • Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- 461 • Chickahominy Tribe – Eastern Division
- 462 • Monacan Indian Nation
- 463 • Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- 464 • Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- 465 • Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- 466 • Nansemond Indian Tribe
- 467 • Cheroenhaka (Nottoway) Indian Tribe
- 468 • Rappahannock Tribe
- 469 • Patawomeck Indians of Virginia
- 470 • Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia

471 Pursuant to DoDI 4710.02 dated 14 Sept 2006 titled "*DoD Interactions with federally recognized*  
472 *tribes*" for the DoD American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, the VAARNG made a  
473 determination that this federal decision may have the potential to significantly affect protected  
474 tribal resources, tribal rights, or Indian land. Tribal consultation was initiated via formal letter  
475 submitted by the VAARNG to seven federally recognized tribes and ten state recognized tribes,  
476 recorded as having cultural affiliation and interest with the land area now comprising SMR, on 2

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477 May 2017. Six responses were received indicating that implementing the INRMP would not  
478 adversely impact culturally significant tribal resources. Emails and telephone calls were made on  
479 31 May 2017 and 14 Jun 2017 to all tribes from which a response to the initial letter was not  
480 received. The VAARNG commander has also initiated government-to-government consultation  
481 with these federally recognized tribes through the development and implementation of the  
482 VAARNG ICRMP. A copy of the memorandum outlining the consultation process and responses  
483 is included in Appendix C of the INRMP. Consultation procedures and the handling of  
484 inadvertent discoveries are outlined in the ICRMP. Tribal consultation procedures have been  
485 formalized in the Programmatic Agreement for the management of cultural resources at  
486 VAARNG facilities state-wide.

487 **4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

488 This chapter forms the scientific and analytical basis for comparisons of the Preferred Action  
489 Alternative and the No Action Alternative considered in this document.

490 **4.1 LAND USE**

491 **4.1.1 EFFECTS OF THE PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

492 The Preferred Action Alternative would be expected to have long-term beneficial effect on land  
493 management activities at SMR, however the overall conclusion from implementing the INRMP is  
494 less-than-significant. The Preferred Action Alternative would not conflict with, divide, or  
495 substantially change existing land use at the SMR. Additionally, the Preferred Action Alternative  
496 would not affect land use or zoning of land adjacent to the SMR, nor would it impede the  
497 training facilities. The INRMP strives to enhance and maintain biological diversity at SMR while  
498 supporting the military mission. To do this, the INRMP identifies the following projects:

- 499 • Continue to focus training efforts in non-sensitive habitats, including fields, developed  
500 areas, and upland forests;
- 501 • Minimize the extent of maintained areas not required for training operations;
- 502 • Maintain off-road vehicular traffic exclusions in forested areas; and
- 503 • Provide a variety of outdoor recreational activities.

504 No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to  
505 below significant levels.

506 **4.1.2 EFFECTS OF THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

507 Under the No Action Alternative less than significant adverse impacts are anticipated due to  
508 inefficient land use and minimal habitat protection. This alternative would not address the  
509 changing natural resource management needs at SMR and therefore, is likely to result in less  
510 than significant adverse effects to land use. Some of the potential effects would be increased  
511 costs and time commitments to maintain the water quality in Lake Christine. A potential  
512 decrease in community relations and cooperation may adversely affect future projects and  
513 training.

514 **4.2 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY, AND SOILS**

515 **4.2.1 EFFECTS OF THE PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

516 The Preferred Action Alternative is not anticipated to have any impacts to geology, topography  
517 or soils and would have long-term significant beneficial impacts due to reduced dune erosion.  
518 The INRMP identifies the following projects which may have beneficial impacts by reducing soil  
519 erosion:

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- 520           • Re-establish the natural riparian buffer along the edges of Lake Christine to increase water  
521           quality and species habitat area while also decreasing pest species and allowing for the  
522           military mission of the installation to continue.

523 No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below  
524 significant levels.

525 **4.2.2 EFFECTS OF THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

526 Implementation of the No Action Alternative would result in less than significant long-term  
527 adverse impacts are anticipated from dune erosion. not alter the current management  
528 practices and therefore minor adverse impacts are anticipated to the dunes and soils along the  
529 edge of Lake Christine.

530 **4.3 WATER RESOURCES**

531 **4.3.1 EFFECTS OF THE PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

532 The Preferred Action Alternative would have a significant beneficial effect on the water  
533 resources present at SMR. No impacts to the floodplain or groundwater are anticipated. The  
534 INRMP includes management strategies such as:

- 535           • Monitoring jurisdictional waters of the United States, including wetlands, on an annual basis  
536           to determine the extent of unauthorized activities, if any, including the discharge of dredge  
537           or fill material and/or training impacts.
- 538           • Seasonal water quality monitoring using established sampling techniques and equipment for  
539           macro nutrients, dissolved oxygen, temperature, stratification, bacteria and sedimentation.
- 540           • Minimizing the use of pesticides near surface water features and the implementation of  
541           integrated pest management strategies where practicable.
- 542           • Re-establishment of the natural riparian buffer along the edges of Lake Christine to increase  
543           water quality and species habitat area while also decreasing pest species and allowing for  
544           the military mission of the installation to continue.
- 545           • Monitoring invasive aquatic weeds and algae April through October and using pesticides if  
546           needed to prevent further encroachment of these species throughout Lake Christine.

547 No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to  
548 below significant levels.

549 **4.3.2 EFFECTS OF THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

550 On-base activities, such as new construction, have the capacity to promote sediment and  
551 nutrient input into water bodies. The water quality in Lake Christine would continue to degrade  
552 under the no action alternative. Implementation of the No Action Alternative could result in  
553 minor adverse impacts to the other existing water resources on SMR or in adjacent areas.

554 **4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

555 **4.4.1 EFFECTS OF THE PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

556 The Preferred Action Alternative would have long-term beneficial impacts to biological  
557 resources due to increased monitoring that will influence future management by promoting the  
558 sustainment of a healthy ecosystem. The following programs are proposed:

- 559 • Continue to focus training efforts in non-sensitive habitats, including fields, developed  
560 areas, and upland forests.
- 561 • Minimize the extent of maintained areas not required for training operations. Where  
562 practicable, include a reduction in the amount of area currently mowed along the forest  
563 perimeter in all forest management units. Areas removed from the regular maintenance  
564 schedule should be allowed to revegetate naturally.
- 565 • Undertake a monitoring program established at fixed-point monitoring stations stratified  
566 within the existing wildlife habitat zones on the base. The goal of the program will be to  
567 document wildlife species currently utilizing the base.
- 568 • Conduct seasonal monitoring of the beachfront and dune system for stranded marine  
569 mammals. Coordinate efforts with USFWS to determine practicable alternatives for nest  
570 relocation (to Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge, for example) if applicable.
- 571 • Conduct fish surveys to determine the effect of allowable fishing effort on this minor  
572 recreational fishery. Consultation with USFWS and VDGIF is encouraged to maintain  
573 consistency with federal and state management objectives.
- 574 • Inventory and monitor migratory bird species and populations on the installation with a  
575 focus on birds of conservation concern.
- 576 • Manage the conservation of migratory birds. Implement conservation measures, as  
577 feasible, to ensure management of military lands is carried out in a manner that benefits  
578 migratory birds and so impacts to migratory birds are minimal.

579 With regards to the protection of potential threatened and endangered species, the following  
580 programs are proposed:

- 581 • Prohibit foot and vehicular traffic of any kind on sand dunes throughout the year.
- 582 • Prohibit vehicular access to the beachfront from dusk until dawn during the months of  
583 May through August to maintain potential breeding habitat for sea turtles.
- 584 • In conjunction with Naval Air Station Oceana - Dam Neck Annex (NASO-DNA) conduct  
585 daily monitoring of the beachfront and dune system for turtle nests and stranded turtles  
586 during the months of May through August.
- 587 • Conduct lighting inspections to control the negative effects that lighting can have on  
588 sea turtles.

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- 589       • Conduct planning level surveys (PLS) every 5 years on the installation for threatened,  
590       endangered, or state rare species.

591 Implementation of the NGB Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) will ensure that there are  
592 no potentially significant adverse impacts for the Preferred Action Alternative, as described in  
593 Section 5.8 of the INRMP.

594 **4.4.2 EFFECTS OF THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

595 Implementation of the No Action Alternative could adversely impact existing biological  
596 resources on SMR or in adjacent areas due to the discontinuation of monitoring and protective  
597 measures. Failure to manage species and habitats at SMR may result in the degradation of such  
598 habitats and a decrease in biodiversity at the installation.

599 Failure to implement an invasive pest management plan would lead to an increase in the  
600 presence of invasive species at the installation therefore leading to a decrease in biological  
601 diversity. Failure to manage biological resources at SMR may result in the disturbance of certain  
602 habitats (e.g., for loggerhead sea turtle breeding habitat and/or state rare plant species) and  
603 the potential extirpation or exclusion of these species from the site. Additionally, recreational  
604 beach activity may damage the dunes and disturb potentially nesting turtles without proper  
605 management.

606 **4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

607 **4.5.1 EFFECTS OF THE PREFERRED ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

608 The Preferred Action Alternative will have no effect on cultural resources on SMR. As the entire  
609 camp is a historic district, the SMR Historic District (DHR resource no. 134-0413), listed in the  
610 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the Virginia Landmarks Register, the "*Integrated*  
611 *Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) for Facilities of the Virginia Army National Guard,*  
612 *Fiscal Years 2014-2018,*" will be followed and all requirements for consultation under Section 106  
613 of the NHPA will be met if necessary. Altering vegetation, such as increasing the riparian buffer  
614 on Lake Christine, has the potential to adversely impact the cultural landscape through a  
615 modification of the historical viewshed. The Virginia DHR will be consulted on all projects that  
616 may impact cultural resources on SMR prior to the start of the project.

617 Pursuant to DoDI 4710.02 dated 14 Sept 2006 titled "*DoD Interactions with federally recognized*  
618 *tribes*" for the DoD American Indian and Alaska Native Policy, the VAARNG made a  
619 determination that this federal decision may have the potential to significantly affect protected  
620 tribal resources, tribal rights, or Indian land. Tribal consultation was initiated via formal letter  
621 submitted by the VAARNG to seven federally recognized tribes and ten state recognized tribes,  
622 recorded as having cultural affiliation and interest with the land area now comprising SMR, on 2  
623 May 2017. Please see Section 3.7 for additional information.

624 No mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to  
625 below significant levels.

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626 **4.5.2 EFFECTS OF THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE**

627 No impacts are anticipated, as the existing conditions would remain, and the cultural resources  
628 are currently managed by the ICRMP.

629 **4.6 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

630 Cumulative effects as defined in 40 C.F.R. §1508.7 are those which produce an “impact on the  
631 environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past,  
632 present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or  
633 nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions”. Based upon the findings of this EA,  
634 implementation of the Preferred Action Alternative will not result in cumulative environmental or  
635 socio-economic impacts.

636 Long-term significant beneficial impacts are anticipated to land use, soils, water resources and  
637 biological resources due to the implementation of tasks listed in Appendix B of the INRMP. INRMP  
638 implementation and the No Action Alternative will have no long-term direct or indirect impacts  
639 with regard to air quality, noise, socioeconomics, environmental justice, infrastructure, hazardous  
640 and toxic materials/wastes as well as visual effects.

641 The master plan for the base entitled the “SMR Vision Plan” (2012) contains six goals for future  
642 planning on SMR. The overall planning vision is that:

643 *“Camp Pendleton supports training of Virginia National Guard soldiers and Virginia*  
644 *National Guard regional operations in consolidated campuses of enduring, resource*  
645 *efficient facilities that are consistent with the Camp Pendleton character.”*

646 With regards to future impacts, the plan states that VAARNG evaluated natural and man-made  
647 environmental conditions with a particular focus on those elements that affect operation or  
648 development of buildings, roadways, utility systems, training ranges, and other facilities. These  
649 factors were combined to analyze preferable development zones. The areas most likely to  
650 contain the species of significance are included within the natural resources and recreation  
651 area, where minimal impacts are proposed. One of the goals of the Vision Plan is to achieve the  
652 efficient use of resources, including natural resources. The plan calls for existing natural resources  
653 to be preserved. New development is to minimize negative environmental impacts and to  
654 preserve existing natural buffers. Implementation of the SMR INRMP will support the objectives  
655 and implementation of the Vision Plan, and there should be long-term significant beneficial  
656 impacts associated with the implementation of both plans.

657 SMR is surrounded on three sides by the City of Virginia Beach and by the Atlantic Ocean on the  
658 fourth. The City's comprehensive plan, entitled “*It's Our Future: A Choice City*” and adopted 17  
659 May 2016, supports the local military installations by reducing encroachment by incompatible  
660 land uses. All development applications within the area of interest around military installations  
661 are forwarded to the Community Planning Liaison Officers (CPLOs)for comment. Through this  
662 process any potential cumulative effects from development on the outskirts of the base will be

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663 identified with enough advance notice to allow any modifications to the INRMP during the  
664 annual review if necessary.

665 The goals and purposes of the SMR INRMP are to protect and enhance the environment at an  
666 ecosystem and landscape level. They also involve partnerships and close consultation with  
667 federal, state, and local groups such as the Military Economic Development Advisory  
668 Committee (MEDAC), therefore reducing the possibility for cumulative effects arising that have  
669 not already been addressed through the planning document. Any cumulative impacts that may  
670 arise in the future will be considered during the INRMP annual review or 5-year revision.

671 **4.7 MITIGATION MEASURES**

672 The overall impacts to biological resources of the Preferred Action Alternative are beneficial.  
673 The INRMP is by design a management strategy meant to mitigate adverse environmental  
674 impacts of military training and improve overall ecosystem sustainability. The only mitigation  
675 measure necessary to reduce potentially significant adverse impacts to less than significant  
676 levels for the Preferred Action Alternative is the implementation of the IPMP, as described in  
677 Section 5.8 of the INRMP.

678 **5.0 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS**

679 **5.1 COMPARISON OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE**  
680 **ALTERNATIVES**

681 A comparison of the environmental cultural, and socioeconomic effects of the Preferred Action  
682 Alternative to that of the No Action Alternative is presented in Table 8.

683 **Table 8. Alternative Comparison Matrix**

Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
Land Use	Less than significant adverse impacts are anticipated due to inefficient land use and minimal habitat protection.	Long-term significant beneficial impacts are anticipated due to more efficient land use and increase in habitat protection.
Air Quality	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Noise	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	Less than significant long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from dune erosion.	No impacts to geology, topography or soils are anticipated; long-term significant beneficial impacts due to reduced dune erosion.
Water Resources	Less than significant long-term adverse impacts are anticipated from erosion and nutrient runoff.	Long-term significant beneficial impacts from riparian habitat and wetland management.
Biological Resources	Long and short-term significant adverse impacts due to the discontinuation of monitoring and protective measures.	Long-term significant beneficial impacts to biological resources due to increased monitoring that will influence future management; short-term, less-than-significant adverse impacts would be expected as a result of pest and invasive species management activities, however implementation of the NGB Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) will ensure no adverse impacts occur.
Cultural Resources	No significant direct/indirect effects.	VAARNG performed tribal consultation because implementation of the INRMP may have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights, or Indian land. Responses indicated that implementing the INRMP would not adversely impact culturally significant tribal resources; no mitigation required.

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Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
Socioeconomics	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Environmental Justice	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Infrastructure	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	No significant direct/indirect effects.	No significant direct/indirect effects; no mitigation required.

684 **5.2 CONCLUSIONS**

685 Based upon the analyses contained in the EA, VAARNG has determined that the known and  
 686 potential impacts of the Preferred Action Alternative on the physical, cultural, and natural  
 687 environment would be of a beneficial nature. Implementation of the SMR INRMP would result in  
 688 efficient and environmentally sound management of SMR training land and facilities. The INRMP  
 689 establishes responsibilities, standard operating procedures, and long-range goals for managing  
 690 natural resources at SMR that are in compliance with all applicable federal laws, Army  
 691 regulations, and NGB guidelines. All natural and human resources under VAARNG control will  
 692 receive greater consideration and protection than previously afforded. The INRMP has been  
 693 prepared with the cooperation of the USFWS, NOAA-NMFS and VDGIF. Implementation of the  
 694 SMR INRMP will not result in significant environmental effects and no mitigation measures will be  
 695 necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels.

696 As a result of the analysis conducted in this EA, it is recommended that the SMR INRMP be  
 697 implemented as written, and that a "Finding of No Significant Impact" statement be issued for  
 698 the Preferred Action Alternative.

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## 7.0 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Clean Air Act (CAA) (42U.S.C. §§7401-7671g): The comprehensive federal law that regulates air emissions from area, stationary, and mobile sources. This law authorizes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to protect public health and the environment.

Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.): Amendment to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, which set the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants to waters of the United States.

Critical Habitat: (Endangered Species Act, Section 4), The specific areas within the geographical area occupied by a federally endangered or threatened species, when it is listed, which contain the physical or biological features 1) essential to the conservation of the species and 2) which may require special management considerations or protection. Critical habitat may also include specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species when it is listed if those areas are essential for the conservation of the species [(ESA Section 3(5A))]. Critical habitat is described and designated by the lead Federal regulatory agency making status determinations for a species. Designations usually accompany final listing decisions but may be delayed to allow comprehensive review of the necessary technical data.

Cultural Resources: Historic properties as defined by the NHPA, cultural items as defined by NAGPRA, archeological resources as defined by ARPA, sacred sites as defined by EO 13007 to which access is afforded under AIRFA, and collections and associated records defined in 36 C.F.R. 79.

Environmental Assessment: Environmental Assessment. This is a document mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), defined as a concise public document for which a Federal agency is responsible that serves to: 1) briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact, 2) aid an agency's compliance with NEPA when no environmental impact statement is necessary, and 3) facilitate preparation of a statement when one is necessary. Environmental Assessments include brief discussions of the need for the proposal, of alternatives as required by section 102(2)(E) of NEPA, of the environmental impacts of the Preferred Action Alternative and alternatives, and a listing of agencies and persons consulted.

Endangered Species: "...any species [including subspecies or qualifying distinct population segment] that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." [ESA Section 3(6)]. The lead federal agency for the listing of a species as endangered (e.g. the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Marine Fisheries Service) is responsible for reviewing the status of the species on a five-year basis.

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Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.): An act to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the treaties and conventions.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): A document prepared by a federal agency showing why a Preferred Action Alternative would not have a significant impact on the environment and thus would not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. A FONSI is based on the results of an environmental assessment.

Hydric Soils: Soils that are saturated, flooded, or ponded for long enough during the growing season to develop oxygen-deficient conditions in their upper part.

Hydrology: The science dealing with the properties, distribution and circulation of water.

Indigenous Wildlife: Native to an area, not imported.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): A comprehensive approach to pest control or prevention that considers various chemical, physical, and biological suppression techniques; the habitat of the pest; and the interrelationship between pest populations and the potential to cause economic or environmental harm.

Mitigation: Lessening the adverse effects an undertaking may cause relative to natural or cultural resources. Mitigation can include limiting the magnitude of the action; repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected resource; avoiding the effect altogether; reducing or eliminating the effect over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and/or compensating for the effect by providing substitute resources or environments.

Native Americans: American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians.

Natural Resources: All elements of nature and their environments of soil, air, and water. Those consist of two general types:

(1) Earth Resources: Nonliving resources such as minerals and soil components

(2) Biological Resources: Living resources such as plants and animals.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): The Act as amended articulates the Federal law that mandates protecting the quality of the human environment. It requires Federal agencies to systematically assess the environmental impacts of their proposed activities, programs and projects including the “no action” alternative of not pursuing the Preferred Action Alternative. NEPA requires agencies to consider alternative ways of accomplishing their missions in ways which are less damaging to the environment (Pub. L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347).

## DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN – STATE MILITARY RESERVE

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. §§470 et seq.): An act to establish a program for the preservation of historic properties throughout the Nation, and for other purposes, Approved October 15, 1966 (Public Law 89-665; 80 STAT.915; 16 U.S.C. 470) as amended by Public Law 91-243, Public Law 93-54, Public Law 94-422, Public Law 94-458, Public Law 96-199, Public Law 96-244, Public Law 96-515, Public Law 98-483, Public Law 99-514, Public Law 100-127, and Public Law 102-575).

National Register of Historic Places (National Register): A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects important in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, maintained by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and Section 101(a)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

Native Species: A species indigenous to an area; i.e. not introduced from another environment or area.

Physiognomy: the form and structure of natural communities.

Sikes Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 670a et seq.): An Act to promote effectual planning, development, maintenance and coordination of wildlife, fish, and game conservation and rehabilitation on military reservations.

Stewardship: The management of resources entrusted to one's care in a way that preserves and enhances the resources and their benefits for present and future generations.

Threatened Species: "...any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range" [Section 3(19) of the ESA]. The lead federal agency for the listing of a species as threatened, (e.g., the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Marine Fisheries Service) is responsible for reviewing the status of the species on a five-year basis.

Undertaking: Any federal, federally-assisted, or federally-licensed action, activity, or program, new or continuing that may have an effect on National Register resources and thereby triggers procedural responsibilities under Section 470 et seq. of 16 U.S.C.

Wetlands: Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

## **8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS AND REVIEWERS**

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## 9.0 AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED

### Internal Stakeholders:

- Commander, State Military Reserve
- Natural Resources Program Manager, VA Dept. of Military Affairs - MTC Fort Pickett
- Cultural Resources Program Manager, VA Dept. of Military Affairs - VA Army National Guard
- Training Customers (from all military branches)
- 203rd RED HORSE Squadron
- The Commonwealth Challenge Program
- Readiness Centers
- Recreational Customers

### Cooperative Stakeholders:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Marine Fisheries Service

### External Stakeholders:

- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Marine Resources Commission
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- Croatan (residential community)
- City of Virginia Beach
- External civilian DoD and non-DoD Training Customers

### Federally recognized tribes in Virginia:

- Pamunkey Indian Tribe
- Chickahominy Tribe – Eastern Division

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT PLAN – STATE MILITARY RESERVE

- Monacan Indian Nation
- Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
- Chickahominy Indian Tribe
- Nansemond Indian Tribe
- Rappahannock Tribe

Federally Recognized Tribes Outside of Virginia:

- Catawba Indian Nation
- Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
- Cayuga Nation of Indians
- Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
- Tuscarora Nation of New York

## APPENDIX A

### DETERMINATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH VIRGINIA'S COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

*City of Virginia Beach, Virginia*

### INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

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#### **Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Consistency Determination**

This document provides the Commonwealth of Virginia with the Virginia Army National Guard (VAARNG) Consistency Determination under CZMA section 307(c)(1) [or (2)] and 15 CFR Part 930, subpart C, for the implementation of the State Military Reserve SMR Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The information in this Consistency Determination is provided pursuant to 15 CFR §930.39. This activity includes:

#### **The Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action is the implementation of the SMR INRMP for FY 2017-2021. The SMR INRMP is a document designed to integrate all aspects of natural resource management in order to accomplish military training and national environmental objectives. Furthermore, the INRMP also addresses the impact that natural resource management activities have on the cultural resources at SMR and provides management guidance. The philosophical basis of the SMR INRMP is ecosystem management. Army policy states that all installations must incorporate ecosystem management into their natural resources management strategy; the SMR INRMP is the vehicle to implement this policy.

Based upon the following information, data, and analysis, the VAARNG finds that the implementation of the SMR INRMP is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.

The VAARNG has determined that the implementation of the SMR INRMP affects the land or water uses or natural resources of Virginia in the following manner:

#### Enforceable policies comprising Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program:

**1) Fisheries Management** – The implementation of the INRMP would have a significant positive effect as well as minor negative impacts on the water resources present at State Military Reserve. Management strategies are discussed in the SMR INRMP EA, 4.3 Water Resources.

**2) Subaqueous Lands Management** – Implementation of the INRMP will have no foreseeable impact on subaqueous resources. The project complies with all federal and state regulations. For further illustration, Figure 3 of the INRMP depicts SMR land use per the 2012 Vision Plan.

**3) Wetlands Management** – Implementation of the INRMP promote the preservation of existing wetlands on SMR. Please refer to INRMP Sections 3.2 and 4.6.

**4) Dunes Management** – *This project* would promote dune preservation that should reduce dune erosion at State Military Reserve, resulting in a beneficial impact to the dunes at SMR. For further information, please see Section 6.11 in the INRMP.

) **Non-point Source Pollution Control** – The implementation of the INRMP would not cause non-point source pollution. The INRMP ensures adequate erosion and sedimentation controls are in place during minor land disturbance activities associated with grounds maintenance.

) **Point Source Pollution Control** – The implementation of the INRMP would not cause new discharge or point source pollution.

**7) Shoreline Sanitation** – Implementation of the INRMP will have no impact on shoreline sanitation.

**8) Air Pollution Control** – Implementation of the SMR INRMP is not expected to create significant adverse impacts to air resources. *Air pollution control is not applicable to this project.* Prescribed burning does not take place on this installation.

) **Coastal Lands Management** – The INRMP will have no impact on coastal lands management.

) **Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations (Virginia Administrative Code 4 VAC 50-90-10 et seq.)** – The INRMP does not include any development activities on property designated a Resource Protection Area as defined by Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations (*Virginia Administrative Code 9 VAC 25-830-10 et seq.*).

Pursuant to 15 CFR Section 930.41, the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program has 60 days from the receipt of this letter in which to concur with or object to this Consistency Determination, or to request an extension under 15 CFR section 930.41(b). Virginia's concurrence will be presumed if its response is not received by the VAARNG on the 60th day from receipt of this determination. The State's response should be sent to:

Kenneth L. Oristaglio, NFG NG VAARNG  
Natural Resources Program Manager  
MTC Fort Pickett - Environmental  
10th Street, Bldg. 316  
Office: (434) 298-6416  
Cell: (434) 264-4929  
Email - [Kenneth.l.oristaglio@ng.mil](mailto:Kenneth.l.oristaglio@ng.mil)



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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June 28, 2017

Mr. Ken Oristaglio  
Natural Resources Manager  
Virginia Department of Military Affairs - Fort Pickett  
MTC 10th Street, Bldg, 316 Environmental  
Blackstone, VA 23824

RE: Virginia Department of Military Affairs, Virginia Army Reserve National Guard Draft Environmental Assessment and Federal Consistency Certification: Camp Pendleton Draft Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (DEQ 17-055F).

Dear Mr. Oristaglio:

The Commonwealth of Virginia has completed its review of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and a federal consistency certification (FCC) for the above-referenced project. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for coordinating Virginia's review of federal environmental documents prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and responding to appropriate federal officials on behalf of the Commonwealth. DEQ is also responsible for coordinating state reviews of FCCs submitted under the Coastal Zone Management Act. The following agencies and planning district commission participated in this review:

Department of Environmental Quality  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Department of Health  
Department of Historic Resources  
Marine Resources Commission  
Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Department of Forestry and the City of Virginia Beach also were invited to comment on the project.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Pursuant to requirements from the U.S. Department of the Army, the Virginia Army Reserve National Guard (VARNG), which is under the Virginia Department of Military Affairs, submitted a FCC and EA for the proposed implementation of the State Military Reserve Camp Pendleton Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) from 2017 through 2021. The implementation of the plan is the preferred alternative that is addressed in the EA and analyzed in the FCC. In accordance with Army policy, the Camp Pendleton INRMP will ensure that no net loss of natural or cultural resources will occur while maintaining the capability of military installation lands to support the military mission of Camp Pendleton. The Camp Pendleton INRMP will serve as the principal management plan governing all natural resource activities on the installation. The FCC states that the implementation of the INRMP would help preserve wetlands and dunes and would not have a negative effect on other resources.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

**1. Wetlands and Water Quality.** The EA (page 17) states the preferred alternative would have a significant positive effect as well as minor negative impacts on the water resources present at Camp Pendleton. Management strategies such as: prohibiting the discharge of dredge or fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands, unless such prohibition is determined to be in direct conflict with the military mission; construction of pre-treatment stormwater management basins at the Croatan and Camp Pendleton sites to trap pollutants prior to entering the lake; installation of aerators on the lake to improve levels of dissolved oxygen during the summer months; and reestablishing the natural riparian buffer along the edges of Lake Christine would allow for an increase in water quality as well as associated habitat biodiversity. Minor negative impacts may occur from pest management (mechanical/physical, biological, and chemical control) through runoff, leaching and/or accidental spill.

**1(a) Agency Jurisdiction.** The State Water Control Board promulgates Virginia's water regulations, covering a variety of permits to include Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, Virginia Pollution Abatement Permit, Surface and Groundwater Withdrawal Permit, and the Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permit. The VWP Permit is a state permit which governs wetlands, surface water, and surface water withdrawals/impoundments. It also serves as § 401 certification of the federal Clean Water Act § 404 permits for dredge and fill activities in waters of the U.S. The VWP Program is under the Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection (OWSP). Tidal wetlands are regulated by VMRC under the authority of Virginia Code §28.2-1301 through §28.2-1320.

**1(b) Agency Findings.** The DEQ Tidewater Regional Office (TRO) states that projects involving impacts to surface waters, including wetlands, may require a permit.

**1(c) Requirements.** A Joint Permit Application (JPA) should be submitted for future projects that propose impacts to surface waters or wetlands. A Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Pesticide Discharges General Permit (9VAC25-800) may be applicable to the proposed pesticide activities.

**1(d) Agency Recommendation.** Contact the DEQ TRO to determine if the VPDES Pesticide Discharges General Permit (<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/PermittingCompliance/PollutionDischargeElimination/PermitsFees.aspx#pest>) is applicable to the proposed activities.

**1(e) Conclusion.** Provided the project complies with applicable requirements, it would be consistent with the wetlands management enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

**2. Subaqueous Lands.** The EA (page 17) does not indicate that the proposed plan will have impacts to subaqueous lands.

**2(a) Agency Jurisdiction.** The Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) regulates encroachments in, on or over state-owned subaqueous beds as well as tidal wetlands pursuant to Virginia Code §28.2-1200 through 1400. For nontidal waterways, VMRC states that it has been the policy of the Habitat Management Division to exert jurisdiction only over the beds of perennial streams where the upstream drainage area is 5 square miles or greater. The beds of such waterways are considered public below the ordinary high water line.

**2(b) Agency Finding.** VMRC states that the plan does not appear to impact any state-owned submerged resources.

**2(c) Conclusion.** As proposed, the project is consistent with the subaqueous lands management enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

**3. Air Pollution Control.** The EA (page 2) states that the implementation of the plan is not expected to affect air quality.

**3(a) Agency Jurisdiction.** The DEQ Air Division, on behalf of the State Air Pollution Control Board, is responsible for developing regulations that implement Virginia's Air Pollution Control Law (Virginia Code §10.1-1300 et seq.). DEQ is charged with carrying out mandates of the state law and related regulations as well as Virginia's federal obligations under the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990. The objective is to protect and enhance public health and quality of life through control and mitigation of air pollution. The division ensures the safety and quality of air in Virginia by monitoring and analyzing air quality data, regulating sources of air pollution, and working with local, state and

federal agencies to plan and implement strategies to protect Virginia's air quality. The appropriate DEQ regional office is directly responsible for the issuance of necessary permits to construct and operate all stationary sources in the region as well as monitoring emissions from these sources for compliance. As a part of this mandate, environmental impact reviews (EIRs) of projects to be undertaken in the state are also reviewed. In the case of certain projects, additional evaluation and demonstration must be made under the general conformity provisions of state and federal law.

The Air Division regulates emissions of air pollutants from industries and facilities and implements programs designed to ensure that Virginia meets national air quality standards. The most common regulations associated with projects are:

- Open burning: 9VAC5-130 et seq.
- Fugitive dust control: 9VAC5-50-60 et seq.
- Permits for fuel-burning equipment: 9VAC5-80-1100 et seq.

**3(b) Ozone Attainment Area.** According to the DEQ Air Division, the project site is located in an ozone attainment area and an emission control area for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), which are contributors to ozone pollution.

**3(c) Requirements.** The plan should ensure that the following requirements are satisfied during land-disturbing projects.

**3(c)(i) Fugitive Dust.** The plan should ensure that during future land-disturbing activities, fugitive dust is kept to a minimum by using control methods outlined in 9VAC5-50-60 et seq. of the Regulations for the Control and Abatement of Air Pollution. These precautions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Use, where possible, water or suitable chemicals for dust control during the proposed demolition and construction operations and from material stockpiles;
- Install and use of hoods, fans and fabric filters to enclose and vent the handling of dusty materials;
- Cover open equipment for conveying materials; and
- Promptly remove spilled or tracked dirt or other materials from paved streets and dried sediments resulting from soil erosion.

**3(c)(ii) Fuel-Burning Equipment.** Fuel-burning equipment (generators, compressors, etc.) or any other air-pollution-emitting equipment may be subject to registration or permitting requirements.

**3(c)(iii) Open Burning.** If project activities change to include the burning of vegetative debris, this activity must meet the requirements under 9VAC5-130 et seq. of the

regulations for open burning, and it may require a permit. The regulations provide for, but do not require, the local adoption of a model ordinance concerning open burning. Contact officials with the locality to determine what local requirements, if any, exist.

**3(c)(iv) Asphalt Paving.** In accordance with 9VAC5-45-760 *et seq.*, there are limitations on the use of “cut-back” (liquefied asphalt cement, blended with petroleum solvents) that may apply to paving activities associated with the project. The asphalt must be “emulsified” (predominantly cement and water with a small amount of emulsifying agent) except when specified circumstances apply. Moreover, there are time-of-year restrictions on its use during the months of April through October in VOC emission control areas.

**3(d) Agency Recommendation.** For future land-disturbing projects, the plan should ensure that all necessary precautions taken to restrict the emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>).

**3(e) Conclusion.** Provided the project complies with applicable requirements, it would be consistent with the air pollution control enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

**4. Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas.** The EA (page 21) states that Camp Pendleton is not within the Chesapeake Bay watershed and is therefore not subject to requirements under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

**4(a) Agency Jurisdiction.** The DEQ Office of Local Government Programs (OLGP) administers the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (Virginia Code §62.1-44.15:67 *et seq.*) (Bay Act) and Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations (9VAC25-830-10 *et seq.*). Each Tidewater locality must adopt a program based on the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations. The Act and regulations recognize local government responsibility for land use decisions and are designed to establish a framework for compliance without dictating precisely what local programs must look like. Local governments have flexibility to develop water quality preservation programs that reflect unique local characteristics and embody other community goals. Such flexibility also facilitates innovative and creative approaches in achieving program objectives. The regulations address nonpoint source pollution by identifying and protecting certain lands called Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas. The regulations use a resource-based approach that recognizes differences between various land forms and treats them differently.

**4(b) Agency Findings.** The DEQ OLGP states that Camp Pendleton is located outside of the City of Virginia Beach’s designated Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area because

it is in the Atlantic Ocean drainage basin. As such, there are no Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act requirements relevant to this project.

**4(c) Conclusion.** As proposed, the project is consistent with the coastal lands management enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

**5. Nonpoint Pollution Control.** According to the EA (page 16), the plan ensures that there are adequate erosion and sediment controls in place during any land disturbance associated with ground maintenance.

**5(a) Agency Jurisdiction.** The DEQ Office of Stormwater Management (OSM) administers the following laws and regulations governing construction activities:

- Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Law (§ 62.1-44.15:51 et seq.) and Regulations (VESCL&R) (9VAC25-840);
- Virginia Stormwater Management Act (VSMA) (§ 62.1-44.15:24 et seq.);
- Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP) regulation (9VAC25-870); and
- 2014 General Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities (9VAC25-880).

In addition, DEQ is responsible for the VSMP General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities related to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) and construction activities for the control of stormwater discharges from MS4s and land disturbing activities under the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (9VAC25-890-40).

**5(b) Requirements.** The plan should protect water resources by ensuring that future land-disturbing projects incorporate appropriate erosion and sediment control and stormwater management requirements.

**5(b)(i) Erosion and Sediment Control Project-Specific Plans.** If the VARNG has no previously DEQ-approved Annual Standards and Specifications and the project results in a land-disturbing activity of equal to or greater than 10,000 square feet (or local thresholds when they are more stringent than state requirements), the applicant must prepare a project-specific erosion and sediment control (ESC) plan and submit it to DEQ for review and approval. The ESC plan must be approved prior to commencing land-disturbing activity at the project site. All regulated land-disturbing activities associated with the project, including on- and off-site access roads, staging areas, borrow areas, stockpiles, and soil transported from the project site, must be covered by the project-specific ESC plan. The ESC plan must be prepared in accordance with the VESCL and VESCR and the most current version of the *Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook*.

**5(b)(ii) Stormwater Management Project-Specific Plans.** For state-agency projects that involve a land-disturbing activity of equal to or greater than one acre and if the state agency has no previously DEQ-approved Annual Standards and Specifications the Applicant must prepare a project-specific stormwater management (SWM) plan for review and approval by DEQ. An approved plan is required prior to initiation of any regulated activities at the project site. The project-specific SWM plan must be prepared in accordance with the VSWML and the VSMP Permit Regulations.

**5(b)(iii) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities (VAR10).** The operator or owner of a construction project involving land-disturbing activities equal to or greater than one acre is required to register for coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities and develop a project-specific stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP must be prepared prior to submission of the registration statement for coverage under the general permit and the SWPPP must address water quality and quantity in accordance with the VSMP Permit Regulations. General information and registration forms for the General Permit are available on DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/StormwaterManagement/VSMPPermits/ConstructionGeneralPermit.aspx> (Reference: VSWML 62.1-44.15 et seq.; VSMP Permit Regulations 9VAC 25-870-10 et seq.).

**5(c) Conclusion.** As proposed, the project would be consistent with the nonpoint pollution control enforceable policy of the Virginia CZM Program.

**6. Natural Heritage Resources.** The EA (page 17) states that implementation of the plan could have a significant positive effect on the flora and fauna present at Camp Pendleton. The programs address issues related to the management of game and non-game species and their habitats, as well as biodiversity; work to prevent invasive species and pest incursions that would reduce habitat and biodiversity on Camp Pendleton; focus on monitoring and maintaining shoreline resources; and promote environmental awareness. The programs will ensure that migratory bird habitat will be conserved and maintained.

**6(a) Agency Jurisdiction.**

**6(a)(i) The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Division of Natural Heritage (DNH):** DNH's mission is conserving Virginia's biodiversity through inventory, protection and stewardship. The Virginia Natural Area Preserves Act (Virginia Code §10.1-209 through 217), authorized DCR to maintain a statewide database for conservation planning and project review, protect land for the conservation of biodiversity, and to protect and ecologically manage the natural heritage resources of

Virginia (the habitats of rare, threatened and endangered species, significant natural communities, geologic sites, and other natural features).

**6(a)(ii) The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS):** The Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act of 1979 (Virginia Code Chapter 39 §3.1-1020 through 1030) authorizes VDACS to conserve, protect and manage endangered and threatened species of plants and insects. Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between VDACS and the DCR, DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species.

**6(b) Agency Findings – Natural Heritage Resources.** According to the information currently in DCR DNH's files, the Camp Pendleton – Dam Neck Dune and Swale Conservation Site is located within the project site. The site has been given a biodiversity significance ranking of B3, which represents a site of high significance. The natural heritage resources of concern at this site are:

- *Cicindela trifasciata*, S-banded tiger beetle, G5/S1/NL/NL
- *Quercus incana*, Bluejack oak, G5/S2/NL/NL

In addition, White-top fleabane (*Erigeron vernus*, G5/S2/NL/NL), Carolina yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris caroliniana*, G4G5/S1/NL/NL), Dune marsh-elder (*Iva imbricata*, G5/S1/NL/NL), and Glossy-seed yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis sessilis*, G4/SH/NL/NL) have been historically documented within the project site. Finally, according to the DCR staff botanist, there is the potential for *Eupatorium maritimum*, G2/S1/SOC/NL to occur within the property. Contact DCR for additional information about this species. Additional comments are in DCR's attached letter.

**6(c) Agency Findings – Threatened and Endangered Plant and Insect Species.** DCR states that the current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects.

**6(d) Agency Findings – Natural Area Preserves.** There are no State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

**6(e) Agency Recommendations.** While specific recommendations can only be given after a survey of natural heritage resources has been completed, DCR generally supports the *Draft Update INRMP 2017 – 2021, Section 6: Natural Resource Program Management*, including management items on page 45 as well as #2 to focus training in non-sensitive habitats, #3 minimize maintained areas, promoting native plant revegetation, monitoring and developing an exotic and invasive species management plan, and #4 managing the conservation of migratory species. DCR also supports 5-year surveys for rare, threatened and endangered species, monitoring beachfront and

dune systems, and restricting access during breeding season for sea turtles (as stated on page 46) and following U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) guidelines for northern long-eared bat (pages 46-47), as well as the Grounds Maintenance, Forest Management sections and the Integrated Pest Management Program (pages 49 -52) recommendations.

- Contact DCR DNH to re-submit project information and a map for an update on this natural heritage information if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before it is utilized.
- Due to the potential for this site to support populations of natural heritage resources, contact an inventory for these resources in the study area and submit the results to DCR. With the survey results, DCR can offer specific protection recommendations for avoidance and minimization of potential impacts to documented resources. Contact DCR DNH (J. Christopher Ludwig, Natural Heritage Inventory Manager, at [chris.ludwig@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:chris.ludwig@dcr.virginia.gov) or 804-371-6206) to discuss arrangements for field work.
- Use native species similar to those found in surrounding areas when revegetating disturbed areas and plant native flowers that bloom throughout the spring and summer to support pollinator habitat.

**7. Water Supply.** The EA does not address impacts to water supplies.

**7(a) Agency Jurisdiction.** The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Office of Drinking Water (ODW) reviews projects for the potential to impact public drinking water sources (groundwater wells, springs and surface water intakes). The VDH ODW administers both federal and state laws governing waterworks operation.

**7(b) Agency Comment.** VDH ODW states that no surface water intakes are located within a 5-mile radius of the project site. The project is not within the watershed of any public surface water intakes. The following public groundwater wells are located within a 1-mile radius of the project site:

PWS ID Number	City/County	System Name	Facility Name
3810250	VIRGINIA BEACH	HOLIDAY TRAV-L-PARK	DRILLED WELL NUMBER 4 INSIDE
3810250	VIRGINIA BEACH	HOLIDAY TRAV-L-PARK	DRILLED WELL NUMBER 3 OUTSIDE
3810530	VIRGINIA BEACH	RED WING GOLF COURSE	WELL - NEW

3810200	VIRGINIA BEACH	KOA CAMPGROUNDS- VIRGINIA BEACH	NEW WELL
3810108	VIRGINIA BEACH	KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	DEEP WELL

**7(c) Requirement.** Potential impacts to public water distribution systems or sanitary sewage collection systems must be verified by the local utility according to VDH ODW.

**8. Historic and Archaeological Resources.** The EA (page 18) states that the implementation of the plan may result in minor negative impacts to cultural resources because Camp Pendleton is a historic district. However, the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan will be followed.

**8(a) Agency Jurisdiction.** The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) conducts reviews of both federal and state projects to determine their effect on historic properties. Under the federal process, DHR is the State Historic Preservation Office, and ensures that federal undertakings – including licenses, permits, or funding – comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulation at 36 CFR Part 800. Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of federal projects on properties that are listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. For state projects or activities on state lands, DHR is afforded an opportunity to review and comment on (1) the demolition of state property; (2) major state projects requiring an EIR; (3) archaeological investigations on state-controlled land; (4) projects that involve a landmark listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register; (5) the sale or lease of surplus state property; (6) exploration and recovery of underwater historic properties; and (7) excavation or removal of archaeological or historic features from caves. See DHR’s website for more information about applicable state and federal laws and how to submit an application for review: <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/StateStewardship/Index.htm>.

**8(b) Agency Comments.** DHR reviewed the draft updated INRMP for Camp Pendleton and states that the implementation of the plan will have no effect to historic properties.

**9. Pollution Prevention.** DEQ advocates that principles of pollution prevention and sustainability be used in all construction projects as well as in facility operations. Effective siting, planning, and on-site Best Management Practices (BMPs) will help to ensure that environmental impacts are minimized. However, pollution prevention and sustainability techniques also include decisions related to construction materials, design, and operational procedures that will facilitate the reduction of wastes at the source.

**9(a) Recommendations.** We have several pollution prevention recommendations that may be helpful in constructing or operating this facility:

- Consider development of an effective Environmental Management System (EMS). An effective EMS will ensure that the proposed facility is committed to complying with environmental regulations, reducing risk, minimizing environmental impacts, setting environmental goals, and achieving improvements in its environmental performance. DEQ offers EMS development assistance and recognizes facilities with effective Environmental Management Systems through its Virginia Environmental Excellence Program (VEEP). VEEP provides recognition, annual permit fee discounts, and the possibility for alternative compliance methods.
- Consider environmental attributes when purchasing materials. For example, the extent of recycled material content, toxicity level, and amount of packaging should be considered and can be specified in purchasing contracts.
- Consider contractors' commitment to the environment when choosing contractors. Specifications regarding raw materials and construction practices can be included in contract documents and requests for proposals.
- Choose sustainable materials and practices for building construction and design.
- Integrate pollution prevention techniques into the facility maintenance and operation, to include inventory control for centralized storage of hazardous materials. Maintenance facilities should have sufficient and suitable space to allow for effective inventory control and preventive maintenance.

DEQ's Office of Pollution Prevention provides information and technical assistance relating to pollution prevention techniques and EMS. If interested, please contact DEQ (Meghann Quinn at 804-698-4021).

**10. Pesticides and Herbicides.** In general, when pesticides or herbicides must be used, their use should be strictly in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations. In addition, to the extent feasible, DEQ recommends that the responsible agent for the project use the least toxic pesticides or herbicides effective in controlling the target species. For more information on pesticide or herbicide use, please contact the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services at (804) 786-3501.

**11. Regional Review.** As customary, DEQ invited the affected locality and planning district commission to comment.

**11(a) Agency Jurisdiction.** In accordance with the Virginia Code, §15.2-4207, planning district commissions encourage and facilitate local government cooperation and state-local cooperation in addressing, on a regional basis, problems of greater than local significance. The cooperation resulting from this is intended to facilitate the recognition and analysis of regional opportunities and take account of regional influences in

planning and implementing public policies and services. Planning district commissions promote the orderly and efficient development of the physical, social and economic elements of the districts by planning, and encouraging and assisting localities to plan, for the future.

**11(b) Agency Comments.** The Hampton Roads Regional Planning District Commission states that the proposed project appears to be consistent with local and regional plans and policies.

## **FEDERAL CONSISTENCY UNDER THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT**

Pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, as amended (16 USC, CZMA § 307, § 1456(c)(3)(A)) and its implementing federal consistency regulations (15 CFR Part 930, subpart D), any applicant for a required listed federal license or permit to conduct an activity, in or outside of the coastal zone, affecting any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone of the Commonwealth, shall provide in the application to the licensing or permitting agency a certification that the proposed activity complies with the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program and that such activity will be conducted in a manner consistent with the program. At the same time, the applicant shall furnish to DEQ a copy of the certification with all necessary information and data. The Commonwealth has six months after receipt of a complete FCC to concur or object to the applicant's finding of project consistency with the Virginia CZM Program. The Virginia CZM Program is comprised of a network of programs administered by several agencies. In order to be consistent with the Virginia CZM Program, all the applicable permits and approvals listed under the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program must be obtained prior to commencing the project.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In accordance with 15 CFR §930.2, a public notice of this proposed action with a public comment period from May 1, 2017 to May 19, 2017 was published in OEIR's Program Newsletter and on the DEQ website. No public comments were received in response to the notice.

## **FEDERAL CONSISTENCY CONCURRENCE**

Based on a review of the FCC and the comments submitted by agencies administering the applicable enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program, DEQ concurs that the proposal is consistent with the Virginia CZM Program provided all applicable permits and approvals are obtained as described below. If, prior to construction, the project should change significantly and any of the enforceable policies of the Virginia CZM Program would be affected, pursuant to 15 CFR §930.66, the applicant must submit supplemental information to DEQ for review and approval. Other state approvals which

may apply to this project are not included in this FCC. Therefore, the applicant must ensure that this project is constructed and operated in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. In addition, in accordance with 15 CFR Part 930, subpart D, § 930.58(a) (3), the applicant considered the project's impacts on the Advisory Policies of the Virginia CZM Program and found the proposal consistent with those policies.

## **REGULATORY AND COORDINATION NEEDS**

**1. Wetlands and Water Quality.** If future projects require impacts to wetlands or surface waters, plan to submit a JPA to VMRC (Tony Watkinson at [Tony.Watkinson@vmrc.virginia.gov](mailto:Tony.Watkinson@vmrc.virginia.gov)). Contact DEQ TRO (Bert Parolari at [Bert.Parolari@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Bert.Parolari@deq.virginia.gov)) for additional information on the VWP Permit Program. Contact DEQ (Janet Weyland at [Janet.Weyland@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Janet.Weyland@deq.virginia.gov) or 757-518-2151 to determine if the (VPDES) Pesticide Discharges General Permit is applicable to the proposed activities.

**2. Air Quality.** Contact officials with the appropriate locality for information on any local requirements pertaining to open burning. Contact DEQ TRO (Wayne Franklin at [Wayne.Franklin@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Wayne.Franklin@deq.virginia.gov) or 757-518-2155) for additional information on air regulations if necessary.

### **3. Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management.**

**3(a) Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.** If the VARNG has no previously DEQ-approved Annual Standards and Specifications and land disturbance results in a land-disturbing activity of equal to or greater than 10,000 square feet, the agency must receive approval for the project-specific ESC plan prior to initiation of any land-disturbing activity at the project site. Virginia Code 10.1-564 stipulates that state ESC plans for projects on state-owned lands must be consistent with local ESC requirements that are more stringent than the state program. Coordinate with the DEQ TRO (Janet Weyland at [Janet.Weyland@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Janet.Weyland@deq.virginia.gov) or 757-518-215) regarding applicable requirements if applicable (Reference: VESCL 62.1-44.15 et seq. and VESCR 9VAC25-840-30, 9VAC25-840-40 and 9VAC25-840-100).

**3(b) Stormwater Management Plan.** If the VARNG has no previously DEQ-approved Annual Standards and Specifications, a project-specific SWM plan must be reviewed and approved by DEQ for state agency projects that involve a land use conversion activity equal to or greater than one acre. The project-specific SWM plan must be prepared in accordance with the VSWML and the VSMP Permit Regulations. Questions should be directed to DEQ TRO (Janet Weyland at [Janet.Weyland@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Janet.Weyland@deq.virginia.gov) or 757-518-215) (Reference: VSML 62.1-44.15 et seq.; VSMP Permit Regulations 9VAC25-870-160).

**3(c) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities (VAR10).** The owner/operator of projects involving land-disturbing activities of equal to or greater than one acre is required to apply for registration coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Stormwater from Construction Activities. In accordance with 9VAC25-870-160, state projects must comply with the state regulation and, to the maximum extent practicable, with any local stormwater management program technical requirements adopted pursuant to the SWM Act. It is the responsibility of the state agency to demonstrate that the local program technical requirements are not practical for the project under consideration. The owner/operator must also develop a project-specific SWPPP. Specific questions regarding the Stormwater Management Program requirements should be directed to the DEQ Water Division (Holly Sepety at [Holly.Sepety@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Holly.Sepety@deq.virginia.gov) or 804-698-4039) (Reference: VSWML § 62.1-44.15 et seq.; VSMP 9VAC25-880 et seq.).

**4. Solid and Hazardous Wastes.** Contact DEQ TRO (Melinda Woodruff at [Melinda.Woodruff@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Melinda.Woodruff@deq.virginia.gov)) for additional information about waste management if necessary.

**5. Natural Heritage Resources.**

- Contact the DCR DNH (804-371-2708) to re-submit project information and a map for an update on natural heritage information if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before it is utilized.
- Coordinate with DCR DNH (Rene' Hypes, Natural Heritage Project Coordinator at 804-371-2708) for additional information on its comments and recommendations as necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this EA and FCC. The detailed comments of reviewers are attached. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (804) 698-4204 or Julia Wellman at (804) 698-4326.

Sincerely,



Bettina Sullivan, Manager  
Environmental Impact Review and Long Range  
Priorities Program

Enclosures

ec: Amy Ewing, DGIF  
Robbie Rhur, DCR  
Susan Douglas, VDH

Roger Kirchen, DHR  
Tony Watkinson, VMRC  
Greg Evans, DOF  
Dave Hansen, Virginia Beach  
Ben McFarlane, HRPDC  
Mark McElroy, Stantec  
Ken Oristaglio, DMA

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

Clyde E. Cristman  
Director



Rochelle Altholz  
Deputy Director of  
Administration and Finance

David C. Dowling  
Deputy Director of  
Soil and Water Conservation  
and Dam Safety

Thomas L. Smith  
Deputy Director of Operations

**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 30, 2017  
**TO:** Julia Wellman, DEQ  
**FROM:** Roberta Rhur, Environmental Impact Review Coordinator  
**SUBJECT:** DEQ 17-055F, Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, Camp Pendleton

**Division of Natural Heritage**

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR) has searched its Biotics Data System for occurrences of natural heritage resources from the area outlined on the submitted map. Natural heritage resources are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geologic formations.

According to the information currently in our files, the Camp Pendleton - Dam Neck Dune and Swale Conservation Site is located within the project site. Conservation sites are tools for representing key areas of the landscape that warrant further review for possible conservation action because of the natural heritage resources and habitat they support. Conservation sites are polygons built around one or more rare plant, animal, or natural community designed to include the element and, where possible, its associated habitat, and buffer or other adjacent land thought necessary for the element's conservation. Conservation sites are given a biodiversity significance ranking based on the rarity, quality, and number of element occurrences they contain; on a scale of 1-5, 1 being most significant. Camp Pendleton - Dam Neck Dune and Swale Conservation Site has been given a biodiversity significance ranking of B3, which represents a site of high significance. The natural heritage resources of concern at this site are:

<i>Cicindela trifasciata</i> ,	S-banded tiger beetle	G5/S1/NL/NL
<i>(Quercus incana</i>	Bluejack oak	G5/S2/NL/NL

The S-banded tiger beetle, has a broad range, from southern California to central Chile and from Virginia south to Venezuela (NatureServe, 2009). In Virginia, it is known from the southern coastal plain and piedmont. It has a dark brown - blackish dorsal surface with a greenish hue (Knisely and Schulz, 1997). The dorsal surface is covered with shallow green punctures. The ventral surface of the thorax is coppery and the abdomen is metallic blue or greenish-blue (Knisely and Schulz, 1997). This tiger beetle occurs in a wide variety of water-edge habitats, including mudflats or swales in coastal areas, tidal estuaries, marshes and bays, and pond, river and stream edges (Knisely and Schultz, 1997). Threats to this and other tiger beetles include habitat destruction from development or conversion to agricultural or timber operations.

Bluejack oak is a small evergreen tree with dark brown to gray bark that is broken into squares; it also has elliptical leaves with a bluish hue. This tree is found in dry sandy soil (sandhills) (Radford et al, 1968). Bluejack oak is currently known from 11 occurrences and historically known from 5 occurrences in Virginia's coastal plain.

In addition, White-top fleabane (*Erigeron vernus*, G5/S2/NL/NL), Carolina yellow-eyed grass (*Xyris caroliniana*, G4G5/S1/NL/NL), Dune marsh-elder (*Iva imbricata*, G5?/S1/NL/NL), and Glossy-seed yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis sessilis*, G4/SH/NL/NL) have been historically documented within the project site.

Finally, according to the DCR staff botanist, there is the potential for *Eupatorium maritimum*, G2?/S1/SOC/NL to occur within the property. (See attached paper for further information on this species)

Due to the potential for this site to support populations of natural heritage resources, DCR recommends an inventory for these resources in the study area. With the survey results we can more accurately evaluate potential impacts to natural heritage resources and offer specific protection recommendations for minimizing impacts to the documented resources.

DCR-Division of Natural Heritage biologists are qualified and available to conduct inventories for rare, threatened, and endangered species. Please contact J. Christopher Ludwig, Natural Heritage Inventory Manager, at [chris.ludwig@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:chris.ludwig@dcr.virginia.gov) or 804-371-6206 to discuss arrangements for field work.

While specific recommendations can only be given after a survey of natural heritage resources has been completed, DCR does generally support the *Draft Update INRMP 2017 – 2021, Section 6: Natural Resource Program Management* including management items on page 45, including #2 to focus training in non-sensitive habitats, #3 minimize maintained areas, promoting native plant revegetation, monitoring and developing an exotic and invasive species management plan, and #4 managing the conservation of migratory species. DCR also supports 5 year surveys for rare, threatened and endangered species, monitoring beachfront and dune systems and restricting access during breeding season for sea turtles (as stated on page 46) and following USFWS guidelines for northern long-eared bat. (pp 46-47), as well as the Grounds Maintenance, Forest Management sections and the Integrated Pest Management Program (pp49 - 52) recommendations. Furthermore, DCR also recommends the use of native species similar to those found in surrounding areas when revegetating disturbed areas and plant native flowers that bloom throughout the spring and summer to support pollinator habitat.

There are no State Natural Area Preserves under DCR's jurisdiction in the project vicinity.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement established between the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the DCR, DCR represents VDACS in comments regarding potential impacts on state-listed threatened and endangered plant and insect species. The current activity will not affect any documented state-listed plants or insects.

New and updated information is continually added to Biotics. Please re-submit project information and map for an update on this natural heritage information if the scope of the project changes and/or six months has passed before it is utilized.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) maintains a database of wildlife locations, including threatened and endangered species, trout streams, and anadromous fish waters that may contain information not documented in this letter. Their database may be accessed from <http://vafwis.org/fwis/> or contact Ernie Aschenbach at 804-367-2733 or [Ernie.Aschenbach@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:Ernie.Aschenbach@dgif.virginia.gov).

The remaining DCR divisions have no comments regarding the scope of this project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Cc: Julia Wellman, DEQ

#### Literature Cited

Knisley, C.B. and T.D. Schulz. 1997. *The Biology of Tiger Beetles and a Guide to the species of the South Atlantic States*. Virginia Museum of Natural History, Special Publication Number 5, Martinsville, VA. p. 134.

NatureServe. 2009. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: March 30, 2010).

Radford, A.E., H.A. Ahles, C.R. Bell. 1968. *Manual of the Vascular Flora of the Carolinas*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. p. 385.

## Wellman, Julia (DEQ)

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**From:** Warren, Arlene (VDH)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2017 4:50 PM  
**To:** Wellman, Julia (DEQ)  
**Subject:** RE: NEW PROJECT ARMY DMA INRMP 17-055F

**Project Name:** Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, Camp Pendleton State Military Reserve  
**Project #:** 17-055F  
**UPC #:** N/A  
**Location:** City of Virginia Beach

VDH – Office of Drinking Water has reviewed the above project. Below are our comments as they relate to proximity to **public drinking water sources** (groundwater wells, springs and surface water intakes). Potential impacts to public water distribution systems or sanitary sewage collection systems **must be verified by the local utility.**

The following public groundwater wells are located within a 1 mile radius of the project site:

PWS ID Number	City/County	System Name	Facility Name
3810250	VIRGINIA BEACH	HOLIDAY TRAV-L-PARK	DRILLED WELL NUMBER 4 INSIDE
3810250	VIRGINIA BEACH	HOLIDAY TRAV-L-PARK	DRILLED WELL NUMBER 3 OUTSIDE
3810530	VIRGINIA BEACH	RED WING GOLF COURSE	WELL - NEW
3810200	VIRGINIA BEACH	KOA CAMPGROUNDS- VIRGINIA BEACH	NEW WELL
3810108	VIRGINIA BEACH	KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	DEEP WELL

There are no surface water intakes located within a 5 mile radius of the project site.

The project is not within the watershed of any public surface water intakes.

Best Regards,

Arlene Fields Warren  
**GIS Program Support Technician**  
**Office of Drinking Water**  
**Virginia Department of Health**  
109 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23220  
(804) 864-7781

*The Virginia Department of Health – Office of Drinking Water appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. If you have any questions, please let me know.*

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**From:** Fulcher, Valerie (DEQ)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** dgif-ESS Projects (DGIF); Rhur, Robbie (DCR); odwreview (VDH); Narasimhan, Kotur (DEQ); Gavan, Larry (DEQ); Moore, Daniel (DEQ); Sepety, Holly (DEQ); Robinson, Cindy (DEQ); Kirchen, Roger (DHR); Evans, Gregory (DOF); Watkinson, Tony (MRC); Ben McFarlane; [jmcbride@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:jmcbride@hrpdcva.gov); [plan@vbgov.com](mailto:plan@vbgov.com)  
**Cc:** Wellman, Julia (DEQ)  
**Subject:** NEW PROJECT ARMY DMA INRMP 17-055F



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

*Street address:* 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

*Mailing address:* P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

Fax: 804-698-4019 - TDD (804) 698-4021

[www.deq.virginia.gov](http://www.deq.virginia.gov)

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor  
Director

(804) 698-4020  
1-800-592-5482

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Daniel Moore

**FROM:** Shawn Smith, Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance

**DATE:** May 18, 2017

**SUBJECT:** DEQ 17-055F, Camp Pendleton-Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, City of Virginia Beach

The project is an update to the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for Camp Pendleton in the City of Virginia Beach. Camp Pendleton is located outside of the City's designation CBPA, as it is in the Atlantic Ocean drainage basin. As such, there are no Bay Act requirements relevant to this project.

## Wellman, Julia (DEQ)

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**From:** Gavan, Larry (DEQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 3:17 PM  
**To:** Wellman, Julia (DEQ)  
**Cc:** Zegler, Hannah (DEQ)  
**Subject:** RE: NEW PROJECT ARMY DMA INRMP 17-055F

Ques.- Do we use the non-educational state agency statements or something else?

Ans.- Pls. use the non-educational state agency.

Hope this helps

Thx

L

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**From:** Wellman, Julia (DEQ)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 20, 2017 3:06 PM  
**To:** Gavan, Larry (DEQ); Zegler, Hannah (DEQ)  
**Subject:** FW: NEW PROJECT ARMY DMA INRMP 17-055F

What comments would apply to proposed land disturbance by the Virginia Department of Military Affairs on the state-owned Camp Pendleton AND the entities (including federal government and private entities) to which the state-owned land is leased?

Do we use the non-educational state agency statements or something else?

---

**From:** Fulcher, Valerie (DEQ)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** dgif-ESS Projects (DGIF); Rhur, Robbie (DCR); odwreview (VDH); Narasimhan, Kotur (DEQ); Gavan, Larry (DEQ); Moore, Daniel (DEQ); Sepety, Holly (DEQ); Robinson, Cindy (DEQ); Kirchen, Roger (DHR); Evans, Gregory (DOF); Watkinson, Tony (MRC); Ben McFarlane; [jmcbride@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:jmcbride@hrpdcva.gov); [plan@vbgov.com](mailto:plan@vbgov.com)  
**Cc:** Wellman, Julia (DEQ)  
**Subject:** NEW PROJECT ARMY DMA INRMP 17-055F

**Good afternoon - this is a new OEIR review request/project:**

**Document Type:** Federal Consistency Certification

**Project Sponsor:** DOD/Department of the Army/Virginia Dept. of Military Affairs

**Project Title:** Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, Camp Pendleton State Military Reserve

**Location:** City of Virginia Beach

**Project Number:** DEQ #17-055F

The document is available at [www.deq.virginia.gov/filesshare/oeir](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/filesshare/oeir) in the **ARMY** folder ("Camp Pendleton State Military Reserve").

The due date for comments is **MAY 17, 2017**. You can send your comments either directly to Julia by email ([Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov)), or you can send your comments by regular interagency/U.S. mail to the Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Impact Review, 629 E. Main St., 6th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
TIDEWATER REGIONAL OFFICE  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW COMMENTS

June 28, 2017

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 17-055F

**PROJECT TITLE:** Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, Camp Pendleton State Military Reserve

As Requested, TRO staff has reviewed the supplied information and has the following comments:

**Petroleum Storage Tank Cleanups:**

No comments.

**Petroleum Storage Tank Compliance/Inspections:**

No comments.

**Virginia Water Protection Permit Program (VWPP):**

Projects involving impacts to surface waters, including wetlands, may require a permit from our program. Provided the applicant receives the proper authorization from our program, these projects will be consistent with our program.

**Air Permit Program :**

No air permitting issues identified.

**Water Permit Program :**

No comments.

**Waste Permit Program :**

No comments.

**Storm Water Program:**

No Comments.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
TIDEWATER REGIONAL OFFICE  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW COMMENTS

June 28, 2017

**PROJECT NUMBER:** 17-055F

**PROJECT TITLE:** Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, Camp Pendleton State Military Reserve

The staff from the Tidewater Regional Office thanks you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Cindy Robinson  
Environmental Specialist II  
5636 Southern Blvd.  
VA Beach, VA 23462  
(757) 518-2167  
Cindy.Robinson@deq.virginia.gov

## Wellman, Julia (DEQ)

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**From:** Worrell, Justin (MRC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 04, 2017 11:21 AM  
**To:** Wellman, Julia (DEQ)  
**Subject:** FW: NEW PROJECT ARMY DMA INRMP 17-055F

VMRC has no comments regarding this project. It does not appear to impact any State-owned submerged resources.

Justin D. Worrell  
Environmental Engineer, Sr.  
Habitat Management Division  
Virginia Marine Resources Commission  
(757) 247-8063 telephone  
(757) 247-8062 fax

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**From:** Watkinson, Tony (MRC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 1:43 PM  
**To:** Worrell, Justin (MRC) <[Justin.Worrell@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:Justin.Worrell@mrc.virginia.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: NEW PROJECT ARMY DMA INRMP 17-055F

---

**From:** Fulcher, Valerie (DEQ)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 1:41 PM  
**To:** dgif-ESS Projects (DGIF) <[rr.dgif-ESSProjects@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:rr.dgif-ESSProjects@dgif.virginia.gov)>; Rhur, Robbie (DCR) <[Robbie.Rhur@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:Robbie.Rhur@dcr.virginia.gov)>; odwreview (VDH) <[odwreview-VDH@cov.virginia.gov](mailto:odwreview-VDH@cov.virginia.gov)>; Narasimhan, Kotur (DEQ) <[Kotur.Narasimhan@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Kotur.Narasimhan@deq.virginia.gov)>; Gavan, Larry (DEQ) <[Larry.Gavan@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Larry.Gavan@deq.virginia.gov)>; Moore, Daniel (DEQ) <[Daniel.Moore@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Daniel.Moore@deq.virginia.gov)>; Sepety, Holly (DEQ) <[Holly.Sepety@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Holly.Sepety@deq.virginia.gov)>; Robinson, Cindy (DEQ) <[Cindy.Robinson@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Cindy.Robinson@deq.virginia.gov)>; Kirchen, Roger (DHR) <[Roger.Kirchen@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:Roger.Kirchen@dhr.virginia.gov)>; Evans, Gregory (DOF) <[Gregory.Evans@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:Gregory.Evans@dof.virginia.gov)>; Watkinson, Tony (MRC) <[Tony.Watkinson@mrc.virginia.gov](mailto:Tony.Watkinson@mrc.virginia.gov)>; Ben McFarlane <[bmcfarlane@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:bmcfarlane@hrpdcva.gov)>; [jmcbride@hrpdcva.gov](mailto:jmcbride@hrpdcva.gov); [plan@vbgov.com](mailto:plan@vbgov.com)  
**Cc:** Wellman, Julia (DEQ) <[Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Julia.Wellman@deq.virginia.gov)>  
**Subject:** NEW PROJECT ARMY DMA INRMP 17-055F

**Good afternoon - this is a new OEIR review request/project:**

**Document Type:** Federal Consistency Certification  
**Project Sponsor:** DOD/Department of the Army/Virginia Dept. of Military Affairs  
**Project Title:** Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, Camp Pendleton State Military Reserve  
**Location:** City of Virginia Beach  
**Project Number:** DEQ #17-055F

The document is available at [www.deq.virginia.gov/filesshare/oeir](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/filesshare/oeir) in the ARMY folder ("Camp Pendleton State Military Reserve").

## Wellman, Julia (DEQ)

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**From:** Holma, Marc (DHR)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 24, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** Wellman, Julia (DEQ)  
**Cc:** Smead, Susan E NFG NG VAARNG (US)  
**Subject:** updated Integrated National Resource Management Plan, Camp Pendleton, City of Virginia Beach (DHR #2017-0363; DEQ #17-055F)

Julia,

The DHR has reviewed the draft updated INRMP for Camp Pendleton and have no comment. We believe the implementation of the plan will have No Effect to historic properties.

Sincerely,  
Marc Holma

## Wellman, Julia (DEQ)

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**From:** Ben McFarlane <bmcfarlane@hrpdcva.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 26, 2017 3:11 PM  
**To:** Wellman, Julia (DEQ)  
**Cc:** Sharon Lawrence  
**Subject:** DEQ #17-055F - Updated INRMP, Camp Pendleton State Military Reserve

Ms. Wellman,

The HRPDC staff has reviewed the federal consistency certification for this project (DEQ #17-055F – Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan, Camp Pendleton State Military Reserve). The proposal appears to be consistent with local and regional plans and policies.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Ben

**Benjamin J. McFarlane, AICP**  
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