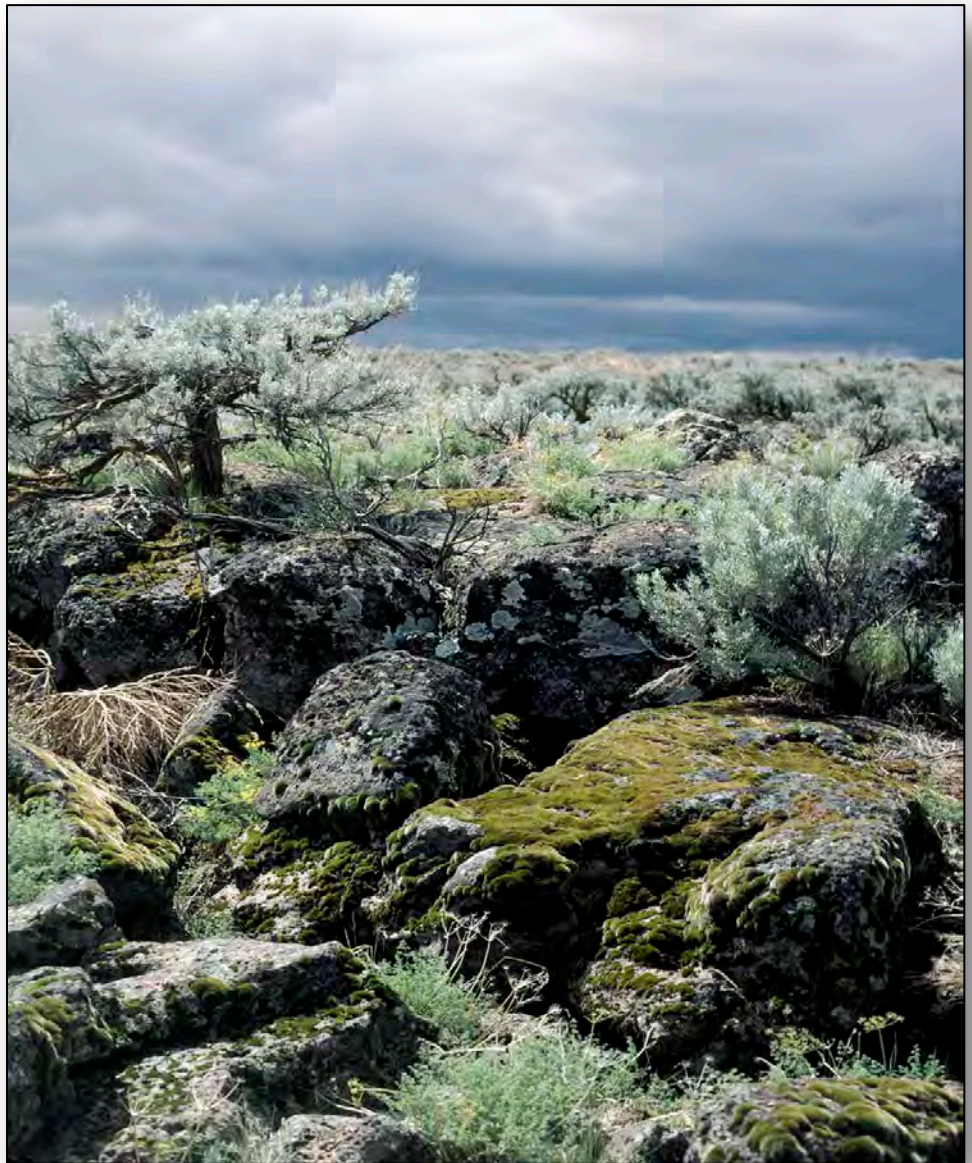


**INTEGRATED NATURAL  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT  
PLAN (Final)**



Charles Baun,  
Kevin Warner, and  
Jay Weaver

IDARNG-EMO

Boise, ID

**Environmental Management Office  
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# INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (Final)

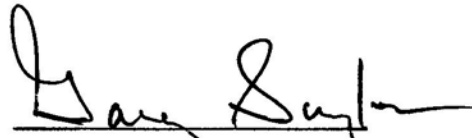
## Orchard Combat Training Center Idaho Army National Guard

### ENDORSEMENT


This updated Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) meets the requirements for INRMPs per National Guard Bureau and Army policy, meets the intent of the Sikes Act Improvement Act, as amended (16 USC 670a et seq.), and contributes to the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations. It has set appropriate and adequate guidelines for conserving and protecting the natural resources of the Idaho Army National Guard's (IDARNG) Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC).

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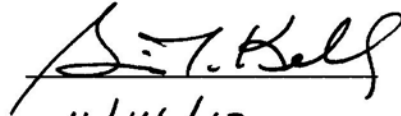
  
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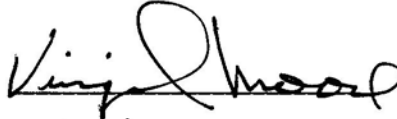
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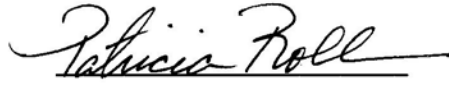
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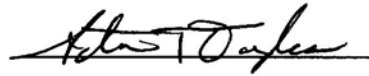
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# INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (Final)

## Orchard Combat Training Center Idaho Army National Guard

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September 25, 2012

## Clerical Amendment to Document

In 1990, *Lepidium papilliferum* (as *Lepidium montanum* var. *papilliferum*) was designated as a Category 2 Candidate species by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In 1993 Rollins elevated the variety to species level, as it was originally described by Henderson in 1900 (Henderson 1900, Rollins 1993). After various interim actions, in April 2002 the USFWS settled the lawsuit filed for failure to list slickspot peppergrass under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The settlement required the USFWS to issue a proposed listing rule no later than July 15, 2002. The Proposed Rule for listing *Lepidium papilliferum* as endangered was published in the Federal Register on July 15, 2002. On January 22, 2004, the USFWS published a withdrawal of the July 15, 2002 proposal. This withdrawal was based on a lack of evidence supporting a negative population trend and the formation and implementation of conservation plans (Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP)). On August 19, 2005, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho reinstated the July 15, 2002 proposed rule to list *Lepidium papilliferum* as endangered. On January 12, 2007 the USFWS withdrew the proposed rule citing little evidence of negative impacts on the abundance of *Lepidium papilliferum*. A subsequent complaint was filed challenging the 2007 decision and on June 4, 2008, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho once again ordered a return to the July 15, 2002 proposal. On September 19, 2008 the proposed rule to list *Lepidium papilliferum* was published in the Federal Register. On October 8, 2009, the USFWS published a determination that *Lepidium papilliferum* was a threatened species under the ESA.

On August 8, 2012, the United States District Court for the District of Idaho ordered that the final rule listing slickspot peppergrass as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), be vacated and remanded for further consideration consistent with the court's decision. At this time, the USFWS is still awaiting legal advice on the interpretation of this decision. Until the USFWS receives further legal guidance, it is the determination by the USFWS and the BLM that slickspot peppergrass will be managed as a proposed species under the ESA.

While the change in status has some legal ramifications relative to the protection of the species under the ESA, the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) has made the determination that no changes will be made to this document. While the status of slickspot peppergrass is under legal review there will be no changes to management of the species or associated habitat by the

IDARNG. We will continue to aggressively manage the species in a manner that has resulted in some of the highest-quality occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in the Snake River Plain region. Specifically, the USFWS identified in their 2011 Biological Opinion that 20 of the 35 (60%) individual conservation efforts that were determined to be both certain to be implemented and effective in reducing threats to the slickspot peppergrass, or were already known to be implemented and effective in reducing threats to the species, were implemented by the IDARNG as part of the INRMP.

Therefore, for clerical purposes, and until a future decision on the species has been determined by the courts, we ask the reader to substitute the term “threatened” with “proposed” throughout the document as it relates to slickspot peppergrass only. All other use of these terms is to be unchanged.



## PREFACE

*During the American Revolution, volunteers and Minutemen earned our freedom. Today, our Guard and Reserve help preserve it. The National Guard has a unique role. It serves America within our borders and beyond our borders....All Americans have learned to count on the National Guard in times of crisis to lend a strong and helping hand.*

~President George W. Bush

Training troops to win on battlefields around the globe and conserving natural resources...The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) is proving that the two missions are compatible and even complement each other at Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), formally known as the Orchard Training Area.

The OCTC is a 143,307-acre training facility located south of Boise, Idaho. The site is public land that is utilized for military training, livestock grazing, and public recreation. Military training occurs via the 2010 review and renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (Appendix A) between the IDARNG and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The OCTC has continued to provide quality military training and other military support missions in this unique terrain.

This Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) is the IDARNG's plan of action for conserving the natural resources entrusted to the National Guard. While the plan itself is updated on an annual basis, the underlying philosophy is a perpetual commitment. The IDARNG will conserve the area's biological diversity and make sound decisions regarding the use of natural resources to support both the military mission, the mandate of the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA), and needs of the region and the nation.

Lands on the OCTC have been used to serve this nation's defense for more than 50 years. As the installation enters the twenty-first century, those who use the OCTC today do not take this legacy lightly. This INRMP is dedicated to the next generation of America's warriors and other Americans who will use these lands and their natural resources.

In accordance with the Sikes Act Improvement Act (16 USC 670a(a)(3)), elements of this plan are consistent with the use of military installations to ensure the preparedness of the Armed Forces. This INRMP provides for:

- (1) the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources;
- (2) the sustainable multipurpose use of the resources, which shall include recreation, grazing administered by the BLM, and non-consumptive uses; and
- (3) public access to military installations, subject to safety requirements and military security.

# INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (Final)

## Orchard Combat Training Center Idaho Army National Guard

### Table of Contents

PREFACE .....	viii
Table of Contents .....	ix
List of Figures .....	xii
List of Tables .....	xiii
List of Appendices .....	xiii
Acronym List .....	xiv
Chapter 1 Executive Summary .....	1
1.1 Background .....	1
1.2 Site Overview .....	1
1.3 Review as to Operation and Effect .....	2
1.4 Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Goals .....	2
1.5 Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Content .....	3
Chapter 2 General Information .....	5
2.1 Purpose .....	5
2.2 Authority .....	8
2.2.1 Public Law 103-64, Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area .....	9
2.3 Responsibilities .....	9
2.3.1 National Guard Bureau Responsibilities .....	9
2.3.2 Idaho Army National Guard Responsibilities .....	9
2.4 Management Philosophy .....	14
2.4.1 Environmental Management System .....	14
2.4.2 Ecosystem Management .....	15
2.5 Sustainable Range Program .....	16
2.5.1 Integrated Training Area Management .....	16
2.5.2 Integrated Training Area Management Program Management at Orchard Combat Training Center .....	17
2.6 Conditions for Implementation and Revision .....	22
2.6.1 Implementation .....	22
2.6.2 Effectiveness .....	22
2.6.3 Agency and Public Participation .....	23

2.6.4	Future Updates/Revisions.....	23
Chapter 3	Installation Overview .....	25
3.1	Location and Area .....	25
3.2	Installation History.....	25
3.3	Military Mission and Infrastructure .....	28
3.3.1	Idaho Army National Guard Military Mission.....	28
3.3.2	Orchard Combat Training Center Infrastructure .....	29
3.4	Surrounding Land Uses .....	34
3.4.1	Surrounding Communities.....	36
3.4.2	Land Uses.....	40
Chapter 4	Physical Environment.....	43
4.1	Climate .....	43
4.2	Physiography and Topography .....	47
4.3	Geology.....	47
4.4	Soils.....	47
4.1	Petroleum and Mineral Resources .....	48
4.2	Hydrology.....	48
Chapter 5	Natural Environment.....	51
5.1	Vegetation.....	51
5.1.1	Historic Vegetative Cover .....	51
5.1.2	Current Vegetative Cover .....	52
5.2	Fish and Wildlife.....	56
5.2.1	Birds .....	56
5.2.2	Mammals .....	56
5.3	Threatened and Endangered Species .....	59
5.4	Wetlands.....	60
5.5	Orchard Combat Training Center Problem Species .....	60
5.5.1	Invasive and Exotic Species at the Orchard Combat Training Center.....	61
5.5.2	Animal Pests.....	63
Chapter 6	Mission Impacts on Natural Resources .....	65
6.1	Land Use.....	65
6.2	Current Uses and Potential Impacts .....	65
6.3	Future Potential Projects .....	75
6.4	Natural Resources Needed to Support the Military Mission.....	76
6.5	Natural Resources Considerations for Mission Planning and Initiation .....	76
6.6	Current and Potential Impacts.....	77
6.6.1	Soils.....	78
6.6.2	Water Resources.....	78
6.6.3	Wetlands.....	78

6.6.4	Flora .....	78
6.6.5	Fauna .....	79
Chapter 7 Natural Resources Program Management.....		83
7.1	Natural Resources Program Management .....	83
7.1.1	Organizational Support for Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation .....	83
7.1.2	Federal Agency Support for Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation .....	83
7.1.3	State Agency Support for Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation .....	84
7.1.4	University Support for Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation ...	84
7.1.5	Contractors and Other Groups Supporting Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation .....	84
7.2	Geographic Information Systems.....	84
7.3	Habitat Management.....	85
7.4	Fish and Wildlife Management .....	86
7.5	Management of Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitats .....	86
7.5.1	Federally Listed Species .....	87
7.5.2	Migratory and Breeding Birds at the Orchard Combat Training Center and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act .....	87
7.6	Water Resources Protection .....	89
7.7	Wetlands Protection .....	90
7.8	Grounds Maintenance .....	90
7.9	Forest Management.....	91
7.10	Fire Management.....	91
7.10.1	Prescribed Burning.....	91
7.11	Agricultural Outleasing .....	92
7.11.1	Livestock Grazing .....	92
7.12	Integrated Pest Management Program .....	92
7.12.1	Animal Pests/Nuisances.....	93
7.12.2	Non-Native/Noxious Plants .....	93
7.13	Outdoor Recreation .....	95
7.13.1	Public Access.....	95
7.13.2	Hunting .....	95
7.13.3	Safety Considerations .....	95
7.13.4	Litter.....	95
7.14	Cultural Resources Protection .....	95
7.14.1	Natural Resources Management Implications .....	96
7.14.2	Tribes with Interest in Orchard Combat Training Center Cultural Resources .....	97
7.15	Enforcement .....	97

7.15.1 Training .....	97
7.15.2 Enforcement Responsibility .....	97
7.16 Public Outreach.....	98
7.16.1 Use of Media.....	98
7.16.2 Special Events .....	98
Chapter 8 Management Goals and Objectives .....	99
Chapter 9 Implementation.....	111
9.1 Annual Work Plans.....	111
9.1.1 Work Plans .....	111
9.1.2 Funding .....	125
9.2 Natural Resources Management Staffing .....	127
9.2.1 Personnel Training .....	128
9.2.2 External Assistance .....	129
9.3 Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Reviews .....	130
9.3.1 Review for Operation and Effect .....	130
9.3.2 Annual Reviews and Coordination .....	131
9.4 Monitoring Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation .....	132
References .....	133

## List of Figures

Figure 2.1. Orchard Combat Training Center Location Map.....	7
Figure 2.2. Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Command Diagram .....	10
Figure 2.3. Plan, do, check, act cycle (Source: EPA 2004) .....	15
Figure 3.1. Orchard Combat Training Center Vicinity Map.....	27
Figure 3.2. Orchard Combat Training Center Range, Facilities, and Airspace Map .....	31
Figure 3.3. Orchard Combat Training Center Maneuver Area Management Map.....	32
Figure 3.4. Orchard Combat Training Center and Surrounding Ownership Map .....	35
Figure 3.5. Orchard Combat Training Center Livestock Grazing Allotments .....	42
Figure 4.1. Map of Remote Automated Weather Stations within the Orchard Combat Training Center ..	44
Figure 4.2. Orchard Combat Training Center Soils Map .....	49
Figure 4.3. Orchard Combat Training Center Hydrology Map.....	50
Figure 5.1. Orchard Combat Training Center Vegetation and Maneuver Areas .....	54
Figure 5.2. Canada thistle .....	61
Figure 5.3. Rush skeletonweed .....	62
Figure 5.4. Spotted Knapweed.....	62
Figure 5.5. Scotch thistle.....	62
Figure 5.6. Whitetop .....	63

## List of Tables

Table 1.1. Management Related Goals Identified in the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. 2	
Table 2.1. Laws, Regulations, Directives, Guidance, and Policies Applicable to the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan.....	8
Table 2.2. Department of Defense Principles of Ecosystem Management .....	16
Table 4.1. Summary of Boise, Idaho Climate Data.....	46
Table 5.1. Orchard Combat Training Center Vegetation Summary .....	52
Table 5.2. Species of Concern Occurring in the Orchard Combat Training Center.....	55
Table 5.3. Idaho Bureau of Land Management Special Status Animal Species (Source: Bureau of Land Management, Four Rivers Field Office).....	57
Table 5.4. Idaho Bureau of Land Management Special Status Reptile Species (Source: Bureau of Land Management, Four Rivers Field Office).....	58
Table 5.5. Noxious and Invasive Weeds Recorded within the Orchard Combat Training Center. ....	61
Table 6.1. Current Uses and Potential Impacts Summary .....	66
Table 6.2. Identified Un-programmed Range Projects .....	75
Table 8.1. Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Management Summary Matrix.....	100
Table 9.1. Recurring Natural Resource Management Activities.....	111
Table 9.2. Planned Projects (Subject to Funding Availability) .....	113
Table 9.3. Project Programs and Agency Coordination .....	123

## List of Appendices

Appendix A	Public Law 106-34 and Memorandum of Understanding between the Idaho Military Division and the Idaho State Director, Bureau of Land Management
Appendix B	Endangered Species Management Plan for <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> on Orchard Training Area, Idaho
Appendix C	Regulatory Instruments for Natural Resources on the Orchard Combat Training Center
Appendix D	Environmental Management System Target Matrix
Appendix E	Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan
Appendix F	Soils Descriptions
Appendix G	Flora List
Appendix H	Plant Species of Concern
Appendix I	Fauna List
Appendix J	Raptor Species Descriptions
Appendix K	Funds Request Summary
Appendix L	Standard Operating Procedures (Conservation Branch)
Appendix M	National Environmental Policy Act Documentation

## Acronym List

°C	Celsius
°F	Fahrenheit
AEDB-EQ	Army Environmental Database Environmental Quality
AFB	Air Force Base
APC	Armored Personnel Carrier
ANGB	Army National Guard Bureau
AR	Army Regulation
ASP	Ammunition Supply Point
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
CBCT	Cavalry Brigade Combat Team
CEV	combat engineer vehicle
CFMO	Construction Facilities Management Office
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CFT	cross functional team
cm	centimeters
CO	carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
DEH	Director of Engineering and Housing
DOA	Department of the Army
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDI	Department of Defense Instructions
E.O.	Executive Order
ECS	Environmental Control System
EMO	environmental management office
eMS	Environmental Management System
eMSMR	eMS Management Representative
EOD	explosive ordnance disposal
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQCC	Environmental Quality Control Committee
EQR	Environmental Quality Report
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESMP	Endangered Species Management Plan
FARP	forward area refueling point
FCR	fire control radar
FONSI	Finding Of No Significant Impact

FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS	geographic information system
GPS	Global Positioning System
ha	Hectares
HMMWV	High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resource management Plan
IDARNG	Idaho Army National Guard
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
IPM	integrated pest management
IPMP	Integrated Pest Management Plan
ISO	International Standards Organization
ISU	Institutional Support Unit
IWQ	Individual Weapons Qualification
km	kilometers
kph	kilometers per hour
LRAM	Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance
LTA	local training areas
MAPS	Monitoring Avian Production Survivorship
MATES	Mobilization and Training Equipment Site
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
MILCON	military construction
MLRS	multiple launch rocket system
mm	millimeter
MOU	memorandum of understanding
mph	miles per hour
MPMG	multipurpose machine gun
MPRC-H	Multipurpose Range Complex-Heavy
NCA	Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area
NCA-RMP	Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision
NDAA	National Defense Authorization Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGB-ILE	National Guard Bureau-Army Environmental
NGB-ILI	National Guard Bureau-Army Instillation
NGB-TRS	National Guard Bureau-Army Training
NOx	Nitrogen oxides
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service



O&M	operations and maintenance
OCTC	Orchard Combat Training Center
OHV	Off highway Vehicles
ORTC	Operational Readiness Training Complex
PGSP	Power Generation Support Platform
PIF	Partners in Flight
PM	particulate mater
POL	petroleum, oil, and lubricants
RAWS	remote automated weather stations
RCMP	Range Complex Master Plan
REC	Record of Environmental Consideration
ROW	right-of-way
RTLA	Range and Training Land Assessment
RTLTP	Range and Training Land Program
S&G	Standard and Guides
SOM	State Operated Mobilization
SOP	standard operating procedures
SRP	Sustainable Range Program
STEP	Status Tool for the Environmental Program
SWPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans
TAEC	Training Activity Environmental Checklist
TAG	The Adjutant General
TRI	Training Requirements Integration
UAS	unmanned aircraft system
USC	United States Code
USDA	U. S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WFMP	Wildland Fire Management Plan

# Chapter 1 Executive Summary

## 1.1 Background

The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) published the first Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) in 1991 and revised it in 1997 and 2004; a draft update was prepared in 2008. This INRMP for the OCTC is an update of the 2004 and draft 2008 INRMPs, which is the current guidance document used by the IDARNG for managing natural resources at the OCTC. The INRMP has been updated for use by the Army National Guard Bureau (ANGB) and the IDARNG as the primary tool for managing natural resources at the OCTC.

The primary purpose of the OCTC is to support the military training mission of the IDARNG. Training must be conducted in a way that provides for sustainable and healthy ecosystems, complies with applicable environmental laws and regulations, and provides for no net loss in the capability of military installation lands to support the military mission. INRMPs help installation commanders manage natural resources more effectively to ensure that installation lands remain available and in good condition to support the military mission.

The Sikes Improvement Act (Sikes Act) of 1997 (16 USC 670a *et seq.*, as amended) requires federal military installations with adequate wildlife habitat to develop a long-range INRMP, with associated cooperative agreements with land use agencies as needed. The majority of the OCTC is on lands owned and managed by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is wholly contained within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA). Therefore, the OCTC is not a "military installation" as defined by the Sikes Act, and this INRMP is an Army policy INRMP pursuant to Army Goals and Implementing Guidance for Natural Resources Planning Level Surveys and INRMP (Army INRMP Policy), dated March 21, 1997. An INRMP is required by Army INRMP Policy for the OCTC because the installation conducts intensive, on-the-ground military missions that require conservation measures to minimize impacts and sustain Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement*; 32 CFR 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*; Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 4700.1, *Natural Resources Management Programs*; Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.3, *Environmental Conservation Program*; and ANGB policy.

In addition to provisions outlined in the Sikes Act, the OCTC must comply with the requirements outlined in Public Law 103-64 (Appendix A) and those identified in the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the BLM and the Idaho Military Division (2010 OCTC MOU) (Appendix A). These documents set forth the requirements for continued military use within the NCA. However, if the Secretary of the Interior determines such use is not compatible with the purposes set forth in section 3(a)(2) of Public Law 103-64, military use can be suspended.

## 1.2 Site Overview

The OCTC is a 143,307-acre training facility located approximately 13 miles (21 kilometers [km]) south of Boise, Idaho. Using the OCTC as a training area by the IDARNG is authorized under Public Law 103-64 and the 2010 OCTC MOU between the IDARNG and BLM. For over 50 years, this public land has been

used for military training, as well as for livestock grazing and public recreation. The OCTC provides quality military training and other military support missions in this unique terrain.

**1.3 Review as to Operation and Effect**

The OCTC has benefited over the last 20 years from using the INRMP as the primary management tool to balance the training required to protect our Soldiers and meet our mission with the natural resources that define the NCA. Per DoD Supplemental Guidance, this document will be reviewed “as to operation and effect” to determine if it meets the requirements of the Sikes Act and contributes to conservation of natural resources on the OCTC. The INRMP review process is done in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), and BLM.

**1.4 Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Goals**

The primary purpose of the INRMP is to: provide professional management and stewardship of natural resources at the OCTC to achieve optimum, sustainable use of training lands; promote biodiversity and ecosystem functionality; provide habitat for raptors and prey within the NCA; and comply with environmental laws. Management-related goals identified in the INRMP are listed in Table 1.1. These goals are supported in the INRMP by defined objectives and management activities/projects as identified in Chapters 8 and 9. The objectives provide general management guidance while project-specific activities are defined, funded, and implemented based on specific time frames in order to meet the defined goals and objectives. The summary matrix in Chapter 8 is also used by the IDARNG’s Environmental Management Office (EMO) as the annual review template during coordination and planning efforts with the FWS, IDFG, and BLM. Goals have been focused to emphasize sustainability and maintain ecological viability during military training.

**Table 1.1. Management Related Goals Identified in the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan**

Number	Management Goal
1	Manage the terrestrial habitat of the OCTC in a manner compatible with the provisions outlined in Public Law 103-64 and the 2010 OCTC MOU (Appendix A), the BLM’s resource management plan (BLM 2008), the IDFG’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, applicable federal and State laws, Army regulations and policies, and the IDARNG’s Environmental Management System (eMS).
2	Manage and maintain wildlife habitat that contributes to sustained populations of resident species and provides seasonal habitats for migratory species in order to maintain the current capabilities of the OCTC to support the military mission.
3	Maintain and enhance existing habitats to support known populations of rare, proposed, candidate, threatened, or endangered species in order to maintain the current capabilities of the OCTC to support the military mission.
4	Manage training site data to facilitate decision making that integrates military training requirements with natural resources information in order to maintain the current capabilities of the OCTC to support the military mission.

## 1.5 Updated Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Content

This updated INRMP provides a description of the installation (e.g., location, history, mission); information regarding the on-site and adjacent physical and biotic environment; and an assessment of the anticipated impacts to natural resources from mission activities. Included within the updated INRMP are recommendations for various management practices designed to enhance the natural resource base and mitigate anticipated adverse impacts that may result through successful execution of the military mission at the OCTC (Table 1.1). Existing cultural resources at the OCTC are referenced in the INRMP within the context of established management protocols to ensure compatibility with the cultural and historic resources included in the IDARNG's statewide Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan (ICRMP).

Implementation of this updated INRMP will be in accordance with provisions outlined in the BLM's *Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision* (NCA-RMP) (BLM 2008) and will neither supersede nor conflict with those actions unless authorized by the BLM. Similarly, this document incorporates recommendations and management guidelines outlined in the Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy developed by the IDFG (IDFG 2005).

This document outlines the guidelines and methods used to increase the environmental awareness of IDARNG personnel and guest units using the OCTC for training, as well as increasing the public awareness of the IDARNG's environmental program. Implementation of this updated INRMP will ensure successful accomplishment of the IDARNG's military missions while providing for multiple uses of natural resources and promoting adaptive stewardship practices that sustain ecosystem and biological integrity. This updated INRMP complies with applicable Army and DoD policies, as well as applicable federal, State, and local mandates.



## Chapter 2 General Information

### 2.1 Purpose

The IDARNG published the first INRMP for the OCTC in 1991 and revised it in 1997 and 2004. A draft update was prepared in 2008. This INRMP for the OCTC is an update of the 2003 and draft 2008 INRMPs. This INRMP has been updated for use by the ANGB and IDARNG as the primary tool for managing natural resources on the OCTC. The reason for this INRMP update is to comply with new ANGB guidance on format and content. The natural resources management philosophies and existing programs have not changed. With this update, the INRMP has been reorganized to focus on natural resource management issues and associated mission support.

The BLM-owned OCTC encompassed 143,307 acres (57,994 hectares [ha]) and is located in southwestern Idaho on the Snake River Plain (Figure 2.1). In addition to the BLM lands, the OCTC boundary also encompasses roughly 7,500 acres (3,035 ha) of State owned lands as well. In 2008, the BLM increased the OCTC from 138,051 acres (55,867 ha) to the current size through an OCTC boundary change. The action was identified and assessed in the NCA-RMP (BLM 2008). The northern OCTC boundary is approximately 13 miles (21 km) south of Boise and the southern boundary extends roughly 20 miles (32 km). The majority of the OCTC is located in Ada County; a small area in the south extends into Elmore County. Main access to the OCTC is via Pleasant Valley Road or Orchard Road from Interstate 84. The Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) is located adjacent to the OCTC, to the east on Orchard Road. This 640-acre (259-ha) section of land is owned by the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and leased to the IDARNG. When OCTC is referenced in this document, the MATES facility is included except where specifically discussed separately.

The primary function of the OCTC is to provide a variety of environmental conditions and ecosystems in which to train Soldiers. This objective must be met in a way that provides for sustainable and healthy ecosystems, complies with all applicable environmental laws and regulations, and provides for no net loss in the capability of military installation lands to support the military mission of the installation. An INRMP helps the installation commander manage natural resources more effectively to ensure installation lands remain available and in good condition to support the installation's military mission.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2004 made a significant revision to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. The NDAA states,

The Secretary (of the Interior) shall not designate as critical habitat any lands or other geographical areas owned or controlled by the Department of Defense, or designated for its use, that are subject to an integrated natural resources management plan prepared under Section 101 of the Sikes Act (16 USC 670a), if the Secretary determines in writing that such plan provides a benefit to the species for which critical habitat is proposed for designation.

Under the 2004 NDAA, a military installation may have its INRMP obviate the need for critical habitat designation if the INRMP provides a benefit to the listed species and manages for the long-term

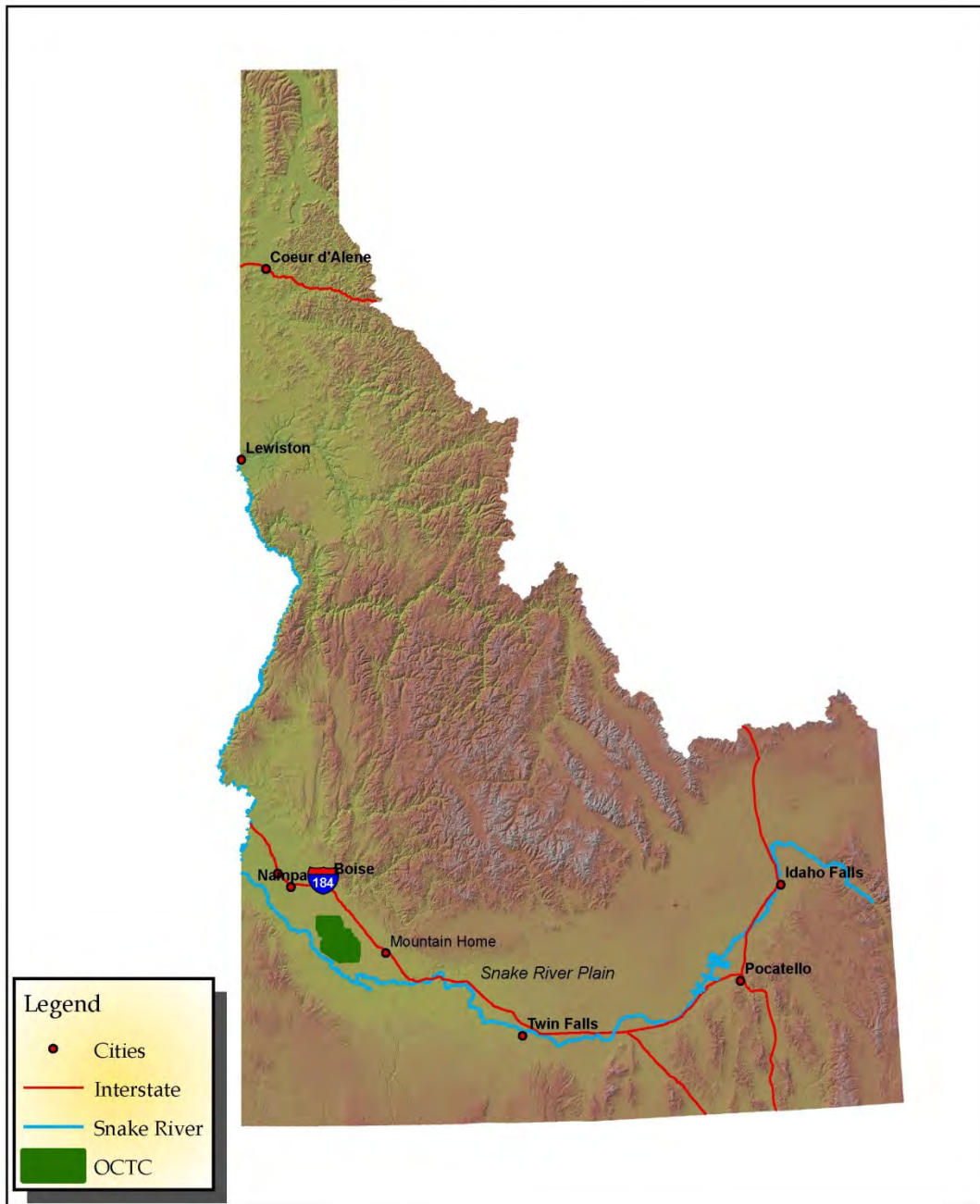
conservation of the species. If a National Guard installation has federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed federally listed threatened or endangered species, and/or candidate species on the installation, or unoccupied habitat for a listed species where critical habitat may be designated, the INRMP must specifically address the benefits of management of these actions for these species or habitats in the document. This INRMP includes managing provisions developed specifically for this purpose, including an Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP) (Appendix B) intended to provide considerable benefits to, and gain a critical habitat exemption for, slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*).

The Sikes Act requires federal military installations with adequate wildlife habitat to develop a long-range INRMP and implement cooperative agreements with other agencies. The OCTC is a BLM-owned facility and is not directly subject to the Sikes Act; however, Army policy requires an INRMP for this site in accordance with the Army INRMP Policy. An INRMP is required for the OCTC by the Army INRMP Policy because the installation conducts intensive, on-the-ground military missions that require conservation measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potentially adverse impacts (e.g., soil compaction or erosion, wildland fire, invasive species control) and sustainably manage the natural resources associated with the OCTC. The revised INRMP is intended to be consistent with the Sikes Act, which indicates an INRMP, "*shall, to the extent appropriate and applicable, provide for:*

- A) *Fish and wildlife management, land management, forest management, and fish and wildlife-oriented recreation;*
- B) *Fish and wildlife habitat enhancement or modifications;*
- C) *Wetland protection, enhancement, and restoration, where necessary for support of fish, wildlife, or plants;*
- D) *Integration of, and consistency among, the various activities conducted under the plan;*
- E) *Establishment of specific natural resources management goals and objectives and time frames for proposed action;*
- F) *Sustainable use by the public of natural resources to the extent that the use is not inconsistent with the needs of fish and wildlife resources;*
- G) *Public access to the military installation that is necessary or appropriate for the use described in subparagraph (F), subject to requirements necessary to ensure safety and military security;*
- H) *Enforcement of applicable natural resource laws (including regulations);*
- I) *No net loss in the capability of military installation lands to support the military mission of the installation;*
- J) *Such other activities as the Secretary of the military department determines appropriate. "*

The IDARNG has embraced the concept of integrating ecosystem management with its mission activities. The IDARNG recognizes that its on-going and proposed training activities can potentially use or consume the natural resources on mission land and successful execution of its mission depends on optimum maintenance of the environment in a mode of sustainable use. The IDARNG recognizes its responsibility to guarantee continued access to its land, air, and water resources for realistic military training while ensuring the natural and cultural resources entrusted to its care are sustained in a healthy condition for scientific research, education, and other compatible uses by future generations.

# Orchard Combat Training Center Idaho



Universal Transverse Mercator Projection  
GIS Systems, Environmental Management Office, IDARNG

17 FEB 2012

Scale 1:4,000,000

0 100 Kilometers

0 100 Miles



Figure 2.1. Orchard Combat Training Center Location Map



The IDARNG is justifiably proud of its excellence in training, natural resources heritage, and tradition of stewardship. As such, the IDARNG is committed to managing natural resources in a planned and deliberate fashion, supporting the installation operational mission, meeting or exceeding stewardship requirements, and enhancing the quality of life for its personnel and guests.

## 2.2 Authority

This revised INRMP has been prepared pursuant to the laws, regulations, guidance, and directives listed in Table 2.1.

**Table 2.1. Laws, Regulations, Directives, Guidance, and Policies Applicable to the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan**

Requirement	Title
Laws—United States Code (USC) and Public Law	Sikes Act " <i>Conservation Programs on Military Reservations</i> " (16 USC §670a et seq.), as amended.
	ESA of 1973 (16 USC 1531–1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended.
	Public Law 103-64 (Appendix A)
	Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918
	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act 1940
U.S. Army Policy	<i>Army Goals and Implementing Guidance for Natural Resources PLS and INRMP</i> ("Army INRMP Policy"); 21 March 1997
	<i>Army National Guard INRMP Template</i> , created 16 March 2005
	Army National Guard Bureau INRMP Policy
Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI)	DoDI 4715.3, Environmental Conservation Program
	DoDI 4700.1, Natural Resources Management Programs
	DoDI 14715.3, Environmental Conservation Program
Army Regulation (AR)	AR 200-1, <i>Environmental Protection and Enhancement</i>
	AR 350-19, <i>Army Sustainable Range Program</i> , 30 August 2005
	AR 350-4 <i>Integrated Training Area Management</i> , 1998
<i>Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)</i>	32 CFR 651, <i>Environmental Analysis of Army Actions</i>
	32 CFR 190, <i>Appendix—Integrated Natural Resources Management</i>
Guidance	Office of the Under Secretary of Defense, <i>Implementation of Sikes Act Improvement Act: Updated Guidance</i> , 10 October 2002
	Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, <i>Updated Guidance for Implementation of The Sikes Act Improvement Act</i> , 5 November 2004
	DoD Directive 4700.1, <i>Natural Resources Management Programs</i>

Note: Not all applicable federal and State laws, regulations, and Executive Orders are listed in this table, but are incorporated by reference through the listed documents. Appendix C lists the most significant federal and State laws and regulations and other regulatory instruments that govern implementation of this Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan. It is important to note that of all military training lands, Public Law 103-64 applies only to the Orchard Combat Training Center.

### **2.2.1 Public Law 103-64, Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area**

Public Law 103-64 (Appendix A), which established the NCA, recognizes the history and importance of military training in the designation of the NCA. As a land user of the NCA, the IDARNG must comply with provisions of this law, taking measures to conserve birds of prey, their prey species, and their habitat. Public Law 103-64 names birds of prey as the primary concern in this NCA and states that all other land uses must be compatible with maintaining populations of raptorial birds, with the determination of compatibility to be made by the Secretary of the Interior. This INRMP complies with Public Law 103-64. It is important to note that of all military training lands, Public Law 103-64 applies only to the OCTC.

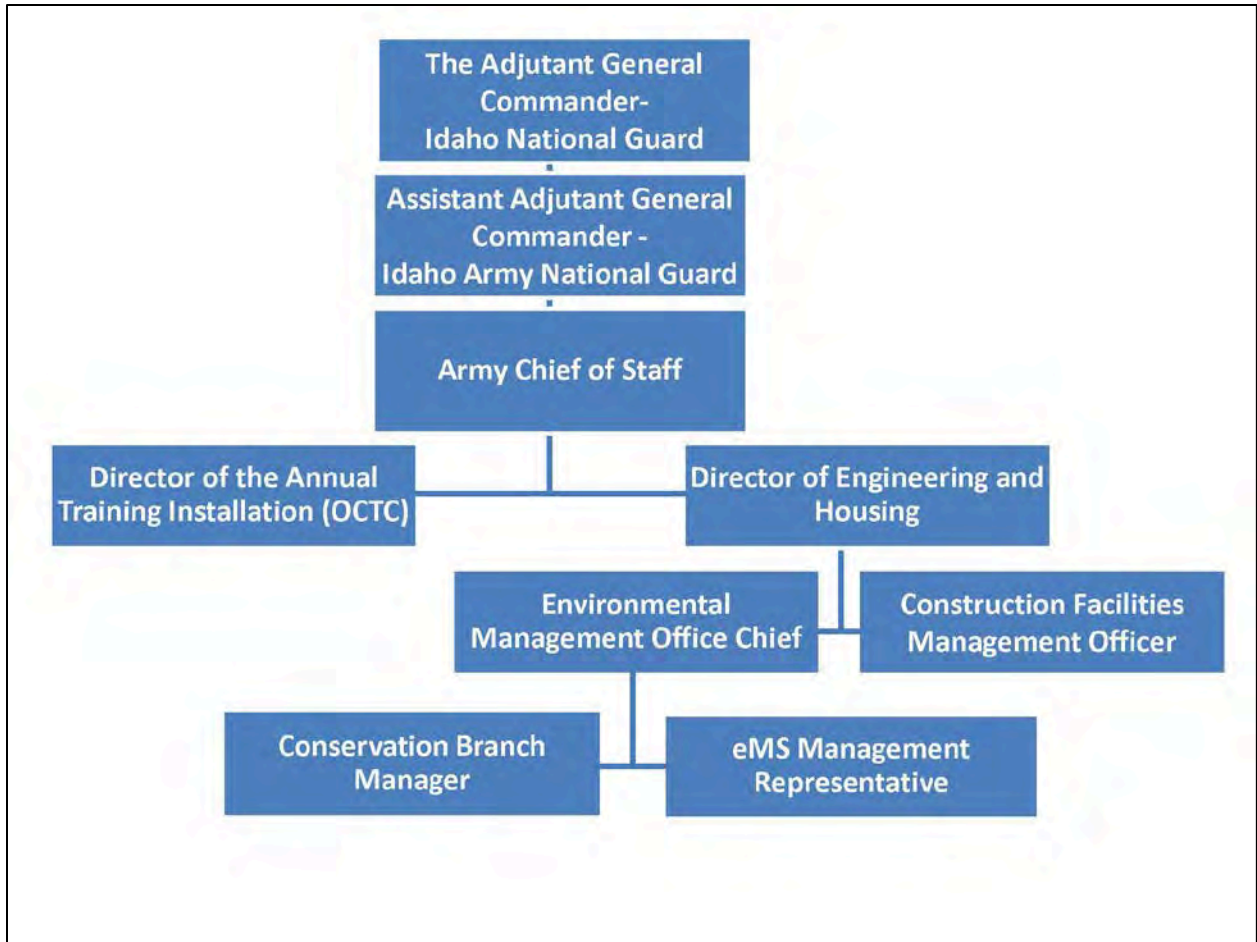
## **2.3 Responsibilities**

### **2.3.1 National Guard Bureau Responsibilities**

Within the ANGB headquarters, the Chief of Environmental Programs, National Guard Bureau-Army Environmental (NGB-ILE) is responsible for reviewing and approving the revised INRMP and advising the EMO at the IDARNG before formally submitting the plan to the FWS, IDFG, and any other applicable local, State, or federal agency and regional tribes. The NGB-ILE ensures operational readiness by sustaining environmental quality and promoting the environmental ethic and is responsible for tracking projects, providing technical assistance and quality assurance, and executing funds.

### **2.3.2 Idaho Army National Guard Responsibilities**

The IDARNG is the primarily user of the OCTC and is responsible for overall management and operations. In addition, the Idaho Air National Guard, Idaho reserve units from the Navy and Marines, and out-of-state National Guard units also use the OCTC for training. Regardless of unit or branch, all military personnel are required to comply with and implement the provisions outlined in this INRMP and the IDARNG's Environmental Management System (eMS) program. The overall responsibilities for implementing these programs are described below and diagramed in Figure 2.2. An expanded description of responsibilities can also be found in the IDARNG's Pamphlet 200-1 (IDARNG 2010).



**Figure 2.2. Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Command Diagram**

### **2.3.2.1 The Adjutant General-Commander of the Idaho National Guard**

The Adjutant General (TAG) commands all Army and Air National Guard units in the IDNG, and is the Governor’s senior military advisor. Additionally, he is the Governor’s Homeland Security Advisor and oversees the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security and is a member of the Governor’s cabinet. The TAG is directly responsible for the OCTC, and is responsible for ensuring that all installation land users are aware of and comply with procedures, requirements, and applicable laws and regulations that accomplish the objectives of the INRMP.

### **2.3.2.2 Assistant Adjutant General-Commander of the Idaho Army National Guard**

The Assistant Adjutant General is the Commanding General for all IDARNG units, and is responsible for the strength, training, readiness, and management of all Army National Guard units within Idaho. He also directs the activities of Army units on the OCTC, and ensures that all users comply with the updated INRMP.

### **2.3.2.3 Army Chief of Staff**

The Army Chief of Staff supervises all Army operations and staff. The Army Chief of Staff monitors environmental projects and activities of the IDARNG and ensures that units and activities under his charge provide personnel responsible for implementation and compliance with National Guard environmental regulations; all federal, State, and local environmental requirements; and this INRMP. The Army Chief of Staff serves as the chairman of the Environmental Quality Control Committee (EQCC).

### **2.3.2.4 Director of Engineering and Housing**

The Director of Engineering and Housing (DEH) is responsible for all IDARNG facilities, including but not limited to, Gowen Field and all state armories and shops. In addition, the DEH supervises the EMO and the Construction Facilities Management Office (CFMO).

### **2.3.2.5 Environmental Management Office**

The EMO, acting through its Program Managers, is responsible for preparing and implementing this INRMP. The EMO acts as the direct “vehicle” for implementing the directives of the AG relative to the management of natural resources associated with the OCTC. The office also oversees the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the IDARNG, and is responsible for: characterizing the flora, fauna, air quality, and water quality of the training sites; identifying compliance needs; and advising the IDARNG on best ways to comply with federal and State environmental laws and regulations. In addition, the EMO provides technical assistance to IDARNG personnel including, but not limited to:

- Developing projects
- Securing permits
- Conducting field studies
- Providing Environmental Awareness materials
- Locating and mapping natural and cultural resources
- Coordinating activities with the Shoshone Paiute and Shoshone Bannock Tribes
- Coordinating with the BLM, FWS, IDFG, and other applicable agencies and nongovernmental organizations
- Preparing land use plans and updates to the INRMP.

#### *Environmental Management Office Chief*

The Chief of the EMO implements policies and directives of the Department of the Army (DOA) and ANGB. The Chief is ultimately responsible for managing the natural and cultural resources on the OCTC. The Chief of the EMO has the following responsibilities:

- Providing for funding and staffing of natural resource management professionals and other resources required to effectively manage natural resources on the installation
- Planning land utilization to avoid or minimize adverse effects on environmental quality and provide for sustained accomplishment of the mission

- Entering into an appropriate INRMP (16 USC 670a) with State and federal conservation agencies for the conservation and development of fish and wildlife, soil, outdoor recreation, and other resources
- Ensuring the functioning of a EQCC
- Ensuring ongoing and timely coordination of current and planned land uses between mission, natural resources, environmental, legal, and master planning
- Inspecting and reviewing mitigation measures that have been implemented or recommended for the protection of natural resources as prescribed in environmental documentation in accordance with 32 CFR Part 651
- Maintaining a decision support procedure that integrates training requirements with land management, training management, and natural and cultural resources management processes
- Ensuring all land users are aware of and comply with procedures and requirements necessary to accomplish objectives of this INRMP together with laws, regulations, and other measures designed to comply with environmental quality objectives

#### *Conservation Branch Manager*

The Conservation Branch Manager maintains the resources necessary to implement the INRMP and is responsible for the following (Department of Army 1995b):

- Developing and implementing programs to ensure the inventory, delineation, classification, and management of all applicable natural resources to include wetlands scenic areas, threatened and endangered species, sensitive and critical habitats, and other natural resource areas of special interest
- Training of natural resources personnel
- Implementing this INRMP
- Maintaining a decision support procedure that integrates training requirements with land management, training management, and natural and cultural resources management process
- Reviewing all environmental documents (e.g., environmental assessments and impact statements and remedial action plans) and construction designs/proposals to ensure adequate protection of natural resources, and that technical guidance as presented in this INRMP is adequately considered
- Coordinating with tribal representatives and local, State, and federal governmental and civilian conservation organizations regarding OCTC natural resources management
- Assisting with the management of the Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance (LRAM), Range and Training Land Assessment (RTLA), and Sustainable Range Program (SRP) programs
- Assisting with aspects of the installation pest control program

#### *eMS Management Representative*

The eMS Management Representative (EMSMR) is appointed by the AG and is responsible for reporting to the EQCC and leading the IDARNG's cross functional team (CFT). The CFT develops or updates the eMS Target Matrix (KN 200-3a 4.4.1 of Appendix D), which identifies the overall impacts and aspects

associated with the IDARNG's state-wide mission (KN 200-3a 4.5.1 of Appendix D). The Target Matrix is used in conjunction with the INRMP process to identify and address the overall potential impacts associated with the IDARNG's mission (section 2.4.1).

### **2.3.2.6 Construction Facilities Management Officer**

The CFMO manages facilities development and operations at Gowen Field and supports OCTC operations and maintenance (O&M) associated with above- and below-ground utilities, supply roads, and staffing/equipment for wildland fire suppression and pesticide application. In addition, the CFMO develops and submits the OCTC Construction Master Plan and administers and oversees military construction (MILCON) projects on the OCTC.

The CFMO is responsible for the following:

- Serving as a member of the EQCC
- Appointing an eMS Representative for the CFMO
- Establishing a phased, orderly plan and schedule for improving facilities that do not meet current environmental standards, including estimating program costs for facility improvements
- Coordinating all construction projects to ensure they are reviewed for compliance with federal, State, and local environmental regulations and that appropriate documents are prepared
- Coordinating all real estate actions to ensure ample time to document all environmental attributes and determine the suitability of the actions to the actual need of the IDARNG

### **2.3.2.7 Director of the Annual Training Site**

The Director of the Annual Training Site, aka the OCTC, maintains operational control of the OCTC and manages all local training areas (LTA) throughout the state. The Director maintains liaisons with other military commands and federal, State, County, and local agencies. The Director and his staff coordinate training activities, planning, and operations with the DEH, CFMO, and EMO to ensure there are no conflicts with environmental or natural-resource priorities or legal requirements. The Director of the Annual Training Site and their staff has the following responsibilities:

- Developing a baseline of current and projected training requirements and training land/facilities for the training site and LTA
- Developing and maintaining the Training Requirements Integration (TRI) component of the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) program in conjunction with the EMO
- Maintaining a decision support procedure that integrates training requirements with land management, training management, and natural and cultural resources management processes
- Developing, coordinating, and executing the annual ITAM work plan with the EMO
- Providing the EMO with technical and analytical information to integrate doctrinally based training and testing with land constraints and quantify training land carrying capacity
- Coordinating the Range and Training Land Development Plan (Nakata Planning Group LLC 2000) and ITAM programs with other programs that support ranges and training lands

- Assisting the EMO in determining carrying capacity for the training site by providing military usage and training data
- Planning for land use based on accomplishing training requirements while minimizing negative effects
- Allocating funds and resources to accomplish ITAM requirements
- Distributing SRP materials to troops
- Complying with environmental laws and regulations

### **2.3.2.8 Public Affairs Office**

The Public Affairs Office is available to assist the EMO with aspects of this INRMP that involve collecting or disseminating information from or to the public. The Public Affairs Office functions as a liaison with the public during meetings and community education events.

## **2.4 Management Philosophy**

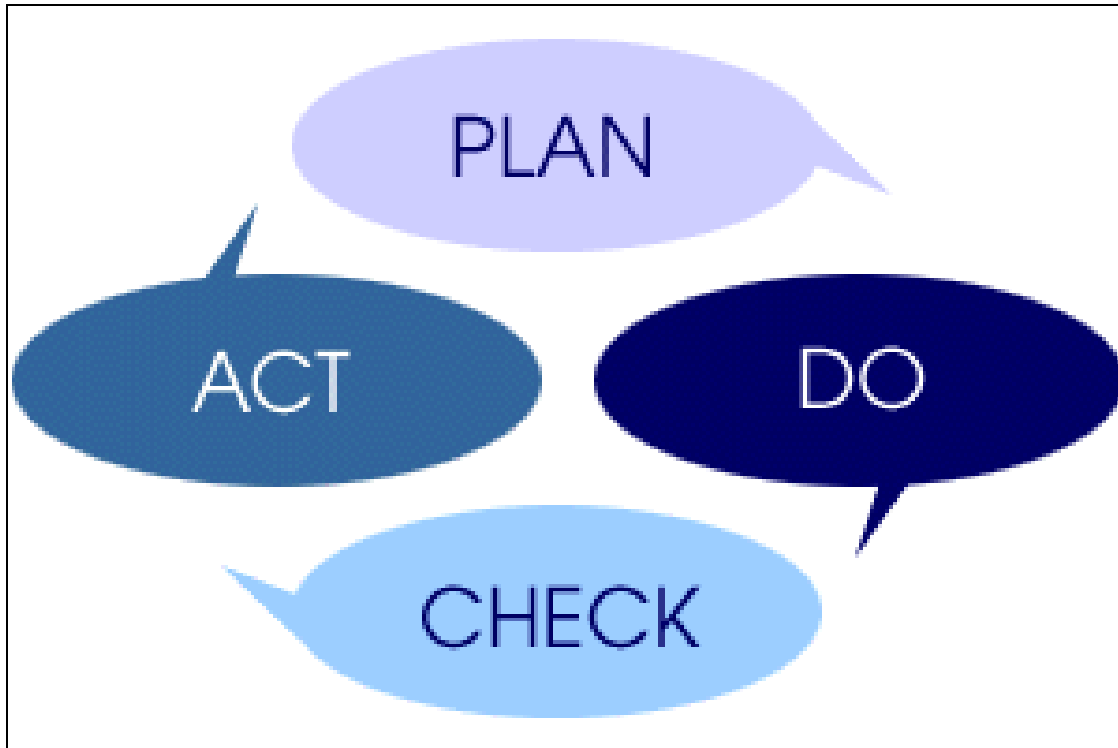
This INRMP integrates aspects of natural resources management into the military mission (Chapter 7.0). As such, it becomes the primary tool for ecosystem management at the OCTC while ensuring successful, efficient accomplishment of the military mission. An adaptive, multiple-use approach will continue to be implemented through this updated INRMP to accommodate mission-oriented activities and provide for sustainable stewardship of the natural resources of the OCTC. Existing cultural resources are referenced within the context of established management protocols as a means of ensuring compatibility between the INRMP and ICRMP.

Specific military missions and training requirements are fluid and change from time to time with realignments, transformations, and changes in equipment and tactics. These changes require establishing basic underlying natural resource management principles and practices that have broad application and can be adapted to multiple situations. Implementing this INRMP will continue to successfully promote adaptive management that protects and enhances natural resources for multiple use, sustainable yield, and biological integrity, while supporting the military mission. This INRMP complies with applicable Army and DoD policies, as well as applicable federal, State, and local mandates.

### **2.4.1 Environmental Management System**

The eMS is part of the overall IDARNG management system and includes organizational structure, planning, responsibilities, practices, procedures and processes, and resource allocation for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing, and maintaining environmental commitments. The International Standards Organization (ISO) 14001 eMS model used by the IDARNG leads to continual improvements based on a cycle of “plan, do, check, act” (Figure 2.3):

- Planning, including identifying environmental aspects and establishing goals [plan]
- Implementing, including training and operational controls [do]
- Checking, including monitoring and corrective action [check]
- Reviewing, including progress reviews and acting to make needed changes to the eMS [act]



**Figure 2.3. Plan, do, check, act cycle (Source: EPA 2004)**

The eMS is continually updated through this cycle, fine tuning the management of operations that may harm the environment. This continual improvement cycle is a fundamental attribute of the eMS that allows the system to adapt to the dynamic nature of the organization’s operations. This INRMP directly supports and is integrated with the IDARNG and the ANGB eMS programs. The IDARNG will review the INRMP annually with the FWS, BLM, and IDFG to support the eMS concept.

#### **2.4.2 Ecosystem Management**

An ecosystem is the “sum of the plant community, animal community, and environment in a particular region or habitat” (Barbour 1987). Ecosystem management may be defined as management “to restore and maintain the health, sustainability, and biological diversity of ecosystems while supporting sustainable economies and communities” (EPA 1994).

Natural resources at the OCTC will continue to be managed with an ecosystem management approach. The DoD’s goal for ecosystem management is “to ensure that military lands support present and future training and testing requirements while preserving, improving, and enhancing ecosystem integrity” (DoDI 4715.3). Principles of ecosystem management, per DoDI 4715.3 are listed in Table 2.2.



**Table 2.2. Department of Defense Principles of Ecosystem Management**

Principles	
1	Guarantee continued access to land, air, and water for realistic military training
2	Maintain and improve sustainability of native biodiversity of ecosystems
3	Administer with consideration of ecological units and timeframes
4	Support sustainable human activities
5	Develop vision of ecosystem health
6	Develop priorities and reconcile conflicts
7	Develop coordinated approaches to work toward ecosystem health
8	Rely on the best science and data available
9	Use benchmarks to monitor and evaluate outcomes
10	Use adaptive management
11	Implement through installation plans and programs

Source: DoDI 4715.3

## **2.5 Sustainable Range Program**

The goal of the Army's Sustainable Range Program (SRP) is to maximize the capability, availability, and accessibility of ranges and training lands to support doctrinal requirements, mobilization, and deployments under normal and surge conditions (AR 350-19, 2005). Requirements for the SRP are set forth in AR 350-19, Army Sustainable Range Program, August 2005. The SRP achieves these goals through two core programs: Range and Training Land Program (RTLTP) and Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM). The RTLTP is not discussed in detail in this INRMP because it refers to training-related issues rather than environmental issues. The Integrated Training Area Management program is divided into four component programs: Lands Rehabilitation and Maintenance (LRAM); Range and Training Land Assessment (RTLTA); Training Resources Integration (TRI); and Sustainable Range Awareness (SRA). To ensure accessibility and availability of Army ranges and training land, the SRP programs are integrated with the IDARNG Facilities Management Office, Environmental Management Office, munitions management, and safety program functions.

### **2.5.1 Integrated Training Area Management**

The ITAM program is an Army-wide initiative to provide quality training environments to support the Army's military mission and help ensure no net loss of training capability (a Sikes Act requirement). The ITAM program was initiated with the realization that Army training lands were being degraded to the point where their capabilities to sustain military missions were in jeopardy. Proper management to support both the military mission and other multiple-use activities is a challenge unique to DOD public lands managers.

Integrating stewardship principles into training land and conservation practices ensures that Army lands sustainably support training missions. Force readiness depends on the availability of high quality, realistic training lands.

The Army-wide goal for ITAM is to, achieve optimum, sustainable use of training lands by inventorying and monitoring land condition, integrating training requirements with land capacity, educating land users to minimize adverse impacts, and providing for LRAM.

### **2.5.1.1 Integrated Training Area Management Program Strategy**

Chapter 5 of AR 350-19, The Army Sustainable Range Program, describes the implementation guidance for the ITAM program. It outlines the roles, responsibilities, and relationships between the functional proponent and supporting organizations, provides an overview of the ITAM policy and guidance, describes four of the ITAM components, and the funding process. Mechanisms for program management, review, and information exchange include Program Management Reviews, quarterly newsletters (Sustainable Range Program newsletter), the SRP website, and the annual ITAM workshop.

### **2.5.1.2 Integrated Training Area Management Scope**

The ITAM program's focus is to manage and maintain training lands in order to support mission readiness and Mission Essential Task List Training (METL) training (AR 350-19, August 2005). Integrated Training Area Management funding supports the ITAM mission, goals, and objectives. Integrated Training Area Management funding cannot be used to address or correct statutory compliance or conservation requirements, perform routine range maintenance or modifications, perform Army conservation program requirements, and/or acquire GIS data layers that are not part of the ITAM program requirement (AR 350-19, August 2005).

Integrated Training Area Management goals and objectives specific to the OCTC are found in the ITAM Work plan, Section 3.5 of the OCTC Range Complex Master Plan (RCMP). These goals and objectives are incorporated into objectives within this INRMP. Integrated Training Area Management planning is derived from the RCMP and is the basis for developing projects and providing input into the ITAM budget process. Integrated Training Area Management program components are described below.

### **2.5.2 Integrated Training Area Management Program Management at Orchard Combat Training Center**

At ANGB headquarters, the Environmental (NGB-ILE), Installation (NGB-ILI), and Training (NGB-TRS) Programs formed a partnership in April 1996 to implement the ITAM Program. The ANGB program management conforms to DOA programs under the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations. The IDARNG-ITAM program conforms to Army Regulation 350-19, August 2005, The Army Sustainable Range Program. The IDARNG-ITAM program is implemented primarily by the Training Site personnel with coordination and assistance from the Natural Resources staff.

ANGB issued ITAM policy and implementation guidance to the States. Integrated Training Area Management responsibilities for the IDARNG are conducted in accordance with NGB's policy. The ITAM program at the OCTC was initiated in 1988. A GIS program supports the ITAM program.

The Integrated Training Area Management program at the OCTC is divided into four component programs: Lands Rehabilitation and Maintenance (LRAM); Range and Training Land Assessment (RTLTA); Training Resources Integration (TRI); and Sustainable Range Awareness (SRA) in accordance with Army and ANGB guidance. The ITAM program at OCTC also incorporates GIS. Each component will be described in subsequent paragraphs.

### **2.5.2.1 Range and Training Land Assessment**

The RTLA component is a long-term program to evaluate land conditions and trends on Army lands and the capability of those lands to support military training. The RTLA component acquires data and assesses the information to maximize the capability and sustainability of the land to support live training and testing activities. This component is used to inventory and monitor physical and biological resources to meet the multiple-use demands of the OCTC. It incorporates a Geographic Information System (GIS) to support planning decision processes to effectively manage land use and natural resources as they pertain to military training. Primary objectives of RTLA at the OCTC are:

- Identify LRAM projects;
- Ensure biological considerations are part of the LRAM project prioritization process;
- Determine the effectiveness of LRAM projects;
- Calculate the land condition curves that support the ATTACC methodology i.e., cover, land use, and load curves;
- Create maps that depict the availability, suitability, accessibility, and capacity of training lands;
- Recommend boundaries and training load distribution for land; and
- Conduct internal encroachment assessments by routinely reviewing plans, such as this document, grazing leases, etc.

The RTLA program utilizes a GIS and associated geo-spatial databases to support land use planning decision processes. Tazik et al. (1992) describes the procedures for the standard RTLA plot inventory. Data collected from the RTLA program provides information to effectively and adaptively manage military land use and natural resources. Information generated from the data is also used to monitor slickspot peppergrass populations and associated habitat, as well as raptor populations and associated prey base. Because these resources are critical to the continued military use of the land, accurate and continuous data is required to develop sustainable management decisions for military training operations that avoid, reduce, or mitigate the effects on the land; help prioritize potential LRAM projects on areas that are impacted; and provide information for adaptive management in the future. The ITAM GIS program provides a state-of-the-art information source for today's military decision makers. Accurate spatial information is available for map production or detailed site analysis.

### **2.5.2.2 Training Requirements Integration**

The TRI component of the ITAM program provides decision support to the SRP. Training Requirements Integration leads to training land decisions that support Senior Commander Goals and minimizes the impacts to and from environmental and cultural resource issues. Training Requirements Integration is led by the ITAM Coordinator with input from the ITAM components: LRAM, RTLA and GIS (AR 350-19, August 2005). The ITAM Coordinator works closely with OCTC Range Control, the Environmental Management Office, the Chief Facilities Management Office, and state and federal agencies to integrate

- Training Requirements
- Land management, training management, and natural and cultural resources management data;
- Data derived from RTLA and Army conservation programs;

- Provide input updating this document; and
- Support range modernization project siting, training event scheduling and allocation.

**Integration** — Close coordination with Training Site personnel who directly manage military training on the OCTC is critical. Training Site ITAM staff and Natural Resources staff work together to develop land use design and management considerations for the OCTC based on RTLA, natural and cultural resources data.

**Installation Management Plans** - Training Site ITAM staff and Natural Resources staff work together to provide meaningful input on training land needs when updating the RCMP and other installation specific documents and databases.

**Project Siting/Training Scheduling** — Training Site ITAM staff and Natural Resources staff work together to site projects that minimally impact OCTC natural resources while still supporting the mission. Scheduling training missions on lands best suited for them has been ongoing for some time at the OCTC. This scheduling process is regularly improved as additional information is obtained on the location of sensitive plants, sensitive areas, and cultural sites. The very nature of NEPA is conducive to siting missions on lands best suited for supporting them in a sustained fashion. NEPA coordination ensures that various concerns with proposed project sitings are discussed and evaluated. Training restrictions are sometimes necessary to sustain training long term and protect ecosystems, and ensure environmental compliance. Training restrictions at the OCTC are within IDARNG Regulation 350-12. Some restrictions are directly tied to compliance with various laws and regulations, but many are being implemented according to the DoD and DOA clear policy guidance for managing natural resources for long-term sustained use in accordance with good stewardship of public lands, the 2010 OCTC MOU (Appendix A) for the continued use of the area, and Public Law 103-64 (Appendix A).

In some cases, troop units using the OCTC must coordinate with the EMO for site-specific restrictions needed for compliance. Troops are briefed regarding training restrictions prior to coming to the OCTC and/or informed of expectations and rules soon after arrival at the OCTC.

Restrictions are often invisible to troops and are imposed during the scheduling process (e.g., training area not available, certain firing positions not available for live fire). Other restrictions can be incorporated into training scenarios. For example, troops can be told fenced areas represent known mine fields. Restrictions on off-road travel, trash removal, and the filling of holes are tactically sound since off-road travel leaves signs for the enemy to track units or determine unit strength, and training aids and litter left behind are indications to enemy intelligence of unit strength and mission. Thus, it is important to fit environmental restrictions into tactically realistic training scenarios.

### **2.5.2.3 Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance**

The LRAM component includes programming, planning, designing, and executing land rehabilitation and maintenance to support and sustain the military mission. The LRAM program consists of strategies and resource allocations for resting and repairing training lands annually and repairing damaged training areas as needed. Thus, the LRAM mitigates impacts from military missions at the OCTC. The LRAM

program plans, designs, and executes land stabilization, rehabilitation, maintenance, and reconfiguration projects based on requirements and priorities identified in RTLA and TRI components of the ITAM program. LRAM projects are specifically designed to maintain quality military training lands; minimize long-term costs associated with land rehabilitation, vehicle maintenance, or additional land purchases; and reduce erosion.

The LRAM is used to stabilize soils and provide long-term vegetative cover to support military land use. LRAM repairs damaged lands and uses structural and nonstructural approaches to avoid future damage to training lands. Although the LRAM is designed specifically for military training, its use is virtually universal with regard to land management. The program involves cost-effective technologies (e.g., revegetation, site hardening, dust palliatives) to prevent training site degradation, soil erosion, and excessive road damage. As a primary link between environmental and training considerations, the LRAM will integrate projects with related programs to maximize resource allocations.

LRAM project funding applies to sites that are not currently out of compliance and are negatively impacting training. Funding limitations restrict Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance activities from supporting environmental and compliance requirements.

The Conservation Branch identifies and prioritizes projects for consideration by the ITAM Coordinator to implement as part of the LRAM program. The Conservation Branch develops scopes of work, monitors project execution, and verifies that all work is satisfactorily completed. LRAM projects are executed through such mechanisms as contracts, work orders, and in-house labor.

**Road/Trail/Firebreak Management** — Routine road maintenance is a function of the Facilities Management Office using maintenance funds; range ingress/egress roads are the responsibility of Range Maintenance while maneuver trails can be addressed using LRAM. Good erosion control practices during road construction and maintenance projects pays off in terms of reduced future road maintenance, improved troop safety, and reduced road proliferation. Integrated Training Area Management funding cannot be used to maintain roads or construct fire breaks.

**Firing Points/Bivouac Sites and Training Villages** — Some areas may be required for training use so often that it is virtually impossible to meet both mission needs and the desire for natural vegetation. Examples of such areas include assembly points near firing ranges, parking areas, commonly used bivouac sites, and essential firing points. Gravel and/or cinders have been placed on some of these sites to reduce impacts. Habitats with rare and sensitive species are not hardened.

**Maneuver Impacts** — Revegetation of maneuver damage emphasizes native species, with use of desirable non-native species in area where they would not adversely affect slickspot peppergrass habitat (Appendix B) or diminish habitat for raptors or their prey. Establishing most species is very challenging in the desert environment and consistent sources of adequate seed for some species is an ongoing problem. Stabilization and rehabilitation projects require prior coordination with the BLM.

Many problems need to be resolved regarding revegetating disturbed sites: additional seed sources need to be found or developed, short-term watering techniques may need to be developed, and costs

and benefits of exotic plant control techniques need to be evaluated. This work requires a combination of applied technology and applied research since revegetation needs to be accomplished while awaiting results from practical research projects.

Areas being revegetated can be protected from military use several ways. Areas can be shown as off-limits to military operations planners, and signs or reflective stakes can be used at major access points into these areas. Some smaller isolated areas may need to be fenced or barricaded.

**Dust Management** — Dust is a problem for military activities and safety. Dust is worst when traffic disturbs fine loess soils, which occurs with repeated military vehicular traffic on roads and trails that have not been maintained with gravel or road mix. Dust increases vehicle maintenance costs, and it can create “brownout” conditions at helicopter landing zones. OCTC soil substrates are primarily fine, volcanic ash prone to wind erosion and dust generation.

#### **2.5.2.4 Sustainable Range Awareness**

The Sustainable Range Awareness (SRA) component (formerly called the Environmental Awareness) improves troop awareness of the impacts of their activities on the environment and emphasizes damage prevention.

The OCTC is inside the NCA, and use of the area by the IDARNG depends on compliance with Public Law 103-64, which requires that prey animal habitats must be maintained under allowable uses of the land. Since the OCTC is an arid land ecosystem in which recovery from, and restoration of damage to, takes many years and is difficult, preventative measures that avoid or limit damage is more efficient in sustaining habitat than trying to reestablish habitat through rehabilitation. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to train Soldiers to accomplish their training missions with minimal disturbance to the environment.

By providing installation-specific guidance about environmental issues, severe environmental damage and its associated costs can be prevented. The SRP program uses multimedia presentations, posters, field cards, and handbooks designed to educate Soldiers, leaders, and commanders of their responsibilities to integrate environmental and natural resources conservation procedures, policies, and requirements into mission training events. During Range Control briefings, the Training Site Environmental Specialist can present information to all incoming unit leaders on terrain protection measures and resource management requirements.

Since the desert is a fragile environment in which ecological damage is very difficult to restore, the IDARNG SRA program educates Soldiers on ways to prevent ecological damage during training. A multimedia environmental briefing for troops training on the OCTC was developed in spring 2001, with associated posters and booklet materials. This presentation was updated in 2011 to a more flexible format with updated materials. This presentation needs to be updated at least every 2 years. A troop training/environmental field guide for the troops that provides them with additional information was updated in 2011 as well. This field guide is the primary handout provided at all briefings and will be updated as changes occur.

In 1997, a brochure was produced informing troops of the sensitive plant species that occur on the OCTC. This brochure was updated in 2010 and will continue to be updated as information changes and funding is available. A booklet about slickspot peppergrass was produced in 1998 (Quinney 1998). This booklet, coupled with the environmental brief, are still the primary awareness tools used to educate Soldiers on slickspot peppergrass and its associated habitat.

## **2.6 Conditions for Implementation and Revision**

### **2.6.1 Implementation**

The Conservation Branch Manager is responsible for directing the management of natural resources and for development and implementation of the revised INRMP. Successful implementation of the revised INRMP will require the following:

- Administrative and technical support
- Army training officer feedback
- Agency cooperation and technical assistance
- Funding
- Priorities and scheduling
- Production of project scopes and budgets
- The ability to amend and revise this document as necessary

Where projects identified in this INRMP are not implemented because of a lack of funding or other compelling circumstances, the installation will review the goals and objectives of this revised INRMP to determine whether adjustments are necessary.

### **2.6.2 Effectiveness**

The primary measure of INRMP effectiveness is whether it helps prevent “a net loss in the capability of military lands to support the military mission.” The IDARNG is managing the OCTC’s capability to support training through its natural resource management practices outlined in the 2004 and draft 2008 INRMPs and in this update. Long-term management effectiveness is also evaluated through periodic inventories of species’ populations, habitat quantity and quality, and habitat values through recurring RTLA and analysis. Trends can be used to indicate the degree of success. The IDARNG will evaluate these recurring data as they become available. The IDARNG continues to work with the BLM, FWS, and IDFG to manage terrestrial habitat, preserve sensitive areas, and practice effective soil conservation. These activities are coordinated through ongoing INRMP implementation and annual updates.

A practical evaluation of INRMP implementation includes reviewing whether planned projects have been accomplished. Overall, the OCTC has benefited considerably from using the INRMP as a management tool. Goals articulated in the 2004 and draft 2008 INRMPs are consistently addressed by implementing management actions recommended in this INRMP. Most of the specific management actions have been and will continue to be implemented through site-specific and OCTC-wide projects. A large number of these projects are recurring actions that are continued in this INRMP although specific

projects and locations are adjusted as needed with associated NEPA conducted in coordination with the BLM and in conformance with the 2008 NCA-RMP (BLM 2008).

### **2.6.3 Agency and Public Participation**

#### **2.6.3.1 Agency Participation**

This updated INRMP has been developed in cooperation with the FWS, IDFG, and BLM. Developed using an interdisciplinary approach, information has been gathered from the EMO and military trainers, as well as other federal, state, and local agencies and special interest groups with an interest in managing natural resources at the OCTC. Data provided, such as species of special concern, threatened and endangered species, soils, water resources, and other data pertinent to environmental resources at the OCTC, were used in developing this updated INRMP. Written concurrence from the FWS and IDFG will be included with the final INRMP. While concurrence from the BLM is not required under the Sikes Act, they are the lead agency associated with the OCTC and the EMO continuously works in collaboration with them on management/conservation of the area; therefore, they have also been included in the update process.

#### **2.6.4 Future Updates/Revisions**

Per DoD policy, the IDARNG reviews the INRMP annually in cooperation with the FWS and IDFG. The BLM and IDL have also been included in the annual review process based on landownership of the OCTC. Based on input from the EMO's Natural Resource staff and these agencies, an annual determination is jointly made to continue implementing the existing INRMP with minor updates, or to proceed with a full revision if a significant change in mission or environment occurs. If the parties feel the annual reviews have not sufficiently evaluated operations and effects, and they cannot determine whether INRMP implementation should continue or be revised, a formal review for operation and effect will be initiated by the EMO Natural Resource staff. The determination on how to proceed with INRMP implementation or revision will be made after the parties have had time to complete this review.





## **Chapter 3 Installation Overview**

### **3.1 Location and Area**

The BLM-owned (143,307-acre [57,994 ha]) OCTC is located in southwestern Idaho on the Snake River Plain (Figure 2.1). In addition to the BLM lands, the OCTC boundary also encompasses roughly 7,500 acres (3,035 ha) of State owned lands. The north boundary is approximately 13 miles (21 km) south of Boise, extending roughly 20 miles (32 km) to the south (Figure 3.1). The majority of the OCTC is located in Ada County, with a small area in the south extending into Elmore County. Main access to the OCTC is via Pleasant Valley Road or via Orchard Road from Interstate 84 (Figure 3.1).

The MATES is located adjacent to the OCTC, to the east on Orchard Road (for more information, see section 3.3.2.2, “Support Facilities” and Figure 3.2). This 640-acre (259-ha) section of land is owned by the IDL and leased to the IDARNG. Hereafter in this document when the OCTC is referenced, MATES is included, except where specifically discussed separately.

Cantonment and general support facilities for OCTC operations, as well as the Idaho National Guard Command headquarters, are at Gowen Field, located on the southern side of the Boise Air Terminal. Gowen Field is an Air National Guard installation on which the Army National Guard is a separate tenant.

### **3.2 Installation History**

Military training occurred on the Snake River Plain as early as 1941 during World War II when the Army Air Corps established three practice-bombing ranges. These ranges were closed in 1948. In 1951, the IDARNG began negotiating for the use of the OCTC. By 1953, an agreement had been reached allowing for a 5-year permit for military use between June 1 and September 30. When this permit expired in 1958, a new 1-year, renewable permit was signed. In 1964, the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Unit located in Boise was also granted authority to train on the OCTC.

In 1971, the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area was established by Public Land Order 5133 to protect one of the densest known nesting populations of raptors in North America. As a result of Public Land Order 5133, the OCTC training boundary at the time was considerably reduced. During the following years, the BLM conducted a research program to study habitat needs of raptors and determined the importance of foraging habitat on benchlands north of the Snake River Canyon. Based on this research, the Snake River Birds of Prey Area was established by Public Land Order 5777 in 1980. On August 4, 1993, Congress enacted Public Law 103-64, which provided permanent protection to the area, now known as the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA). Management responsibility for the NCA resides with the BLM, Boise District Office and Four Rivers Field Office.

In 1985, the IDARNG identified the need for facilities development on the OCTC, including upgrading a Multipurpose Range Complex-Heavy (MPRC-H) and constructing an ammunition supply point (ASP) and a new MATES facility. The environmental impact statement prepared for the construction of these facilities identified the fact that little data had been collected regarding long-term effects or possible effects of military training on raptors in the area. To address public concern regarding the impacts of

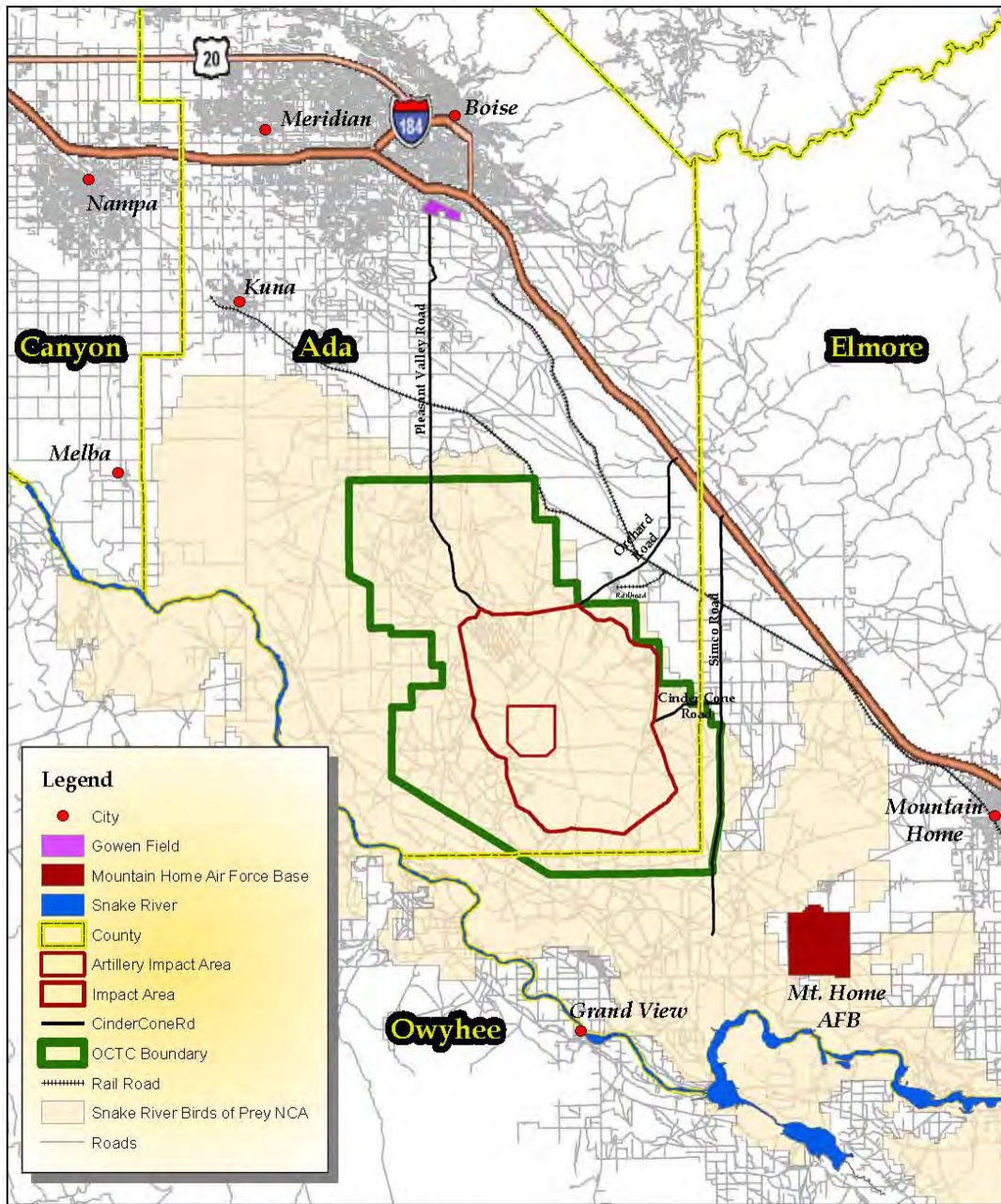
military training, a joint research project funded by the IDARNG and BLM was implemented in 1989. The final report regarding this research was completed in 1996 (BLM and USGS 1996). Public Law 103-64 (1.6) refers to this research project and in Section 1(10) states,

An ongoing research program funded by the BLM and the National Guard is intended to provide information to be used in connection with future decision making concerning management of all uses, including continued military use, of public lands within the Snake River Birds of Prey Area. Results and recommendations of that report have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this INRMP.

Public Law 103-64 recognizes the history and importance of military training in the designation of the NCA. Section 1(4) states, 'A military training area within the Snake River Birds of Prey Area, known as the OTA, has been used since 1953 by reserve components of the Armed Forces. Military use of this area is currently governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the State of Idaho Military Division, dated May 1985. Operating under this Memorandum of Understanding, the Idaho National Guard has provided valuable assistance to the Bureau of Land Management with respect to fire control and other aspects of management of the OCTC and the other lands in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area. Military use of the lands within the OTA should continue in accordance with such Memorandum of Understanding (or extension or renewal thereof), to the extent consistent with section 4(e) of this Act, because it would be in the best interest of training of the reserve components (an important aspect of national security) and of the local economy.'

The BLM published the *Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Management Plan* (BLM 1995). Although research results were not complete at the time, this management plan was in compliance with Section 4 (a)(1)(A) of Public Law 103-64, NCA (Appendix A). While this management plan addressed the entire NCA, a specific section addresses military training. Decisions and management actions identified in the NCA-RMP (BLM 2008) that affect natural resource management on the OCTC are included in this INRMP update and addressed in all site-specific actions. The IDARNG will continue to share all monitoring and research data that are collected to enhance ecosystem management throughout the entire NCA.

## Orchard Combat Training Center Vicinity



Universal Transverse Mercator Projection  
GIS Systems, Environmental Management Office, IDARNG  
06/17/2012

**Figure 3.1. Orchard Combat Training Center Vicinity Map**

### **3.3 Military Mission and Infrastructure**

#### **3.3.1 Idaho Army National Guard Military Mission**

The mission of Gowen Field and the OCTC is to develop, maintain, and operate modern, state-of-the-art, live-fire training ranges with sufficient maneuver training lands to support the tactical unit maneuver and gunnery training requirements, institutional training needs, and missions that support the Global War on Terror.

When directed, the IDARNG will also establish a U.S. Army Garrison at Gowen Field and the OCTC as a State Operated Mobilization (SOM) station and Power Generation Support Platform (PGSP) for mobilization, deployment, and demobilization operations in direct support of First Army. In addition, the IDARNG will provide administrative, training, logistical, and management support to assigned, attached, and tenant units or activities, as well as provide facilities to accept designated units for the purpose of mobilizing, equipping, training, preparing for further deployment, and demobilizing.

In general, IDARNG units (see below) are stationed in armories throughout the state. The majority, however, are located within 100 miles (161 km) of Gowen Field and the OCTC and conduct much of their inactive duty training (IDT) maneuver training, all Individual Weapons Qualification (IWQ) training, and nearly all of their Annual Training at Gowen Field and the OCTC. Units from Oregon, Montana, Texas, and Utah routinely travel to the OCTC for training as well. The Army Reserve and Marine Reserve units at Gowen Field also conduct most weekend training and Annual Training on the OCTC. The 116<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade Combat Team (CBCT) units from Oregon conduct some IDT and most Annual Trainings at the OCTC. Montana and Utah units conduct Annual Training at the OCTC most years.

The following units are assigned to the IDARNG:

- 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team
- 1-183rd Aviation (Attack Helicopter)
- Company A, 1-168th Aviation
- 204th Regional Training Institute
- 938th Engineer Detachment
- 101st Civil Support Team

The 116<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade is Idaho's largest unit. It consists of two armor battalions (one located in eastern Oregon), a mechanized infantry battalion (located in Montana), a field artillery battalion, a special troops battalion, and a combat support battalion. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 183<sup>rd</sup> Aviation serves as the air component of the IDARNG.

##### **3.3.1.1 Orchard Combat Training Center Mission**

The mission of the OCTC is to provide training lands and Annual Training facilities first to the National Guard and Reserve Forces and to other government and civilian organizations when possible. The OCTC is the primary training area for IDARNG-assigned units. It is also one of the largest heavy force (armor/mechanized) training areas for the National Guard. The OCTC provides training for both the

federal and State missions of the IDARNG. State missions include providing assistance as requested to the Governor during State emergencies, including natural disasters, civil disturbance, or terrorist attacks. During times of national emergencies, the President reserves the right to mobilize the National Guard, putting them in federal duty status.

The OCTC has the following specific mission requirements:

- Providing a training area for National Guard and Reserve Forces
- Providing assistance, facilities, and training areas for logistical support to units conducting IDT and Annual Training
- Providing small arms and crew-served weapons qualification ranges and facilities
- Providing maneuver areas suitable for training heavy armor and mechanized units
- Providing range facilities for M1A1 and M1A2 tank series and Bradley fighting vehicles
- Providing for artillery gunnery and maneuver
- Providing for AH-64 Apache attack helicopter gunnery
- Providing or coordinating organizational and direct support maintenance facilities for units conducting training
- Providing training areas and facilities to local law enforcement agencies, civil defense organizations, Reserve Officers Training Corps departments, public education institutions, and other civilian activities as long as no interference occurs with existing military training activities

### **3.3.2 Orchard Combat Training Center Infrastructure**

#### **3.3.2.1 Training Areas, Impact Area, and Ranges**

The OCTC provides for both maneuver and gunnery training. Twenty active firing ranges are arranged in an irregular circular pattern around a central 53,500-acre (21,650-ha) Impact Area (Figure 3.2). The Impact Area serves as the target area for helicopter, small arms, artillery, tank, and mortar firing. A fenced, smaller, core area within the Impact Area is referred to as the Artillery Impact Area. Artillery and mortar firing from designated positions in the maneuver sectors (A-8 and C-1, C-2, and C-3) is directed to this particular target area. Functioning ammunition (i.e., high explosives) is permitted to be fired into this area.

The Impact Area is closed to public access through an Ada County Ordinance and a BLM designation. Though the area is not fenced, there are signs every 200 meters (656 feet) to warn the public and troops of the danger in that area. The smaller Artillery Impact area is fenced, primarily as a safety precaution for IDARNG personnel, livestock, and ranchers who may have permission to enter the Impact Area. Non-IDARNG personnel are required to have an authorized escort any time they enter the Impact Area, and all activities must be coordinated with Annual Training Site staff (ANL EAD 2004). The remainder of OCTC is open to public use for grazing, hunting, off-road vehicle activity and other recreational use as approved by the BLM.

Gunnery ranges are classified by three general types: a Tank and Infantry Fighting Vehicle Range from which tanks and infantry fighting vehicles, in stationary positions, fire at stationary, moving, and pop-up

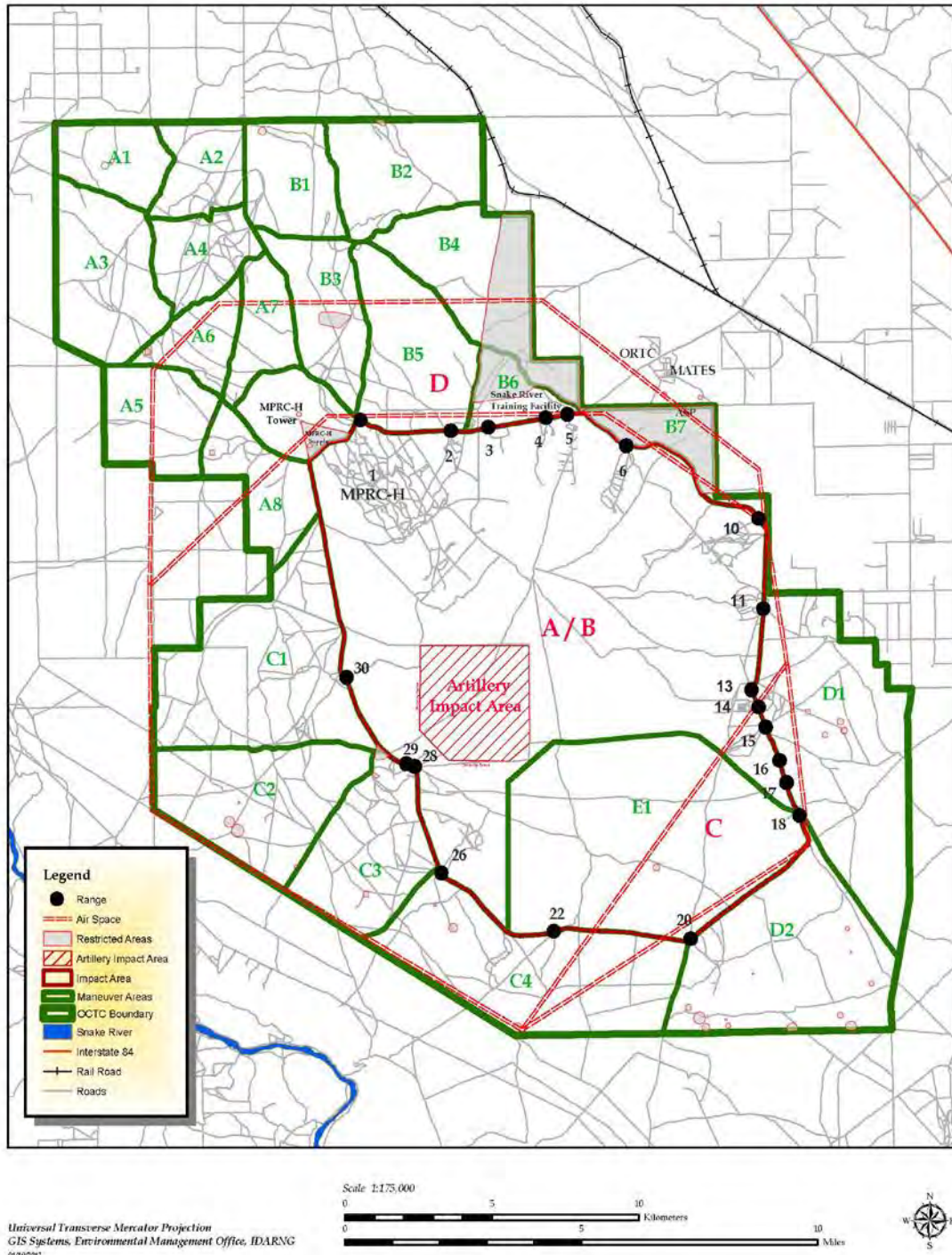
targets; Specialty Weapons Ranges used for firing pistols, rifles, machine guns, mortars, light anti-armored vehicle weapons, and grenade launchers; and the Maneuver and Firing Range (Range 1), a state-of-the-art MPRC-H. The MPRC-H has both moving and stationary targets with an electronic scoring system. Control and evaluation of training scenarios on this range occurs from a tower on Christmas Mountain. At the base of Christmas Mountain is a fenced compound where equipment and supplies for the maintenance of the MPRC-H and other ranges are stored. Most ranges have a tower structure for viewing and evaluating gunnery activity. Helicopter landing pads are also located adjacent to each range, at the MATES facility, and at the Snake River Training Facility.

The 21 identified Maneuver Areas outside the Impact Area (Figure 3.2) comprises the residual 89,800 acres (36,340 ha) and are for vehicle driver familiarization, armored vehicle crew maneuver proficiency, scout squad proficiency, platoon and company-level tactics and maneuver, and other combat support training. These areas (A, B, C, and D) are divided into sections primarily for managing and scheduling training activities and were not divided with any regard to changes in vegetation, soils, or other natural factors. One additional Maneuver Area (Echo 1) is found within the southern portion of the Impact Area and can be used for both maneuvers and training exercises.

While the overall management framework associated with training activities within the Maneuver Areas and Echo 1 are general in nature to accommodate a wide range of training activities, there are Maneuver Area-specific training designations (Figure 3.3). These designations are based on vegetation, soils, and other resource factors that indirectly affect training sustainability, i.e. site conditions relative to potential training-related impacts to raptors, their prey, and associated habitat. Maneuver Area designations are based on the identified training requirements for the area coupled with the potential impacts to natural resources, and use the descriptions outlined in Table B-32 of DA Pam 415-28 (2006). For example, using Maneuver Areas with large, contiguous shrub lands with an understory of native grass and forb species is generally restricted to foot traffic or on-road vehicles (Figure 3.3). This would be considered a “Light Forces” Maneuver Area. In contrast, a “Heavy Forces” Maneuver Area is generally dominated by annual grass and forb species with isolated patches of native species, and is generally open to unrestricted off-road training activities for all vehicle types. However, even areas designated as “Heavy Forces” can have site specific Restricted Areas associated with natural and/or cultural resources.

Unlike Maneuver Areas with training constraints, Restricted Areas identified within the OCTC are associated with the conservation and protection of natural or cultural resources (Figure 3.2). However, it should be noted that not all of the identified resources are mapped. Many identified resources are protected through indirect measures in order to not draw public attention to them.

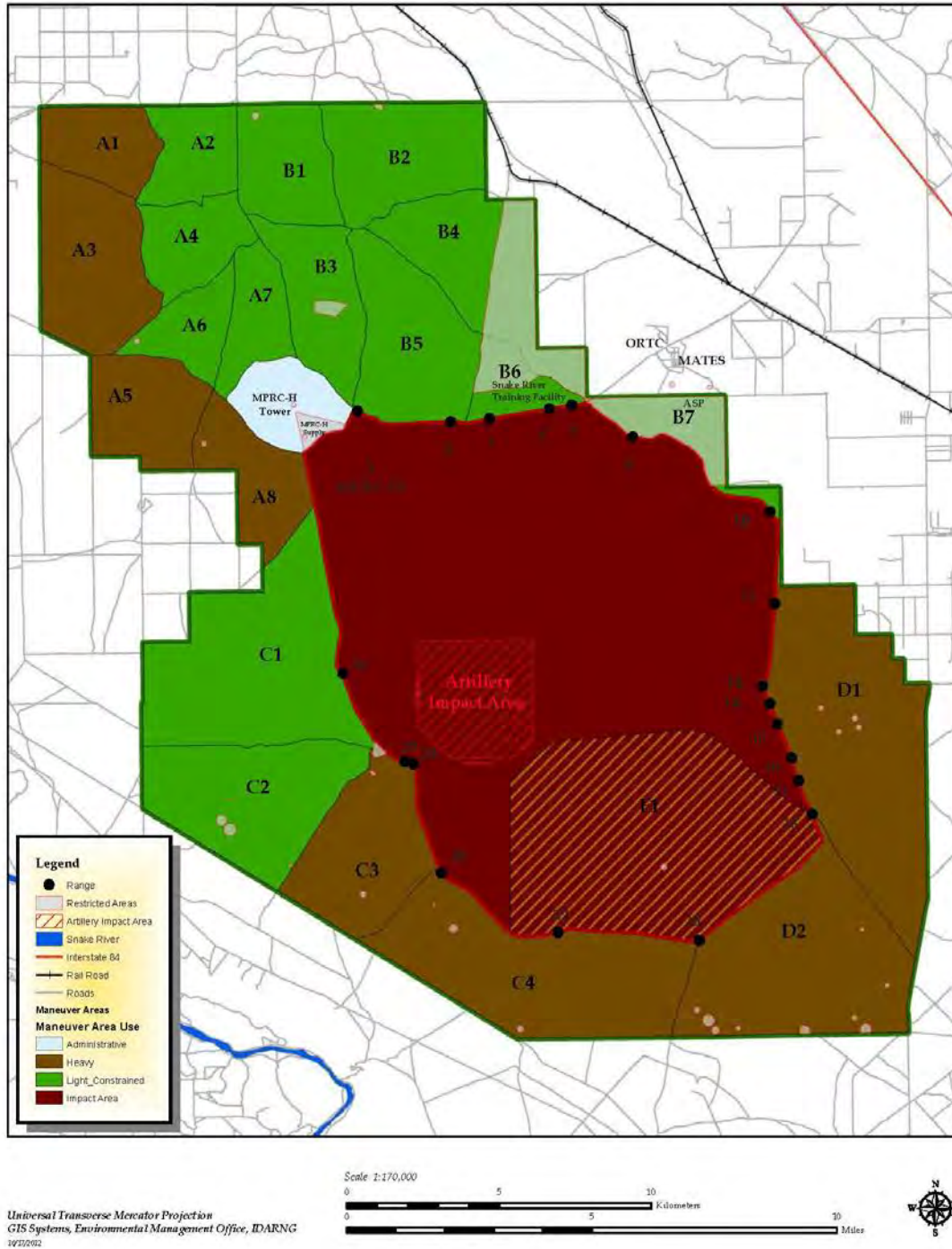
## Orchard Combat Training Center Ranges, Facilities, and Airspace



**Figure 3.2. Orchard Combat Training Center Range, Facilities, and Airspace Map**



## Orchard Combat Training Center Maneuver Area Management (Constrained)



**Figure 3.3. Orchard Combat Training Center Maneuver Area Management Map**

### 3.3.2.2 Support Facilities

The OCTC currently has no cantonment area, receiving cantonment area-related support from Gowen Field. However, a barracks facility associated with the Operational Readiness Training Complex (ORTC) is funded and construction is currently under way for Phase 1, with Phase II to be started in 2013 and Phase III started in 2016.

The MATES is located just east of the OCTC on Orchard Road (Figure 3.2). This land is owned by the IDL and leased to the IDARNG. This 26-bay facility provides maintenance and storage for most tracked vehicles used for training on the OCTC. This facility also includes a fuel point, a vehicle wash facility, offices, unit equipment issue compounds, a shower point, a railhead, an equipment storage facility, and unoccupied ground. It is important for Natural Resources and Master Planning to coordinate activities that involve the MATES due to the potential for issues involving facility improvements and natural resources at the MATES.

Near the MATES, just inside the OCTC boundary is the ASP complex. The ASP enables units to acquire training ammunition just prior to entering the training area (Figure 3.2).

Located just inside the OCTC boundary from Orchard Road is the Snake River Training Facility. Originally built to function as a support facility for the MPRC-H, this site now serves as the simulation training center. A significant amount of training is conducted on computers, which simulate the operation of real equipment and battle scenarios. This type of training saves money on equipment maintenance and provides more training opportunities for National Guard troops who have limited time to accomplish their training requirements.

### 3.3.2.3 Transportation System

**Road System**— Three county roads provide main access to the OCTC (Figure 3.1). Pleasant Valley Road provides direct southbound access from Gowen Field to the northern boundary of the OCTC. An unpaved tank trail is maintained along the paved portion of this road, and the IDARNG provides general road maintenance south of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Northern and eastern portions of the training area can be reached via the Orchard Road exit from Interstate 84 (Figure 3.1). Standifer Road begins in the northern part of the OCTC, branching southeast from Pleasant Valley Road and traversing the northeastern side of the training area and connecting to Range Road and Orchard Road near the Snake River Training Facility. The eastern side of the training area is accessed by Simco Road. Range Road encircles the Impact Area and connects to Pleasant Valley, Standifer, Orchard, and Simco road via the Cindercone road connector. Annual Training Site personnel routinely maintain 118 miles (190 km) of roads. Approximately 120 miles (193 km) of unimproved trails receive occasional maintenance.

**Railway System**— An active rail line maintained by Union Pacific Railroad runs through the Orchard town-site east of the OCTC and angles northwest, crossing Pleasant Valley Road north of the OCTC boundary (Figure 3.2). Units shipping training equipment off-load at the railhead located at the MATES facility.

**Aircraft Facilities**— The Boise Air Terminal is located immediately north of Gowen Field and provides runway facilities for the 183<sup>rd</sup> Aviation Battalion and Gowen Field activities (Figure 3.1). Mountain Home Air Force Base (AFB) lies about 5 miles (8 km) southeast of the OCTC (Figure 3.1). Airspace utilized by both of these facilities cover portions of the OCTC and impact training activities (Figure 3.1). Annual Training Site personnel continually coordinate airspace usage with the Federal Aviation Administration, the 183<sup>rd</sup> Aviation Battalion, Gowen Field, and Mountain Home AFB (Stout and Associates 2004).

#### **3.3.2.4 Water Supply**

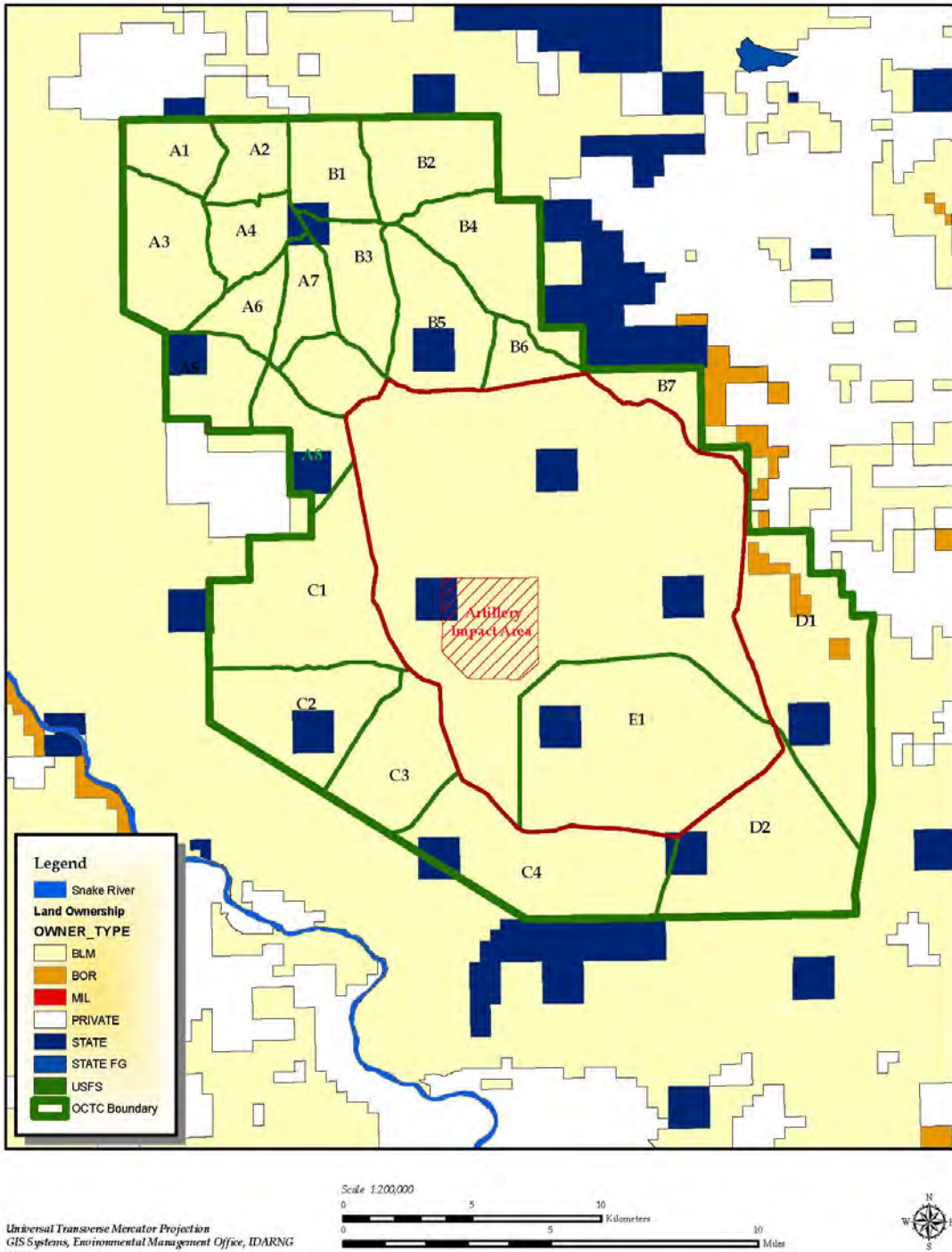
Three wells are currently located on the OCTC. One is located at the Snake River Training Facility and provides water for troop usage, maintenance, and fire fighting activities (Figure 3.2). A second and third well is located at the ASP and Range 1 (Figure 3.2). Any water required by troops during training activities in the OCTC must be hauled to their location. Ranchers who graze livestock in the area must also haul water, generally to portable troughs.

The IDARNG also maintains a well at the MATES facility. A large storage tank is located west of the facility to provide a sustainable supply of water for the staff and activities at that facility.

#### **3.4 Surrounding Land Uses**

The area adjacent to the OCTC is primarily BLM rangeland, with a small portion of privately owned agriculture and rangeland (Figure 3.4). The OCTC is important to the wildlife of the area because of its proximity to the Snake River Canyon and its inclusion in the NCA.

## Orchard Combat Training Center Land Ownership



**Figure 3.4. Orchard Combat Training Center and Surrounding Ownership Map**

### **3.4.1 Surrounding Communities**

#### **3.4.1.1 Demographics**

The OCTC is located in an unpopulated area in the central portion of the western Snake River Plain. The OCTC is primarily located in southeast Ada County, Idaho, with a southern portion of the OCTC in western Elmore County.

##### *Ada County*

Ada County is one of the fastest growing counties in Idaho, as well as the most populous. It has the 31st largest area of Idaho's 44 counties (Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor 2011). Boise is located within Ada County. Boise is the largest city in Idaho (population 205,700), a regional trade center, the state capital, and home to some of the largest employers in the state.

Ada County has been growing faster than the rest of the state of Idaho since the 1970s. Between 2000 and 2010, the population of Ada County increased from 303,174 to 392,365 people. This 29.4 percent growth rate was higher than the growth rate in the rest of the state (21.1 percent) and the nation (9.7 percent) (U.S. Census Bureau 2010). The economic health, concentration of high-technology industrial employers, and outdoor lifestyle are major reasons for continued growth in the region.

In 2010, the median age of people living in Ada County was 34.8 years. Children under 18 years of age comprised 26.4 percent of the population, and those 65 years of age and older comprised 10.5 percent of the population (Indicators Northwest 2011a).

##### *Elmore County*

Elmore County includes the cities of Mountain Home (population 12,260) and Glens Ferry (population 1,370), along with Mountain Home AFB. Currently, Elmore County has the 6th largest area and the 12th highest population of the 44 Idaho counties (Idaho Department of Labor 2011).

Between 2000 and 2010, the population of Elmore County decreased from 29,130 to 27,038 people. This 7.2 percent decline was far below the growth rate for the state (21.1 percent) and the nation (9.7 percent) (U.S. Census Bureau 2010); let alone the growth rate in Ada County (29.4 percent). This decline was likely due to base realignment decisions for Mountain Home AFB.

In 2010, the median age of people living in Elmore County was 30.0 years. Children under 18 years of age comprised 28.4 percent of the population, and those 65 years of age and older comprised 10.0 percent of the population (Indicators Northwest 2011b).

#### **3.4.1.2 Regional Employment and Economic Activity**

##### *Ada County—Employment*

Total employment in Ada County grew from 137,825 in 1990 to 228,570 in 2000 and to 262,868 in 2009 (Headwaters Economics, 2011). In 2009, the industries with the largest average employment in Ada

County were Government (12.9 percent); Retail Trade (11.5 percent); and Health Care and Social Assistance Services (10.5 percent). Natural Resource Industries of farming, forestry, and mining accounted for only 1.1 percent of jobs. Self-employed proprietors numbered 57,109 and accounted for 21.7 percent of jobs.

There were 17,752 businesses in Ada County in 2010 (Idaho Department of Commerce, Gem State Prospector 2011.). There are 30 businesses in Ada County with at least 500 employees. The U.S. Civilian DOD, with 1,000–1,500 employees, is ranked as the 35th largest employer in Idaho (Idaho Department of Labor 2011).

#### *Elmore County—Employment*

Total employment in Elmore County grew from 10,884 in 1990 to 13,858 in 2000 and to 14,277 in 2009 (Headwaters Economics, 2011). During 2009, the industries with the largest average employment in Elmore County were Government (44.7 percent); Retail Trade (9.7 percent); and Natural Resource Industries (6.0 percent). The industries with the lowest average employment included Utilities (0.2 percent) and Arts and Entertainment (0.7 percent). Self-employed proprietors numbered 3,004 and accounted for 21.0 percent of jobs.

#### *Ada County—Unemployment*

Ada County's average annual unemployment rate has consistently been lower than the unemployment rates of Elmore County, the state of Idaho, and the United States. Ada County's unemployment rate increased from a 10-year low of 2.3 percent in 2006 to a high of 8.9 percent in 2010 (Headwaters Economics, 2011). Preliminary unemployment in August 2011 was 8.0 percent (Idaho Department of Labor 2011).

#### *Elmore County—Unemployment*

Until 2004, Elmore County's average annual unemployment rate had been consistently higher than the unemployment rates of Ada County, the state of Idaho, and the United States. However, in 2004, its unemployment rate of 5.5 percent was the same as that for the United States but still higher than the 4.7 percent average annual unemployment rate for Idaho. Elmore County's unemployment rate has dropped as low as 3.6 percent in 2006 to a high of 10.3 percent in 2010. Preliminary unemployment in August 2011 was 9.6 percent (Idaho Department of Labor 2011).

#### *Ada County—Earnings*

Ada County's average earnings per job increased in real terms (2010 dollars) from \$41,009 in 1990 to a high of \$50,517 in 2000 before dropping to \$47,433 in 2009 (Headwaters Economics 2011). This measure is the average of total employment, including full- and part-time jobs and sole proprietors. Ada County is consistently higher than the Idaho average job earnings. Mining was the sector with the highest average annual wages in 2010 (\$85,771), followed by Manufacturing (\$75,868) and the federal Government (\$66,905). The Leisure and Hospitality industry had by far the lowest average annual wage (\$14,702).

### *Elmore County—Earnings*

Elmore County's average earnings per job have a slightly different pattern from Ada County. Elmore County's average earnings in real terms (2010 dollars) were \$47,501 in 1990, and then dipped to \$42,796 in 2000 before increasing to \$49,758 in 2009 (Headwaters Economics, 2011). In both 1990 and 2009, Elmore County's average earnings were higher than Ada County, and in all years higher than the state of Idaho average. The federal Government was the sector with the highest average annual wages in 2010 (\$42,662), followed by Information Services (\$37,227) and the Idaho Government (\$34,159). The Leisure and Hospitality industry again had by far the lowest average annual wage (\$11,514). Note that these average earnings omit 4,099 military jobs that were omitted for confidentiality reasons but raise the county's average significantly.

#### **3.4.1.3 Regional Income and Expenditures**

##### *Ada County*

Ada County had a personal income of approximately \$15.6 billion (2010 dollars) in 2009 (Headwaters Economics 2011). In 2007, retail sales in Ada County were approximately \$5.9 billion (U.S. Census Bureau 2011). In 2005, approximately \$1.5 million were spent on various construction contracts for the IDARNG in Ada County. The number of Soldiers trained at the OCTC is not expected to exceed 10,000 per training year.

##### *Elmore County*

Elmore County had a personal income of approximately \$903 million (2010 dollars) in 2009 (Headwaters Economics, 2011). In 2007, retail sales in Elmore County were approximately \$241 million (U.S. Census Bureau 2011).

#### **3.4.1.4 Housing**

##### *Ada County*

In 2010, Ada County had an estimated 159,471 housing units. In 2010, the vacancy rate was 6.9 percent, and approximately 63.7 percent of the housing units were owner-occupied. The median home value was \$157,908 in 2000 (Indicators Northwest 2011a).

##### *Elmore County*

In 2010, Elmore County had an estimated 12,162 housing units. In 2010, the vacancy rate was 16.6, and approximately 50.9 percent of the housing units were owner-occupied. The median home value was \$118,020 in 2000 (Indicators Northwest 2011b).

#### **3.4.1.5 Schools**

No Ada or Elmore County schools are located on or near the OCTC. The closest school in Ada County is in Kuna, Idaho, roughly 8 miles (13 km) to the northwest of the OCTC northern boundary. The closest

schools in Elmore County are at the Mountain Home Airforce Base and in Grandview, Idaho. Both are roughly 5.5 miles (9 km) southeast or south of the southern boundary.

#### **3.4.1.6 Medical Facilities**

Ample medical facilities serve Ada and Elmore counties. They are concentrated in the Boise Metropolitan Statistical Area and Mountain Home and the Mountain Home AFB. Emergency services are available through military and civilian agencies serving Ada and Elmore counties.

#### **3.4.1.7 Public and Occupational Health and Safety**

Public and occupational health and safety consists of several elements:

- Police, fire, and rescue services
- Fire prevention and suppression
- Public safety
- Protection of children

**Police, Fire, and Rescue Services**—Police protection is provided to the OCTC by the Ada County Sheriff's Department. Fire and rescue service is provided by the Orchard Rural Fire Department and IDARNG Range Control. Elmore County does not provide police, fire, or rescue services to the OCTC.

**Orchard Combat Training Center Fire Prevention and Suppression**— Under the 2010 OCTC MOU with the BLM (Appendix A), the IDARNG has first response responsibilities for all fires within the boundaries of the OCTC and can support, if requested, fires adjacent to the OCTC boundary. In 1987, the IDARNG first implemented a wildfire suppression program for military training activities (Stout and Associates 2004). Details of the IDARNG's Wildland Fire Management Plan (WFMP) are outlined in section 7.10 and Appendix E.

**Public Safety**— The entire Impact Area is off limits to the general public through an Ada County Ordinance and BLM designation. Signs warning of potential danger in the unfenced Impact Area have been posted at 200-meter (656-foot) intervals around the periphery. IDARNG range staff coordinates all activities and access to the Impact Area. To enter the Impact Area, an authorized escort is needed for non-IDARNG personnel (ANL EAD 2004). The Artillery Impact Area is fenced as an additional safety precaution for livestock and IDARNG personnel and ranchers who might have permission to enter the area (Stout and Associates 2004).

During Annual Training events, signs indicating that increased military activities are occurring are posted at the main entry areas to the OCTC (Stout and Associates 2004). In the spring, Training Site personnel inform those in popular ground squirrel hunting areas when military training is occurring in their vicinity (Stout and Associates 2004).

On a continuing basis, to minimize conflicts with military and private planes, IDARNG Annual Training Site personnel continually coordinate airspace usage over the OCTC with the Federal Aviation



Administration, the 183rd Aviation Battalion, Gowen Field, and Mountain Home AFB (Stout and Associates 2004).

**Protection of Children**—President Clinton issued Executive Order (E.O.) 13045, “Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks” on April 21, 1997. This E.O. recognized that “a growing body of scientific knowledge demonstrates that children may suffer disproportionately from environmental health and safety risks.” These include “risks to health or to safety that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come in contact with or ingest (such as the air we breath[e], the food we eat, the water we drink or use for recreation, the soil we live on, and the products we use or are exposed to).” Therefore, to the extent permitted by law and the agency’s mission, it is the responsibility of each federal agency to identify and assess such environmental health and safety risks and ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health risks or safety risks. Schools, childcare centers, and family housing areas, with their high concentrations of children, would be sensitive areas for exposure to children. The OCTC is not near such sensitive areas.

### **3.4.2 Land Uses**

The existing character of land use in the area adjacent to the OCTC to the east, south, and west is expected to continue. Encroachment is a concern in the area to the north of the OCTC where several planned communities were proposed, although none are in development at this time. Increased recreational use and illegal dumping in the northern portion of the OCTC is occurring and will continue as the local and regional population continues to increase.

Public land uses within and adjacent to the OCTC include livestock grazing; agriculture; motorized recreation (off highway vehicles [OHVs]); recreational shooting/hunting; passive recreation (e.g., bird watching, non-motorized recreation, hiking); and military training. Management practices have focused on balancing the resources required by the birds of prey and maintaining quality rangeland and military training within the OCTC.

#### **3.4.2.1 Livestock Grazing**

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 authorizes livestock grazing on public land. The management of livestock grazing on OCTC is the responsibility of the BLM. The entire OCTC—except the Artillery Impact Area, ASP, and fenced cultural sites—is grazed by cattle and sheep. The OCTC is divided by an east-west fence called the livestock drift fence, which separates the area into two grazing allotments (Figure 3.5). The north area, Sunnyside Spring-Fall Allotment, is grazed from April 1 to June 30 and from October 16 to December 15 each year. The south area, Sunnyside Winter Allotment, is grazed from December 16 to February 28.

Standards and Guides (S&G) assessments and determinations have been completed on the grazing allotments associated with the OCTC. The purpose for S&G assessments is to determine whether allotments or portions of allotments are meeting the eight standards for proper rangeland health. If the assessments determine that one or more standards are not being met, grazing decisions are issued

which include measures designed to mitigate the impact and to bring the allotments into conformance with the standards. These changes could include such measures as timing, seasons, and duration (BLM 2008). There have been no changes to timing, season, or duration of livestock use within the boundaries of the OCTC since the NCA-RMP (BLM 2008).

#### **3.4.2.2 Recreational Activities**

Other than the Impact Area, the entire OCTC is open to the public for recreational uses, including but not limited to OHV use; non-motorized bike riding; wildlife viewing; geo-caching; and recreational shooting (wild life and targets). Recreation use occurs year-round with visitor use generally highest in the spring and early summer months and lowest during the winter months. Over the past 10 years, as the population of the Treasure Valley has increased, summer and fall use has also increased.

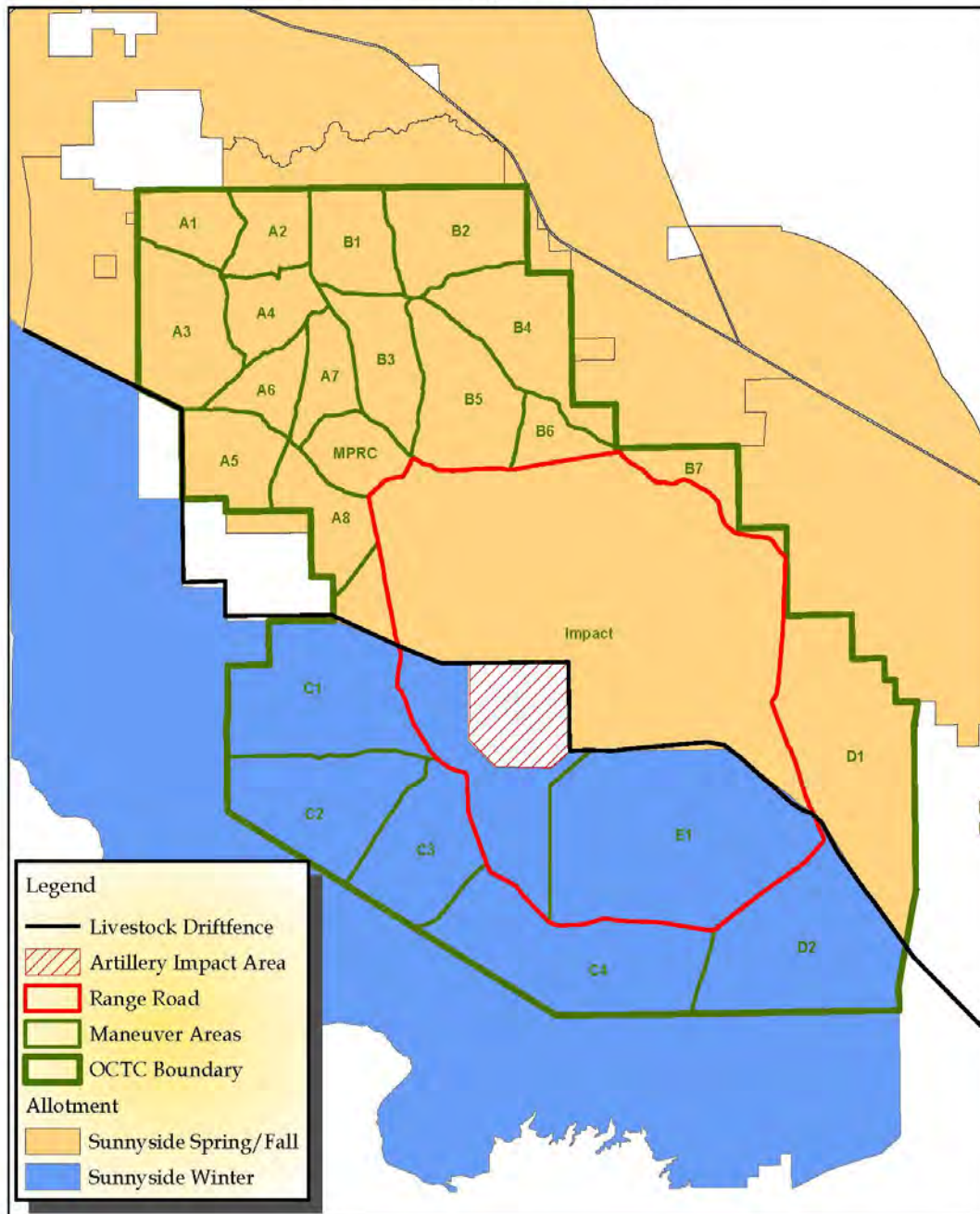
While many of these uses have little or no effect on wildlife or habitat within the OCTC, activities such as off-road OHV use and recreational shooting do affect the wildlife and habitat of the area and are future management challenges for the BLM. For example, under the current NCA-RMP (BLM 2008), large areas to the north and west of the OCTC have been closed to recreational shooting because of safety considerations. This closure has increased the amount of recreational shooting on the OCTC and poses a greater safety hazard to troops training in the area.

Increased recreational activities in the OCTC also increase the likelihood of fires in the maneuver areas. One popular camp site and party location is the area near Higby Cave. During the past two years, this site has shown a significant increase in campfire activity. The area is surrounded by mature sagebrush and is adjacent to slickspot peppergrass habitat. There is a relatively high potential for a fire in this area that could destroy large areas of sagebrush habitat. Management responsibility for non-military uses of the OCTC resides with the BLM.

#### **3.4.2.1 Illegal Dumping**

Although all public lands are subject to random amounts of dumping, the dispersed use of the area coupled with a relatively close proximity to a large metropolitan area has encouraged some to view the OCTC as a convenient dump site, and illegal dumping has increased noticeably over time. Occasionally general household trash is dumped, but often, items such as old appliances or furniture are hauled out or used for target practice and left on site. When possible, the source of the litter is identified, and the information is given to county law enforcement officials. Such items pose a hazard to wildlife and the troops training in the area.

## Orchard Combat Training Center BLM Grazing Allotments



Universal Transverse Mercator Projection  
GIS Systems, Environmental Management Office, IDARNG  
17 FEB 2013

Scale 1:200,000  
0 5 Kilometers  
0 5 Miles



**Figure 3.5. Orchard Combat Training Center Livestock Grazing Allotments**

## Chapter 4 Physical Environment

### 4.1 Climate

Both continental and maritime air masses influence weather patterns on the Snake River Plain. Effects from both air masses occur chiefly in the winter, when the cold winter climate produced by continental air masses is moderated by maritime air masses with periods of cloudy, stormy, and mild weather. The summer climate is influenced primarily by continental air masses, which produce dry, hot weather (Collett 1980).

The Boise Mountains to the northeast and the Owyhee Mountains to the southwest greatly influence precipitation events on the Snake River Plain (Collett 1980). A portion of the western Snake River Plain lies within the rain shadow of the Owyhee Mountain range. Within this rain shadow, the average annual precipitation is only 5–8 inches (13-20 centimeters [cm]). The Boise Mountain range, however, creates an area where clouds drop precipitation, giving the northern half of the Snake River Plain higher annual precipitation levels of 7–12 inches (18-31 cm). The rain shadow of the Owyhee Mountains essentially divides the OCTC in half: the southern half consistently receives less rainfall than the northern half.

Three remote automated weather stations (RAWS) are located on the OCTC as is one semi-automated rain gauge that was established in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service in 2001 (Figure 4.1). The new RAWS replaced two manual bucket precipitation stations and added an additional monitoring station in the southeastern corner of the OCTC. These new stations should increase the amount and precision of data and expand the data collection coverage for the OCTC.

Historic data show the average annual precipitation for the southern half (range 26) to be 7.05 inches (18 cm) (1990–2010). During the same period, the average precipitation for the northern half was 8.04 inches (20 cm). Differences in mean annual precipitation between the northern and southern halves are considerable. From 1990 through 2010, the mean difference was 14 percent. Most precipitation is received during the winter; summer precipitation is usually the result of isolated thunderstorms.

Boise's mean annual temperature is 52.1 °Fahrenheit (F) (11 °Celsius [C]). January is usually the coldest month with an average daily minimum of 24.0 °F (-4°C), and July is the warmest month with an average daily maximum of 89.0 °F (32°C). The average date of the first freeze is in early-to-mid October, and the last freeze is typically around early May. Extremes in temperature range occur in all months, but are greatest in September and May (CH2M Hill 1988). The OCTC temperatures are usually 3–5 degrees higher in the summer and lower in the winter than temperatures reported at the Boise Air Terminal.

Overall, climatic patterns are extremely variable. Wind data for the area show a strong predominance of winds from the northeast and the north-northwest, with a secondary influence from the south-southwest and the southeast (CH2M Hill 1988). Average annual wind speed is 8.7 miles per hour (mph) (14 kilometers per hour [kph]) with an annual maximum speed of 61 mph (98 kph) (NOAA 2012).

# Orchard Combat Training Center Weather Stations

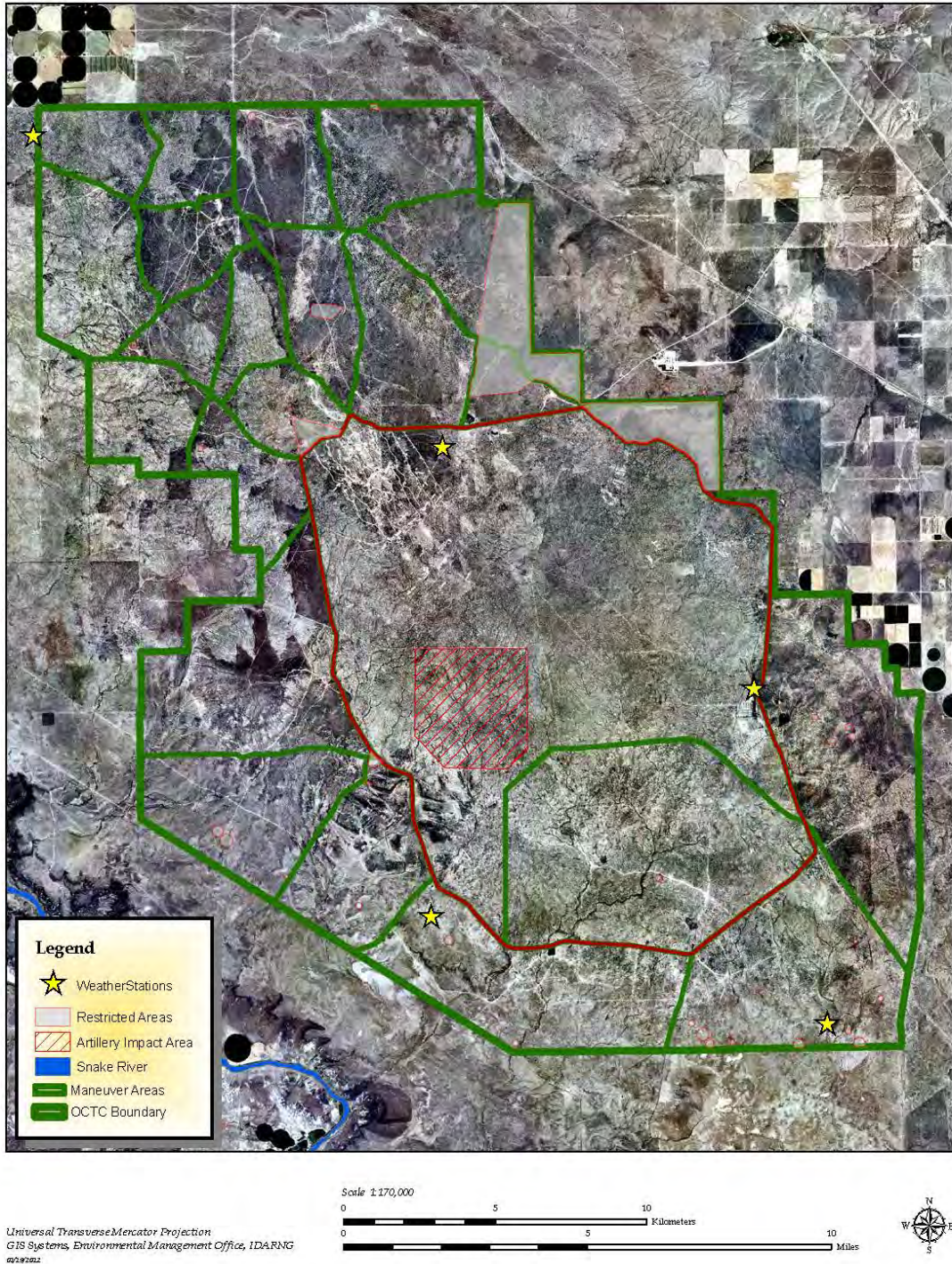


Figure 4.1. Map of Remote Automated Weather Stations within the Orchard Combat Training Center

IDARNG's Annual Training events on the OCTC normally occur in June, July, and early August. During this season of intensive use, Soldiers face high temperatures and blowing dust. After Annual Training, plant growth does not resume until the following spring, so disturbed soils are vulnerable to wind erosion. From November through March, soils are moist and precipitation may fall as rain or snow. Monthly weather parameters collected by the U.S. Weather Service for Boise are shown in Table 4.1 (NOAA 2012).

**Table 4.1. Summary of Boise, Idaho Climate Data**

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual Average
<b>Average High Temperature</b>	37 °F (3 °C)	45 °F (7 °C)	54 °F (12 °C)	62 °F (16 °C)	71 °F (22 °C)	80 °F (27 °C)	89 °F (32 °C)	88 °F (31 °C)	77 °F (25 °C)	64 °F (18 °C)	48 °F (9 °C)	37 °F (3 °C)	62.7 °F (17 °C)
<b>Average Low Temperature</b>	24 °F (-4 °C)	29 °F (-2 °C)	34 °F (1 °C)	39 °F (4 °C)	47 °F (8 °C)	54 °F (12 °C)	60 °F (16 °C)	60 °F (16 °C)	51 °F (11 °C)	41 °F (5 °C)	32 °F (0 °C)	24 °F (-4 °C)	41.3 °F (5 °C)
<b>Mean Temperature</b>	30 °F (-1 °C)	37 °F (3 °C)	44 °F (7 °C)	51 °F (11 °C)	59 °F (15 °C)	67 °F (19 °C)	75 °F (24 °C)	74 °F (23 °C)	64 °F (18 °C)	53 °F (12 °C)	40 °F (4 °C)	31 °F (-5 °C)	52.1 °F (11 °C)
<b>Average Precipitation</b>	1.4 in. (3.6 cm)	1.1 in. (2.8 cm)	1.4 in. (3.6 cm)	1.3 in. (3.3 cm)	1.3 in. (3.3 cm)	0.7 in. (1.8 cm)	0.4 in. (1 cm)	0.3 in. (0.8 cm)	0.8 in. (2 cm)	0.8 in. (2 cm)	1.4 in. (3.6 cm)	1.4 in. (3.6 cm)	1.03 in. (2.6 cm)
<b>Record High</b>	63 °F (17 °C)	71 °F (22 °C)	81 °F (27 °C)	92 °F (33 °C)	99 °F (37 °C)	109 °F (43 °C)	111 °F (44 °C)	110 °F (43 °C)	102 °F (39 °C)	94 °F (34 °C)	78 °F (26 °C)	65 °F (18 °C)	
<b>Year</b>	1953	1992	1978	1987	2003	1940	1960	1961	1945	1997	1999	1964	
<b>Record Low</b>	-17 °F (-27 °C)	-15 °F (-26 °C)	6 °F (-14 °C)	19 °F (-7 °C)	22 °F (-6 °C)	31 °F (-5 °C)	35 °F (2 °C)	34 °F (1 °C)	23 °F (-5 °C)	11 °F (-12 °C)	-3 °F (-19 °C)	-25 °F (-32 °C)	
<b>Year</b>	1950	1989	1971	1968	1982	1995	1986	1992	1970	1971	1985	1990	

## **4.2 Physiography and Topography**

The OCTC is part of the western portion of the 20,000 square-mile (51,800 square km) physiographic feature known as the Snake River Plain, an area characterized by gentle terrain with basalt ridges, buttes, and cinder cones (Collett 1980). Snake River Plain lava flows are responsible for the gently rolling terrain of the OCTC (Shallat 1994). These basaltic flows, which occurred during the Pleistocene and earlier eras, range from very shallow to thousands of feet deep (Collett 1980). Elevation in the OCTC ranges from 3,000 to 3,500 feet (914 to 1,067 meters) above mean sea level. Lower elevations occur along the southern and northeastern boundaries.

## **4.3 Geology**

Basalt ridges, buttes, cinder cones, and lava tubes occur throughout the low rolling hills of the OCTC. There are three significant buttes: Christmas Mountain, Big Foot Butte, and Cinder Cone Butte. Christmas Mountain and Big Foot buttes are on the western side of the OCTC, and Cinder Cone Butte is near the eastern boundary.

Cinder Cone Butte is a classic cinder cone. This butte and several smaller cinder hills in the training area were formed by the accumulation of air-filled lava particles expelled from volcanic gas vents. During the formation of cinder cones, these solidify and fall as cinders around gas vents to form cones of loosely consolidated material (Tilling 1985). Big Foot Butte is a lava shield, formed by the upward bowing of existing strata by an intrusive layer of basalt (Russell 1902). Lava pressure ridges, along with flow variations and edges, created numerous smaller hills. Several lava caves are present (Russell 1902).

The Snake River Canyon, a deep gorge bisecting the Snake River Plain for more than 500 miles (805 km), is located 2.4 to 5.0 miles (3.9 to 8 km) from the southern and western boundaries of the OCTC. Depth of the Snake River Canyon near the training area varies from 300 to 800 feet (91 to 244 meters) (GIS database).

Faulting on the Snake River Plain usually parallels the east–west axis of the plain. However, no evidence of major faulting on the OCTC exists (CH2M Hill 1988). The 1985 Uniform Building Code lists the area as a minor seismic risk.

## **4.4 Soils**

Historically, two soil surveys covered the OCTC. The first, published in 1980 for Ada County, included some northern and western parts of the training area (Collett 1980). The second survey, for Elmore County, was published in 1991 and covered the central and southern portions of the OCTC (Noe 1991). Both soil surveys describe the soils as aridosols that developed in loess or silty alluvium deposited mostly by wind over basalt plains. Soils are young with weak definition of horizons, well drained, and vary from shallow to very deep (60 inches [152 cm] or deeper), depending upon the depth of underlying bedrock (lava flows).



Soils in the northern half of the training area are silt loams and clay loams, many of them wind-deposited upon the underlying basalt layers. The water erosion potential of these soils is slight; these soils typically drain very slowly when moist. The wind erosion potential is moderate. Clay- and silt-dominated soils like these show stability and strength when dry and can support loads as large as 5 tons per square foot (4.8 kilograms per square cm) when the moisture content is less than 15 percent. However, most OCTC soils, because they are relatively unconsolidated, are structurally rather weak when dry (Collett 1980). With a moisture content above 15 percent, there is a pronounced decrease in supporting capacity, to as low as 0.25 tons per square foot (0.24 kilograms per square cm) (Spangler and Handy 1982).

Soils in the southern half of the training area are sandier with very slight water erosion potential. However, these soils drain more easily, as they have a larger average particle size (Collett 1980). The potential for wind erosion is moderate to severe (CH2M Hill 1988).

In 1999, major fieldwork for the update of the OCTC soil survey was completed through cooperative efforts of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), IDARNG, BLM, University of Idaho, Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, and Idaho Soil Conservation Commission. The final report indicates that the OCTC has bedrock-controlled topography that consists dominantly of level-to-rolling lava flows on an extensive shield volcano grading to surrounding lava plains. Most soil in the area formed in alluvium that is derived from loess and volcanic ash and is overlain by a thin mantle of loess. Durapans (silica-cemented hardpans) and Pleistocene basalt commonly are at a depth of less than 60 inches (152 cm). The soils on cinder cones formed in loess and volcanic ash mixed with cinders (Harkness 2000). A summary map (Figure 4.2) shows soils within the OCTC with an expanded description for each found in Appendix F.

#### **4.1 Petroleum and Mineral Resources**

The OCTC has no significant mineral resources. Formerly, four cinder quarries located on the OCTC were used by the IDARNG to obtain material for road surfacing and range firing pads. Two of these quarries are depleted and have been reclaimed. Cinder Cone Butte and one small quarry south of it are still available for use, but the quality of cinders available has limited usefulness for roadbeds on the OCTC. Under Public Law 103-64, no new mineral leases will be issued in the NCA. This restriction includes establishing new cinder quarry sites. However, existing quarry sites can be expanded if required and approved by the BLM.

#### **4.2 Hydrology**

The OCTC has only a few intermittent streams (Figure 4.3). Typically, these run for a few hours, perhaps 4–5 times annually. There are no springs or year-round sources of water; however, there are several watering holes that are filled annually for livestock. Ground water is generally 900 feet (274 meters) or more below ground level. The playa lake beds hold some water during the spring, but they are generally dry by May or June.

## Orchard Combat Training Center Soil Types

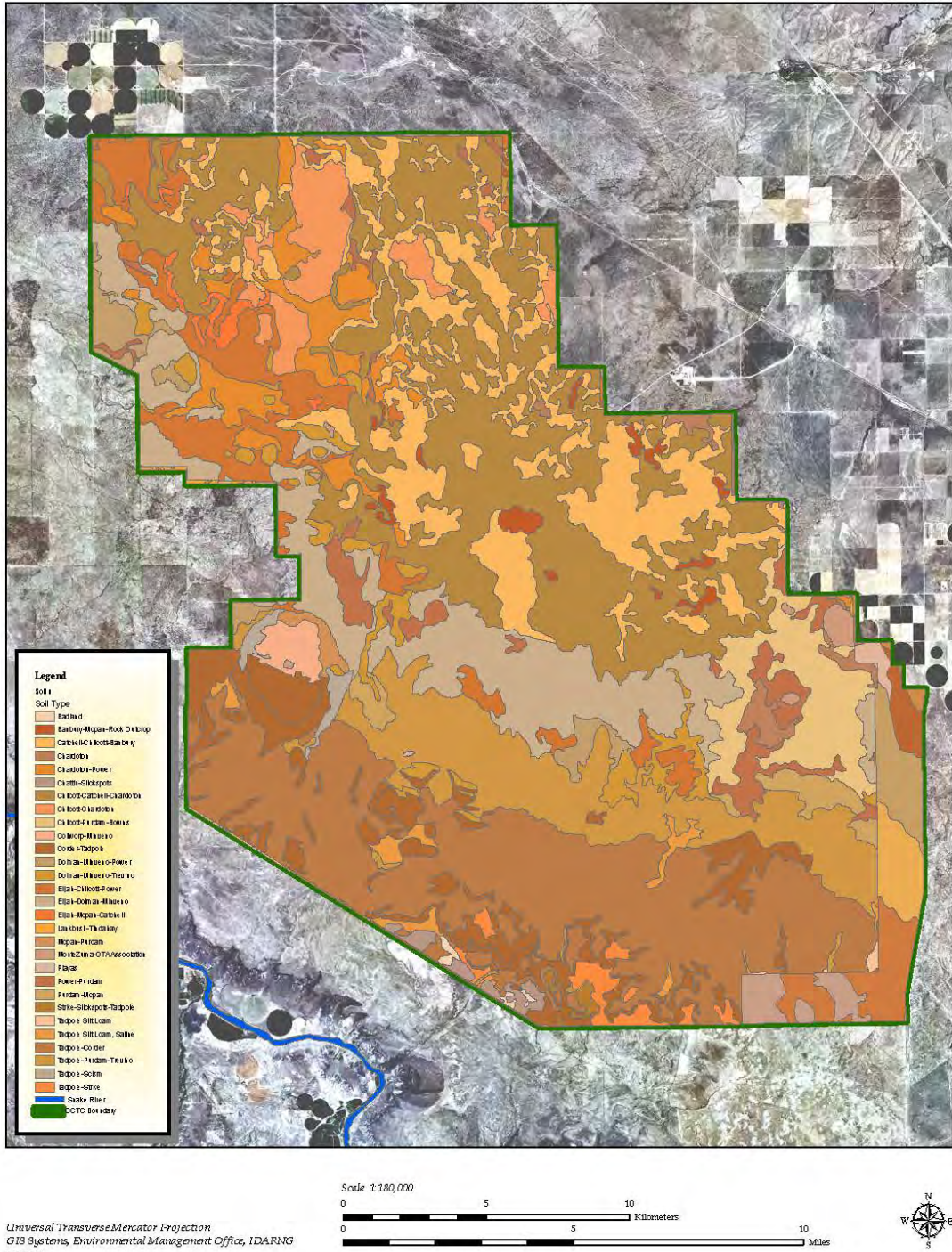


Figure 4.2. Orchard Combat Training Center Soils Map

## Orchard Combat Training Center Hydrology

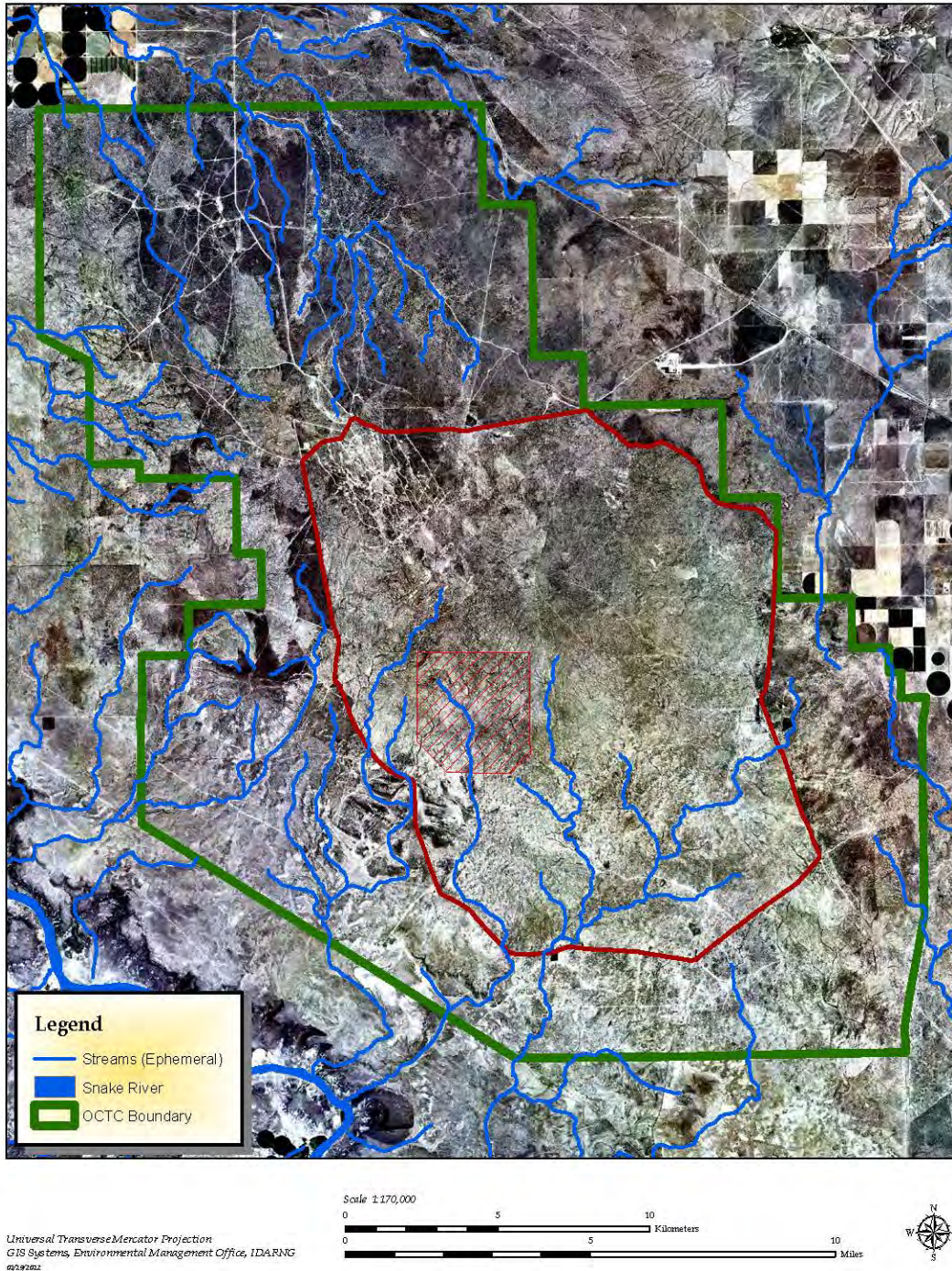


Figure 4.3. Orchard Combat Training Center Hydrology Map

## Chapter 5 Natural Environment

### 5.1 Vegetation

The OCTC is found within the Columbia Plateau ecoregion and Owyhee Uplands ecological section, with the associated vegetation community classified as Southern Xeric Shrubland and Steppe (IDFG 2005). A floristic survey was initiated in 1988 and is continually updated based on annual RTLA surveys, remotely sensed data, and resources-specific management actions (e.g., site clearances or restoration projects). Any new species observed during the management actions are added to the species list found in Appendix G.

#### 5.1.1 Historic Vegetative Cover

Dominant vegetation communities prior to European settlement of the western Snake River Plain were of three principal types: Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*), winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), and shadscale (*Atriplex confertifolia*), each with an understory of perennial grasses and forbs. These communities were, and still are, often found as complexes or mosaics in the OCTC. Other ground cover was composed of a cryptobiotic soil crust of soil lichens, algae, and mosses. Information for this section was derived from Yensen (1982), unless otherwise specified.

Between 1870 and 1934, a period of intensive overgrazing by domestic livestock occurred. During this time, many native forbs and some native grasses were virtually eliminated from the entire area. Some winterfat stands were severely damaged; others were eliminated.

By 1900, a significant change in the vegetation of the area had begun to occur. Many species of exotic annuals, introduced into the area in contaminated crop seed and in livestock feces and sheep coats, invaded the damaged rangeland. These species included cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and several exotic mustards (Yensen 1981, Piemeisel 1951). These annuals dried to dormancy earlier and were much more flammable than the native species they replaced. Lightning-caused fires began to burn larger and larger areas. Sagebrush, winterfat, and shadscale are eliminated by fire. While seeds of exotic annuals survive fire well, seeds of sagebrush and winterfat are generally killed by fire. By 1980, average wildfire burn sizes were much larger, and the burn–reburn interval forever altered the Snake River Plain ecosystem. Large stands of exotic annuals rapidly replaced the once-vast stands of native shrubs. Additional exotic annual species, including halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*) and bur-buttercup (*Ranunculus testiculatus*) invaded disturbed areas. These trends continue to this day.

Exotic annual communities vary greatly with soil type, former community composition, and history of disturbance. Typical species are those mentioned above, as well as Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*), clasping pepperweed (*Lepidium perfoliatum*), and other mustards. Russian thistle is of concern to training because dead, loose plants (tumbleweeds) interfere with the operation of automated targets and form large mats along fence lines and bunkers, and fill depressions in the ground and at building entrances. As these plants accumulate they create dense clusters that are at risk for ignition and are considered severe fire hazards.

### 5.1.2 Current Vegetative Cover

The OCTC landscape is a patchwork of vegetation stands with all plants generally under 3 feet (91 cm) tall and no tree species. Shrub stands appear as gray, textured areas, and stands of exotic annuals and perennial grasses appear as tan patches (except in April and May when they are green). The current vegetation reflects both historic vegetation communities and more recent alterations caused by fire and invasions of exotic annuals. Table 5.1 is a summary of the general community types found within the boundaries of the OCTC. The summary calculations were done in ArcMap using ArcMap Report and are based on the most recent vegetation map, which was developed in 2000 by the IDARNG’s GIS department. An updated vegetation map is currently being developed and is expected to be completed in 2012.

**Table 5.1. Orchard Combat Training Center Vegetation Summary**

Vegetation Community	Acres (Hectares)	Percent of Area (%)
Sandberg’s blue grass ( <i>Poa secunda</i> )	40,260 (16,292)	28
Wyoming big sagebrush	29,988 (12,135)	21
Cheatgrass	18,031 (7,297)	13
Exotic annuals	14,927 (6,041)	10
Shadscale	12,294 (4,975)	9
Rabbit brush ( <i>Chrysothamnus</i> spp.)	11,970 (4,844)	8
Winterfat	6,732 (2,724)	5
Bare ground	6,294 (2,547)	4
Cinder/rock	2,534 (1,025)	2
Secondary agriculture lands	204 (83)	<1
Playas	56 (23)	<1
Prime Agriculture lands	12 (5)	<1
Miscellaneous water	4 (2)	<1
<b>Total</b>	<b>143,307</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: 2000 OCTC Vegetation Map

The Alpha maneuver areas (Figure 5.1) include large blocks of burned, non-shrub areas resulting from fires started outside the OCTC. Maneuver training occurs in these non-shrub areas. B3 and B5 maneuver areas also have open, previously burned areas suitable for maneuver training. However, this northern part of the OCTC includes possibly the largest stand of big sagebrush remaining in the NCA. The C1, C2, and C3 maneuver areas contain many stands of winterfat, shadscale, sagebrush, winterfat–sagebrush mosaic, and winterfat–shadscale mosaic, as well as some areas that burned decades previously. Maneuver activity in this area is generally restricted to existing roads. The C4 and D2 maneuver areas contain few stands of winterfat, shadscale, and mosaics. The D1 and B7 maneuver areas have also burned and have few shrub stands. The northern half of the impact area has very few shrubs but contains many excellent stands of native perennial bunchgrass. The southern half of the impact area has a few stands of winterfat–sagebrush mosaic and perennial grasses, but also large expanses of cheatgrass and exotic annual weeds.

## Orchard Combat Training Center Vegetation and Maneuver Areas

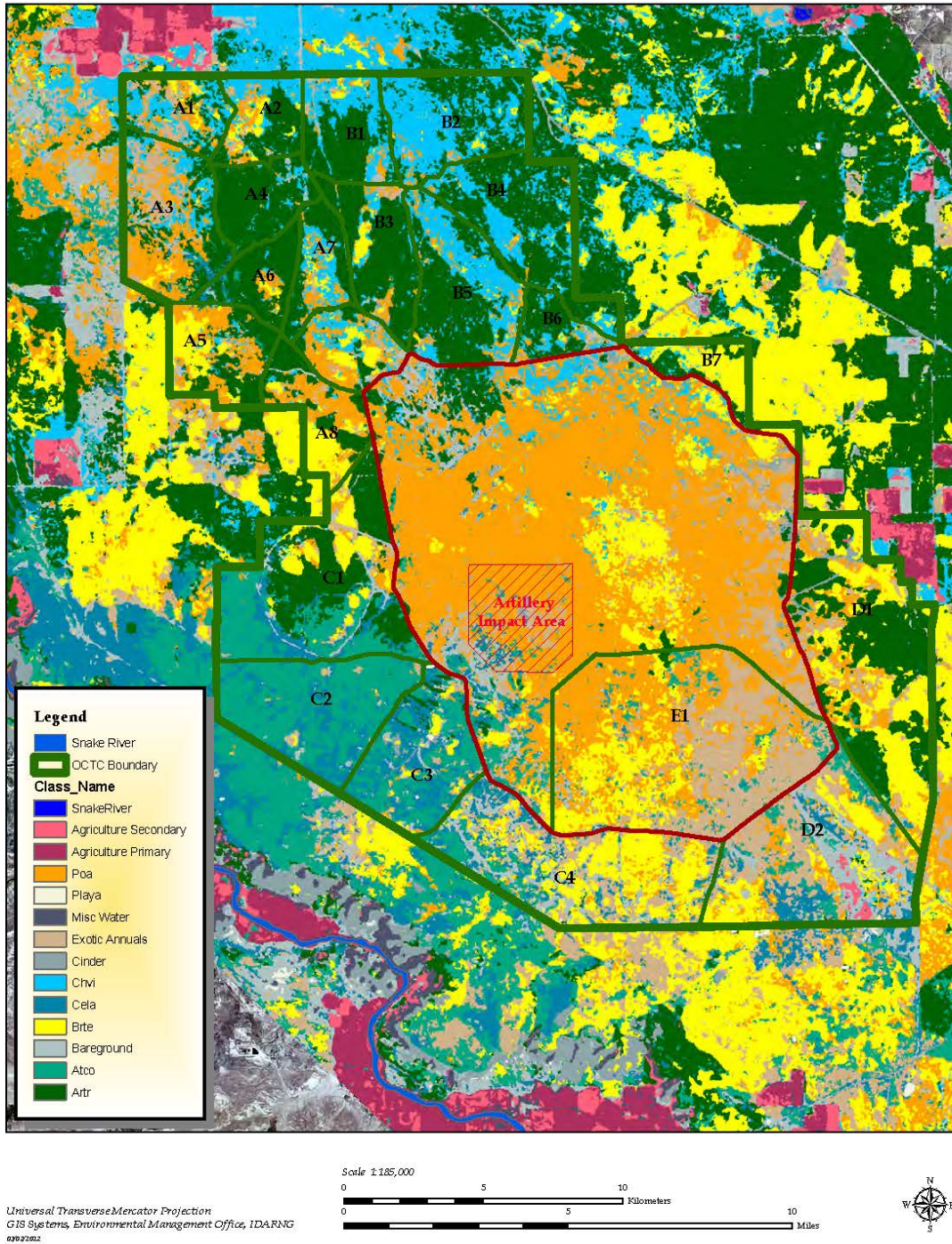


Figure 5.1. Orchard Combat Training Center Vegetation and Maneuver Areas

**5.1.2.1 Special Status Flora**

Surveys for BLM and IDFG-listed special status species are conducted annually during site clearances and site-specific management actions. Any new species observed or new populations of existing species identified are recorded and included in a geospatial database. All data is shared with the BLM, FWS, and IDFG. There is currently one proposed plant species (section 5.3) and three IDFG- and BLM-listed plant species of concern recorded within the boundaries of the OCTC (Table 5.2). An expanded description of each species of concern and associated habitat is found in Appendix H.

**Table 5.2. Species of Concern Occurring in the Orchard Combat Training Center**

Common Name	Scientific Name	General Habitat Description and Phenology	Idaho Department of Fish and Game/Bureau of Land Management Rank
<b>Wovenspore lichen</b>	<i>Texosporium sancti-jacobi</i>	Well-decomposed humus, flat or north-facing slopes in especially old clumps of Sandberg’s bluegrass, on big sagebrush–Thurber’s needlegrass ( <i>Stipa thurberiana</i> )–bluebunch wheatgrass ( <i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i> ) sites, from 2,887-3,280 feet (880–1000 meters) elevation. Year round.	S2 <sup>a</sup> /Type 2 <sup>b</sup>
<b>Davis’ peppergrass</b>	<i>Lepidium davisii</i>	Mostly barren hard bottom playas, but sometimes with a few shadscale and silver sage ( <i>Salvia argentea</i> ) plants, surrounded by big sagebrush, four-wing saltbush ( <i>Atriplex canescens</i> ) and Sandberg’s bluegrass habitat, from 2,903-5,905 feet (885–1,800 meters) elevation. April to August.	S3 <sup>c</sup> /Type 3 <sup>d</sup>
<b>Desert Pincushion</b>	<i>Chaenactis stevioides</i>	Open, usually sandy sites in salt desert shrub, primarily, big sagebrush, horsebrush ( <i>Tetradymia glabrata</i> ), four-wing saltbrush and Indian ricegrass ( <i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i> ) communities, to 3,937 feet (1,200 meters) elevation. April to June.	S2 <sup>a</sup> /Type 4 <sup>e</sup>
<p><sup>a</sup> S2: Imperiled—at risk because of restricted range, few populations (often 20 or fewer), rapidly declining numbers, or other factors that make it vulnerable to range-wide extinction or extirpation.</p> <p><sup>b</sup> Type 2: These species are experiencing significant declines throughout their range with a high likelihood of being listed in the foreseeable future due to their rarity and/or significant endangerment factors.</p> <p><sup>c</sup> S3: Vulnerable—at moderate risk because of restricted range, relatively few populations (often 80 or fewer), recent and widespread declines, or other factors that make it vulnerable to range-wide extinction or extirpation.</p> <p><sup>d</sup> Type 3: These species are globally rare with moderate endangerment factors. Global rarity and inherent risks associated with rarity make these species imperiled.</p> <p><sup>e</sup> Type 4: These species are generally rare in Idaho with small populations or localized distribution with currently low threat levels. Due to small populations and habitat area, certain future land uses in close proximity could significantly jeopardize these species.</p>			

Source: Atwood and DeBolt 2004



## 5.2 Fish and Wildlife

Various inventories have confirmed the occurrence of 21 mammals, 22 raptors, 53 other birds, 0 fish, and 14 reptile and amphibian species on the OCTC. The following sections summarize the biological diversity by each vertebrate taxonomic group. A list of wildlife species known to occur on the installation is included in Appendix I.

### 5.2.1 Birds

Birds of prey are the principle animal species of concern on the OCTC. Most raptors nest in the nearby Snake River Canyon, foraging in the training area. A list of OCTC-associated raptor species and their status, including descriptions of common OCTC raptors, is found in Appendix I with an expanded description of key raptors found in Appendix J.

Since the OCTC has no permanent surface water and no trees, non-raptorial avifauna diversity is limited. The OCTC bird list, compiled from BLM surveys and IDARNG Natural Resources staff field notes, identifies 53 species of passerines and non-passerines, excluding raptors (Appendix I). The most common species is the horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*). Other common birds include the raven (*Corvus corax*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), and several species of sparrows. A 1978 study determined that central and northern portions of training area support moderate densities of songbirds, while the southern portion has lower densities (BLM 1979), and a 1983 study (Smith et. al. 1984), found that Horned larks, meadowlarks, and sparrows were the most common birds in the area. The OCTC supports breeding sage thrashers (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), sage sparrows (*Amphispiza belli*), and Brewer's sparrows (*Spizella breweri*). In some mixed-shrub areas in the southwestern part of the OCTC, a few pairs of black-throated sparrows (*Amphispiza billineata*) breed each year.

### 5.2.2 Mammals

There are currently 21 recorded species of mammals that have been observed on the OCTC (Appendix I).

Located near one of the world's most concentrated populations of nesting raptors, the OCTC is an important part of the NCA, providing a substantial portion of the prey base, which consists of small mammals, birds, and reptiles. The Piute ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mollis artemisea*) is the primary prey species of the Snake River Plain because of its importance to coyotes (*Canis latrans*), badgers (*Taxidea taxus*), and many raptor species, particularly the prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*). Piute ground squirrels are found throughout the OCTC, most abundantly in the northern half (IDARNG unpublished data). Piute ground squirrels prefer deep loess soils in areas dominated by native shrubs and native perennial grasses, but the species can be found in all vegetation types that occur on the Snake River Plain (Smith and Johnson 1985). Exotic annuals do not provide stable ground squirrel habitat. A study funded and staffed by the BLM in 1987 and 1988 showed that as exotic annuals increased, the number of ground squirrel burrows decreased (Yensen and Quinney 1992). Another study (Yensen et. al. 1992) found that ground squirrel populations were less stable in areas dominated by exotic annuals than in shrub stands.

The diet of the Piute ground squirrel consists mainly of native and exotic grasses (Smith and Johnson 1985), with Sandberg’s bluegrass selected over other species (Van Horne et al. 1993). Winterfat is a part of the diet of Piute ground squirrels residing in areas where it is available (Van Horne et al. 1993). Within exotic annual communities, exotic plants averaged about half of the plant material in the diet (Yensen et al. 1992). Insects were also identified as a large component of the Piute ground squirrel’s diet; however this was dependent on seasonal conditions (Van Horne et al. 1993).

### 5.2.2.1 Bats

No comprehensive bat surveys have occurred to date on the OCTC; however, several caves and lavatubes are potential bat habitat and will be the focus of planned surveys using acoustical and mist-netting methods. Only the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) has been observed within the training area boundaries. Several BLM special status species are potentially present on the OCTC (Table 5.3) and will be targeted for future surveys to determine presence, absence, distribution, and seasonal use patterns.

**Table 5.3. Idaho Bureau of Land Management Special Status Animal Species (Source: Bureau of Land Management, Four Rivers Field Office)**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Fringed myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>
Spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>
Townsend’s big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>
Piute ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus mollis artemisae</i>
California myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>
Yuma myotis	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>
Long-eared myotis	<i>Myotis evotis</i>
Long-legged myotis	<i>Myotis volans</i>
Western small-footed myotis	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>
Western pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus hesperus</i>

The greatest threat to North American bats, white-nose syndrome, has killed an estimated 5.7 to 6.7 million bats from the 25 bat species known to carry it since being discovered in 2006. This disease is named for the white fungus that appears primarily on the muzzle and wings of hibernating bats. Affected bats exhibit uncharacteristic activity during winter months, leading to high levels of bat mortality. Since being discovered in New York (2006) the disease has spread to Canada, throughout the eastern United States, and west to Oklahoma. Scientists expect the disease to continue spreading west where eastern affected bat species, such as the little brown bat, also occur. In addition, two eastern U.S. bat species, the eastern small footed myotis (*Myotis leibii*) and northern long eared bats (*Myotis septentrionalis*) are being considered for endangered species protection due to impacts related to white-nose syndrome. With the expected spread of white-nose syndrome, conducting comprehensive bat surveys on the OCTC and establishing baseline species presence and population estimates is important. OCTC Natural Resources staff is actively coordinating surveys with the Idaho Bat Working Group and Western Bat Working Group members as well as BLM, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and IDFG representatives.

### 5.2.2.1 Reptiles

A comprehensive herpetofaunal survey of the OCTC was conducted in 1998 (Peterson et al. 2002). The study found that reptiles classified as common-to-abundant in the OCTC are the western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), racer (*Coluber constrictor*), sagebrush lizard (*Sceloporus graciosus*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), and the western whiptail lizard (*Cnemidophorus tigris*). Species less common included the striped whipsnake (*Mastigophis taeniatus*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), and the desert horned lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*). The long-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*) has been observed on the OCTC but was not noted during this survey. A subsequent reptile survey (using 1998 survey locations and methodologies) of the OCTC is planned for 2012. Several BLM special status reptile species are potentially present on the OCTC (Table 5.4) and will be targeted for future surveys to determine presence, absence, distribution, and seasonal use patterns.

**Table 5.4. Idaho Bureau of Land Management Special Status Reptile Species (Source: Bureau of Land Management, Four Rivers Field Office)**

Common Name	Scientific Name
Mojave black-collared lizard	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>
Common garter snake	<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>
Western ground snake	<i>Sonora semiannulata</i>
Longnose snake	<i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i>

### 5.2.2.1 Amphibians

The herpetofaunal survey of 1998 (Peterson et al. 2002) did not detect any amphibians on the OCTC. One observation of the intermontane spadefoot toad (*Spea intermontana*) was made in the early 1990s by the OCTC Natural Resources staff, but this species was not seen during the 1998 survey. Tiger salamanders (*Ambystoma tigrinum*) are inadvertently brought in annually by ranchers to man-made livestock watering ponds, but these populations do not persist naturally. The Idaho giant salamander (*Dicamptodon aterrimus*), Western toad (*Bufo boreas*), and Woodhouse's toad (*Bufo woodhousii*) are three BLM special status amphibian species found near the OCTC. To date, no potential habitat for these species has been found on the OCTC.

### 5.2.2.2 Invertebrates

No comprehensive surveys of invertebrates have occurred to date on the OCTC; however, IDARNG personnel discovered a new species of fairy shrimp, described as *Branchinecta raptor* (Rogers et al. 2006). This unusual predatory species is known from only three ephemeral pools. Two of the three were found within the OCTC, but are currently off-limits to military training. The other pool is outside the OCTC on rangeland managed by the BLM to the south. Other more common species of invertebrates have been found in ephemeral pools and roadside ditches following heavy rain/snow events. When conditions allow, IDARNG staff survey these areas for fairy shrimp and other invertebrate species.

### 5.2.2.3 Special Status Fauna

The BLM- and IDFG-listed wildlife species of special status / conservation concern with a predicted distribution within the OCTC including the pygmy rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*), Piute ground squirrel, California myotis, Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), spotted bat, fringed myotis, Brewer's sparrow, long-billed curlew (*Numenius americanus*), black-throated sparrow, sage sparrow, sage thrasher, ground snake (*Sonora semiannulata*), long-nosed snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*), and nine raptor species (Appendix J).

The NCA-RMP (BLM 2008) listed 10 species found in the OCTC as "regional and State imperiled." Under this plan, special conservation emphasis is given to the prairie falcon and Piute ground squirrel. Other BLM "regional and state imperiled" species associated with the OCTC include the pygmy rabbit spotted bat, ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, long-nose snake, and ground snake (Appendix I).

### 5.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

Surveys for all threatened, endangered, candidate, or proposed species identified by the FWS (FWS 2011) are conducted annually during all site clearances and RTLA surveys. Any listed species observed or new populations of existing species identified are recorded and included in a geospatial database. All data are shared with the BLM, FWS, and IDFG.

The only threatened plant species recorded within the boundaries of the OCTC is slickspot peppergrass. However, as a result of the recent court decision this status has changed. Please see the Clerical Amendment at the beginning of the document for an explanation. Slickspot peppergrass, a small, white-flowered plant, is listed as threatened under the ESA. The species was listed as threatened by the FWS on October 8, 2009. Federal government actions to protect slickspot peppergrass began when this species (as *Lepidium montanum* var. *papilliferum*) was designated as a Category 2 Candidate in the 1990 Notice of Review (55 CFR 6184).

In February 1996, the Notice of Review was published stating that the FWS had ceased using category designations (61 FR 7596). Slickspot peppergrass was not included as a Candidate species in this Notice of Review. In October 1999, slickspot peppergrass was reinstated as a Candidate species with a listing priority of 2 in the Notice of Review (64 CFR 57534). In 2003, the species was proposed as an endangered species but the FWS ruled not to list the species. In 2006, the species was again proposed for endangered status but was not listed. As a consequence of a court ruling in 2008/2009, the FWS again examined the existing information regarding the species, and it was listed as threatened in 2009. However, as a result of the recent court decision this status has changed. Please see the Clerical Amendment at the beginning of the document for an explanation. See Appendix B for an expanded description of the species and habitat as well as provisions outlined in the IDARNG's slickspot peppergrass ESMP.

The FWS identified four listed wildlife species within Ada County: the Snake River physa (*Haitia [Physa] natricinia*) is listed as endangered, bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) is listed as threatened, and the

greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and Yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) are listed as candidate species (Table 6 of Appendix I). The Snake River physa, bull trout, and yellow-billed cuckoo all require streams, wetlands, or riparian habitat that are not found within or adjacent to the OCTC. In March 2010, the greater sage grouse was put on the candidate list for future action by the FWS, meaning the species would not receive statutory protection under the ESA and States would continue to be responsible for managing the bird. The species has not been observed within the OCTC for more than 50 years, and the 2008 NCA-RMP identified that habitat did not occur within the OCTC (BLM 2008).

#### **5.4 Wetlands**

No wetlands are found within the OCTC.

#### **5.5 Orchard Combat Training Center Problem Species**

Problem species, as used in this INRMP, include invasive species, exotic species, and noxious weeds. Invasive and exotic species may include plants, insects, or animals. An invasive species is defined as “an exotic species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health.” An exotic species is defined in E.O. 13112 as a “species including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.” Many exotic species have the ability to spread rapidly through ecosystems since their natural predators are often not present. Such species often retard natural succession and revegetation and generally reduce biological diversity in natural habitats.

**Noxious weeds** are defined in the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 as “any living stage (including but not limited to, seeds and reproductive parts) of any parasitic or other plant of a kind, or subdivision of a kind, which is of foreign origin, is new to or not widely prevalent in the United States, and can directly or indirectly injure crops, other useful plants, livestock, or poultry or other interests of agriculture, including irrigation, or navigation or the fish and wildlife resources of the United States or the public health.”

The following laws and regulations pertain to noxious, invasive, and exotic species and pest control:

- Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (7 USC 2801 et seq.)
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 USC 136)
- Federal Pest Plant Act (7 USC 150a et seq.)
- E.O. 12865, Reduction of Pesticide Application by 50% by Fiscal Year (FY) 2000
- E.O. 13112, Invasive Species
- Idaho Statute 22-24 (Noxious Weeds)
- Idaho Administrative Procedures Act 02.06.02 Noxious Weed Rules
- IDARNG Regulation 350-12

The IDARNG’s Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) (Ogden Environmental and Energy Services 1997) is currently being updated. All pesticides used on IDARNG facilities are Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) approved. Integrated pest management (IPM) techniques have enabled the IDARNG to reduce its use of pesticides. The IDARNG understands the obvious and long-term threats to humans and ecosystem functions from pesticides. Pesticide application on IDARNG lands is contracted with vendors meeting certification requirements and by appropriately certified Natural Resources staff.

The IDARNG’s IPMP discusses many aspects of pest management that are not directly within the scope of this INRMP, such as control of disease vectors and protection of facilities. Below, discussions of animal and plant control are specific to managing natural resources on the OCTC.

### 5.5.1 Invasive and Exotic Species at the Orchard Combat Training Center

Approximately 5 Idaho noxious weeds and 11 invasive species have been observed on the OCTC. The species of particular concern are identified in Table 5.5. Descriptions of Idaho-listed noxious weeds found within the OCTC are identified below.

**Table 5.5. Noxious and Invasive Weeds Recorded within the Orchard Combat Training Center.**

	Common Name	Scientific Name
Idaho Noxious Weeds	Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
	Puncture vine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
	Rush skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
	Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>
	Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>
	Whitetop	<i>Lepidium draba</i>
Invasive Species	Curveseed butterwort	<i>Ceratocephala testiculata</i>
	Cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>
	Clasping pepperweed	<i>Lepidium perfoliatum</i>
	Tall tansymustard	<i>Descurainia sophia</i>
	Halogeton	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>
	Medusahead rye	<i>Taeniatherum caput-medusae</i>
	Prostrate knotweed	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>
	Russian thistle	<i>Salsola kali</i>
	Spreading wallflower	<i>Erysimum repandum</i>
	Tall tumbled mustard	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>

Source: OCTC Natural Resources Staff, all species observed within the OCTC boundary

#### 5.5.1.1 Idaho-Listed Noxious Weeds

**Canada thistle** (Figure 5.2) is a tall herbaceous perennial plant native to Europe. Its extensive root system sends up numerous erect stems each spring, reaching to 6 feet tall (2 meters), with spiny leaves, and pink-purple flowers. Seeds have a downy pappus, providing efficient wind dispersal.



**Figure 5.2.**  
**Canada thistle**

**Puncture Vine/Goathead** (Figure 5.) is a summer annual that grows in disturbed areas. Puncture vine is a low-growing, mat-forming plant with small leaflets that resemble small mesquite leaves. It has one-half inch wide yellow flowers and trailing stems that may reach one to six feet long in the summer. Hard spiny burs about one-half inch wide develop after the spiny fruits ripen. The spiny burs contain seeds. When the burs stick into shoes, tires, animals and other moving objects, they are dispersed into new areas where new populations can establish. Viable seeds can also lie dormant in soil for up to 20 years. The species has recently become established on several of the assembly (GIS database), and is likely spread on the wheels of vehicles and some livestock. The first confirmed observation was in 2011 on TTB Lowe, south of Range 22. This is a very high priority to monitor all assembly areas and eradicate the species



**Figure 5.3. Puncture Vine**

**Rush skeletonweed** (Figure 5.4) is a perennial with branched stems growing to 4 feet (122 cm) tall, appearing leafless with dandelion-like rosettes. It was first discovered in the training area in 1993 at livestock watering sites. These plants, and those that have been discovered since near other watering sites, have all been removed by the IDARNG Natural Resources staff. This species is of special concern because eradication is nearly impossible once it is established. A growing population (several square miles) has become established east of the OCTC boundary (GIS database) and is likely to spread into the easternmost portion of the area. In addition, rush skeletonweed is now moving into the OCTC from the north.



**Figure 5.4. Rush skeletonweed**

**Spotted knapweed** (Figure 5.5) is a biennial that produces up to 25,000 seeds that can remain viable in the soil for up to 8 years. It grows up to 3 feet (91 cm) tall with pink-to-purple flowers and produces a natural herbicide that prevents plants from growing around it. It has been found on the MATES since 1999. The area of occupancy is less than 5 acres (2 ha). The Ada County Extension Office has been contracted by Training Site personnel to spray these sites. They will continue to be treated annually as will areas that are identified in the future.



**Figure 5.5. Spotted Knapweed**

**Scotch thistle** (Figure 5.6) is a vigorous biennial with coarse, spiny leaves and conspicuous spiny-winged stems. This native of Europe is now found on several roadside sites in the alpha areas of the OCTC. Seasonal IDARNG Natural Resources crews mechanically remove existing plants before they go to seed.



**Figure 5.6. Scotch thistle**

**Whitetop** (Figure 5.7) is an Idaho-listed noxious plant native to western Asia and Eastern Europe. Whitetop was introduced to North America by contaminated seeds in the early 1900s. It is a perennial that grows up to 2 feet (61 cm) tall and produces flat dense white flower clusters and two reddish brown seeds in each heart-shaped seedpod. It is common along roadsides and pastures in southern Idaho. In the OCTC it is found at three locations. The sites are small, less than 300 square feet (28 square meters) each. IDARNG Natural Resources staff hand-pull plants from these sites, but they are gradually increasing. These sites have been reported to the BLM for treatment.



**Figure 5.7. Whitetop**

### 5.5.2 Animal Pests

Nuisance wildlife may damage structures, range facilities, or roadways and may threaten military training activities. For example, badger holes damage roads and provide a safety hazard to troops training in the field. Troops are warned about the presence and danger regarding badger holes during training events. Black-tailed jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*) can damage insulation, electrical wires, and other building materials. Yet, black-tailed jackrabbits are important prey species and thus are not controlled. Coyotes pose no threat to military activities, but coyote control shooting is conducted by the USDA, Animal Damage Control through coordination with the BLM.

Deer mice (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) are present throughout the OCTC and can be carriers of hantavirus. Hantavirus may be carried in the airborne particles of rodent urine, droppings, and saliva. Although deer mice normally live outside, they often move indoors for food or cover. Signs of deer mouse occupation are common in the structures, range towers, and target housing located on the OCTC. In September 1999, the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine—West surveyed to determine if hantavirus was present in rodent populations in the OCTC. Survey results indicated 15 percent of the population was infected with hantavirus. Since that survey, the IDARNG has implemented a policy of cleaning structures with a 10 percent bleach solution before they are used by troops. A briefing was prepared and is provided to personnel training in the OCTC regarding preventive measures, methods of cleaning where mice droppings are found, and symptoms that would indicate hantavirus infection (Section 7.12).





## Chapter 6 Mission Impacts on Natural Resources

### 6.1 Land Use

The BLM-owned (143,307-acre [57,994-ha]) OCTC is located in southwestern Idaho on the Snake River Plain. In 2008, the BLM increased the OCTC from 138,051 acres (55,867 ha) to the current size through an OCTC boundary change. The action was identified and assessed in the NCA-RMP (BLM 2008).

For over 50 years, the OCTC has been used for military training as well as for livestock grazing and public recreation. The OCTC is found completely within the boundaries of the NCA and is designated as a Brigade training center and mobilization site for the National Guard. Public Law 103-64, section 1(B) specifically provides for “continued military use, consistent with the requirements of section 4(e) of this Act, of the OCTC by reserve components of the Armed Forces.” Use of the OCTC by the IDARNG as a training area is authorized under the 2010 OCTC MOU between the IDARNG and BLM (Appendix A).

The OCTC provides for both maneuver and gunnery training. Twenty-two active firing ranges are arranged in an irregular circular pattern around a central 53,500-acre (21,650-ha) Impact Area (Figure 3.2). The Impact Area is closed to public access, and though it is not fenced, there are signs every 200 meters (656 feet) to warn the public and troops of the dangers in that area. The smaller Artillery Impact Area is fenced, primarily as a safety precaution for IDARNG personnel, livestock, and ranchers who may have permission to enter the Impact Area. Non-IDARNG personnel are required to have an authorized escort any time they enter the Impact Area, and all activities must be coordinated with Annual Training Site staff. However, there is an exception made for BLM-permitted livestock operators, but Training Site staff conducted annually grazing meetings with the permittees in the spring and fall to coordinate use and any identified issues. The remaining OCTC is open to public use for grazing, hunting, OHV activity, and other recreational use as approved by the BLM.

The 21 identified Maneuver Areas outside the Impact Area (Figure 3.2) comprise the residual 89,800 acres (36,340 ha) and are used for vehicle driver familiarization, armored vehicle crew maneuver proficiency, scout squad proficiency, platoon and company level tactics and maneuver, and other combat support training. These areas are divided into sections primarily for the management and scheduling of training activities and are not divided with any regard to changes in vegetation, soils, or other natural factors. One additional Maneuver Area (Echo 1) is found within the southern portion of the Impact Area and can be used for both maneuvers and training exercises.

Restrictions identified within the Maneuver Areas are associated with the conservation and protection of natural or cultural resources (Figure 3.2). However, not all of the identified resources are mapped. Many identified resources are protected through indirect measures to not draw public attention to them.

### 6.2 Current Uses and Potential Impacts

A wide variety of training activities, support functions, and administrative actions are associated with the OCTC and support facilities. The majority of these activities have a minimal effect on the natural

resources associated with the area, but the INRMP and eMS process (Appendix D) are required to identify, define, and address those impacts associated with the IDARNG mission. Per ISO-14001, the eMS manager (section 2.3.2.4.3) leads the IDARNG's-CFT in developing or annually updating the eMS Target Matrix during the Impacts and Aspects development process (KN 200-3a 4.5.1 in Appendix D). The Target Matrix is broken down into eight general categories: training, warehousing, aviation, facilities, maintenance, administration, armories, and sustainability. While the Target Matrix process is completed for state-wide resources, Table 6.1 summarizes the 2011 Aspects and Impacts table (i.e., only those uses and potential impacts that are pertinent to the OCTC, MATES, and the ASP are identified). In addition, all repetitive impacts and those used under multiple categories have been consolidated. Columns identifying potential natural resources impacts are used to organize and prioritize management actions. For example, impacts listed under the minimal category are addressed with more broad scope actions or guidelines and those under the higher category are addressed specifically. In many cases, the higher category impacts are addressed with a variety of actions under multiple programs.

**Table 6.1. Current Uses and Potential Impacts Summary**

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
General training—Troop, vehicles, aircraft, and equipment movement to and from training site	Emissions of NOx, PM, CO and CO <sub>2</sub>	Impact to air quality	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	
General training—Selection of training areas (e.g., Bivouac, maneuvering areas, engineering training, landing zones, field refueling points)	Land disturbance (habitat and erosion)	Reduction in habitat—impact to reproductive capacity of flora and loss of cover or forage for wildlife		X
General training—Accumulation, generation, and disposition of hazardous waste	Generation, accumulation, and disposition of hazardous waste (e.g., solvents, mastics, cleaners and paints)	Impact to air, land, and water quality	X	

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
Discharge of explosive and incinerating ordnance or small arms rounds (e.g., artillery rounds, bombs, grenades, rockets, demolition explosives, pyrotechnic devices, or tracers)	Potential for wildfires	Loss of wildlife habitat, reduced reproductive capacity for plants, and increased competition		X
	Potential for wildfires, impacts to federally listed species	Loss of habitat, direct mortality, and increased competition	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife		X
Fuel transfers during training operations	Potential discharge of petroleum, oil, and lubricants (POL).	Reduction of natural resources and impact to ground water quality	X	
General training—Troop, vehicles, aircraft, and equipment movement to and from training site	Use of fuel	Reduction in natural resources and indirect impacts from the exploration, production, refinement, and transport of fuel	X	
General training—Use of electricity at the training site	Use of electricity	Reduction of nonrenewable natural resources (i.e., fossil fuels) from producing electricity and indirect impact from the off-site production of electricity	X	
General training—Accumulative use of training materials	Use of training material (e.g., ammunition, dummy rounds, demolition ordnance, pyrotechnic devices, packing, targets)	Reduction of nonrenewable resources	X	
General training—Cleaning weapons and weapon systems	Use of weapon cleaning solvents (Break-free® and Break-free CLP), rags, and water	Reduction in natural resources	X	

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
General training—Solid waste (e.g., general trash, dunnage, targets, meals ready-to-eat (MREs), paper, empty containers, rags, empty aerosol cans) accumulation and disposition	Generation, accumulation, and disposition of general trash	Reduction in land and water quality	X	
Use of bivouac areas	Generation, accumulation, and disposition of waste (e.g., MREs, paper, plastic, sewage)	Reduction in land and water quality	X	
	Generation and discharge of gray water from cooking and showers	Reduction in ground water quality	X	
	Use of fuel	Reduction in natural resources and indirect impacts from the exploration, production, refinement, and transport of fuel	X	
	Emissions of NO <sub>x</sub> , PM, CO and CO <sub>2</sub>	Impact to air quality	X	
Small arms training (includes surface weapons with bores up to and including 50 caliber and green point ammunition and blanks)	Discharge of muzzle blast gases	Impact to air quality and increase potential for wildfire		X
	Generation and discharge of brass and aluminum casings	Reduction in natural resources and reduction in land quality	X	
	Discharge of lead and copper rounds	Reduction in land quality and natural resources	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
TOW Missile training and MK19 and M203 grenade launcher	Discharge of propellant gases	Impact to air quality and increased potential for wildfire		X
	Discharge of explosive gases and steel down range	Impact to air quality and increase potential for wildfire	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	
	Placement of unexploded ordnance in impact area	Community health and safety concern	X	
	Generation, accumulation, and disposition of scrap metal targets	Reduction in natural resources and reduction in land quality	X	
Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) operations	Potential spills during fueling operations	Impacted water quality and soil contamination	X	
Weapons training for rotor wing attack aircraft using non-explosive rounds (30 millimeter [mm] chain guns, 7.62 mm and 50 caliber belt fed machine guns, and 20 mm mini guns)	Discharge of muzzle blast gases	Impact to air quality and increase potential for wildfire		X
	Generation and discard of casings and links	Reduction in natural resources and reduction in land quality	X	
	Discharge of lead and copper rounds	Reduction in natural resources and reduction in land quality	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	
Artillery training (105 mm, 155 mm and MLRS), M1A, and Bradley weapons training	Discharge of explosive gases, steel, smoke, nitrates, phosphorous down range	Impact to air quality and increased potential for wildfire		X
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
Demolition training (engineering, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), and special operations)	Generation, accumulation, and disposition of weapon cleaning rags	Reduction in land and water quality	X	
	Burning of excess propellant	Reduction in land and air quality	X	
	Discharge of explosive gases	Impact to air quality and increased potential for wildfires	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	
Weapons training for rotor wing attack aircraft using explosive ordnance (2.75 inch rockets)	Discharge of combustible materials	Impact to air quality and increased potential for wildfire		X
	Discharge of explosive gases and steel down range	Impact to air quality and increase potential for wildfire	X	
	Placement of unexploded ordnance in impact area	Community health and safety concern	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	
Artillery training (105 mm, 155 mm and multiple launch rocket system [MLRS]), M1A and Bradley weapons training	Discharge of muzzle blast gases	Impact to air quality, increased potential for wildfire, and noise impact to wildlife		X
	Generation and accumulation of casings	Reduction in natural resources and reduction in land quality	X	
	Placement of unexploded ordnance within impact area	Community health and safety concern	X	
Pyrotechnics training	Discharge of incinerating gases	Impact to air quality and increased potential for wildfires		X

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
Wheeled vehicle maneuvering for training and certification (e.g., High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle [HMMWVs], trucks)	Use of JP-8	Reduction in natural resources and indirect impacts from the exploration, production, refinement, and transport of fuel	X	
	Emissions of NOx, PM, CO and CO <sub>2</sub>	Impact to air quality	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	
	Land disturbance (habitat and erosion)	Reduction in habitat—impact to reproductive capacity of flora and loss of cover or forage for wildlife		X
Tracked vehicle maneuvering for training and certification (e.g., M1As, Bradleys, Armored Personnel Carrier [APCs], M88s)	Use of JP-8	Reduced natural resources and indirect impacts from the exploration, production, refinement, and transport of fuel	X	
	Emissions of NOx, PM, CO and CO <sub>2</sub>	Impact to air quality	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	
	Land disturbance (habitat and erosion)	Reduction in habitat—impact to reproductive capacity of flora and loss of cover or forage for wildlife		X



Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
Flight maneuvering for training and certification operations using rotor and fixed wing aircraft, including paratrooper and supply drops	Use of JP-8	Reduced natural resources and indirect impacts from the exploration, production, refinement, and transport of fuel	X	
	Emissions of NOx, PM, CO and CO <sub>2</sub>	Impact to air quality	X	
	Generation of noise	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	
	Land disturbance from rotor wash	Potential for wind erosion and impact to air quality	X	
Flight support training— Field fueling using tankers and bilivets	Potential spill during aircraft refueling forward area refueling points (FARP)	Impacted water quality and soil contamination	X	
Engineers unit mobility and counter mobility training— Equipment usage	Use of JP-8	Reduced natural resources and indirect impacts from the exploration, production, refinement, and transport of fuel	X	
	Emissions of NOx, PM, CO and CO <sub>2</sub>	Impact to air quality	X	
Engineers unit mobility and counter mobility training— Excavation, soil movement, vegetation removal, road construction, bridging	Land disturbance from construction activities	Reduction in habitat—impact to reproductive capacity of flora and loss of cover or forage for wildlife		X

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
Engineering unit training, vertical—Construction of buildings and structures	Use of building supplies and materials	Use of natural resources	X	
	Use of fuel (e.g., diesel, gasoline) by fuel fired construction equipment	Reduction of natural resources and indirect impacts from the exploration, production, refinement, and transport of fuel	X	
	Generation of noise from construction activities	Community concern and impact to wildlife	X	
	Use of water for testing, concrete work, tile work, cutting	Impact to water table	X	
	Emissions of NO <sub>x</sub> and CO <sub>2</sub> from welding, torch cutting, pipe sweating	Impact to air quality	X	
	Emissions of volatile organic compounds from adhesives, mastics, paints	Impact to air quality	X	
Refueling of surface equipment in the field or tankers over and under 1,000-gallon (3,785 liter) capacities	Potential fuel spills in sensitive and uncontrolled areas	Impacted water quality and soil contamination	X	
Disposition of training residue at the ammunition supply point	Generation and discharge of casings, caps, containers, scrap metal, etc.	Reduction in natural resources and reduction in land quality	X	
Material storage	Potential release of hazardous materials	Impact to air, land, and water quality	X	
Use of forklifts	Use of fuel and fluids	Reduction in natural resources and indirect impacts from the exploration, production, refinement, and transport of fuel	X	
General maintenance—Parts and equipment washing	Generation, accumulation and disposition of hazardous waste (e.g., solvent)	Impact to air, land, and water quality	X	
General maintenance—POL and grease change out	Generation, accumulation, and disposition of used POL	Impact to water quality and soil contamination	X	

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
General maintenance— Battery change out	Generation, accumulation, and disposition of used batteries	Impact to water quality and soil contamination	X	
Large component (e.g., engines, transmissions, gearboxes, rotor blades struts, environmental control system (ECS), and fire control radar (FCR) change out	Generation, accumulation, and disposition of used fuel (stored POL)	Impact to water quality and soil contamination	X	
Commuting of personnel from home to the workplace	Use of fuel	Reduction in natural resources and indirect impacts from the exploration, production, refinement, and transport of fuel	X	
	Emissions of NO <sub>x</sub> , PM, CO, CO <sub>2</sub>	Impact to air quality	X	
Operation of office equipment (e.g., computers, fax machines, copiers, scanners)	Use of materials and waste	Reduction of nonrenewable natural resources and reduction in land and water quality	X	
	Use of electricity	Reduction of nonrenewable natural resources (i.e., fossil fuels) from producing electricity and indirect impact from the off-site production of electricity	X	
Vehicle and equipment storage areas	Stormwater runoff	Impact to water quality and soil erosion	X	
Weapon/ammunition storage and cleaning	Generation, accumulation, and disposition of rags and patches with Break-free CLP and Break-free <sup>®</sup> solvents from weapons cleaning	Impact to air, land, and water quality	X	

Activity	Aspect	Potential Impacts	Potential to Impacts on the Orchard Combat Training Center	
			Minimal	Higher
Wastewater discharge	Discharge of sewage and gray water	Reduction in ground water quality	X	
Pest management	Application of pesticides and trapping	Direct mortality with snap traps, indirect impact from drift to non-target species, and health and human safety concern	X	

### 6.3 Future Potential Projects

Based on the continually changing nature of the geopolitical conflict associated with U.S. military activity worldwide, training requirements set for by the DoD are continuously changing to better protect U.S. Soldiers in harm's way. Consequently, the training focus of the IDARNG and the OCTC continues to shift based on these needs. To address these training trends, the IDARNG develops an annual RCMP.

The RCMP establishes the training range and maneuver area land requirements needed at the OCTC to support the installation training missions and identifies encroachment issues that impact the use of the range complex. The RCMP is designed to be a road map for the future development of the range complex to ensure that the OCTC can meet its current and future training missions, while integrating management guidelines and requirements set forth in this INRMP and the ITAM program. A list of proposed actions developed in the 2011 RCMP is found in Table 6.2. These projects have been identified for planning purposes but have not been approved or funded (i.e., are considered un-programmed ranges or facilities, and are not considered future foreseeable projects). As each proposed project or group of projects is approved for funding, NEPA documentation will be prepared per ANGB requirements, and if the project falls on BLM lands, the BLM NEPA process will be initiated as well. All projects would comply with the NCA-RMP (BLM 2008) and follow the requirements set forth in the IDARNG's INRMP and ICRMP.

**Table 6.2. Identified Un-programmed Range Projects**

Proposed Project	Proposed Range	Proposed Date
DIGITAL MULTIPURPOSE TRAINING RANGE (DMPTR)	1	2018
AUTOMATED INFANTRY SQUAD BATTLE COURSE	21	2018
AUTOMATED INFANTRY PLATOON BATTLE COURSE	24	2018
17721 DIGITAL AIR/GROUND INTEGRATED RANGE (DAGIR)	1	2018
SCOUT / RECCE GUNNERY COMPLEX	26	2018
AUTOMATED MULTIPURPOSE MACHINE GUN RANGE (MPMG) RA	15	2018
COMBAT ENGINEER VEHICLE (CEV) RANGE	1	2018
<i>Source: IDARNG RCMP (2012)</i>		

#### **6.4 Natural Resources Needed to Support the Military Mission**

The IDARNG requires desert-like terrain to support military training requirements. Realistic training depends on an intact natural setting. The IDARNG needs the land and its natural resources to function together in a healthy ecosystem to support training. Degraded training lands and soil erosion may degrade or prevent sustainable long-term training. Degradation of natural resources results in inadequate training, impaired readiness, and wasted training dollars. Maintaining healthy ecosystems keeps the training land continuously available for use by Soldiers while meeting the legislative requirements outlined in Public Law 103-64. Healthy ecosystems are also more resilient to disturbance and can support long-term training needs.

The IDARNG recognizes that its ongoing and proposed training activities, maintenance actions, and administrative requirements affect the natural resources associated with the OCTC, and that successful mission execution depends on maintaining these resources for sustainable use. The IDARNG recognizes its responsibility to manage for continued and sustainable access to land, air, and water resources of the OCTC for realistic military training while ensuring that the natural and cultural resources entrusted to their care are sustained in a healthy condition for future users and for compliance with Public Law 103-64.

#### **6.5 Natural Resources Considerations for Mission Planning and Initiation**

The primary goal of this INRMP is to manage natural resources to support the military mission in a manner consistent with sound conservation principles and in compliance with federal and State laws, army regulations, and IDARNG policies. Training success is only possible through a supportive, proactive natural resources management program. The IDARNG natural resource management program aims to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the impacts of normal training use on natural resources and complements the doctrinally required military training. Proper execution of this INRMP provides sustainable training lands and provides adaptive means of dealing with normal training impacts, thereby protecting natural resources. Many features of this plan contribute to its ability to provide sustainable training lands.

Military training can adversely and beneficially affect natural resources. Excavation and maneuvering heavy-wheeled or tracked vehicles across even the best-suited landscapes can damage vegetation and soils. For this reason, soils and vegetation at the OCTC require timely land rehabilitation efforts following such activities. In addition, vegetation (and occasionally soils) can be damaged by regular use in areas such as trails, bivouac sites, and firing points. Soil and vegetation impacts can lead to soil erosion, soil compaction, loss of wildlife habitat, and the introduction of invasive or noxious species. Wildlife populations can also be harmed by field equipment training, small arms firing, or mission-related wildfires. Four basic management principles can be used to minimize military training effects to the soil and vegetation resources: (1) distribute use based on site conditions; (2) modify kinds of uses; (3) alter the behavior of use; and (4) augment the natural resources for increased durability. These principles will be discussed throughout this INRMP.

Environmental constraints at the OCTC, such as occupied habitat for slickspot peppergrass, can dictate where and when certain types of training can occur to ensure regulatory compliance and long-term sustainability of training lands. The IDARNG manages environmental constraints by assigning Soldiers and other site users a training site specific to the type of training or activity to be performed, brief them on any known restrictions in the area, and monitor for compliance. The IDARNG has prepared a *Maneuver Area Management Map* (Figure 3.3), which is issued to trainers. The main OCTC natural resource considerations that have the ability to limit activity include soil type and capability, shrub communities of greater than 10 percent canopy cover, and threatened and endangered species. These limitations are discussed below:

- Wet soil conditions limit the type off-road vehicle usage and bivouacking in some areas during certain times of the year.
- Heavy and off-road maneuver training are restricted from occupied habitat for slickspot peppergrass and are limited in areas with potential habitat.
- To manage on-site vegetation for long-term sustainability, use of vehicles off-road is limited and subject to prior environmental review.
- Any new projects or types of training must be considered for environmental impacts, including potential impacts to rare species, prior to implementation.

Unit Commanders who desire to train at the OCTC are required to complete an OCTC Training Activity Environmental Checklist (TAEC). The TAEC must be sent through the ISU Commander to the EMO and reviewed and signed by the Conservation Branch Manager before the planned training activity may be conducted. The EMO will evaluate the TAEC, determine ways to minimize training impacts, determine if permits are needed to conduct the described training, and consider any special provisions or requirements for protection. The TAEC is signed and returned to the ISU Commander with a list of requirements to conduct the training to minimize environmental impacts. If significant changes or additions are made to the training plans, an additional TAEC must be submitted describing the new training. This system emphasizes preventing rather than repairing damage to the training area.

Regular inspection of training areas is critical for timely land stabilization and rehabilitation of disturbed lands associated with military activities. The EMO inspects training areas and bivouac sites before, during, and after training activities. Trails, maneuver areas, assembly areas, bivouac sites, and burned areas are identified and recorded after training activities are completed. Areas needing stabilization, rehabilitation, or maintenance are noted, recorded with global positioning system (GPS), and added to the Annual Work Plan. The sites are then prioritized according to the disturbance type, site conditions, proximity to key resources, and management technique needed. If necessary, these areas are protected by temporarily limiting use while being rehabilitated.

## **6.6 Current and Potential Impacts**

The ultimate goal of this INRMP, as well as its subsequent additions or revisions, is to ensure continuous military training capability for the IDARNG while managing for the sustainability of natural resources at the OCTC. Continuing the INRMP's active ecosystem management program would accommodate the

IDARNG's training mission while emphasizing a holistic, adaptive management style that focuses on maintaining biological diversity and sustainability. No additional adverse impacts associated with the current IDARNG mission are anticipated. No major property expansions are likely to occur that have not already been discussed in prior NEPA documents, and any future structures or rights-of-way (ROWs) would be addressed in site-specific NEPA documentation and associated mitigation if required.

While we cannot assess the impacts of unknown or unfunded projects, the following general assessments were developed based on historic effects associated with implementing the INRMP. As the overall environment and mission have not changed significantly relative to the management guidelines outlined in the 2004 or draft 2008 INRMPs, the overall impacts were assumed to be similar. The general impacts identified below are based on the net effect of military training and support activities coupled with the management requirements outlined in the INRMP. Impacts are summarized by individual resources and consider the potential impacts identified in Table 6.1 above.

#### **6.6.1 Soils**

Beneficial effects would continue to be expected. Implementing a comprehensive soil resource management program would continue to minimize erosion and compaction impacts on soils. Existing sites where erosion has been determined to be a problem would continue to be addressed through the LRAM component of the ITAM program. In addition, monitoring soil conditions throughout the OCTC to identify potential problem areas would continue, as would implementing conservation measures in areas where exposure of soils is necessary. The overall implementation of active stabilization and rehabilitation measures would continue to minimize potential impacts on soil resources.

#### **6.6.2 Water Resources**

Beneficial effects could be expected. Completing the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) hydrogeologic survey would identify if the IDARNG is impacting the ground water surrounding the OCTC. Non-point source pollution associated with runoff would continue to be managed under individual Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) and erosion issues would continue to be addressed under the LRAM component of the ITAM program. The overall implementation of active stabilization and rehabilitation measures would continue to minimize potential impacts on the water resources.

#### **6.6.3 Wetlands**

No wetlands occur in the OCTC, and training activities do not indirectly impact adjacent resources.

#### **6.6.4 Flora**

**General Impacts**—Beneficial effects to the flora would be expected. From the perspective of habitat, continued implementation of the INRMP would result in sustained or improved habitat conditions for wildlife since maintaining a high level of habitat diversity is a priority of the INRMP. Native shrubs, grasses, and forbs would continue to be planted to stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore degraded habitat of the Great Basin ecosystem. Invasive species are monitored and actively managed for training

sustainability and habitat integrity. Conservation and ITAM programs would continue to emphasize prey habitat that the NCA raptors rely on for nesting and foraging.

**Special Status Flora**—Beneficial effects to special status flora would be expected. As part of the continued implementation of the INRMP, surveys for and protection of Idaho- and BLM-listed special status species would continue, and special status flora habitat would be protected from degradation. In addition, habitat restoration projects would continue in areas to reduce the spread of exotic annuals that compete with these species or alter fire patterns. Specific measures identified to protect slickspot peppergrass and its associated habitat (Appendix B) would continue to be implemented in coordination with the FWS and BLM. Continued research would also provide information to help protect the future of this species.

**Special Interest Areas**—Beneficial effects to special interest areas would be expected. As part of the continued implementation of the INRMP, winterfat shrub sites at the OCTC would be designated as special interest areas. This designation provides an area with a quasi protective status, meaning that additional efforts would continue to be made to minimize impacts occurring from training exercises. Some of these efforts include establishing buffers around identified sites where training activities are restricted or modified, controlling invasive species, and continued monitoring (RTLA program) for long-term changes in ecological condition.

#### 6.6.5 Fauna

**Invertebrates**— The only invertebrate species of special concern that occurs on the OCTC is the raptor fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta raptor*). This species is found in only three locations: a seasonal pool which was fenced as a cultural site in 1987, a restricted playa in the D2 maneuver area, and the third is outside the OCTC and is not managed by the IDARNG. No military training has occurred on the species habitat within the OCTC boundary since they were identified. Beneficial effects would be expected as the population would continue to be monitored, species' management goals and requirements would continue to be implemented and changed over time as needed, and the habitat would continue to be protected from military use.

**Raptors**—Beneficial effects to raptors would be expected. Habitat improvement for the nesting sites and prey on which the raptors rely would continue to be stabilized or increased, which would increase the likelihood of nesting and hunting success for the raptors.

**Passerines and Other Non-raptorial Birds**—Beneficial effects to passerines and other non-raptorial birds would be expected. Continued stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration/enhancement of existing shrub and native grassland habitat would continue to support high densities of passerines and other migratory bird species.

**Mammals**—Beneficial effects on the Piute ground squirrel, black-tailed jackrabbits, and other small mammals would be expected. As part of the continued implementation of the INRMP, habitat would continue to be monitored and managed for habitat sustainability. Projects would continue to emphasize



a holistic approach, such as shrub restoration and improvement of guzzler watering sites for big game and large and small mammals (including bats).

**Reptiles and Amphibians**—Beneficial effects to reptiles and amphibians would be expected. Information and recommendations from past surveys (Peterson et al. 2002), as well as continued monitoring, would be used to improve management and protection of these species.

**Special Status Fauna**— Beneficial effects on all special status species associated with the OCTC would be expected. As part of the continued implementation of the INRMP, the IDARNG would continue to provide, per BLM requirements (Manual 6840), protection and management for BLM-listed species not protected under the ESA (e.g., pygmy rabbit, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, long-nose snake, ground snake). Also, under the INRMP, rare fauna would continue to be treated with added importance and valued for their contribution to the unique natural heritage of the OCTC.

**Cultural Resources**—Beneficial effects on cultural resources would be expected. The primary concern regarding cultural resources pertains to protecting prehistoric and historic sites within the boundaries of the OCTC. While the INRMP does not directly address cultural resources, it addresses the requirements set forth in the IDARNG's ICRMP. These requirements include identifying standard operating procedures (SOPs) and best management practices (BMPs) associated with soil-disturbing activities and providing for consultation and coordination guidance with the Shoshone Paiute and Shoshone Bannock tribes prior to the initiation of any activity that might have the potential to impact historical or cultural resources. The purpose of the consultation is to determine whether historical or cultural resources are near the proposed activity and whether the activity would have the potential to adversely affect those resources. Under the current management structure identified in the ICRMP, the probability of disturbing or adversely affecting potential cultural resource sites would be minimal. In general, the following activities would have the potential to impact cultural resources, but each has been or will be addressed accordingly:

- LRAM stabilization and rehabilitation projects could inadvertently damage or bury archeological sites. Generally, however, effects on archeological sites from reduced erosion are positive, and since broadcast seeding is the primary method used for rehabilitation projects, little ground disturbance would occur. In the event a project would result in-ground disturbance, a cultural clearance and assessment would be required.
- The construction of new roads and maintenance of existing roads involve ground disturbance that can damage archeological sites and promote erosion. In the event a project would result in ground disturbance, a cultural clearance and assessment would be required.
- The construction of new ranges involve ground disturbance that can damage archeological sites and promote erosion. In the event a new project would result in ground disturbance, a cultural clearance and assessment would be required.
- Public access associated with recreational activities has the potential to increase the risk of vandalism to archeological sites. While the majority of the OCTC is still open to the public, the Impact Area is restricted from public use, thereby indirectly protecting the cultural resources within.

In addition to these activities, continued management would protect tribal resources, tribal rights, and Indian lands, per requirements of the DoD American Indian and Alaska Native Policy (DoD 1998).

**Land Use**—Adverse impacts to land use would be minimal. There are currently no proposed changes to onsite land uses or land use patterns. However, it can be assumed that future needs and requirements of the IDARNG are likely to change over time as would the land uses. While we cannot identify or assess those changes now, adaptive management strategies and action-specific NEPA documentation would address these potential impacts in the future.

**Facilities**— Adverse impacts to facilities would be minimal. All facilities would continue to be maintained and operated in accordance with required permits and capabilities of the systems. While it can be assumed that the demand for utilities and roads would change over time, adaptive management strategies and action-specific NEPA documentation would address these potential impacts.

**Outdoor Recreation**—Impacts to outdoor recreation associated with IDARNG training would continue to be minimal. The Impact Area is, and will continue, to be off limits to public recreation, but the rest of the OCTC will remain open for public use with limited restrictions associated with isolated training events and public safety. While some recreational restrictions on public use exist, past management practices by the IDARNG have resulted in one of the largest contiguous stands of native sagebrush/grass steppe in southwestern Idaho. The residual shrub/grass communities provide habitat for a variety of wildlife not found in many surrounding areas. Therefore, IDARNG activities have had a beneficial indirect effect on recreation.

Unlike the resources and uses identified above, recreation is not managed by the IDARNG. Therefore, guidelines included in this INRMP do not directly impact recreation use or its impact on the natural resources of the OCTC. However, existing passive and active outdoor recreation, which is managed by the BLM, has resulted in soil erosion and compaction; loss of vegetation and associated habitat (e.g., wildlife, threatened and endangered species); increased probability of wildfire; noise impacts on wildlife; the establishment and spread of invasive species; and health and safety concerns associated with recreational shooting.

Based on the potential recreational impacts on the natural resources of the OCTC, the IDARNG's ability to train could be adversely effected. Specifically, increased public recreation increases the probability of the impacts identified above. These impacts, individually or cumulatively, could adversely affect raptor or raptor prey habitat and/or slickspot peppergrass habitat, potentially resulting in future training limitations or restrictions.

**Livestock Grazing**—Impacts to livestock grazing associated with IDARNG training would continue to be minimal. The OCTC continues to support both BLM- and state-authorized grazing based on agency-specific grazing leases. The IDARNG works with authorized permittees and the associated agencies to manage military training and livestock grazing to minimize impacts from both uses. In general, adverse impacts to livestock grazing associated with restricted use are limited only to the Impact Area. This area is restricted from livestock use most of the year for safety purposes. However, military training activities are limited during the early spring, primarily in the month of April, to allow for full permitted use of the

Impact Area, with the exclusion of the Core Impact Area which is restricted year-round. In addition, isolated extensions have been approved by BLM and the IDARNG.

The restriction use does result in loss of access to potential forage; however, past management practices by the IDARNG have resulted in one of the largest contiguous stands of native sagebrush/grass steppe in southwestern Idaho. The residual shrub/grass communities provide more diverse forage relative to the Impact Area and many surrounding BLM lands that have been degraded over time. Therefore, IDARNG activities have both adverse and beneficial indirect effects on livestock grazing.

Similar to outdoor recreation, livestock grazing is not managed by the IDARNG. Therefore, guidelines included in this INRMP do not directly impact livestock use or their impacts on the natural resources of the OCTC. A number of potential impacts are associated with livestock grazing, including but not limited to, soil erosion and compaction; loss of vegetation and associated habitat (e.g., wildlife, threatened and endangered species); establishment and spread of invasive species; and spatial/temporal loss of military training potential.

Based on the potential livestock grazing impacts on the natural resources of the OCTC, coupled with the current April restrictions on using the Impact Area, the IDARNG's ability to train could be adversely affected in the future. Specifically, continued livestock grazing increases the probability of the impacts identified above. These impacts, individually or cumulatively, could adversely affect raptor or raptor prey habitat and/or slickspot peppergrass habitat, potentially resulting in future training limitations or restrictions.

These findings, excluding those managed only by the BLM (outdoor recreation and livestock grazing), are consistent with the goals of the natural resources management program to maintain ecosystem functionality and ensure the sustainability of desired military training area conditions. The nature of the IDARNG's management structure (Chapter 7), conservation and sustainability actions (Chapter 8), and program implementation (Chapter 9) outlined by the INRMP, would benefit or at least stabilize the health and overall condition of the natural resources associated with the OCTC.

## Chapter 7 Natural Resources Program Management

### 7.1 Natural Resources Program Management

Per DoD Supplemental Guidance, the IDARNG's past INRMPs were reviewed "as to operation and effect," to determine whether they were developed per ANGB and Army policy, met the intent of the Sikes Act, and contributed to the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources within the OCTC. Interagency cooperation, coordination, and communication at the federal, State, and local levels (e.g., FWS, BLM, and IDFG) are requisite to the success of this revised INRMP. Per DoD guidance, the IDARNG will continue to review the IDARNG's INRMP annually in cooperation with the FWS and IDFG to keep the plan current. While the FWS and IDFG are the required signatories associated with the annual review process, the BLM and IDL will be included in the review process based on its ownership of the OCTC; however, they will not be a required signatory. Concurrence from the FWS and IDFG associated with annual INRMP updates will be provided as an attachment to annual updates.

#### 7.1.1 Organizational Support for Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation

The Natural Resources Program at the OCTC is administered by the EMO. The EMO receives OCTC installation (SRP) and DoD level support. See sections 2.3, 2.4, and 2.5 for organizational structure/responsibilities, institutional philosophy, and training sustainability.

#### 7.1.2 Federal Agency Support for Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation

**Fish and Wildlife Service**—The FWS is a signatory agency and a cooperator in the implementation of this plan in accordance with the Sikes Act. The FWS Region 1 Office in Portland, Oregon, and the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office in Boise, Idaho, provide technical advice for the management of natural resources, particularly endangered and threatened species, on the OCTC. Cooperation between the IDARNG and Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office began in 1991 to protect the plant species slickspot peppergrass.

**Bureau of Land Management**— The BLM is responsible for managing the NCA (Public Law 103-64). The BLM published the NCA-RMP (BLM 2008) that addressed the entire NCA, including the OCTC, to include grazing, military, and recreation management. This INRMP details more specific management concerns regarding military activities and does not replace or in any way void management policy of the BLM plan.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service**— The NRCS has expertise in general land inventory and technical aspects of land rehabilitation that can be useful for the OCTC. The NRCS has been utilized to update the soil survey and test new plant materials for restoration of native vegetation on the OCTC.

**U.S. Geological Survey and National Guard Bureau**—The USGS and ANGB began a partnership to document the hydrology, geology, and presence or absence of soil, ground water, and surface water contamination at selected installations, including the OCTC (Parlman 2004).

### **7.1.3 State Agency Support for Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation**

**Idaho Department of Fish and Game**—The IDFG is the State signatory agency and a cooperator in implementing this plan in accordance with the Sikes Act. The IDFG is responsible for management of resident fish and wildlife in Idaho. The IDARNG and IDFG cooperate annually on several wildlife-related OCTC survey projects. IDARNG Natural Resources staff acquired trapping permits through the IDFG and provides data on sensitive flora and fauna to the Conservation Data Center of the IDFG. The Conservation Data Center serves as a data repository for all data collected throughout Idaho regarding sensitive, threatened, or endangered species.

**Idaho Department of Lands**—The IDL is the MATES landowner and landowner of various State lands adjacent to the OCTC. The IDARNG and IDL maintain communication regarding habitat restoration projects on adjoining, appropriate IDARNG range projects, and wildland fire issues.

### **7.1.4 University Support for Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation**

Universities have been and will continue to be important partners in managing OCTC natural resources. Local university students or recent graduates are sources for seasonal natural resources field technician positions. A number of universities have participated as contractors for surveys, plans, and research:

- Colorado State University, Center for Ecological Management of Military Lands, provides annual statistical analysis of RTLA data.
- Boise State University is cooperating with the IDARNG on work researching insect interactions with slickspot peppergrass. Professors provide input on various other survey and research projects.
- Idaho State University conducted a herpetological survey and a pygmy rabbit survey and updated the small mammal and passerine bird survey data.
- Northwest Nazarene University is currently repeating the OCTC herpetological survey, to be completed in 2013.

### **7.1.5 Contractors and Other Groups Supporting Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation**

Private contractors are used for various OCTC projects including seed processing, seedling growing/planting, and wildlife surveys. Other interested groups include the Idaho Golden Eagle Audubon Society, Idaho Wildlife Federation, Idaho Native Plant Society, The Wildlife Society, The Wilderness Society, The Peregrine Fund, and Snake River Raptor Volunteers, Inc.

## **7.2 Geographic Information Systems**

GIS has long been an integral part of the OCTC natural resources program, specifically regarding endangered species and habitat management. GIS technology is used to collect, store, manipulate and analyze data. In 1988, the IDARNG EMO established a GIS program as a component of the ITAM program. Since its inception, this program has been used and supported by natural/cultural resources,

environmental compliance, and training support programs. The primary GIS software is ArcGIS 10®. ArcGIS is an Environmental Systems Research Institute product. Integrating existing and new databases/data into the GIS program provides the basis for information management decision support systems.

Collecting and analyzing databases are continual processes as is the process of making databases available to an ever-expanding list of users and partners, both internal and external to the National Guard. The GIS program has experienced unprecedented demand for its support. Demand has grown with an increased awareness of the range of available GIS services, the availability of user-friendly GIS software, and network access to data.

The OCTC GIS program developments include a range safety fan database to better utilize the OCTC's training lands and improve troop safety and state of the art habitat/vegetation databases that enable better decision making on a variety of natural resources issues. The program continually upgrades digital imagery for the OCTC and surrounding lands for both environmental and military mission purposes and provides analyses and maps for natural/cultural resources reports and NEPA documents.

RTLA utilizes GIS to support land use planning decisions. Data collected provide information to effectively manage military land use and natural resources. Generated information is also used to monitor birds of prey habitat and their prey animals to support continued military use of the land and manage military training with minimized effects on the land; help prioritize potential LRAM projects; and provide information for adaptive management. GIS provides a state-of-the-art information source for today's military decision makers.

Accurate spatial information is available for map production or detailed site analysis. GIS data layers include firing ranges, range safety fans, training facilities, roads, observation points, landing zones, impact areas, artillery firing points, air corridors, training areas, training constraint areas, utilities, soils, vegetation, noxious weed locations, rare plant/animal locations, natural resource survey routes, firebreaks, a military grid reference system, satellite and aerial imagery, and digital elevation models. The coordinated use of GIS by all components of EMO and ITAM greatly enhances the overall program and, therefore, its ability to support military training.

The GIS program provides the Natural Resources staff with survey quality devices, software, and technical support for collecting, storing, analyzing, and mapping geospatial data.

### **7.3 Habitat Management**

The main goal of habitat (vegetation) management at the OCTC is to evaluate, maintain, or restore OCTC lands for military training requirements and healthy ecosystem functionality. Training lands, including soils and vegetation, are evaluated (ITAM) annually for training-related impacts. ITAM stabilization and rehabilitation efforts focus on soil retention and vegetative cover, while EMO efforts focus on the restoration of native plant communities and associated habitat.

The overall goal of these efforts is to monitor and address training-related impacts while maintaining raptor and raptor prey habitat. Because of limited rainfall and harsh/variable conditions, restoration is difficult and often requires repeated seeding/planting efforts and occasional use of non-native (desirable) plant species. Restoration efforts associated with habitat for raptors, their prey, and threatened and endangered species (EMO) emphasize healthy, native sagebrush steppe habitat. Projects associated with habitat restoration generally focus on re-establishing site-specific native plant communities. See Chapter 8.0 for a summary of the overall goals, objectives, and actions and section 9.1 for the Annual Work Plan and site-specific projects.

#### **7.4 Fish and Wildlife Management**

The OCTC lacks any permanent surface water; therefore, it also lacks fish resources. Wildlife management, enforcement of wildlife laws, and all other aspects of non-consumptive resource use are the responsibility of the landowner (BLM) and State wildlife agency (IDFG). All fossil resources are managed through cooperative efforts between the BLM, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, and IDARNG archaeological staff with natural resources support.

While the BLM and IDFG are the primary enforcement agencies, the IDARNG's natural resource (EMO) and SRP (ITAM) are responsible for the maintenance and sustainability of wildlife resources within the boundaries of the OCTC per the 2010 OCTC MOU. Specifically, the IDARNG is responsible for managing mission-related training activities, implementing and monitoring management effectiveness relative to training land sustainability and habitat condition, and protecting Idaho- and BLM-listed sensitive species, raptors, and raptor prey habitat in a manner that is compatible with the provisions outlined in Public Law 103-64. See Chapter 8.0 for a summary of the overall goals, objectives, and actions and section 9.1 for the Annual Work Plan and site-specific projects.

#### **7.5 Management of Threatened and Endangered Species and Habitats**

The following laws and regulations pertain to managing threatened and endangered species:

- ESA of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536)
- AR 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement
- DoDI 4715.03, Natural Resource Conservation Program

These laws and regulations are described in Appendix C.

The NDAA of 2004 made a significant revision to the ESA. The NDAA stated, "The Secretary [of the Interior] shall not designate as critical habitat any lands or other geographical areas owned or controlled by the DOD, or designated for its use, that are subject to an INRMP prepared under Section 101 of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a), if the Secretary determines in writing that such plan provides a benefit to the species for which critical habitat is proposed for designation."

Under the NDAA, a military installation may have its INRMP obviate the need for critical habitat designation if the INRMP provides a benefit to listed species and manages for the long-term conservation of the species. Thus, an INRMP must specifically address the management benefits of its

actions for species or habitats if a National Guard installation has federally listed threatened or endangered species, proposed federally listed threatened or endangered species, and/or candidate species on the installation or unoccupied habitat for a listed species where critical habitat may be designated. This revised INRMP is intended to benefit, and gain a critical habitat exemption for, slickspot peppergrass (Appendix B).

The IDARNG will primarily manage threatened and endangered species and Idaho- and BLM-listed species of conservation concern by avoiding sensitive areas during training, preventing damage to sensitive areas, and rehabilitating damaged areas. Informal consultation is completed between the IDARNG and the FWS for activities at the OCTC as required. Formal consultation associated with actions on BLM administered lands within the OCTC boundary is the responsibility of the BLM. In cases where endangered species management in accordance with the appropriate guidance would conflict with mission activities, consultation with the FWS, BLM, and IDFG would be initiated to avoid jeopardizing any listed species. The IDARNG is required to manage federally listed threatened and endangered species. Failure to protect federally listed species could lead to an ESA violation, which could negatively affect training land availability.

#### **7.5.1 Federally Listed Species**

All OCTC construction projects include threatened and/or endangered species site clearances performed by qualified specialists. This requirement is part of the record of environmental consideration (REC) process and includes surveys for presence and/or habitat of federally listed species. Prior to each survey, specialists must obtain the most current Ada County, Idaho, list of FWS listed species. Using survey findings, IDARNG staff must produce an effects determination that is presented to the BLM. The BLM is the concurring agency and coordinates with the FWS on matters such as federally listed species.

In addition to specific site clearances, IDARNG Natural Resources staff performs as-needed surveys related to BLM-listed species of concern (type 1-4), or potentially occurring federally listed species (Ada and Elmore County, Idaho).

Currently, slickspot peppergrass is the only federally listed species found on the OCTC (listed as a threatened species in 2009). For all information on the management of slickspot peppergrass, see Endangered Species Management Plan for *Lepidium papilliferum* on Orchard Training Area, Idaho (Appendix B).

#### **7.5.2 Migratory and Breeding Birds at the Orchard Combat Training Center and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**

##### **7.5.2.1 Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918**

Migratory birds include species with at least some populations breeding in the United States and/or Canada, for example songbirds, shorebirds, waterbirds, and waterfowl. Attention has centered on migrants, since this group is experiencing steep rates of population decline. However, decreasing populations have also been observed in resident bird species, which do not migrate, and temperate-zone migrants, which only migrate within North America. The following apply to migratory bird



management: compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA); implementation of migratory bird management actions in accordance with E.O. 13186, *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*; and support, contribution, and compatibility with the goals and efforts of numerous regional migratory and game bird conservation programs.

Nearly all birds found on the OCTC are protected under the MBTA. Incidental take of migratory birds is regulated in 50 CFR 21, "Migratory Bird Permits." Part 21.15, "Authorization of Take Incidental to Military Readiness Activities," effective 28 February 2007, allows incidental take by DoD in the course of military readiness activities under certain conditions specified in paragraph (a), "Take Authorization and Monitoring."

Except to the extent authorization is withdrawn or suspended pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, the Armed Forces may take migratory birds incidental to military readiness activities provided that, for those ongoing or proposed activities that the Armed Forces determine may result in a significant or adverse effect on a population of a migratory bird species, the Armed Forces must confer and cooperate with the FWS to develop and implement appropriate conservation measures to minimize or mitigate such significant adverse effects.

When conservation measures implemented under paragraph (a)(1) of this section require monitoring, the Armed Forces must retain records of any monitoring data for 5 years from the date the Armed Forces commence their action. During INRMP reviews, the Armed Forces will also report to the FWS migratory bird conservation measures implemented and the effectiveness of the conservation measures in avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating take of migratory birds.

It is DoD policy to promote and support a partnership role in the protection and conservation of migratory birds and their habitat by protecting vital habitat, enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining healthy and productive natural systems on DoD lands consistent with the military mission. DoD works with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop cooperative programs and projects with other federal, State, and non-governmental organizations. The Partners in Flight (PIF) program is an umbrella network of which DoD's bird conservation program is a vital part. PIF encourages State and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations to participate in Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS), off-road point counts, Monitoring Avian Production Survivorship (MAPS), and migration monitoring stations. It is important to note that BBSs record birds only seen during the nesting season and do not account for birds in the area at other times of the year. Also, birds occurring in extremely low densities or in cyclic years may be missed.

The IDARNG Natural Resources staff conducts scheduled annual and ongoing routine surveys for the presence of all migratory bird species, emphasizing raptor and sagebrush obligatory species. Site-specific surveys are also conducted to record the presence or use of an area and are conducted prior to all training exercises and construction activities. Training exercises and construction activities with the potential to adversely impact bird species are relocated or modified according to the MBTA. All bird species found on the OCTC nest during early spring. By late summer, many migratory bird species have left the OCTC and do not return until the following spring. Many migratory grassland bird species found in the OCTC show a low sensitivity to disturbance (BLM and USGS 1996).

Specific migratory and breeding bird projects include annual surveys for long-billed curlew and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) (both joint projects with the IDFG). Two raptor survey routes are completed monthly, and a songbird survey was conducted in 2011 with a subset of survey points completed in subsequent years.

Over the past 20 years there have been no known incidences of bird mortality as a result of a training exercise or construction activity. Prior to each training exercise, Soldiers receive a mandatory environmental briefing. This briefing directs Soldiers to avoid all wildlife with particular emphasis on birds of prey and migratory birds. In addition, military personnel and Natural Resources staff actively monitors training sites to prevent nest construction on or in training equipment or structures. If nest construction is initiated nonintrusive actions are taken to deter further use. In the event a nest with eggs present is discovered, training exercises and construction activities with the potential to adversely impact the bird, nest, or eggs are relocated or modified.

By incorporating these SOP and best management practices (BMP) into INRMP, the occurrences of unintentional/incidental take related to non-military readiness activities (e.g., construction, range maintenance, land management, etc), are considerably minimized. Plus, the management and conservation of birds on the OCTC provides tremendous benefits to birds that far outweigh any costs associated with mission readiness/non-readiness activities.

#### **7.5.2.2 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**

Both bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) have been observed within the OCTC, but there have been no recorded nest sites within the last 30 years. Use of the area for foraging by golden eagles varies widely by season. They forage mostly in and near shrublands of the OCTC, and their presence is highly correlated with black-tailed jackrabbits (BLM and USGS 1996). Bald eagles occasionally pass through the OCTC (1 or 2 sightings per year) and are very rarely seen foraging on the OCTC. Site clearances for presence or use by golden and/or bald eagles are conducted for all construction projects in accordance with the FWS's 2012 Interim Golden Eagle Inventory and Monitoring Protocols; and Other Recommendations in Support of Eagle Management and Permit Issuance.

In 2011, a joint golden eagle monitoring project (IDARNG and BLM) was initiated. This project includes attaching GPS tracking devices to four golden eagles known to nest near the Snake River and forage in/near the OCTC. These eagles will be tracked for 3–4 years using GPS/GIS technology; the data will be analyzed for habitat/foraging trends and related management/training issues.

#### **7.6 Water Resources Protection**

No permanent surface water resources are present on the OCTC. Water collects seasonally in several playas but remains for a few months at most. The OCTC does not have any point discharge and the nearest body of water is the Snake River, no less than 3 miles (5 km) from the south OCTC boundary.

SWPPPs are in place for MATES, MPRC-H, and all new range construction projects. A source water assessment report has been completed for MATES (Idaho National Guard Facility 2002). Water quality

monitoring programs are in place for Mates and MPRC-H drinking water supplies and are routinely tested for contaminants by the DEQ.

The OCTC experiences low annual precipitation (approximately 5–12 inches [13-31 cm]); therefore, little-to-no water-caused soil erosion occurs. Regardless, BMPs restrict ground-disturbing activities and require revegetation of barren or disturbed ground as soon as possible. All construction activities include revegetation requirements with an approved seed mix. Where appropriate, nontoxic, biodegradable dust abatement products (terraLOC™) are applied to bare ground.

## **7.7 Wetlands Protection**

The U.S. Congress enacted the Clean Water Act in 1972 to, “restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” Section 404 of the Clean Water Act delegates jurisdictional authority over wetlands to the Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA. Waters of the United States protected by the Clean Water Act include rivers, streams, estuaries and most ponds, lakes, and wetlands. The Army Corps of Engineers and the EPA jointly define wetlands as “areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water 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 other similar areas.”

The FWS defines wetlands to include a variety of areas that fall into one of five categories:

- Areas with hydrophytes and hydric soils, such as those commonly known as marshes, swamps, and bogs
- Areas without hydrophytes but with hydric soils, such as flats where drastic fluctuation in water levels, wave action, turbidity, or high concentration of salts may prevent the growth of hydrophytes
- Areas with hydrophytes but non-hydric soils, such as margins of impoundments or excavations where hydrophytes have become established but hydric soils have not yet developed
- Areas without soils but with hydrophytes, such as the seaweed-covered portion of rocky shores
- Wetlands without soils and without hydrophytes, such as gravel beaches or rocky shores without vegetation

Wetland functions and values include, but are not limited to, ground water recharge, ground water discharge, flood flow alteration, sediment stabilization, sediment or toxicant retention, nutrient removal or transformation, production export, wildlife diversity/abundance, aquatic diversity/abundance, uniqueness/heritage, and recreation. E.O. 11990, *Protection of Wetlands* (1977), and the Clean Water Act (1977) require no net wetland losses on federal lands in the United States.

The OCTC has no wetlands as defined above.

## **7.8 Grounds Maintenance**

Grounds maintenance is primarily addressed in the IPMP relative to disease, insect, and general maintenance issues associated with turf and ornamental planting areas as well as BMPs for nonpoint

source pollution and issues associate with landscape pesticides and fertilizers. The MATES is the only area in the OCTC with grounds maintenance. Grounds are characterized by xeric landscaping and require annual maintenance to control invasive and noxious weed occurrences. Weed management includes mechanical, biological, and chemical control and is applied by certified contractors per IPMP guidelines.

### **7.9 Forest Management**

The OCTC is a sagebrush steppe habitat and is treeless. Forest management does not apply.

### **7.10 Fire Management**

Fire is both a threat to natural resources and, if used properly, a valuable ecosystem management tool. OCTC wildfire history, frequency, threats to mission and natural resources, wildland fire protection protocols, and prescribed burning are detailed in the IDARNG Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan (IWFMP) (Appendix E). The INWFMP will be reviewed annually in conjunction with the INRMP.

In general, prevention is the primary emphasis of fire management on the OCTC. When fire danger is high, using pyrotechnics and tracers is restricted. Environmental awareness videos, brochures, and posters stress the importance of preventing fire. Education programs on fire prevention and safety are available to all Training Site personnel. The OCTC active fire suppression program protects numerous acres of shrub habitat and provides a safe environment for Soldiers and the public. The IDARNG's fire prevention and immediate suppression strategy is effective as evidenced by the OCTC having the largest stand of big sagebrush remaining in the NCA. Fire crews place high priority on protecting slickspot peppergrass habitat areas.

#### **7.10.1 Prescribed Burning**

Using fire as an ecosystem management tool is not a viable option at the OCTC, except for tumbleweed removal—native sagebrush, winterfat, and shadscale are eliminated by fire. Many species of exotic annuals have been introduced to the area in contaminated crop seed and livestock feces. These exotic species dry to dormancy earlier in the year and are much more flammable than the native species they replaced. Over the years, wildfires have continued to burn larger and larger areas, with many areas burning repeatedly. While seeds of the exotic annuals have survived these fires well, seeds of the sagebrush and winterfat generally do not survive.

Specific areas within the Impact Area are likely to burn every year. These areas include the livestock “drift” fence, which divides the spring/fall grazing allotment area on the north from the winter allotment area on the south. Tumbleweeds gather along the fence line each year, providing large areas of flammable material. Various target areas on individual ranges are likely to burn during training activities. Training Site personnel prepare prescribed burn plans addressing these areas and coordinate with BLM fire staff each spring. Long-range scheduling of prescribed burning is not feasible as wildfire and annual burning conditions greatly affect burning schedules. However, the spring burning season minimizes the disturbance to wildlife and is most effective if completed before May when Annual Training events and the fire season begin. For purposes of effective burning and fire control, proper temperature conditions, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, and fuel moisture must normally be met prior to burning.

Training Site personnel staff, seasonal firefighters, and Natural Resources personnel receive appropriate fire management/suppression training from qualified BLM or National Interagency Fire Center trainers before participating in prescribed burning.

## **7.11 Agricultural Outleasing**

The OCTC contains no cropland and all grazing is administered by the landowners (BLM and IDL).

### **7.11.1 Livestock Grazing**

The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 authorizes livestock grazing on public land. The management of livestock grazing on the OCTC is the responsibility of the BLM and the IDL. The entire area is grazed by both cattle and sheep, except the Artillery Impact Area, ASP, and fenced cultural sites. The OCTC is divided by an east–west fence, called the livestock drift fence, which separates the area into two grazing allotments (Figure 3.5). The north area, Sunnyside Spring-Fall Allotment, is grazed from April 1 to June 30 and from October 16 to December 15 each year. The south area, Sunnyside Winter Allotment, is grazed from December 16 to February 28.

## **7.12 Integrated Pest Management Program**

The IDARNG IPMP (Ogden Environmental and Energy Services 1997) identifies and prioritizes pests and their destructive effects to determine particular levels of protection. The plan emphasizes pest management within the Gowen Field cantonment area and MATES.

IPM is used at the OCTC, and typically a combination of IPM techniques is required to sustainably resolve a problem. IPM includes the implementation and coordination of optimum sanitation, good structural design and maintenance of facilities, mechanical control, cultural control, biological control, and regulatory control. The IPM comprehensive approach to pest control or prevention, using methods of pest control in a compatible manner, avoids damage and minimizes adverse side effects to non-target organisms and the environment.

Pest control efforts are implemented on the basis of surveillance. Pest surveys are used to determine the type of pest, extent of the problem, and IPM technique most appropriate for safe, effective, and economic control.

The IDARNG recognizes four general categories of pests that cause significant damage and may require control or management:

- Disease vectors and medically important pests (e.g., mosquitoes, ticks, fleas, rodents)
- General household and nuisance pests (e.g., cockroaches, blackflies, ants, filth flies, spiders, wasps)
- Vertebrate pests
- Vegetative concerns (e.g., weed control)

In 1994, the DoD issued the following three Measures of Merit that defined the course of installation pest management programs:

- Have a current pest management plan.
- Reduce pesticide use by 50 percent over a 7-year period (1994–2000) (EO 12865).
- Have pesticide applicators certified within 2 years of employment.

The IDARNG IPMP (Ogden Environmental and Energy Services 1997) is currently being updated. All pesticides used on IDARNG facilities are EPA approved. The IDARNG understands both the obvious and long-term threats to both humans and ecosystem functions from pesticides. Therefore, IPM techniques have enabled the IDARNG to reduce its use of pesticides. Pesticide application on IDARNG lands is contracted with vendors meeting certification requirements.

The IDARNG IPMP discusses many aspects of IPM that are not directly within the scope of this INRMP, such as control of disease vectors and protection of facilities. Below, discussions of animal and plant control are specific to the management of natural resources on the OCTC.

### **7.12.1 Animal Pests/Nuisances**

Nuisance wildlife may damage structures, range facilities, or roadways and may pose threats to military training activities. For example, badger holes damage roads and provide a safety hazard to troops training in the field. Troops are warned about the presence and danger regarding badger holes during training events. Black-tailed jackrabbits can damage insulation, electrical wires, and other building materials. Yet, black-tailed jackrabbits are important prey species and thus are not controlled. Coyotes pose no threat to military activities, but coyote control shooting is conducted annually by the USDA, Animal Damage Control through coordination with the BLM.

Deer mice are present throughout the OCTC and are carriers of hantavirus. Hantavirus may be carried in the airborne particles of rodent urine, droppings, and saliva. Although they normally live outside, they often move indoors for food or cover. Signs of deer mouse occupation are common in the structures, range towers, and target housing located on the OCTC. In September 1999, the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine—West surveyed to determine if hantavirus was present in rodent populations in the OCTC. Survey results indicated 15 percent of the population was infected with hantavirus. Since that survey, the IDARNG has implemented a policy of cleaning structures with a 10 percent bleach solution before they are used by troops. A briefing was prepared and is provided to personnel training in the OCTC regarding preventive measures, methods of cleaning where mice droppings are found, and symptoms that indicate hantavirus infection.

### **7.12.2 Non-Native/Noxious Plants**

Non-native and noxious weeds threaten native habitats, endangered species, and plant community composition and diversity. More specifically, they threaten wetland ecosystems, complicate land restoration projects, add to the cost of pest management, and generally threaten ecosystem functionality. The IDARNG is dedicated to preventing the introduction of and controlling invasive species at the OCTC, per EO 13112, *Invasive Species*. See section 5.6.1 for a description of the invasive and noxious weeds found within the OCTC.

The IDARNG has integrated a three step approach in controlling the establishment and spread of invasive species into the OCTC. The first and most successful control mechanism is prevention and education. To prevent the introduction or spread of noxious weeds, the IDARNG implements and monitors IDARNG Regulation 350-12, which requires that all military vehicles travelling further than 50 miles (80 km) to train at the OCTC be washed at the MATES wash-rack facility before entering the OCTC.

The second step is early detection and rapid response (EDRR). All Conservation and Training staff, including seasonals, is trained to identify and record any and all noxious weed or priority invasive plant occurrences, as well as any unknown plant species. Based on the number of staff, distribution patterns associated with annual projects, and the size of the instillation, the majority of the OCTC is surveyed annually. This information is downloaded into geo-database for verification and management prioritization. Existing noxious weed and priority invasive plant sites on the OCTC are reported annually to the BLM.

The final step is active control and monitoring. Control of noxious and invasive plant species are prioritized on an annual basis based on the potential impact to military training, T&E species, and raptor/prey habitat. Noxious weed species have the highest priority and are managed for eradication. Priority invasive plant species are secondary, unless they pose a direct threat to military training activity or a T&E species. Prioritization of invasive species is also a factor of management potential, i.e. isolated species with the potential to spread instillation wide are given greater priority to isolated species with limited potential to spread or a species that has already spread instillation wide.

Control mechanisms include hand pulling, mechanical, biological, chemical, and prescribed burns. All treated areas are recorded annually and submitted to the BLM.

As civilian use of the area continues to increase, the probability of establishment is likely to increase resulting in additional treatments. Additional funding may be required in the future to contract for the chemical spraying of sites before they become a serious problem. This type of activity requires coordination and approval from the BLM and FWS if federally listed species may be affected.

The following laws and regulations pertain to invasive and exotic species and pest control:

- Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974 (7 USC §2801 et seq.)
- Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 USC §136)
- Federal Pest Plant Act (7 USC §150a et seq.)
- E.O. 12865, Reduction of Pesticide Application by 50 percent by Fiscal Year 2000
- E.O. 13112, Invasive Species
- Idaho Noxious Weed Act (Revised Statutes Chapter 263, Insect Pests And Weeds)

## **7.13 Outdoor Recreation**

For the purposes of this INRMP and to be consistent with DoD Directive 7400.4 (DoD 1996) and AR 200-1 (Department of the Army 1995b), outdoor recreation is defined as recreational programs, activities, or opportunities that depend on the natural environment.

### **7.13.1 Public Access**

Much of the OCTC is open to the public, similar to other areas managed by the BLM. The BLM has the primary responsibility for managing recreational activities on the OCTC. Access roads are unmanned, with the exception of special circumstances when the public needs to be aware of special training activities. In maintaining a policy of public access, the IDARNG and the BLM rely on a responsible public to adhere to access restrictions. Recreational activities and public access are prohibited by Ada County Ordinance and BLM Designation in the Impact Area, ASP, and MATES. Signs are posted every 200 meters (656 feet) along Range Road to clearly mark the Impact Area. ASP and MATES are both fenced.

### **7.13.2 Hunting**

Hunting activities are managed by the BLM and IDFG. Hunters must possess an IDFG-issued Idaho hunting license. Recreational hunting of Piute ground squirrels, rabbits, coyotes, and badgers and recreational target practice has increased since 1996 when the BLM closed the area north and west of the OCTC to shooting. No military shooting occurs in this area of the OCTC. This hunting activity continues to increase as the population of Boise and the surrounding areas increases.

### **7.13.3 Safety Considerations**

Recreational activities on the OCTC have the potential to conflict with the military mission. The Training Site personnel staff monitors popular ground squirrel hunting areas in the spring to inform hunters when military training is occurring nearby. Signs are posted at the main entry areas to the OCTC during Annual Training events to make the public aware that increased military activities are taking place.

### **7.13.4 Litter**

Although all public lands are subject to random amounts of litter, the OCTC has a significant litter problem. As the population of surrounding Boise, Meridian, and Kuna has increased, so has the amount of litter. Specifically, household items are hauled out for target practice, and then left onsite. When possible, the source of the litter is identified, and the information is given to County law enforcement officials. Such items pose a hazard to wildlife and the troops training in the area. Problem areas are recorded throughout the year and cleaned up annually during trash pick-up day.

## **7.14 Cultural Resources Protection**

Cultural resources identified at the OCTC are important and need to be protected. Consult the IDARNG ICRMP for detailed information and procedures for cultural resources at the OCTC.



The IDARNG completed an ICRMP for its major training lands, including the OCTC, in 2002. An ICRMP is a 5-year plan required by AR 200-1 for compliance with applicable federal laws and regulations concerning cultural resources. The ICRMP is a component of the installation's Master Planning documents, and functions as a decision document for cultural resources management actions and specific compliance procedures. The ICRMP's purpose is to integrate cultural resources requirements with ongoing mission activities so the availability of mission-essential properties and acreage is maintained and compliance with requirements is achieved. The ICRMP is in the process of being revised and will be completed in 2012.

#### **7.14.1 Natural Resources Management Implications**

Ensuring that provisions of this INRMP are also consistent with the protection of cultural resources is important. Prior to any ground-disturbing, natural resources activity, the IDARNG will evaluate proposed activities for compliance with all appropriate natural and cultural resources laws and regulations.

Natural resources projects on the OCTC have the potential to adversely affect cultural resources, just as cultural resources field investigations may impact sensitive natural resources. All projects, whether for natural or cultural resources management, will receive an environmental review through the NEPA process. Through this review, affected programs will have an opportunity to assess potential impacts to resources. If natural or cultural resources may be impacted, steps must be taken to avoid or mitigate damage.

Natural resources management practices that have the potential to adversely affect archeological sites and cultural resources are outlined below.

**Land rehabilitation and maintenance and erosion control**— Of all practices associated with natural resources management on the OCTC, LRAM restoration projects have perhaps the greatest potential to affect archeological sites. Projects involving ground disturbance can damage or bury archeological sites. However, effects on archeological sites from reduced erosion can also be positive. Nearly all LRAM projects and SOPs (Appendix L) on the OCTC use broadcast seeding, a method that does not disturb soils.

**Building construction**—Constructing new or upgrading existing buildings can result in ground disturbance that can damage archeological sites and promote erosion. However, all sites are cleared by qualified staff prior to any surface disturbing activity. In addition, construction projects must comply with specified SOPs (Appendix L).

**Road maintenance/construction**— Constructing new roads and maintaining existing roads can result in ground disturbance that can damage archeological sites and promote erosion. However, all sites are cleared by qualified staff prior to any surface disturbing activity.

**Outdoor recreation programs**—Public access associated with recreational activities have the potential to increase the risk of vandalism to archeological sites. Managing these public activities is the responsibility of the BLM.

Even with proper review, natural resources projects still have the potential to affect archeological sites through accidental discovery. IDARNG land managers will avoid adverse effects to cultural resources from natural resources management through proper review and planning.

#### **7.14.2 Tribes with Interest in Orchard Combat Training Center Cultural Resources**

The Shoshone–Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation and the Shoshone–Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation have an interest in OCTC cultural resources.

### **7.15 Enforcement**

Many aspects of natural resources management require effective environmental law enforcement (e.g., protection of rare or unique species; protection of sensitive areas; regulation of public recreation; protection of cultural resources).

The 1997 Sikes Act included two specific professional natural resources enforcement items:

- Enforcement of applicable natural resource laws (including regulations)
- Expansion of DoD authority stating that, all federal laws relating to the management of natural resources on federal land may be enforced by the Secretary of Defense with respect to violations of the laws that occur on military installations within the United States

#### **7.15.1 Training**

The Sikes Act mandates that DoD installations employ adequate numbers of professionally trained natural resources personnel, including law enforcement personnel to implement the INRMP. The Sikes Act authorizes the DoD to enforce all federal environmental laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act, Archeological Resources Protection Act, MBTA, and ESA when violations occur on the installation. DoD Directive 4715.3 (May 3, 1996) states, “Professional natural and cultural resources staff shall oversee the enforcement of applicable laws as an integral part of an installation's conservation program.”

#### **7.15.2 Enforcement Responsibility**

The primary mission of OCTC Security personnel is the protection of IDARNG assets and public safety. An agreement with the BLM identifies the level of training required for all security personnel. IDARNG security personnel are not responsible for wildlife or other natural resources law enforcement. That responsibility lies with the IDFG, FWS, or BLM. Law enforcement support is also provided upon request by the Ada County Sheriff's Department.

The primary issue of natural resources enforcement on the OCTC is associated with particular seasons. The installation experiences a large influx of Piute ground squirrel hunters during the spring, which often means more violations. Shooting from a vehicle or from a road and hunting in closed areas comprise a high percentage of violations.

## **7.16 Public Outreach**

Conservation awareness is instrumental in creating conditions needed to manage natural resources. The IDARNG approach to awareness stresses education and provides military personnel and the public with insights into the OCTC's natural environment and conservation challenges. The more people know about the OCTC's unique and valuable natural resources, the more responsibly they act toward them.

Education also promotes awareness of critical environmental projects and the rationale behind them. Activities, such as land rehabilitation and wildfire suppression, can be accomplished with little conservation awareness effort since IDARNG personnel and the general public naturally supports these easily understood efforts. However, issues such as protecting sensitive areas for little known plant species or Native American traditional use sites requires effective conservation communication to receive positive support and, perhaps more importantly, to avoid adverse reactions from various users. A conservation awareness program must be directed to both installation and external interests if it is to be effective.

### **7.16.1 Use of Media**

The IDARNG maintains an active environmental outreach program. In place for more than 10 years, this program provides environmental training videos, CD-ROMs, DVDs, posters, Soldiers' cards, presentations, and written training materials specific to the OCTC and the NCA. These materials are designed to train Soldiers in environmental stewardship and in ways to accomplish the training mission on OCTC within the laws and guidelines governing the NCA.

IDARNG Natural Resources staff contributes seasonal articles for the IDARNG quarterly newspaper, and staff writers periodically cover natural resources programs. Examples of articles include updates on restoration projects, sensitive species issues and programs, and special events. Also, IDARNG Natural Resources staff prepares environmental materials for and give briefings to other IDARNG personnel.

News releases and interviews with outside media are coordinated with the Public Affairs Office. OCTC's Natural Resources program is seldom the subject of local television or radio coverage.

### **7.16.2 Special Events**

The IDARNG Natural Resources staff goes to extra efforts to spread the word regarding natural resources programs using special events. IDARNG Natural Resources staff prepares environmental materials for and attend public land use meetings concerning the OCTC.

## Chapter 8 Management Goals and Objectives

Per DoD Supplemental Guidance, this INRMP was developed to meet the requirements of the Sikes Act by contributing to the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations. Previous chapters presented important background information on the resources, current conditions, and management issues associated with the OCTC. This information was used in combination with the identified effects section (Chapter 6.0) to facilitate the development of an adaptive management process based on a set of defined goals and supported by objectives and resource-specific management activities/projects.

Table 8.1 is a summary matrix of the overall management strategy implemented by the IDARNG relative to the OCTC and serves as a checklist to monitor the success of the INRMP. The table is a combination of spatial or temporal-specific projects as well as general management guidelines. Individual projects are identified and referenced by a distinct alpha numeric reference designation that relates to the associated program (Chapters 7.0 and 9.0). General management actions are also referenced; however, they do not reference a specific program as they are designated for all programs. An expanded description of the identified projects, as well as an Annual Work Plan and associated implementation structure is found in Chapter 9.0.

While the summary matrix is the heart of the INRMP, it is also the basis for annual funding programming and the annual operation and effect review conducted by the IDARNG EMO in coordination with the FWS, IDFG, IDL, and BLM. As site conditions, training objectives, or resource issues change over time, adjustments will be made to this matrix and to the associated funding and implementation requirements (Chapter 9.0). It is assumed that execution of all projects is subject to availability of funds in the year planned and is contingent upon appropriation of funding from the U.S. Congress. This INRMP was prepared with a goal of 100 percent implementation.

**Table 8.1. Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Management Summary Matrix.**

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
<p>GOAL 1. Manage the terrestrial habitat of the OCTC in a manner compatible with the provisions outlined in Public Law 103-64 and the 2010 OCTC MOU (Appendix A), the BLM’s resource management plan (BLM 2008), the IDFG’s Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, applicable federal and State laws, Army regulations and policies, and the IDARNG’s Environmental Management System (eMS).</p>			
<p>Objective 1.1: Inventory, monitor, and protect species and/or communities that are components of prey habitat and/or indicators of ecosystem integrity, emphasizing federal and State-listed sensitive species, in order to maintain a minimum of 95% of the current training capabilities of the OCTC to support the military missions.</p>	ENV-1	INRMP Update	Annually
	ENV-2	Fauna Survey	Annually
	ENV-3	Floristic Survey	Annually
	ENV-4	BLM and State-Listed Special Status Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-5	Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-6	Long-billed Curlew Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-7	Burrowing Owl Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-8	Raptor Road Surveys	Annually
	ENV-9	Golden Eagle Project	2012-2017
	ENV-10	Migratory Bird Inventory	2016
	ENV-11	Migratory Bird Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-12	Bat Inventory	2016
	ENV-13	Bat Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-14	Jackrabbit Annual Surveys	Annually
	ENV-15	Herpetological Inventory	2017
	ENV-16	Herpetological Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-17	Rattlesnake Inventory and Distribution Project	2014/2015
	ENV-18	Small Mammal Inventory	2012/2013
	ENV-19	Small Mammal Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-20	Candidate Species Monitoring-Pygmy Rabbit Inventory	2012
	ENV-21	Aquatic Invertebrate Inventory	2014/2015
	ENV-22	Aquatic Invertebrate Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-23	Wildlife Guzzler Maintenance	Annually
	ENV-24	Vegetation Community Survey	2017
	ENV-25	Soil Survey	2014/2015
	ENV-26	Conservation Program Awareness	Annually
	ENV-27	Endangered Species Monitoring-Slickspot Peppergrass Census	Annually
	ENV-28	NCA Habitat Restoration Project	Annually
	ENV-29	Slickspot Peppergrass Pollinator/Predator Project	2012-2017
	ENV-30	Wildland Fire Management	Annually
	ENV-31	Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan	Annually
	ENV-32	Slickspot Peppergrass Restoration	Annually
	ENV-33	Fire Education Program	Annually
	ENV-34	LEPA Fuels Control- Cheatgrass	2012-2017
ITAM-7	RTLA Surveys	Annually	

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
Objective 1.1: Continued.	ITAM-8	Vegetation Photo Points	Annually
	ITAM-9	Map Production	Annually
	ITAM-10	Training Event Stabilization/Rehabilitation	Annually
	ITAM-11	Invasive weed control impacting military training.	Annually
	ITAM-12	Stabilize or rehabilitate areas impacted by military training actions (fire, soil disturbance, etc.).	Annually
	FMO-1	Noxious Weed Eradication	Annually
	FMO-2	Erosion Control	Annually
	FMO-3	Fire Suppression Project	Annually
	FMO-4	Firebreak Maintenance	Annually
	FMO-5	Install New Firebreaks	Annually
Objective 1.2: Sustain usable training lands and native natural resources by controlling established invasive and noxious weed species on a minimum of 10% of the OCTC annually, and limiting the introduction of new species to less than 20 acres.	ENV-35	Noxious Weed Mapping	Annually
	ITAM-7	RTLA Surveys	Annually
	ITAM-11	Invasive weed control impacting military training.	Annually
	ITAM-12	Stabilize or rehabilitate areas impacted by military training actions (fire, soil disturbance, etc.).	Annually
	FMO-1	Noxious Weed Eradication	Annually
	FMO-3	Fire Suppression Project	Annually
	MA-1	Limit the use of non-native plants. Implement BMPs to minimize land disturbance that promotes invasion and revegetate disturbed areas with native species. Retain avoidance as preferred control measure.	Annually
	ENV-34	LEPA Fuels Control- Cheatgrass	2012-2017
	MA-2	All military unit vehicles brought to the OCTC will be treated with high pressure wash upon arrival to minimize invasive weed introduction	Annually
	MA-3	Monitor and control establishment of noxious weeds at MATES and ASP unloading areas	Annually
	MA-4	Inventory and monitor noxious weed locations within and adjacent to the OCTC	Annually
	MA-5	Work with BLM to develop a cooperative noxious weed control program	Annually
	MA-6	Train personnel and troops to identify and respond to poisonous pests, such as black widow spiders, brown recluse spiders, and poisonous snakes.	Annually

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
Objective 1.3: Manage natural resources and military training activities in a manner consistent with the 2012 ICRMP.	ENV, ITAM, and FMO	All Projects	Annually
	MA-7	Coordinate with cultural resources staff to conduct cultural resources on all applicable surveys and projects	Annually
	MA-8	Submit all applicable natural resources projects to BLM and Shoshone Piute and Shoshone Bannock tribes	Annually
	MA-9	Submit all applicable natural resources projects for review by State Historic Preservation Office when appropriate	Annually
	MA-10	Use GIS archeological information when planning ground-disturbing actions	Annually
	MA-11	On all projects, cease ground-disturbing activities immediately and report to Natural/Cultural Resources Manager upon discovery of potential cultural resources	Annually
	MA-12	Consider alternatives for moving a project to another location if cultural resources are present	Annually
	MA-13	Protect site until measures are made to consult with appropriate agencies and tribes	Annually
Objective 1.4: Identify, monitor, and evaluate short and long-term impacts from training actions by implementing the RTLA program.	ENV-2	Fauna Survey	Annually
	ENV-3	Floristic Survey	Annually
	ENV-24	Vegetation Community Survey	Annually
	ITAM-7	RTLA Surveys	Annually
	ITAM-8	Vegetation Photo Points	Annually
Objective 1.5: Minimize training impacts and prevent excessive land damage by implementing the LRAM program. Treat a minimum of 50 acres annually, if applicable.	ENV-25	Soil Survey	Annually
	ITAM-1	Heavy Maneuver Training Area Maintenance	Annually
	ITAM-2	Heavy Maneuver Trail Maintenance	Annually
	ITAM-3	Light Maneuver Training Area Maintenance	Annually
	ITAM-4	Light Maneuver Trail Maintenance	Annually
	ITAM-5	Combat and Horizontal Engineer Training Area Maintenance	Annually
	ITAM-6	Heavy Maneuver Trail Maintenance	Annually
	ITAM-8	Vegetation Photo Points	Annually
	ITAM-10	Training Event Stabilization/Rehabilitation	Annually
	MA-14	Conduct site rehabilitation based on prioritization	Annually
	MA-15	Minimize off-road traffic in shrub areas and maintain native habitat for foraging birds of prey	Annually
	MA-16	Re-vegetate bare soil areas using native plants or desirable non-natives. Utilize dust abatement measures on bare soil.	Annually
	MA-17	Minimize vehicle usage on newly seeded areas	Annually
MA-18	Include suitable mycorrhizae species in all seed mixes (if applicable)	Annually	

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
Objective 1.5: Continued.	MA-19	Inspect roads annually for erosion. Grade and crown roads to shed water. Maintain sufficient gravel base to strengthen roads and diminish soil shrink and swell, wetness, and frost action. Follow FM 5-34 ditch and road building BMPs.	Annually
	MA-20	Maintain fire breaks and combat trails to allow access to training areas and ensure safe training	Annually
	MA-21	Implement LRAM projects according to RCMP. Coordinate all new projects with BLM and other necessary agencies to avoid affects to natural and/or cultural sites.	Annually
	MA-22	Use prescribed burns along fence lines and range fans to lessen fuel load before conducting weapons training	Annually
Objective 1.6: Provide annual awareness training to OCTC users about environmental concerns and responsibilities while using the site by implementing the Sustainable Range Program (SRP)	ENV-26	Conservation Program Awareness	Annually
	ENV-33	Fire Education Program	Annually
	MA-23	Coordinate with BLM to increase public awareness of military training activity and restrict use within the impact area	Annually
	MA-24	Update and distribute OCTC map and make available to military and public recreationalists	As Needed
Objective 1.7: Maintain Training Requirements Integration (TRI) program to integrate training requirements and training land management.	MA-25	Maintain point of contact within Training Site personnel to identify existing and projected training land resources and prioritize land use requirements. Use environmental review to appropriately site military exercises.	Annually
	MA-26	Integrate training requirements and training land management into prioritized work plan. Execute plan subject to availability while protecting sensitive natural and cultural resources.	Annually
	MA-27	Generate prioritized requirements for land rehabilitation, repair, and/or reconfiguration. Implement TRI projects consistent with RCMP.	Annually
	MA-28	Evaluate the need for additional training lands in terms of mission and environmental cost/benefits.	Annually



Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
Objective 1.8: Maintain ITAM program to educate 95% of all site users and ensure protection for users and the training environment.	MA-29	Brief training site personnel on sensitive natural areas, functions, and protection.	Annually
	MA-30	Train personnel and provide materials for erosion control implementation.	Annually
	MA-31	Provide current Natural Resource Awareness Materials for Soldiers and general public. Update as needed (sensitive/threatened species, invasive species, dangerous animal species, hantavirus brief).	Annually
	MA-32	Train troops to identify and recognize venomous species and avoid/respond to snake/scorpion bites. Provide hantavirus information to troops.	Annually
Objective 1.9: Stabilize, rehabilitate, and/or restore fire-damaged on a minimum of 20% of areas annually using Adaptive Management Principles.	MA-33	Use any available/authorized methods or techniques to do initial stabilization, rehabilitation, or restoration actions within two growing seasons of fire event	Annually
	MA-34	A set protocol, including site clearances, equipment, and species mix, will be in place for emergency stabilization actions	Annually
	MA-35	An Annual Work Plan will be developed in September of each year to address stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration.	Annually
	MA-36	Collect and plant small amounts of native seed not commercially available, or use collection for growth of live plants	Annually
	MA-37	Monitor the success of stabilization, rehabilitation, or restoration actions. Make annual changes, if necessary, to long-term management of the area. The proposed change and justification should be included in the Annual Work Plan.	Annually
Objective 1.10: Develop Annual Work Plan based on adaptive management principles.	MA-38	Conduct annual third party audits for eMS compliance.	Annually
	MA-39	Work in coordination with BLM personnel to develop and update an annual work/maintenance plan addressing, but not limited to, threatened and endangered species protection, special status species clearances, wildland fire prevention/suppression, invasive species monitoring/control, etc.	Annually
	MA-40	Conduct, a minimum of one agency (BLM, IDFG, FWS) meeting annually	Annually
	MA-41	Annually develop and update a resource summary report for agency meeting	Annually

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
Goal 2. Manage and maintain wildlife habitat that contributes to sustained populations of resident species and provides seasonal habitats for migratory species in order to maintain the current capabilities of the OCTC to support military mission.			
Objective 2.1: Develop and maintain a wildland fire suppression program in order to limit training related fires outside the Impact Area to 20 acres or less, and maintain sufficient personell and equipment to at a minimum maintain the current capabilities of the Impact Area relative to the military mission.	ENV-30	Wildland Fire Management	Annually
	ENV-33	Fire Education Program	Annually
	ENV-34	LEPA Fuels Control- Cheatgrass	2012-2017
	FMO-3	Fire Suppression Project	Annually
	FMO-4	Firebreak Maintenance	Annually
	FMO-5	Install New Firebreaks	Annually
	MA-42	Notify the IDARNG’s Cultural Resources Manager if any cultural resources or sites are found during fire management activities	Annually
	MA-43	All fire crews will be familiar with and implement Standard Operating Procedure number 5: Inadvertent Discovery, found in Appendix H of the ICRMP	Annually
Objective 2.2: Manage range and training activities to limit wildfires outside the Impact Area to 20 acres or less annually.	MA-44	Implement Wildland Fire Management Plan (Appendix E).	Annually
	MA-45	Conduct fuel inventories and map locations for management prioritization	Annually
	MA-46	Use IDARNG and outside agency weather stations to manage and enforce temperature, humidity, and wind-speed related training requirements	Annually
Objective 2.4: Monitoring, education, restoration, and rehabilitation in order to maintain the current capabilities of the OCTC to support military mission.	ENV, ITAM, and FMO	All projects	Annually
Objective 2.5: Manage intact native shrub stands on the OCTC by limiting the net loss of stands with greater than 10% cover to 20% or less annually.	MA-47	Coordinate training activities to provide on-going protection of sensitive sagebrush, winterfat, and shadscale communities	Annually
Goal 3. Maintain and enhance existing habitats to support known populations of rare, threatened, and endangered species in order to maintain the current capabilities of the OCTC to support military mission.			

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
Objective 3.1: Limit annual loss or irreversable damage to state or BLM-listed sensitive species and their habitat to 10 acres or 5% of the know population, from training nrelated fire or damage.	ENV-4	BLM and State Listed Special Status Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-5	Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-20	Candidate Species Monitoring-Pygmy Rabbit Inventory	2012/2013
	ENV-21	Aquatic Invertebrate Inventory	2014/2015
	ENV-22	Aquatic Invertebrate Annual Monitoring	Annually
	ENV-27	Endangered Species Monitoring-Slickspot Peppergrass Census	Annually
	ENV-28	NCA Habitat Restoration Project	Annually
	ENV-30	Wildland Fire Management	Annually
	ENV-32	Slickspot Peppergrass Restoration	Annually
	ENV-33	Fire Education Program	Annually
	ENV-34	LEPA Fuels Control- Cheatgrass	2012-2017
	ENV-35	Fire Education Program	Annually
	ITAM-12	Stabilize or rehabilitate areas impacted by military training actions (fire, soil disturbance, etc.).	Annually
	FMO-3	Fire Suppression	Annually
	FMO-4	Firebreak Maintenance	Annually
	FMO-5	Install New Firebreaks	Annually
	MA-48	Maintain signage for off-limits areas.	Annually

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
<p>Objective 3.2: Maintain 95% of occupied LEPA habitat, and create or enhance a minimum of 5 acres of LEPA habitat annually with the OCTC. Prevent damage to and fragmentation of the large sagebrush stand (approx. 23 square miles [60 square km]) where slickspot peppergrass occurs on the OCTC. Improve quality of this habitat.</p>	MA-51	Implement Slickspot Peppergrass Endangered Species Management Plan (Appendix B).	Annually
	ENV-27	Endangered Species Monitoring-Slickspot Peppergrass Census	Annually
	ENV-28	NCA Habitat Restoration Project	Annually
	ENV-30	Wildland Fire Management	Annually
	ENV-32	Slickspot Peppergrass Restoration	Annually
	ENV-33	Fire Education Program	Annually
	ITAM-12	Stabilize or rehabilitate areas impacted by military training actions (fire, soil disturbance, etc.).	Annually
	FMO-3	Fire Suppression Project	Annually
	FMO-4	Firebreak Maintenance	Annually
	FMO-5	Install New Firebreaks	Annually
	MA-52	Develop and maintain a programmatic-level sensitive species map for use by Training Site personnel and seasonal fire crews	Annually
	MA-53	Develop and maintain a Slickspot peppergrass habitat distribution map for use by Training Site personnel and seasonal fire crews. Use all resources to protect slickspot peppergrass habitat from fire and fire suppression damage.	Annually
	MA-54	Develop and maintain a slickspot peppergrass habitat distribution map for use by Training Site personnel and seasonal fire crews	Annually
	MA-55	Implement the BLM fire suppression guidelines for slickspot peppergrass	Annually
	MA-56	Do not employ ground-disturbing tactics in fenced or posted off-limit areas	Annually
	MA-57	Maintain signage for off-limits areas	Annually
MA-58	Maintain Level I and Level II Management Areas and implement management guidelines for these areas. Restore damaged habitat using native species and broadcast seeding. Other tools may be used upon authorization. Ensure minimal impacts to slickspot peppergrass and its habitats during habitat restoration projects.	Annually	
MA-59	Monitor vegetation trends in this large sagebrush stand to determine if the vegetation composition is stable under current uses and management	Annually	
MA-60	Continue specific measures to protect slickspot peppergrass and its habitat from military training damage	Annually	

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
Objective 3.2: Continued.	MA-61	Continue to implement measures from the draft 1996 Conservation Agreement. Continue reviewing plans for military training exercises and siting them so they do not affect slickspot peppergrass or its habitat.	Annually
	MA-62	Maintain off-limits status for slickspot peppergrass population centers in OCTC	Annually
	MA-63	Continue to relocate military training exercises away from slickspot peppergrass - occupied slick spots and other slick spots and surrounding habitat where slickspot peppergrass seeds might exist in the soil seed bank	Annually
	MA-64	Do not allow the construction of new roads through Level I Habitat Management Areas	Annually
Objective 3.3: Monitor 100% of LEPA Census populations and conduct management-oriented research in support of Objective 3.2.	ENV-27	Endangered Species Monitoring-Slickspot Peppergrass Census	Annually
	ENV-28	NCA Habitat Restoration Project	Annually
	ENV-32	Slickspot Peppergrass Restoration	Annually
	ENV-30	Slickspot Peppergrass Pollinator/Predator Project	2012-2017
	MA-65	Monitor slickspot peppergrass populations to ensure that off-limits areas have been respected	Annually
	MA-66	Monitor slickspot peppergrass populations and big sagebrush habitat on OCTC	Annually
	MA-67	Monitor slickspot peppergrass habitat to ensure that off-limits areas have been respected and that trends in the ecological health of the habitat are not unfavorable	Annually
	MA-68	Use monitoring to assess the effectiveness of mitigation and other management actions on slickspot peppergrass over time	Annually
	MA-69	Conduct management-oriented slickspot peppergrass research when funding permits. Use research projects on slickspot peppergrass to develop and assess the effectiveness of mitigation and other management actions over time.	Annually
MA-70	Use research data/findings to modify management objectives and enhance future management programs	Annually	

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
	MA-71	Provide results of research on slickspot peppergrass with other agencies involved with its protection and recovery	Annually
	ENV-27	Endangered Species Monitoring-Slickspot Peppergrass Census	Annually
Goal 4. Manage training site data to facilitate decision making that integrates military training requirements with natural resources information in order to maintain the current capabilities of the OCTC to support the military mission.			
Objective 4.1: On a quarterly basis compile, maintain, and update GIS database to facilitate wildlife protection and training land sustainability.	ENV, ITAM,FMO	All projects	
	ENV-35	Noxious Weed Monitoring and Mapping	Annually
	ITAM-11	Invasive weed control impacting military training.	Annually
	MA-73	Identify and map heavily used training areas, defining uses, frequency, and intensity. Document existing natural resources and current impacts. Incorporate into GIS database using a GPS and digital aerial photography	Annually
	MA-74	Provide network GIS access to appropriate military personnel for mission planning, scheduling, and operations	Annually
	MA-75	Create GIS applications supporting ITAM programs	Annually
	MA-76	Use GIS tools/software for efficient data storage, retrieval, analysis, and presentation	Annually
	MA-77	Obtain remote imagery covering the OCTC and adjacent areas not to exceed every 5 years. Use to develop vegetation maps.	To be completed every 5 years
Objective 4.2: Disseminate natural resources information to 90% of military personnel using the OCTC annually, in addition to other public user groups, as needed, in order to educate the community, military, and other users about the natural resources of the OCTC.	MA-79	Facilitate access to current resource information, including GIS maps, to OCTC users or others whose activities may potentially affect natural resources	Annually
	MA-80	Provide complete and reliable sources of data for each natural resource area to facilitate sound management, training, planning, and construction at the OCTC	Annually
	MA-81	Regularly coordinate with local planning entities (i.e., City and County planners) to identify and proactively address potential encroachment issues	Annually
	MA-82	Work in coordination with Training Site personnel to develop and update the RCMP on an annual basis or as needed.	Annually

Objective	Management Action (Project)		Implementation Status
Objective 4.3: Continue to support a no net loss in the capability of installation lands to support existing and projected military training and operations on the OCTC.	MA-83	Update Operation Noise Management Plan and associated noise contour map	Annually
	MA-84	Implement Wildland Fire Management Plan (Appendix E).	Annually

## Chapter 9 Implementation

Implementation of this INRMP will be realized through accomplishing specific goals and objectives as measured by completing projects described under the Annual Work Plan and project table. The INRMP is considered implemented if an installation:

- Actively requests, receives, and uses funds for “must fund” projects and activities (subject to funding availability);
- Ensures sufficient numbers of professionally trained Natural Resources staff are available to perform the tasks required by the INRMP (subject to funding availability);
- Coordinates annually with cooperating agencies (FWS, IDFG, and BLM);
- Documents specific INRMP action accomplishments undertaken each year in the annual INRMP update.

### 9.1 Annual Work Plans

#### 9.1.1 Work Plans

Table 9.1 provides a summary of the recurring management activities or projects associated with the Natural Resources and ITAM programs. These activities are generally performed by EMO and ITAM staff, with support from seasonal technicians (section 9.2), but may also be done in coordination with Training Site personnel. This table is a temporal representation of the IDARNG activities. Many of the activities or projects are done annually; however, some actions are seasonally dependent and must be completed within specified time frames.

**Table 9.1. Recurring Natural Resource Management Activities**

Activity	Month of Occurrence											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
INRMP Update	X	X	X								X	X
Fauna Survey	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Floristic Survey				X	X	X	X	X	X			
BLM Special Status Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Long-billed Curlew Annual Monitoring				X	X	X						
Burrowing Owl Annual Monitoring					X	X	X					
Raptor Road Surveys	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Migratory Bird Annual Monitoring					X	X	X					
Bat Cave Inventory	X	X	X									
Bat Acoustic Monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jackrabbit Annual Surveys	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



Activity	Month of Occurrence											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Small Mammal Annual Monitoring				X	X	X	X	X				
Aquatic Invertebrate Annual Monitoring	X	X	X	X	X					X	X	X
Wildlife Guzzler Maintenance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Seasonal Field Crew Hire			X	X	X							
Slickspot Peppergrass Census					X	X	X					
Slickspot Peppergrass Exclosure Monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Slickspot Peppergrass Pollinator/Predator Study				X	X	X	X					
Slickspot Peppergrass Habitat Integrity and Population Monitoring					X	X	X					
RTLA Surveys					X	X	X	X	X	X		
RTLA Survey Data Analysis	X	X	X	X	X	X					X	X
Vegetation Photo Points				X	X							
Noxious Weed Eradication				X	X	X	X	X				
Firebreak Maintenance				X	X	X						
Install New Firebreaks				X	X	X						
Stabilization and Rehabilitation		X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	
Habitat Restoration Monitoring				X	X	X	X					
Weather Station Maintenance	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Agency Coordination Meetings			X	X					X	X		
Range, CFMO, Environment Coordination Meeting	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Slickspot Peppergrass Technical Committee Meeting	X				X	X			X			
Livestock Permittee Meeting				X					X			
Range Complex Master Plan Coordination Meeting		X	X	X								
NEPA Clearances and Review	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

An overview of the identified OCTC projects, including reference information, location, regulatory driver, and implementation schedule, is identified in Table 9.2. The projects outlined in this table are based on the existing natural resources associated with the OCTC and applicable regulatory requirements; the mission requirements set forth by the AG; ANGB management guidelines; and input from the EMO staff and the FWS, IDFG, and BLM during the annual review process. These projects are incorporated into the management summery matrix (Table 8.1) as they are developed and reviewed for operational effect annually by the EMO staff, as well as the FWS, IDFG, and BLM.

**Table 9.2. Planned Projects (Subject to Funding Availability)**

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
INRMP Update	ENV-1	n/a	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Update INRMP annually. Review INRMP in coordination with FWS, BLM, and IDFG, specifically goals/objectives and planned projects. Track status of planned projects and revise as required.	Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually
Fauna Survey	ENV-2	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,1.4, 2.4, 4.1	Compile and maintain comprehensive inventory of all faunal species, from common to rare. Maintain current OCTC plant list.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually
Floristic Survey	ENV-3	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,1.4, 2.4, 4.1	Compile and maintain comprehensive vascular plant inventory, common to rare species, and noxious/invasive weeds. Maintain current OCTC plant list.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually
BLM- and State-Listed Special Status Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	ENV-4	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 3.1, 4.1	Compile and maintain comprehensive BLM- and State-listed special status species inventory. Maintain current OCTC species list and GIS data layer.	2010 OCTC MOU, BLM M6840, Public Law 103-64	Annually, project specific
Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	ENV-5	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 3.1, 4.1	Compile and maintain comprehensive threatened and endangered species inventory. Maintain current OCTC threatened and endangered species list and GIS data layer.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually, project specific

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Long-billed Curlew Annual Monitoring	EVN-6	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Conduct long-billed curlew survey routes. Will use acoustic and visual survey methods and record number of birds, locations, activity, and nesting information. Monitor population level and distribution (approx. 40 miles [64 km] of survey routes completed annually), develop/maintain project database and GIS data layers and produce project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, BLM M6840	Annually
Burrowing Owl Annual Monitoring	ENV-7	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Conduct burrowing owl survey routes. Will use acoustic and visual survey methods and record number of birds, locations, activity, and nesting information. Monitor population level and distribution (approx. 40 miles [64 km] of survey routes completed annually), develop/maintain project database and GIS data layers, and produce project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, BLM M6840	Annually
Raptor Road Surveys	ENV-8	Range Road and Baja Road	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Will perform year-round raptor road surveys on established transects. Will record species, number, location, habitat, and activity. Monitor population level and distribution (2 routes monthly), develop project database and GIS data layers, and produce project report. Survey OCTC monthly.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, BLM M6840, BGEPA	Annually
Golden Eagle Project	ENV-9	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Purchase two golden eagle GPS tracking devices, trap and fit two golden eagles with tracking device, monitor/record movements and distribution. Will develop species project database and GIS data layers and produce project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, BLM M6840, AR 200-1, BGEPA	2012–2017

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Migratory Bird Inventory	ENV-10	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Will conduct acoustic/visual surveys at approximately 150 points on and near the OCTC. Establish base line population information, species diversity, and distribution. Repeat entire survey at 5-year intervals (adding survey points as necessary). Develop project database and GIS layers and project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, NMBTA, BGEPA	2011, repeated at 3-year intervals
Migratory Bird Annual Monitoring	ENV-11	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Will conduct acoustic/visual surveys at approximately 40 points on and near the OCTC. Measure population information, species diversity, and distribution. Develop/maintain project database and GIS layers and project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, NMBTA, BGEPA	Annually
Bat Inventory	ENV-12	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Comprehensive bat inventory. Will use acoustic bat detectors and visual inspection to determine areas of greatest bat activity, will conduct further acoustic monitoring and mist net surveys if appropriate (per current WNS activity) and habitat analysis in these areas. Will determine bat population level, species diversity, and distribution; develop species database and GIS layers; and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Initiated 2011, repeated at 5-year intervals
Bat Annual Monitoring	ENV-13	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Annual bat acoustic monitoring at minimum of 4 sites, and annual cave census per current WNS guidelines. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually
Jackrabbit Annual Surveys	ENV-14	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Will conduct approximately 6 repetitions of surveys on established OCTC transects (4x). Develop and maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Herpetological Inventory	ENV-15	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Comprehensive herpetological inventory at 40 OCTC sites. Develop and maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Initiated 2011/2012, repeated at 5 year interval
Herpetological Annual Monitoring	ENV-16	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Annually monitor 20% of herpetological inventory sites. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually
Rattlesnake Inventory and Distribution Project	ENV-17	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Identify OCTC rattlesnake population centers. Trap, PIT tag, and monitor tagged individual movements; prepare project database and GIS layers; and identify important use areas/habitat in project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	2014/2015
Small Mammal Inventory	ENV-18	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Comprehensive Develop and maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	2012/2013, repeated at 5 year interval
Small Mammal Annual Monitoring	ENV-19	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Annually monitor small mammals at 20% of inventory sites. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually
Candidate Species Monitoring-Pygmy Rabbit Inventory	ENV-20	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 3.1, 4.1	Comprehensive search for presence of pygmy rabbits on/near the OCTC. Will use visual site visits and fecal pellet collection and appropriate DNA analysis to determine presence of pygmy rabbits. Develop project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	2012/2013
Aquatic Invertebrate Inventory	ENV-21	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 3.1, 4.1	Comprehensive aquatic invertebrate inventory at 3 OCTC sites or as conditions allow. Develop and maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	2014/2015
Aquatic Invertebrate Annual Monitoring	ENV-22	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 3.1, 4.1	Annual aquatic invertebrate sampling at 20% of known OCTC invertebrate sites. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Wildlife Guzzler Maintenance	ENV-23	MAs C2, D2	1.1,1.3,1.4, 2.4, 4.1	Monthly inspection of two wildlife guzzler sites. Maintain water level at no less than 75% of full. Keep tank clear of vegetation.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA, NMBTA	Annually
Vegetation Community Survey	ENV-24	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,1.4, 2.4, 4.1	Comprehensive update of existing (outdated) OCTC-wide vegetation map	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	2012- Repeated every 5 years.
Soil Survey	ENV-25	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,1.5, 2.4, 4.1	Comprehensive update of existing (outdated) OCTC-wide soil map	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	2014/2015
Conservation Program Awareness	ENV-26	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,1.6, 2.4, 4.1	Evaluate SRP materials, military personnel awareness materials, and military briefings with focus on accuracy and updates to newly designated federally protected species, BLM sensitive species, and habitats. Attain 95% Soldier participation.	Sikes Act, AR-350-4, Public Law 103-64, stewardship	Annually
Endangered Species Monitoring-Slickspot Peppergrass	ENV-27	MA Bravo	1.1,1.3,2.4, 3.3,4.1	Annual census 20% of general slickspot peppergrass census areas. Complete 100% census of HIP monitoring areas. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually
NCA Habitat Restoration Project	ENV-28	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 3.3,4.1	Identify important sites for rehabilitation, record current habitat quality, and develop and implement species-specific habitat rehabilitation project on a minimum of 5 acres (2 ha) annually. Develop and implement appropriate long-term monitoring program. Develop/maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Slickspot Peppergrass Pollinator/Predator Project	ENV-29	MA Bravo	1.1,1.3,2.4,3.3,4.1	Inventory/analysis of slickspot peppergrass habitat pollinator and seed predator communities. Study aims at evaluating the long-term viability of slickspot peppergrass in relation to these communities.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	2012-2017
Wildland Fire Management	ENV-30	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.1,2.4,3.1,4.1	Develop programmatic-level sensitive species location map and distribute to Training Site personnel / seasonal fire crews. Provide slickspot peppergrass habitat distribution map to Training Site / wildland fire personnel. Implement BLM fire suppression guidelines for slickspot peppergrass. Do not use tracked vehicles or ground-disturbing tactics in fire suppression associated with slickspot peppergrass habitat.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually
Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan	ENV-31	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.1,2.4,3.1,3.2,4.1	Develop a baseline map of fire breaks, general fuel loads/types, and fuel catches such as pits, target areas, and fence lines to be used to develop an annual maintenance and prescribed burn plan. Conduct prescribed burns based on the annual burn pan to address fuels loads and accumulation such as, but not limited to, cheatgrass stands and tumbleweeds along the livestock drift fence and near target areas. Incorporate and maintain prescribed burn areas as a GIS data layer for fire effects monitoring and coordination purposes.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Updated Annually, Full Revision Every 5 Years or as Needed

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan (Cont.)-Threatened and Endangered Species Fire Suppression Project	ENV-31	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.1, 2.4,3.1,3.2, 4.1	Suppress all wildland fires, regardless of origin within slickspot peppergrass habitat and surrounding areas as requested. Maintain a minimum of 1 trained and equipped 2-person fire crews during the fire season and/or while training activities are occurring. Train all crews to National Wildfire Coordination Group Firefighter Type 2 standards. Maintain mutual support agreement with the BLM for suppressing wildfires in the NCA.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Updated Annually, Full Revision Every 5 Years or as Needed
Slickspot Peppergrass Restoration	ENV-32	MA Bravo	1.1,1.3,2.4, 3.3,4.1	Identify, stabilize, and restore slickspot peppergrass habitat adversely affected by military training events or wildland fire. Utilize native and non-native desirable species for site stabilization and restoration, emphasizing nutrient cycling, hydrologic function, energy flow, and reestablishing slickspot habitat and OCTC population.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually
Fire Education Program	ENV-33	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,1.6, 2.1,2.4,3.1, 3.2,4.1	Provide/update environmental awareness materials to stress the importance of fire prevention to all OCTC users	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually
LEPA Fuels Control-Cheatgrass Control	ENV-34	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.2,1.3, 2.4,4.1	Initiate cheatgrass control research program associated with bacterial or other control measures	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	2012-2017
Noxious Weed Mapping	ENV-35	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.2,1.3, 2.4,4.1	Map 100% of noxious weed locations annually. This will be done concurrently with RTLA data acquisition.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, Public Law 93-629, E.O. 13112	Annually



Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Heavy Maneuver Training Area Maintenance	ITAM-1	MAs Alpha, Charlie, Delta, Echo	1.1,1.3,1.5, 2.4,4.1	Maintain land condition suitable to for M1A1 maneuvers on >35,000 acres (14,163 ha) of the OCTC. Perform land condition evaluation and erosion control. Repair maneuver damage and revegetate as necessary.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually
Heavy Maneuver Trail Maintenance	ITAM-2	MAs Bravo 1-7	1.1,1.3,1.5, 2.4,4.1	Convert current 65 miles (104 km) of heavy maneuver trails to ≥31 miles (50 km) of improved heavy maneuver trails and 34 miles (55 km) of unimproved heavy maneuver trails suitable for M1A1 use.	AR 200-1 350-19	2013
Light Maneuver Training Area Maintenance	ITAM-3	MAs Alpha, Charlie, Delta, Echo	1.1,1.3,1.5, 2.4,4.1	Maintain land condition suitable for light (wheeled) maneuvers on ≥38,000 acres (15,378 ha) of OCTC. Perform land condition evaluation and erosion control. Repair maneuver damage and revegetate as necessary.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually
Light Maneuver Trail Maintenance	ITAM-4	MAs Bravo 1-7	1.1,1.3,1.5, 2.4,4.1	Convert 30 miles (48 km) of OCTC light (wheeled) maneuver trails to 15 miles (24 km) of improved trails and 15 miles (24 km) of unimproved trails in MAs Bravo 1–7. Improved trails require single lane, some turn outs, pit run and/or cinder overlay, drainage, and grading maintenance primarily for erosion control. Treatment of improved trails includes overlay 2 inches (5 cm) of ¾ minus and 12–18 inches (31-46 cm) of 6 inch (15 cm), pit run overlay with 4 inches (10 cm) of ¾ minus, 13 feet (4 meters) wide with some turnouts.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually
Combat and Horizontal Engineer Training Area Maintenance	ITAM-5	MAs Alpha 4, Charlie 4, and Echo 1	1.1,1.3,1.5, 2.4,4.1	Maintain 3 dig sites suitable for combat and horizontal engineer training. Sites are 5, 50, and 35 acres (2, 20, and 14 ha). Maintenance includes erosion control, repair training damage, and revegetation.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Heavy Maneuver Trail Maintenance	ITAM-6	MAs Alpha, Charlie, Delta	1.1,1.3,1.5, 2.4,4.1	Maintain 30 miles (48 km) of maneuver trails; overlay 2 inches (5 cm) of $\frac{3}{4}$ minus. Repair/improve approximately 35 miles (56 km) of maneuver trails; 12–18 inches (31-46 cm) of 6 inch (15 cm), pit run overlay with 4 inches (10 cm) of $\frac{3}{4}$ minus, 13 feet (4 meter) wide with some turnouts.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually
RTLA Surveys	ITAM-7	Throughout OCTC	1.2,1.2,1.3, 1.4,2.4,4.1	Continue to monitor and assess approximately 325 RTLA plots associated with the OCTC. Maintain project database, annually analyze data, and prepare data summary and project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually
Vegetation Photo Points	ITAM-8	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,1.4, 1.5,2.4,4.1	Annually photograph habitat condition at 51 photo points within the OCTC. Maintain photo/project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually
Map Production	ITAM-9	n/a	1.1,1.3,1.4, 1.5,2.4,4.1	Funds will be used to produce installation-specific maps upon request. Create maps for annual RTLA crew. Use GPS/GIS to record existing and new OCTC range/target features and update the OCTC map as needed.	Army Policy	Annually
Training Event Stabilization/ Rehabilitation	ITAM-10	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.2,1.3, 1.5,2.4,4.1	Inspect all military training exercises for landscape impacts, identify necessary habitat rehabilitation, and implement restoration measures on 85% of identified sites or approximately 75 acres (30 ha) of engineer training damage and approximately 10 acres (4 ha) of maneuver training damage with 1,120 hours of heavy equipment operator labor (based on previous years). Perform 1-year site visit and evaluate restoration effectiveness. Maintain project database and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1 350-19	Annually

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Invasive weed control impacting military training.	ITAM-11	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.2,1.3, 2.4,4.1	Use mechanical, biological, chemical, and prescribed fire measures to control 75% of known invasive weed species that adversely affect military training on the OCTC. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	AR 200-1, AR 350-19, Public Law 93-629, E.O. 13112	Annually
Stabilize or rehabilitate areas impacted by military training actions (fire, soil disturbance, etc.).	ITAM-12	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.2,1.3, 2.4,3.1,3.2, 4.1	Utilize native and desirable non-native species for stabilization and rehabilitation of military-related impacts, emphasizing soil stabilization and maintaining wildlife habitat characteristics related to raptors and associated prey.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, AR 350-19, ESA	Annually Oct/Nov as needed
Noxious Weed Eradication	FMO-1	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.2,1.3, 2.4,4.1	Use mechanical, biological, and chemical measures to control 75% of known populations of noxious weeds within the OCTC. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, Public Law 93-629, E.O. 13112	Annually
Construction Erosion Control	FMO-2	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.4, 4.1	Incorporate efforts into all construction projects to reduce nonpoint wind and water-borne pollution. Monitor effectiveness with post-project site photos.	Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, AR 200-1	Annually
Fire Suppression Project	FMO-3	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.2,1.3, 2.1,2.4,3.1, 3.2,4.1	Suppress all wildland fires, regardless of origin within the OCTC and surrounding areas as requested. Maintain a minimum of 6 trained and equipped 2-person fire crews during the fire season and/or while training activities are occurring. Train all crews to National Wildfire Coordination Group Firefighter Type 2 standards. Maintain mutual support agreement with the BLM for suppressing wildfires in the NCA.	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually
Firebreak Maintenance	FMO-4	Throughout OCTC	1.1,1.3,2.1, 2.4,3.1,3.2, 4.1	Maintain, grade, or seed 80% of mapped firebreaks annually	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually

Name	ID Number	Location	Objective Number	Description	Legal Drivers	Date
Install New Firebreaks	FMO-5	MA Bravo	1.1,1.3,2.1, 2.4,3.1,3.2, 4.1	Create approximately 3.5 miles (5.6 km) of new firebreaks associated with the MA Bravo	Public Law 103-64, 2010 OCTC MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	2013

Table 9.3 depicts the relationship between the identified projects in Table 9.2 and the associated management programs identified in Chapter 7.0. In addition, the associated cooperating agency, institution, or non-government organization is identified. Many projects can and are interrelated; therefore, implementation or success of one project is often related to one or more other projects.

**Table 9.3. Project Programs and Agency Coordination**

Project Name	Project ID	GIS	Fish and Wildlife	Threatened and Endangered Species	Water Resources	Habitat	Fire	Cooperating Agency/ Institution
INRMP Update	ENV-1	X	X	X	X	X	X	BLM, FWS, IDFG
Fauna Survey	ENV-2	X	X	X				
Floristic Survey	ENV-3	X	X	X				
BLM- and State-Listed Special Status Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	ENV-4	X	X	X				BLM
Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	ENV-5	X	X	X				FWS
Long-billed Curlew Annual Monitoring	ENV-6	X	X					IDFG
Burrowing Owl Annual Monitoring	ENV-7	X	X					IDFG
Raptor Road Surveys	ENV-8	X	X					
Golden Eagle Project	ENV-9	X	X	X				BLM
Migratory Bird Inventory	ENV-10	X	X					
Migratory Bird Annual Monitoring	ENV-11	X	X					
Bat Inventory	ENV-12	X	X					
Bat Annual Monitoring	ENV-13	X	X					
Jackrabbit Annual Surveys	ENV-14	X	X					BLM
Herpetological Inventory	ENV-15	X	X					USGS, NNU
Herpetological Annual Monitoring	ENV-16	X	X					
Rattlesnake Inventory and Distribution Project	ENV-17	X	X					USGS, NNU
Small Mammal Inventory	ENV-18	X	X					COI
Small Mammal Annual Monitoring	ENV-19	X	X					

Project Name	Project ID	GIS	Fish and Wildlife	Threatened and Endangered Species	Water Resources	Habitat	Fire	Cooperating Agency/ Institution
Candidate Species Monitoring-Pygmy Rabbit Inventory	ENV-20	X	X	X				FWS
Aquatic Invertebrate Inventory	ENV-21	X	X		X			FWS
Aquatic Invertebrate Annual Monitoring	ENV-22	X	X		X			
Wildlife Guzzler Maintenance	ENV-23		X		X			
Vegetation Community Survey	ENV-24	X	X	X		X		BLM, ISU
Soil Survey	ENV-25	X			X	X		NRCS, BSU
Conservation Program Awareness	ENV-26		X	X	X	X	X	
Endangered Species Monitoring-Slickspot Peppergrass	ENV-27	X	X	X		X		IDFG, FWS
NCA Habitat Restoration	ENV-28	X	X	X		X	X	BLM, FWS
Slickspot Peppergrass Pollinator/Predator Project	ENV-29	X	X	X		X		BSU, FWS
Wildland Fire Management	ENV-30	X	X	X		X	X	BLM, FWS
Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan	ENV-31	X	X	X		X	X	BLM
Slickspot Peppergrass Restoration	ENV-32	X	X	X		X		BLM, FWS
Fire Education Program	ENV-33					X	X	BLM
Slickspot Peppergrass Fuels Control- Cheatgrass Control	ENV-34	X	X	X		X	X	BLM, ARS
Noxious Weed Mapping	ENV-35	X	X	X		X		BLM
Heavy Maneuver Training Area Maintenance	ITAM-1				X	X		
Heavy Maneuver Trail Maintenance	ITAM-2				X	X		
Light Maneuver Training Area Maintenance	ITAM-3				X	X		
Light Maneuver Trail Maintenance	ITAM-4				X	X		
Combat and Horizontal Engineer Training Area Maintenance	ITAM-5				X	X		
Heavy Maneuver Trail Maintenance	ITAM-6				X	X		
RTLAs Surveys	ITAM-7	X	X	X		X		CEMML
Vegetation Photo Points	ITAM-8					X		
Map Production	ITAM-9	X						
Training Event Stabilization/Rehabilitation	ITAM-10				X	X		

Project Name	Project ID	GIS	Fish and Wildlife	Threatened and Endangered Species	Water Resources	Habitat	Fire	Cooperating Agency/ Institution
Invasive weed control impacting military training.	ITAM-11	X				X		
Stabilize or rehabilitate areas impacted by military training actions (fire, soil disturbance, etc.).	ITAM-12	X	X	X		X	X	
Noxious Weed Eradication	FMO -1	X				X		
Erosion Control	FMO-2					X		
Fire Suppression Project	FMO-3		X	X		X	X	
Firebreak Maintenance	FMO-4			X		X	X	
Install New Firebreaks	FMO-5	X		X		X	X	BLM

### 9.1.2 Funding

Implementation of this INRMP is subject to availability of annual funding. Where projects identified in the INRMP are not implemented due to lack of funding, or other compelling circumstances, the installation will annually review the overall goals, objectives, and associated projects (section 9.3). Project-specific funding can be obtained from multiple sources, including but not limited to, federal ANGB funds, other federal funds, and non-federal Funds.

The following discussion of funding options is not all-inclusive of funding sources. Since many funding sources rely on a variety of grant programs, award criteria and amounts can change considerably from one year to another. Funding through grant programs can occur on a one-time award, annually, or in multiples of years.

#### 9.1.2.1 Federal National Guard Bureau Funding

Federal ANGB funding is broken down into three primary funding categories: Environmental, Training/Range, and Facilities. All three funding sources are used to implement the INRMP; however, program-specific funding guidelines are used to determine what funding source is used for specific aspects or projects of the INRMP implementation. The funding guidelines are outlined in the Environmental Activity Responsibilities Matrix of AR 350-19, the SRP.

##### *Environmental Program Funds*

The ANGB's Army Environmental Division (NGB-ILE) funds the Environmental program via the Status Tool for the Environmental Program (STEP) process. The STEP provides the primary means for identifying the current and projected environmental requirements and resources needed to execute the IDARNG natural resources program. The STEP report satisfies the Army's reporting requirements as specified in E.O. 12088, Office of Management and Budget Circular A-11, and other federal directives. The report is used for a variety of purposes: planning, programming, budgeting, and forecasting costs; documenting past accomplishments and expenditures; tracking project execution and monitoring performance;

refining and validating requirements for the budget year; and supporting the Program Objective Memorandum for out-year requirements.

Environmental funds are a special subcategory of O&M funds. They are set aside by the DoD for environmental purposes but are still subject to restrictions of O&M funds. Compliance with laws is the key to getting environmental funding. Notices of Violation or other enforcement agency actions most commonly use environmental funds for projects that return the installation to compliance with federal or State laws, especially if noncompliance is accompanied.

*Must fund* classifications associated with the STEP process include compliance with federal and applicable State laws and regulations, mitigation identified within a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and items required under a Federal Facilities Compliance Agreement. This INRMP is a Federal Facilities Requirement Agreement, and all environmental projects identified in Table 8.1 are used to comply with federal or State regulations or mitigate various military activities. In addition, 1997 amendments to the Sikes Act require implementing INRMPs, which make implementation of this INRMP a priority for funding.

The following classifications are used for projects eligible for environmental funding:

- Class 0—Recurring requirements necessary to manage and monitor environmental programs
- Class 1 (Must Fund)—Nonrecurring projects and activities at facilities that are out of compliance. Also includes projects and activities necessary to meet specified deadlines and requirements in the year funds are requested.
- Class 2 (Must Fund)—Nonrecurring projects and activities at facilities in compliance at the present time but for which future specified deadlines and requirements are established
- Class 3 (Other Environmental)—Nonrecurring projects and activities that are not required by statute/regulation or do not have deadlines but that are needed to address overall environmental goals and objectives and to sustain environmental stewardship

### *Training Funds*

The ANGB's Army Training Division (NGB-ART) is responsible for funding the ITAM program. The OCTC is a Category I installation with regard to ITAM implementation and funding (Department of the Army 1995a). ITAM funding requests are not submitted via the STEP process. Instead, an ITAM work plan is developed in conjunction with and submitted as a part of the RCMP. The RCMP is used to channel ITAM funding requests from the IDARNG, through the ANGB and Army Training Support Center, to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans. In addition to maintaining key personnel and RTLA data collection efforts, the ITAM work plan budget will fund a number of projects that balance military training requirements with the natural resources of the OCTC. The annual ITAM work plan is the basis for identifying installation ITAM resource requirements and for allocating funding to support installation core capabilities.

### **9.1.2.2 Facility Funds**

The NGB-ILI provides funding for the personnel, equipment, and supplies in support of the IDARNG Facilities Division. This program is involved in planning, scheduling, and oversight of primary access roads maintenance, vegetation management, pest management, facilities infrastructure, and MILCON planning, all of which are critical to the natural resources management program. Funding related to wildland fire suppression and associated equipment, as well as ground maintenance activities and equipment associated with invasive and noxious weed control, are the primary activities funded by the facilities program.

### **9.1.2.3 Other Funding**

Funding for fire suppression comes from several different sources, including but not limited to, State Temporary Technician (50 percent), training of full-time employees (30 percent), environmentally funded temporaries (10 percent), and Active Duty Special Work in support of Annual Trainings (10 percent).

### **9.1.2.4 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Implementation Costs**

Appendix K identifies requested funding for the projects outlined in Table 8.1 and Table 9.2. However, the project-specific budget data will not be made available to those not specifically involved with the IDARNG/ANGB budget process since they represent the government estimate for projects that may be accomplished by contract.

## **9.2 Natural Resources Management Staffing**

Natural resources program oversight and INRMP implementation are located at Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho. According to DODI 4715.3, *Environmental Conservation Program*, updated March 18, 2011:

The management and conservation of natural and cultural resources under DoD control, including planning, implementation, and enforcement functions, are inherently governmental functions that shall not be contracted.



*The following staffing is required to implement this INRMP at the OCTC:*

Chief Natural/Cultural Resources Branch	1
Natural Resources Manager	1
Cultural Resources Specialist	1
Natural Resources Specialist	1
Natural Resources Technician	1
Natural Resources Intern	1
Seasonal Resource Technicians (Includes ITAM and Conservation)	5–10
GIS Manager	1
GIS Analyst	1
GIS Technician	1
GIS Technician Inter	1
Training Site Environmental Specialist	1
Environmental Protection Specialist (Pest Management Coordinator)	1 (Compliance Branch)

### **9.2.1 Personnel Training**

The EMO has a goal to improve the success of natural resources management activities through professional development and information exchange. This will be accomplished by

- maintaining staff knowledge of state-of-the-art management strategies through training and participation in workshops, research presentations, and other professional natural resources research and conservation programs; and
- sharing information with natural resources experts to ensure maximum benefits of adaptive management and research efforts.

The Wildlife Society and the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association are among professional societies that are available to IDARNG professional Natural Resources managers to support the OCTC. These organizations have some of the best scientific publications, and their meetings facilitate communication with fellow professionals and the maintenance of professional standards. Membership in these societies is encouraged. The Wildlife Society is the professional certification organization for wildlife biologists and sets the standards for wildlife biologists in North America. Consequently, biologists are encouraged to pursue these certifications.

Other opportunities to meet with professionals and maintain professional standards will be used regularly by IDARNG personnel. The annual meeting and training workshop of the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association is perhaps the best single opportunity each year to learn and teach others. This meeting includes DoD and U.S. Army breakout sessions. The annual meeting of The Wildlife Society is the best single source of overall wildlife-oriented, technical information. The Northwest Section of The Wildlife Society provides quality meetings of a more regional interest. The North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference is a good meeting to discuss national issues and priorities, and the Headquarters, U.S. Army, and Army National Guard training sessions are excellent forums for discussing Army and National Guard-level issues. Specialized meetings include the Army-sponsored ITAM Management workshop, other National Guard-sponsored workshops, PIF and Watchable Wildlife

workshops, and similar educational events. Of particular importance are workshops and meetings that involve species or plant communities specifically pertinent to the OCTC.

IDARNG Natural Resources staff is involved with other professionals on military installations on neighboring public and private lands and with numerous groups and agencies. As a part of overall professional enhancement, the Natural Resources staff can provide information to others who may be interested in learning from experiences on the OCTC.

All personnel who are part of the IDARNG range fire suppression team (Appendix E) are trained as Class II wildland firefighters by the BLM. In 2009, the IDARNG started sending selected individuals to a *Train the Trainer* course that BLM funded. Past experience has established a requirement for 12 dedicated seasonal firefighters augmented by the trained full-time staff with fire fighting as an additional duty to cover wildland fire prevention and suppression on ranges and in the maneuver areas.

### **9.2.2 External Assistance**

The Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1972 is a system whereby a federal or State agency *borrow*s personnel from other federal or State agencies, including universities, for a limited term and a specific job. If used, IDARNG would pay the borrowed employee's salary and administrative overhead. Thus, borrowed employees could cost about 25–30 percent more than in-house employees. Major advantages are that personnel are directly supervised by Natural Resources or Cultural Resources staff, and manpower billets are not required. Intergovernmental Personnel Act agreements are used throughout the DoD for assistance with research, management, and even administration.

#### **9.2.2.1 Other Agency Assistance**

The IDARNG recognizes the importance of cooperating with federal and State agencies. Sections 2.2, "Other Defense Organizations"; 2.3, "Other Federal Agencies"; 2.4, "Native American Tribes", and 2.5, "State Agencies" identify other agencies, tribes, and organizations with whom IDARNG has cooperatively worked in recent years. IDARNG will use State and federal agencies to assist with implementing various aspects of this INRMP.

#### **9.2.2.2 University Assistance**

Some research on the OCTC is conducted through universities (Section 7.1.3) to fulfill graduate degree requirements. The Sikes Act facilitates the use of university research since the proposed language exempts implementation of INRMPs from provisions of the Economy Act, which requires strict competition for services.

#### **9.2.2.3 Other Support**

Contractors give IDARNG access to a wide variety of specialties and fields. A variety of projects could use the support of contractors. Contractor and other sources of support will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## **9.3 Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Reviews**

### **9.3.1 Review for Operation and Effect**

The INRMP will be reviewed annually for operation and effect to determine if the INRMP is being implemented to meet the intent of the Sikes Act and contributing to the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at the OCTC. The review is to be conducted by three required cooperating parties, or their representatives, to include the Commander responsible for the INRMP, Regional Director of the FWS, and Director of the IDFG. In addition to these agencies, a representative for the NCA Manager from the Boise District BLM, and IDL representative would also be signatory reviewing parties.

The review for operation and effect will either conclude the INRMP is meeting the intent of the Sikes Act and the INRMP can be updated and implementation can continue or that it is not effective in meeting the intent of the Sikes Act to conserve natural resources while providing for no net loss in training capability and must be revised. Mutual agreement of the review for operation and effect must be obtained from both the Regional Director of the FWS and Regional Director of the IDFG, with input from the BLM and IDL. Agreement may be acknowledged via a signed letter, a jointly executed memorandum, or in some other way that reflects mutual agreement.

If only minor updates are needed, they will be done in a manner agreed to by all parties. The updated INRMP will be reviewed by all parties (FWS, IDFG, IDL, and BLM). A new NEPA review is not necessary for an update and continued implementation of an existing INRMP that has previously undergone NEPA review. In this case, an Environmental Checklist and Record of Environmental Consideration citing and including a copy of the FONSI of the previous NEPA document are required, and included in Appendix M.

If a review of operation and effect concludes an INRMP must be revised, there is no set time to complete the revision. The existing INRMP remains in effect until the revision is complete and the FWS and IDFG are in concurrence with the final revised INRMP. The IDARNG will endeavor to complete such revisions within 18 months, depending on funding availability. Revisions to the INRMP would go through a more detailed review process similar to development of the initial INRMP to ensure IDARNG military mission, FWS, and the IDFG concerns are adequately addressed and the plan meets the intention of the Sikes Act. Input from the BLM will be included in the process but is not required for adequacy. Per DoD guidance, an INRMP update only needs to be available for public review if proposed actions “are expected to result in biophysical consequences materially different from those anticipated in the existing INRMP and are analyzed in an existing NEPA document.” The IDARNG may make this decision and provide public availability as deemed necessary.

In addition to the review for operation and effect, the annual meetings will also be used as a time to share information on projects, implementation of conservation measures, and progress/results of studies, inventories, monitoring, etc. for the previous year among all agency partners (FWS, IDFG, BLM, IDL, and the IDARNG).

### 9.3.2 Annual Reviews and Coordination

Per DoD policy, the IDARNG reviews the INRMP annually in cooperation with the FWS, BLM, and IDFG. The IDARNG will converse with the agencies annually to determine if changes or issues indicate the need for a meeting. If warranted, a meeting will be held with the FWS, BLM, and IDFG and be documented by meeting minutes. If a meeting is not necessary, the conversation will be documented via email correspondence or record of conversation.

At this annual review, the need for updates or revisions will be discussed. If minor updates are needed, the requesting party will initiate the updates, and after agreement of all three parties, they will be added to the INRMP. If it is determined major changes are needed, all three parties will provide input and an INRMP revision and associated NEPA review will be initiated, with the IDARNG acting as the lead coordinating agency. The annual meeting will be used to help expedite the more formal review for operation and effect and, if all parties agree and document their mutual agreement, it can fulfill the requirement to review the INRMP for operation and effect.

In accordance with the Army Guidance for Implementation of the Sikes Act, dated 25 May 2006, annual reviews shall at minimum verify that:

- Current information on INRMP conservation metrics as described in Army Environmental Database Environmental Quality (AEDB-EQ) is available.
- All "must fund" projects and activities have been budgeted for and implementation is on schedule, to the extent possible.
- All required trained natural resources positions are filled or are in the process of being filled to the extent possible.
- Projects and activities for the upcoming year have been identified and included in the INRMP. An updated project list does not necessitate revising the INRMP.
- All required coordination has occurred.
- All significant changes to the installation's mission requirements or its natural resources have been identified.
- The INRMP goals and objectives are still valid.
- No net loss of training capability has occurred due to implementation of the INRMP in accordance with the Sikes Act.

As part of the annual review the IDARNG will specifically

- invite feedback from the FWS, BLM, and IDFG on the effectiveness of the INRMP;
- inform the FWS, BLM, and IDFG which INRMP projects and activities are required to meet current natural resources compliance needs; and
- document specific INRMP action accomplishments from the previous year.

Information for the annual reviews comes from the IDARNG environmental staff, IDARNG military leadership, cooperating agencies, project files, and AEDB-EQ as applicable. Natural resources data and

program and project information are available to cooperating agencies. They may request to see project folders or to have a site visit to view natural resources projects in progress at any time.

#### **9.4 Monitoring Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Implementation**

The DUSD *Updated Guidance for Implementation of The Sikes Act Improvement Act* updated *Conservation Metrics for Preparing and Implementing INRMPS*. Progress toward meeting these measures of merit is reported in the annual Environmental Quality Report (EQR) to Congress. Reporting requirements include:

- The installation name and state
- The year the most recent INRMP was completed or revised
- Date planned for next revision
- Was the INRMP coordinated with appropriate military trainers and operators?
- Were projects added to the INRMP as a result of comments from military trainers and operators?
- Were segments of the INRMP concerning conservation, protection and management of fish and wildlife resources agreed to by the FWS Regional Director? (FWS coordination)
- Were projects added to the INRMP as a result of FWS comments?
- Has annual feedback been requested from the FWS?
- Has annual feedback been received from the FWS?
- Were segments of the INRMP concerning conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources agreed to by the State fish and wildlife agency Director? (State coordination)
- Were projects added to the INRMP as a result of State comments?
- Has annual feedback been requested from the State fish and wildlife agency?
- Has annual feedback been received from the State fish and wildlife agency?
- Does the INRMP contain a list of projects necessary to meet plan goals and objectives, as well as timeframes for implementation of any such projects?
- Dollars spent in reporting FY to implement the INRMP
- Did the installation seek public comment on the draft INRMP?
- Were projects added to the INRMP as a result of public comments?

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**Appendix A:**  
**Public Law 103-64 and**  
**2010 BLM/IMD MOU**

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**SNAKE RIVER BIRDS OF PREY NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**

PUBLIC LAW 103-64  
103d Congress

**An Act**

To establish the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

The Congress finds the following:

(1) The public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in the State of Idaho within the Snake River Birds of Prey Area contain one of the densest known nesting populations of eagles, falcons, owls, hawks, and other birds of prey (raptors) in North America.

(2) These public lands constitute a valuable national biological and educational resource since birds of prey are important components of the ecosystem and indicators of environmental quality, and contribute significantly to the quality of wildlife and human communities.

(3) These public lands also contain important historic and cultural resources (including significant archaeological resources) as well as other resources and values, all of which should be protected and appropriately managed.

(4) A military training area within the Snake River Birds of Prey Area, known as the Orchard Training Area, has been used since 1953 by reserve components of the Armed Forces. Military use of this area is currently governed by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and the State of Idaho Military Division, dated May 1985. Operating under this Memorandum of Understanding, the Idaho National Guard has provided valuable assistance to the Bureau of Land Management with respect to fire control and other aspects of management of the Orchard Training Area and the other lands in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area. Military use of the lands within the Orchard Training Area should continue in accordance with such Memorandum of Understanding (or extension or renewal thereof), to the extent consistent with section 4(e) of this Act, because this would be in the best interest of training of the reserve components (an important aspect of national security) and of the local economy.

(5) Protection of the conservation area as a home for raptors can best and should be accomplished by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, under a management plan that-

(A) emphasizes management, protection, and rehabilitation of habitat for these raptors and of other resources and values of the area;

(B) provides for continued military use, consistent with the requirements of section 4(e) of this Act, of the Orchard Training Area by reserve components of the Armed Forces;

(C) addresses the need for public educational and interpretive opportunities;

(D) allows for diverse appropriate uses of lands in the area to the extent consistent with the maintenance and enhancement of raptor populations and habitats and protection and sound management of other resources and values of the area; and

(E) demonstrates management practices and techniques that may be useful to other areas of the public lands and elsewhere.

(6) There exists near the conservation area a facility, the World Center for Birds of Prey operated by The Peregrine Fund, Inc., where research, public education, recovery, and reestablishment operations exist for endangered raptor species. There also exists at Boise State University a raptor study program which attracts national and international graduate and undergraduate students.

(7) The Bureau of Land Management and Boise State University, together with other State, Federal, and private entities, have formed the Raptor Research and Technical Assistance Center to be housed at Boise State University, which provides a unique adjunct to the conservation area for raptor management, recovery, research, and public visitation, interpretation, and education.

(8) Consistent with requirements of sections 202 and 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712 and 1732), the Secretary has developed a comprehensive management plan and, based on such plan, has implemented a management program for the public lands included in the conservation area established by this Act.

(9) Additional authority and guidance must be provided to assure that essential raptor habitat remains in public ownership, to facilitate sound and effective planning and management, to provide for effective public interpretation and education, to ensure continued study of the relationship of humans and these raptors, to preserve the unique and irreplaceable habitat of the conservation area, and to conserve and properly manage the other natural resources of the area in concert with maintenance of this habitat.

(10) An ongoing research program funded by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Guard is intended to provide information to be used in connection with future decisionmaking concerning management of all uses, including continued military use, of public lands within the Snake River Birds of Prey Area.

(11) Public lands in the Snake River Birds of Prey Area have been used for domestic livestock grazing for more than a century, with resultant benefits to community stability and contributions to the local and State economies. It has not been demonstrated that continuation of this use would be incompatible with appropriate protection and sound management of raptor habitat and the other resource values of these lands; therefore, subject to the determination provided for in section 4(f), it is expected that such grazing will continue in accordance with applicable regulations of the Secretary and the management plan for the conservation area.

(12) Hydroelectric facilities for the generation and transmission of electricity exist within the Snake River Birds of Prey Area pursuant to a license(s) issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or its predecessor, the Federal Power Commission.

## **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

As used in this Act:

(1) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(2) The term "conservation area" means the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area established by section 3.

(3) The term “raptor” or “raptors” means individuals or populations of eagles, falcons, owls, hawks, and other birds of prey.

(4) The term “raptor habitat” includes the habitat of the raptor prey base as well as the nesting and hunting habitat of raptors within the conservation area.

(5) The term “Memorandum of Understanding” means the Memorandum of Understanding #ID-237, dated May 1985, between the State of Idaho Military Division and the Bureau of Land Management.

(6) The term “Orchard Training Area” means that area generally so depicted on the map referred to in section 3(b), and as described in the Memorandum of Understanding as well as the air space over the same.

(7) The term “Impact Area” means that area which was used for the firing of live artillery projectiles and is used for live fire ranges of all types and, therefore, poses a danger to public safety and which is generally so depicted on the map referred to in section 3(b).

(8) The term “Artillery Impact Area” means that area within the Impact Area into which live projectiles are fired which is generally described as that area labeled as such on the map referred to in section 3(b).

(9) The term “the plan” means the comprehensive management plan developed for the conservation area, dated August 30, 1985, together with such revisions thereto as may be required in order to implement this Act.

(10) The term, “hydroelectric facilities” means all facilities related to the generation, transmission, and distribution of hydroelectric power and which are subject to, and authorized by, a license(s), and any and all amendments thereto, issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

### **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA.**

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSES.- (1) There is hereby established the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (hereafter referred to as the “conservation area”).

(2) The purposes for which the conservation area is established, and shall be managed, are to provide for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of raptor populations and habitats and the natural and environmental resources and values associated therewith, and of the scientific, cultural, and educational resources and values of the public lands in the conservation area.

(3) Subject to the provisions of subsection (d) of this section and section 4, uses of the public lands in the conservation area existing on the date of enactment of this Act shall be allowed to continue.

(b) AREA INCLUDED.-The conservation area shall consist of approximately 482,457 acres of federally owned lands and interests therein managed by the Bureau of Land Management as generally depicted on the map entitled “Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area”, dated November 1991.

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.-As soon as is practicable after enactment of this Act, the map referred to in subsection (b) and a legal description of the conservation area shall be filed by the Secretary with the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate. Each such map shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act; except that the Secretary may correct clerical and topographical errors in such map and legal description. Each such map

shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director and the Idaho State Director of the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior.

(d) **WITHDRAWALS.**-Subject to valid existing rights, the Federal lands within the conservation area are hereby withdrawn from all forms of entry, appropriation, or disposal under the public land laws; and from entry, application, and selection under the Act of March 3, 1877 (Ch. 107, 19 Stat. 377, 43 U.S.C. 321 et seq.; commonly referred to as the "Desert Lands Act"), section 4 of the Act of August 18, 1894 (Ch. 301, 28 Stat. 422; 43 U.S.C. 641; commonly referred to as the "Carey Act"), the Act of July 3, 1890 (Ch. 656, 26 Stat. 215- commonly referred to as the "State of Idaho Admissions Act"), section 2275 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (43 U.S.C. 851), and section 2276 of the Revised Statutes, as amended (43 U.S.C. 852). The Secretary shall return to the applicants any such applications pending on the date of enactment of this Act, without further action. Subject to valid existing rights, as of the date of enactment of this Act, lands within the Birds of Prey Conservation Area are withdrawn from location under the general mining laws, the operation of the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and the mineral material disposal laws, except that mineral materials subject to disposal may be made available from existing sites to the extent compatible with the purposes for which the conservation area is established.

#### **SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT AND USE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**-(1)(A) Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall make any revisions in the existing management plan for the conservation area as necessary to assure its conformance with this Act, and no later than January 1, 1996, shall finalize a new management plan for the conservation area.

(B) Thereafter, the Secretary shall review the plan at least once every 5 years and shall make such revisions as may be necessary or appropriate.

(C) In reviewing and revising the plan, the Secretary shall provide for appropriate public participation.

(2) Except as otherwise specifically provided in section 3(d) and subsections (d), (e), and (f) of this section, the Secretary shall allow only such uses of lands in the conservation area as the Secretary determines will further the purposes for which the Conservation Area is established.

(b) **MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE.**-After each review pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary shall make such revisions as may be needed so that the plan and management program to implement the plan include, in addition to any other necessary or appropriate provisions, provisions for-

(1) protection for the raptor populations and habitats and the scientific, cultural, and educational resources and values of the public lands in the conservation area;

(2) identifying levels of continued military use of the Orchard Training Area compatible with paragraph (1) of this subsection;

(3) public use of the conservation area consistent with the purposes of this Act;

(4) interpretive and educational opportunities for the public;

(5) a program for continued scientific investigation and study to provide information to support sound management in accordance with this Act, to advance knowledge of raptor species and the resources and values of the conservation area, and to provide a process for transferring to other areas of the public lands and elsewhere this knowledge and management experience;



(6) such vegetative enhancement and other measures as may be necessary to restore or enhance prey habitat;

(7) the identification of levels, types, timing, and terms and conditions for the allowable nonmilitary uses of lands within the conservation area that will be compatible with the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of raptor populations and habitats and the other purposes for which the conservation area is established; and

(8) assessing the desirability of imposing appropriate fees for public uses (including, but not limited to, recreational use) of lands in the conservation area, which are not now subject to fees, to be used to further the purposes for which the conservation area is established.

(c) VISITORS CENTER.-The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, is authorized to establish, in cooperation with other public or private entities as the Secretary may deem appropriate, a visitors center designed to interpret the history and the geological, ecological, natural, cultural, and other resources of the conservation area and the biology of the raptors and their relationships to man.

(d) VISITORS USE OF AREA.-In addition to the Visitors Center, the Secretary may provide for visitor use of the public lands in the conservation area to such extent and in such manner as the Secretary considers consistent with the protection of raptors and raptor habitat, public safety, and the purposes for which the conservation area is established. To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall make available to visitors and other members of the public a map of the conservation area and such other educational and interpretive materials as may be appropriate.

(e) NATIONAL GUARD USE OF THE AREA.- (1) Pending completion of the ongoing research concerning military use of lands in the conservation area, or until the date 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, whichever is the shorter period, the Secretary shall permit continued military use of those portions of the conservation area known as the Orchard Training Area in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, to the extent consistent with the use levels identified pursuant to subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(2) Upon completion of the ongoing research concerning military use of lands in the conservation area, the Secretary shall review the management plan and make such additional revisions therein as may be required to assure that it meets the requirements of this Act.

(3) Upon completion of the ongoing research concerning military use of lands in the conservation area, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Natural Resources and Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report of the results of such research.

(4) Nothing in this Act shall preclude minor adjustment of the boundaries of the Orchard Training Area in accordance with provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

(5) After completion of the ongoing research concerning military use of lands in the Orchard Training Area or after the date 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, whichever first occurs, the Secretary shall continue to permit military use of such lands, unless the Secretary, on the basis of such research, determines such use is not compatible with the purposes set forth in section 3(a)(2). Any such use thereafter shall be permitted in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, which may be extended or renewed by the Secretary so long as such use continues to meet the requirements of subsection (b)(2) of this section.

(6) In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, the Secretary shall require the State of Idaho Military Division to insure that military units involved maintain a program of decontamination.

(7) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as by itself precluding the extension or renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding, or the construction of any improvements or buildings in the Orchard Training Area so long as the requirements of this subsection are met.

(f) LIVESTOCK GRAZING.- (1) So long as the Secretary determines that domestic livestock grazing is compatible with the purposes for which the conservation area is established, the Secretary shall permit such use of public lands within the conservation area, to the extent such use of such lands is compatible with such purposes. Determinations as to compatibility shall be made in connection with the initial revision of management plans for the conservation area and in connection with each plan review required by section 4(a)(1)(B).

(2) Any livestock grazing on public lands within the conservation area, and activities the Secretary determines necessary to carry out proper and practical grazing management programs on such lands (such as animal damage control activities) shall be managed in accordance with the Act of June 28, 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315 et seq.; commonly referred to as the "Taylor Grazing Act"), section 402 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1752), other laws applicable to such use and programs on the public lands, and the management plan for the conservation area.

(g) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.- The Secretary is authorized to provide technical assistance to, and to enter into such cooperative agreements and contracts with, the State of Idaho and with local governments and private entities as the Secretary deems necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes and policies of this Act.

(h) AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES.- Nothing in this Act shall be construed as constituting a grant of authority to the Secretary to restrict recognized agricultural practices or other activities on private land adjacent to or within the conservation area boundary.

(i) HYDROELECTRIC FACILITIES.- Notwithstanding any provision of this Act, or regulations and management plans undertaken pursuant to its provisions, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall retain its current jurisdiction concerning all aspects of the continued and future operation of hydroelectric facilities, licensed or relicensed under the Federal Power Act (16 U. S.C. 791a et seq.), located within the boundaries of the conservation area.

## **SEC. 5. ADDITIONS.**

(a) ACQUISITIONS.- (1) The Secretary is authorized to acquire lands and interests therein within the boundaries of the conservation area by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, exchange, or transfer from another Federal agency, except that such lands or interests owned by the State of Idaho or a political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation or exchange.

(2) Any lands located within the boundaries of the conservation area that are acquired by the United States on or after the date of enactment of this Act shall become a part of the conservation area and shall be subject to this Act.

(b) PURCHASE OF LANDS.- In addition to the authority in section 318(d) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1748) and notwithstanding section 7(a) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 4601-9(a)), monies appropriated from the Land and Water Conservation Fund may be used as authorized in section 5(b) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1534(b)), for the purposes of acquiring lands or interests therein within the conservation area for administration as public lands as a part of the conservation area.

(c) **LAND EXCHANGES.**-The Secretary shall, within 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, study, identify, and initiate voluntary land exchanges which would resolve ownership related land use conflicts within the conservation area.

**SEC. 6. OTHER LAWS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.**

(a) **OTHER LAWS.**-(1) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede, limit, or otherwise affect administration and enforcement of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or to limit the applicability of the National Trails System Act to any lands within the conservation area.

(2) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Act, nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting the applicability to lands in the conservation area of laws applicable to public lands generally, including but not limited to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, or the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as by itself altering the status of any lands that on the date of enactment of this Act were not managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

(4) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting the Secretary from engaging qualified persons to use public lands within the conservation area for the propagation of plants (including seeds) to be used for vegetative enhancement of the conservation area in accordance with the plan and in furtherance of the purposes for which the conservation area is established.

(b) **RELEASE.**-The Congress finds and directs that the public lands within the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area established as a natural area in October 1971 by Public Land Order 5133 have been adequately studied and found unsuitable for wilderness designation pursuant to section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Such lands are hereby released from further management pursuant to section 603(c) of such an Act and shall be managed in accordance with other applicable provisions of law, including this Act.

(c) **EXISTING ADMINISTRATIVE WITHDRAWAL TERMINATED.**-Public Land Orders 5133 dated October 12, 1971, and 5777 dated November 21, 1980, issued by the Secretary are hereby revoked subject to subsections (d)(3) and (d)(4).

(d) **WATER.**-(1) The Congress finds that the United States is currently a party in an adjudication of rights to waters of the Snake River, including water rights claimed by the United States on the basis of the reservation of lands for purposes of conservation of fish and wildlife and that consequently there is no need for this Act to effect a reservation by the United States of rights with respect to such waters in order to fulfill the purposes for which the conservation area is established.

(2) Nothing in this Act or any action taken pursuant thereto shall constitute either an expressed or implied reservation of water or water rights for any purpose.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as effecting a relinquishment or reduction of any of the water rights held or claimed by the United States within the State of Idaho or elsewhere on or before the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) The Secretary and all other officers of the United States shall take all steps necessary to protect all water rights claimed by the United States in the Snake River adjudication now pending in the district court of the State of Idaho in which the United States is joined under section 208 of the Act of July 10, 1952 (66 Stat. 560; 43 U.S.C. 666; commonly referred to as the "McCarran Amendment").

**SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

Approved August 4, 1993.

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## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**Between**

**THE GOVERNOR OF IDAHO**

**ON BEHALF OF THE IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION (IMD)**

**and**

**THE IDAHO STATE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)**

### **I. DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT**

The Orchard Training Area (OTA) is located within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA), and contains approximately 143,000 acres of federal and state lands centered about 22 miles south of Boise, Idaho (Exhibits A and B). The OTA is the second largest National Guard (NG) training range in the United States, and is used for armored vehicles, artillery, infantry, and helicopter training by all branches of NG and Reserve forces from across the nation. The OTA is also used for cooperative training by local and regional law enforcement units.

The OTA is one of the most advanced armored vehicle training ranges in the world, with 16 firing ranges located around the periphery of an approximate 53,500 acre Impact Area. The Impact Area is surrounded by an approximate 89,500 acre Maneuver Area in which tracked and wheeled vehicle training, on-foot maneuvers, and bivouacs are conducted.

### **II. HISTORY AND BACKGROUND**

The Idaho Military Division (IMD) began using the public lands in the NCA for military training in 1953.

In 1971, approximately 26,000 acres of public land along the Snake River Canyon were withdrawn by Public Land Order (PLO) 5133 as the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area (BPNA) to protect the densest known nesting population of birds of prey in North America. When the BPNA was established, the BLM initiated a research and monitoring program to study the habitat needs of raptors nesting in the area. In 1980, based on findings from this research, the

Secretary of Interior withdrew approximately 482,640 acres by PLO 5777 as the Snake River Birds of Prey Area (BOPA).

On June 25, 1979, the Governor of Idaho, on behalf of the IMD, and the BLM Idaho State Director first entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to authorize continued NG military training activities on the public lands now known as the OTA. The latest MOU was signed in 2002, has a thirty (30) year term, and specifies that it be reviewed at five (5) year intervals. On March 27, 2007, the MOU was amended via an "Extension Agreement" between the Idaho BLM State Director and the Idaho Governor, which extended the term of the MOU for thirty (30) years from the date of signing.

On August 4, 1993, Congress established the NCA by Public Law 103-64 [16 USC 460iii, et. seq.], hereinafter referred to as "the Act," for the purpose of conserving, protecting, and enhancing raptor populations and habitats, and the scientific, cultural, and educational resources and values of the public lands in the conservation area. Among other things, the Act set forth provisions for Reserve and NG use of the OTA. On March 30, 2009, Section 2301 of Subtitle D of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (Public Law 111-11) renamed the NCA in honor of Morley Nelson.

On September 30, 2008, the BLM Idaho State Director signed a Record of Decision for the NCA Resource Management Plan (RMP), which provides for continued military training activities in the OTA by NG and Reserve forces.

### III. PURPOSE

- A. To authorize military use of the OTA pursuant to the 2008 NCA RMP.
- B. To provide the IMD with continued long-term authorization, as required by Department of Defense and NG Bureau regulations, in order to allow for adequate amortization of developments and improvements.
- C. To provide for the continued use of the OTA by the IMD at a level that is compatible with the protection for raptor populations and habitats, and the scientific, cultural and

educational resources and values of the public lands in the NCA.

D. To provide a mechanism for subsequent review of the MOU and to provide an amendment procedure to implement mutually acceptable modifications.

#### IV. OBJECTIVES

A. To continue military use of the public lands in the OTA consistent with Section 4(e) of the Act.

B. To provide BLM and IMD clear operating procedures, responsibilities, and limitations for the use and management of the OTA.

C. To ensure the safety of the general public, BLM, and military units using the OTA.

D. To provide for the authorization and protection of IMD facilities in the OTA.

E. To provide for the rehabilitation of areas disturbed by military training or military training-related fires.

F. To provide a means to control unauthorized use of the OTA.

#### V. AUTHORITY

The authority for this MOU is contained in Section 4(e) of the Act of August 4, 1993 (PL 103-64); and the BLM/IDARNG MOU of March 19, 2002 (ID-237, Amendment 1).

A. Additional BLM authority:

(1) Section 307(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-579; 43 USC 1732), as limited by Section 302(b)

(2) Section 2.10 of the 2008 NCA RMP

(3) Intergovernmental Cooperation Act (PL 90-577)

B. Additional IMD authority:

(1) Idaho Code (Title 46)

(2) Executive Orders of the Governor of Idaho

(3) NG Bureau Directives



## VI. DEFINITIONS

- A. IA - Impact Area: That area within the perimeter of the Range Road marked on attached Exhibits A and B. This area is used for live firing of small arms, and various mortars, tank, and artillery weapons. All projectiles fired within the OTA must land in the IA.
- B. Artillery IA: That smaller (3 km x 3 km) area so marked on attached Exhibits A and B, which is located inside the IA and into which all high explosive artillery and mortar rounds must fall.
- C. MA - Maneuver Area: That area of the OTA located outside the IA.
- D. OTA - Orchard Training Area: Entire training area used by IMD, encompassing both the IA and MA, generally shown on attached Exhibits A and B, and shown by the legal description attached as Exhibit C.
- E. Training: All activities associated with IMD use of the OTA, including managing resources, developing personnel skills, and improving proficiencies to meet military objectives.
- F. Support to IMD: Those active components of the Armed Forces that support the NG by providing personnel, equipment, and logistical support utilized in training NG personnel, as projected in the annual operating plan and updates thereto.
- G. The Act: The Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Act of August 4, 1993 (PL 103-64), and amendment thereto [Section 2301 of Subtitle D of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of March 30, 2009 (PL 111-11)].

## VII. MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

BLM and IMD agree:

- A. The level of military training activity will be compatible with the purpose of the enabling legislation in accordance with Sections 4(b)(1) and 4(b)(2) of the Act.
- B. To meet annually during the first quarter (Oct. - Dec.) of the federal fiscal year to discuss and outline IMD's annual operating plan and review the prior year's activities.
- C. To jointly assess, by the end of each calendar year, soil and vegetation disturbance (including fires) caused by training activities that require remediation.
- D. To review this MOU at approximate five (5) year intervals beginning with the

date of approval of this document.

E. To develop and keep current an Annual Fire Operating Plan as part of the five-year Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement.

F. To protect and manage cultural resources within the OTA in accordance with the 1989 Cultural Resources Memorandum of Agreement and subsequent amendments or revisions thereto.

G. To develop and keep current a Law Enforcement Standard Operating Procedures for the OTA.

### VIII. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

A. IMD:

(1) Coordinate and control military use of the OTA.

(2) Provide BLM with information concerning major changes in operations or activities in sufficient time to ensure BLM can respond with appropriate and timely authorization.

(3) Conduct all training activities in accordance with Section 4(e) of the Act and other applicable federal laws and regulations, as well as any Conservation Agreements and/or Conservation Strategies (and associated mitigations or conservation measures) to protect special status plant and animal species.

(4) Install and maintain warning, safety, and closure signs around the perimeter of the IA, as required by County ordinance. BLM published in the Federal Register a federal closure order for the IA on January 9, 1986. The closure was subsequently adopted as an Ada County ordinance. IMD shall be responsible for control of unauthorized public access into the IA. However, BLM confers no law enforcement authority on IMD for this purpose.

(5) Install and maintain temporary warning signs on roads likely used by the public to enter the OTA when IMD temporarily closes the OTA or portions thereof to enhance public safety during periods of concentrated use.

(6) Conduct aerial and/or ground reconnaissance prior to all live firing or other military activities that pose a threat to public safety to ensure that humans are out of the IA or any other unsafe areas.

(7) Take action to prevent fires from IMD activities, and to control or suppress all fires within the OTA. In accordance with the Annual Fire Operating Plan, and as soon as possible following containment, report all fires to the BLM Boise District fire dispatch office, giving location, size, time of containment, and cause (if known).

(8) In accordance with federal law and regulations and subject to appropriated funds, reimburse all direct BLM suppression and rehabilitation costs incurred for fires caused by military activities, including: 1) inventorying for cultural resources and special status species as required by the National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 2) if reasonably required by BLM, fencing and signing of treated sites to protect them from subsequent recreation use, livestock grazing, and military training activities, 3) reimbursing BLM for reasonable costs expended for post-fire contracted NEPA compliance, project implementation, and post-implementation monitoring, plus other costs, including seed, herbicide, and direct equipment costs.

(9) Following the joint assessment discussed in Section VII.C. above, develop proposals to rehabilitate areas within the OTA disturbed by military training-related fire and other military activities, and submit the proposals to BLM for review and approval. Project proposals shall be submitted timely, and shall include areas to be treated, species to be planted, seeding application rates, control of competing vegetation, timing of treatment(s), and post-treatment monitoring and site protection.

(10) Repair or replace range improvements, including fences and cattle guards, that are damaged or destroyed by military activities. All range improvements must be kept in good repair during the period of April 1 - June 30 and October 16 - February 28, the normal periods of authorized livestock use.

(11) Annually remove debris and litter generated by IMD activities unless otherwise agreed by the BLM Boise District Manager.

(12) Take reasonable efforts to locate and destroy all unexploded munitions within the area, and eliminate any other similar hazards that may result from military use of the OTA.

(13) Subject to future federal legislative appropriation, if use of the OTA is abandoned or this MOU is terminated, decontaminate the affected public lands in accordance

with federal law.

(14) Defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the BLM from all lawful damages and claims for damages caused by military activities within the OTA in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Tort Claims Act.

(15) Obtain appropriate BLM authorization for removal and use of cinders or other mineral materials from deposits on public lands and perform timely reclamation of disturbed sites following expiration of permits.

(16) Obtain appropriate BLM authorization prior to construction of facilities, structures, or roads on public lands in the OTA.

(17) Reasonably assist and cooperate with BLM in the form of available funding and/or staff assistance for monitoring studies required under Section VIII.B(5) of this MOU.

(18) With BLM concurrence, IMD may take actions to retire Animal Unit Months (AUMs) and reduce grazing preference in the Sunnyside Spring/Fall and Winter Allotments by purchasing AUMs from existing permittees.

(19) IMD will continue with periodic and annual reporting of usage, incidents, wildfires, etc. in the OTA. As required by the 2008 Law Enforcement Standard Operating Procedures, the IDARNG Security Operations Center Supervisor will, at least quarterly, provide the BLM District Law Enforcement Ranger with an electronic copy of incidents in the OTA for statistical data sharing purposes. Likewise, in accordance with the Annual Fire Operating Plan, as discussed in Section VIII.A.(7), IMD will report all fires in the OTA as soon as possible to the BLM Boise District fire dispatch office.

B. BLM:

(1) Give prior notice to IMD and receive escort from IMD when entering the IA.

(3) Review and approve IMD proposals for facilities, structures, and roads on public lands in the OTA in accordance with federal law and subject to Section IX.C. of this MOU.

(5) Pursuant to the 2008 NCA RMP, either annually conduct or provide for

monitoring studies to ensure that military vehicular maneuver training does not adversely affect vegetation communities in the OTA with 10% or greater shrub canopy cover.

(6) In its own discretion, may take actions to aid in suppressing wildfires within the OTA when deemed necessary and will notify IMD immediately when taking such actions.

(7) Provide IMD, or its contractor, with rangeland drills for rehabilitation projects, as requested and if available.

(8) Provide IMD with a breakdown of all direct reimbursable costs being requested as a result of military training-related fire suppression and emergency habitat rehabilitation, or other mutually agreed upon projects.

#### IX. LIMITATIONS

A. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as limiting or modifying in any way the authority, or statutory or regulatory responsibilities of the Governor of Idaho or BLM State Director, or as binding either the State or BLM to perform beyond their respective authorities, or as requiring either party to assume or expend any sum in excess of available appropriations. Each and every provision of this MOU is subject to applicable laws of the State of Idaho and of the United States, and applicable federal regulations.

B. Active components of the Armed Forces may not use the OTA except in support of NG or Reserve forces.

C. IMD may be authorized new levels or types of training, additional land use authorizations, or rights-of-way within the OTA if it can be demonstrated that the proposal is compatible with the enabling legislation.

#### X. EFFECTIVE DATE

This MOU will be effective upon approval by the signatures of the Governor of Idaho and the BLM Idaho State Director and will remain in full force and effect for 30 years after the date of the last approving signature, unless either formally terminated by mutual consent or by either party upon five (5) years advance written notice to the other party.

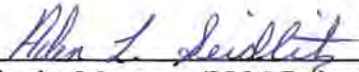
## XI. REVIEW OF THE MOU

- A. A review of the MOU will commence on January 1 every fifth year following the date of the last signature hereto. The review period will extend from January 1 through June 30. One issue to be discussed at each five (5) year review will be the extension of the MOU to maintain a thirty (30) year life. Issues not discussed during the prescribed review period will be reviewed during the next five (5) year review period, unless addressed in the amendment process outlined in Section XII of this MOU.
- B. The OTA MOU will be reviewed and amended as necessary following withdrawal of the OTA IA to the Department of Defense.

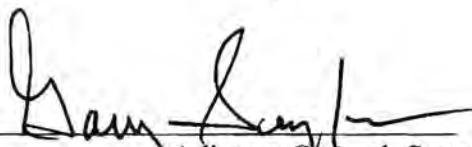
## XII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this MOU may be proposed by either party at any time and shall become effective upon approval by the BLM Boise District Manager and the Adjutant General, State of Idaho.

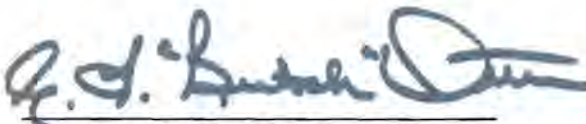
Recommended for approval this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2010

  
District Manager, BLM Boise District

Recommended for approval this 11 day of February, 2010

  
Adjutant General, State of Idaho

Approved by the State of Idaho this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010

  
Governor, State of Idaho

Approved by BLM this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2010

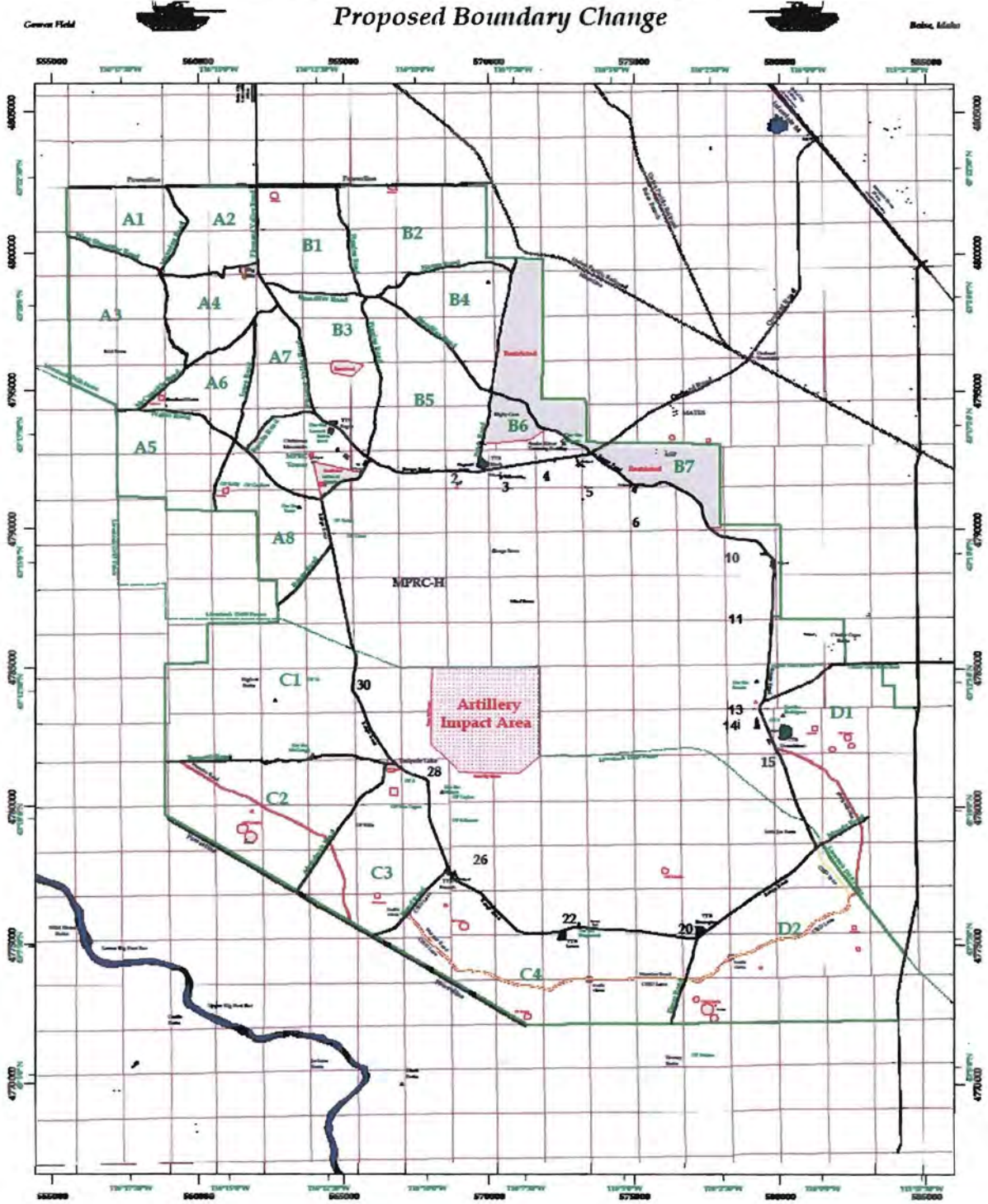
  
BLM Idaho State Director

**Exhibit A on following page**



# Orchard Training Area

## Proposed Boundary Change

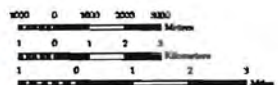


USMC Area 03 North Atlantic  
 North American Datum 1983 (NAD83)  
 GCS NAD83, North American Datum 1983, UTM Zone 18N

<p>Scale: 1:125,000</p> <p>1:125,000</p> <p>1:125,000</p> <p>1:125,000</p>	<p>1:125,000</p> <p>1:125,000</p> <p>1:125,000</p> <p>1:125,000</p>
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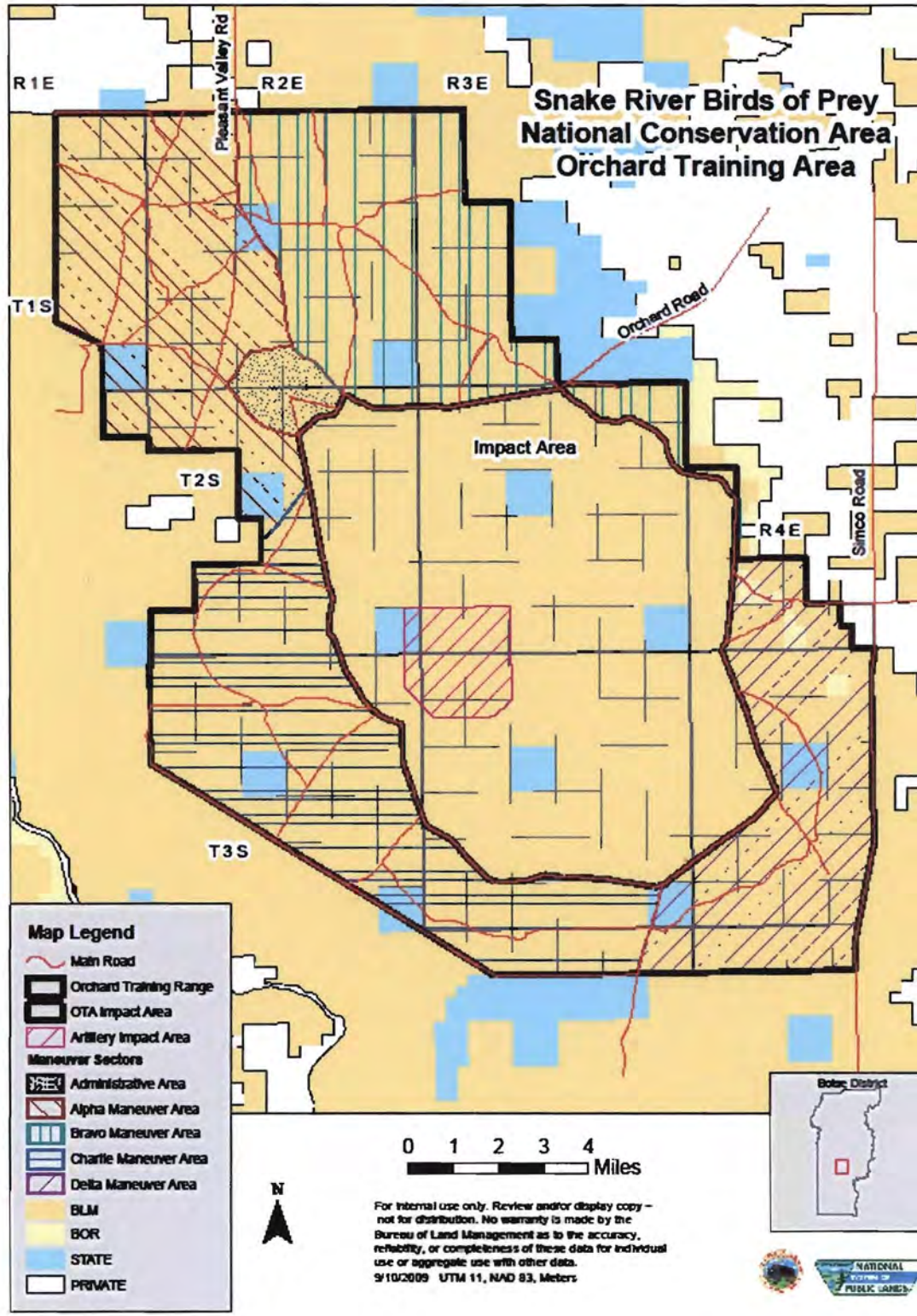
Legend
<p>Blue line: Boundary</p> <p>Red line: Proposed Boundary</p> <p>Green line: Existing Boundary</p> <p>Black line: Property Line</p> <p>Blue area: Water</p> <p>Green area: Forest</p> <p>Yellow area: Open Land</p> <p>Grey area: Urban</p>

Scale 1:125,000



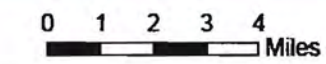
Firing Sector A Max ORD 15,000 f. MSL  
 Firing Sector B Max ORD 13,000 - 22,000 f. MSL  
 Firing Sector C Max ORD 6,000 f. MSL  
 Firing Sector D Max ORD 22,000 f. MSL

**Exhibit B on following page**



**Map Legend**

- Main Road
- Orchard Training Range
- OTA Impact Area
- Artillery Impact Area
- Maneuver Sectors**
- Administrative Area
- Alpha Maneuver Area
- Bravo Maneuver Area
- Charlie Maneuver Area
- Delta Maneuver Area
- BLM
- BOR
- STATE
- PRIVATE



For internal use only. Review and/or display copy - not for distribution. No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.  
 9/10/2009 UTM 11, NAD 83, Meters



**Exhibit C**  
**Public Lands Lying Within the Orchard Training Area**

<u>Boise Meridian, Idaho:</u>	<u>Acres</u>
<u>T. 1 S., R. 1 E.</u>	
Sec. 1, Lots 1 – 4, S½N½, S½	638.92
Sec. 2, Lots 1 – 4, S½N½, S½	629.08
Sec. 11 thru 14, all	2560.00
Sec. 23 thru 25, all	1920.00
Sec. 26, that portion lying north of the Sunnyside Spring/Fall – Winter Division Fence	488.60
	6236.60
<u>T. 1 S., R. 2 E.</u>	
Sec. 1, Lots 1 – 4, S½N½, S½	623.88
Sec. 2, Lots 1 – 4, S½N½, S½	625.28
Sec. 3, Lots 1 – 4, S½N½, S½	627.04
Sec. 4, Lots 1 – 4, S½N½, S½	630.64
Sec. 5, Lots 1 – 4, S½N½, S½	634.64
Sec. 6, Lots 1 - 7, S½NE¼, SE¼NW¼, E½SW¼, SE¼	607.36
Sec. 7, Lots 1 - 4, E½W½, E½	614.88
Sec. 8 thru 15, all	5,120.00
Sec. 17, all	640.00
Sec. 18, Lots 1 - 4, E½W½, E½	617.16
Sec. 19, Lots 1 - 4, E½W½, E½	619.60
Sec. 20 thru 29, all	6,400.00
Sec. 30, Lots 1 - 4, E½W½, E½	621.92
Sec. 31, Lots 1 - 4, E½W½, E½	624.08
Sec. 32 thru 35, all	2,560.00
	21,566.48
<u>T. 1 S., R. 3 E.</u>	
Sec. 6, Lots 1 - 7, S½NE¼, SE¼NW¼, E½SW¼, SE¼	672.96
Sec. 7, Lots 1 - 4, E½W½, E½	695.76
Sec. 17, all	640.00
Sec. 18, Lots 1 - 4, E½W½, E½	697.96
Sec. 19, Lots 1 - 4, E½W½, E½	699.76
Sec. 20, all	640.00
Sec. 29, all	640.00

Sec. 30, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$	701.40
Sec. 31, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$	703.04
Sec. 32, all	640.00
Sec. 33, all	640.00
	<hr/>
	7370.88

T. 2 S., R. 1 E.

Sec. 1, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	658.08
	<hr/>
	658.08

T. 2 S., R. 2 E.

Sec. 1, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$	539.44
Sec. 2, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$	536.96
Sec. 3, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$	534.32
Sec. 4, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$	531.52
Sec. 5, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$	528.56
Sec. 6, Lots 1 - 6, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$	512.54
Sec. 7, Lot 1, 2, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	311.36
Sec. 8, N $\frac{1}{2}$	320.00
Sec. 9 thru 15, all	4,480.00
Sec. 21, E $\frac{1}{2}$	320.00
Sec. 22 thru 29, all	5,120.00
Sec. 31, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	617.56
Sec. 32 thru 35, all	2,560.00
	<hr/>
	16,912.26

T. 2 S., R. 3 E.

Sec. 1, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	554.40
Sec. 2, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	551.68
Sec. 3, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	547.76
Sec. 4, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	543.36
Sec. 5, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	541.08
Sec. 6, Lots 1 - 7, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$	501.70
Sec. 7, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	595.84
Sec. 8 thru 15, all	5,120.00
Sec. 17, all	640.00
Sec. 18, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	598.16
Sec. 19, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	600.76
Sec. 20 thru 29, all	6,400.00
Sec. 30, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	603.28
Sec. 31, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	605.56
Sec. 32 thru 35, all	2,560.00
	<hr/>

20,963.58

T. 2 S., R. 4 E.

Sec. 18, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	700.40
Sec. 19, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	698.16
Sec. 28, W $\frac{1}{2}$	320.00
Sec. 29, all	640.00
Sec. 30, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	695.84
Sec. 31, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	693.24
Sec. 32, all	640.00
Sec. 33, all	640.00
Sec. 34, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SW $\frac{1}{4}$	240.00

5267.64

T. 3 S., R. 2 E.

Sec. 1, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	685.20
Sec. 2, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	685.12
Sec. 3, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	684.88
Sec. 4, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	684.96
Sec. 5, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	685.28
Sec. 6, Lots 1 - 7, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$	684.33
Sec. 7, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	644.84
Sec. 8 thru 15, all	5,120.00
Sec. 17, 18, 20, 21 (those portions lying north of powerline - FPC Project No. 2055)	1,253.89
Sec. 22 thru 25, all	2,560.00
Sec. 26, 27, 28, 35 (those portions lying north of powerline - FPC Project No. 2055)	950.07

14,638.57

T. 3 S., R. 3 E.

Sec. 1, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	651.88
Sec. 2, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	651.32
Sec. 3, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	652.28
Sec. 4, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	653.16
Sec. 5, Lots 1 - 4, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$	653.76
Sec. 6, Lots 1 - 7, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$	620.97
Sec. 7, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	609.48
Sec. 8 thru 15, all	5,120.00
Sec. 17, all	640.00
Sec. 18, Lots 1 - 4, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$	610.64

Sec. 19, Lots 1 - 4, E½, E½W½	611.68
Sec. 20 thru 29, all	6,400.00
Sec. 30, Lots 1 - 4, E½, E½W½	612.76
Sec. 31, Lots 1 - 4, E½, E½W½	613.80
Sec. 32 thru 35, all	<u>2,560.00</u>
	21,661.73

T. 3 S., R. 4 E.

Sec. 2, that portion lying west of the Simco Road right-of-way no. IDI-21406	13.30
Sec. 3, Lots 1 - 4, S½N½, S½	660.20
Sec. 4, Lots 1 - 4, S½N½, S½	657.80
Sec. 5, Lots 1 - 4, S½N½, S½	654.88
Sec. 6, Lots 1 - 4, S½N½, S½	652.88
Sec. 7 thru 10, all	2560.00
Sec. 15, all	640.00
Sec. 17 thru 22, all	3840.00
Sec. 27, that portion lying west of the Simco Road right-of-way no. IDI-21406	602.60
Sec. 28 thru 30, all	1,920.00
Sec. 31, Lots 1 - 4, N½, N½S½	636.64
Sec. 32, Lots 1 - 4, N½, N½S½	631.16
Sec. 33, Lots 1 - 4, N½, N½S½	626.52
Sec. 34, that portion lying west of the Simco Road right-of-way no. IDI-21406	<u>462.50</u>
	14,558.48

T. 4 S, R. 3 E.

Sec. 1, Lots 1 - 4, W½E½, W½	639.66
Sec. 2 thru 4, all	1,920.00
Sec. 5 and 6 (those portions lying north of powerline - FPC Project No. 2055)	<u>766.40</u>
	3326.06

T. 4 S, R. 4 E.

Sec. 3: that portion lying west of the Simco Road right-of-way no. IDI-21406	332.70
Sec. 4, Lots 1 - 4, S½N½, S½	638.74
Sec. 5, Lots 1 - 4, S½N½, S½	635.20
Sec. 6, Lots 1 thru 7, S½NE¼, SE¼NW¼, E½SW¼, SE¼.	657.05
	<u>2,263.69</u>

**Total Acreage** **135,424.05**





Appendix B:  
Endangered Species  
Management Plan  
LEPA

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**Endangered Species Management Plan for  
*Lepidium papilliferum* on Orchard Combat  
Training Center, Idaho**



**Environmental Management Office  
Idaho Army National Guard**

**2009**

**Endangered Species Management Plan  
for  
*Lepidium papilliferum***

**Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho  
Idaho Army National Guard**

**Prepared by:** IDARNG Office of Environmental Management and Gene Stout, Gene Stout and Associates, Loveland, CO 80537

**Technical review assistance provided by:** Susan E. Meyer (PhD), U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Shrub Sciences Laboratory, Provo, UT

**IDARNG Reviewed by:**

MG Gary L. Sayler, Adjutant General  
COL Thomas Rasmussen, Director, Engineering and Housing  
COL Michael Woods, Director, Orchard Combat Training Center  
COL Joel Price, Chief, Environmental Management Office  
LTC Eugene P. Gussenhoven, Deputy Chief of Staff Engineering  
MAJ Paul Boice, Staff Judge Advocate  
MAJ Charles Moore, Director Plans, Training, and Mobilization  
Mr. Charles Baun, Conservation Branch Manager, Environmental Management Office  
Mr. Kevin Warner, Natural Resources Specialist, Environmental Management Office  
Mr. Jay Weaver, Natural Resource Technician, Environmental Management Office  
Mr. Jake Fruhlinger, Cultural Resource Specialist, Environmental Management Office

# Endangered Species Management Plan for *Lepidium papilliferum* Orchard Combat Training Center Idaho Army National Guard

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## ENDORSEMENT

This Endangered Species Management Plan is for *Lepidium papilliferum* on Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho, and meets the requirements of the Sikes Act (16 USC 670a *et seq.*) as amended.

### Approving Officials<sup>1</sup>:

MG Gary L. Sayler  
Adjutant General  
Idaho National Guard  
Boise, Idaho

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

COL Robert Lytle  
Army Chief of Staff  
Idaho National Guard  
Boise, Idaho

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

COL Joel Price  
Construction and Facilities Management Officer  
Idaho National Guard  
Boise, Idaho

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

COL Michael C. Ahn  
Chief, Environmental Programs  
National Guard Bureau  
Washington, D.C.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

---

<sup>1</sup> Signatures are digital copies. Originals are on file at the Idaho Army National Guard.

# Endangered Species Management Plan for *Lepidium papilliferum* on Orchard Combat Training Center, Idaho

## Idaho Army National Guard

### Table of Contents

ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS .....	iv
CLERICAL AMENDMENT TO DOCUMENT .....	1
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	2
1.0 INTRODUCTION .....	8
1.1 Purpose .....	8
1.2 Species Status .....	8
1.3 Compliance Status .....	8
1.4 OCTC <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> Overview .....	9
1.5 Description, Summary, and Duration of the Proposed Action .....	9
1.6 Consultation to Date .....	10
1.7 Document Overview .....	10
2.0 SPECIES INFORMATION .....	11
2.1 Species Description .....	11
2.2 Species Distribution .....	13
2.2.1 General Distribution .....	13
2.2.2 OCTC Distribution .....	14
2.2.3 Population Trends .....	17
2.3 Habitat Requirements .....	19
2.3.1 General .....	19
2.4 Life History .....	20
2.5 Reasons for Listing .....	21
2.6 IDARNG Conservation .....	21
3.0 PROPOSED ACTION .....	24
3.1 Scope .....	24
3.2 General Military Mission .....	24
3.3 Assigned Units .....	25
3.4 Training Areas, Impact Area, Ranges, and Support Facilities .....	25
3.5 Training Activities in General <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> Habitat and Potential <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> Habitat .....	27
3.6 Potential/Actual Military Mission-related Threats to <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> and Its Habitat .....	27
4.0 <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> CONSERVATION GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND TASKS .....	30
4.1 Goal .....	30
4.2 Objectives, Tasks, and Conservation Measures .....	30
5.0 IMPLEMENTATION TIME, COSTS, AND PERSONNEL REQUIRED .....	38
6.0 SUMMARY OF MILITARY TRAINING AFFECTS .....	38
7.0 REFERENCES .....	39
8.0 EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONTACTED .....	43

## Tables

Implementation Summary Table.....	4
Table 2.2.2 <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> Management Areas.....	17
Table 2.2.3. Variability of <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> and Spring Rainfall in OCTC .....	18
Table 2.6. IDARNG <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> Management Policies Implemented.....	22

## Figures

Figure 2.1. <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> showing one large plant (biennial) and several annual plants. ....	12
Figure 2.2.1. <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> General Distribution .....	13
Figure 2.2.2. <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> on OCTC.....	15
Figure 2.3.1 Here <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> is shown in good big sagebrush habitat in the Red Tie area. ...	19
Figure 3.4. OCTC Military Features and Management Areas .....	26

## ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

AR	Army Regulation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CCA	Candidate Conservation Agreement
CDC	Conservation Data Center (Idaho State Department of Fish and Game)
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
IDARNG	Idaho Army National Guard
LEPA	<i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>
MATES	Mobilization and Training Equipment Site
OCTC	Orchard Combat Training Center
U.S.	United States
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service



**IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**  
4040 WEST GUARD STREET, BLDG. 600  
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-8095



September 25, 2012

**CLERICAL AMENDMENT TO DOCUMENT**

In 1990, *Lepidium papilliferum* (as *Lepidium montanum* var. *papilliferum*) was designated as a Category 2 Candidate species by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). In 1993 Rollins elevated the variety to species level, as it was originally described by Henderson in 1900 (Henderson 1900, Rollins 1993). After various interim actions, in April 2002 the USFWS settled the lawsuit filed for failure to list slickspot peppergrass under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The settlement required the USFWS to issue a proposed listing rule no later than July 15, 2002. The Proposed Rule for listing *Lepidium papilliferum* as endangered was published in the Federal Register on July 15, 2002. On January 22, 2004, the USFWS published a withdrawal of the July 15, 2002 proposal. This withdrawal was based on a lack of evidence supporting a negative population trend and the formation and implementation of conservation plans (Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP)). On August 19, 2005, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho reinstated the July 15, 2002 proposed rule to list *Lepidium papilliferum* as endangered. On January 12, 2007 the USFWS withdrew the proposed rule citing little evidence of negative impacts on the abundance of *Lepidium papilliferum*. A subsequent complaint was filed challenging the 2007 decision and on June 4, 2008, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho once again ordered a return to the July 15, 2002 proposal. On September 19, 2008 the proposed rule to list *Lepidium papilliferum* was published in the Federal Register. On October 8, 2009, the USFWS published a determination that *Lepidium papilliferum* was a threatened species under the ESA.

On August 8, 2012, the United States District Court for the District of Idaho ordered that the final rule listing slickspot peppergrass as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), be vacated and remanded for further consideration consistent with the court's decision. At this time, the USFWS is still awaiting legal advice on the interpretation of this decision. Until the USFWS receives further legal guidance, it is the determination by the USFWS and the BLM that slickspot peppergrass will be managed as a proposed species under the ESA.

While the change in status has some legal ramifications relative to the protection of the species under the ESA, the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) has made the determination that no changes will be made to this document. While the status of slickspot peppergrass is under legal review there will be no changes to management of the species or associated habitat by the IDARNG. We will continue to aggressively manage the species in a manner that has resulted in some of the highest-quality occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in the Snake River Plain region. Specifically, the USFWS identified in their 2011 Biological Opinion that 20 of the 35 (60%) individual conservation efforts that were determined to be both certain to be implemented and effective in reducing threats to the slickspot peppergrass, or were already known to be implemented and effective in reducing threats to the species, were implemented by the IDARNG as part of the INRMP.

Therefore, for clerical purposes, and until a future decision on the species has been determined by the courts, we ask the reader to substitute the term "threatened" with "proposed" throughout the document as it relates to slickspot peppergrass only. All other use of these terms is to be unchanged.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Purpose and Scope

This Endangered Species Management Plan is for *Lepidium papilliferum*, listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act on October 8, 2009. The plan provides guidance to allow the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) to manage *Lepidium papilliferum* on Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), Idaho in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*); Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement*; and related laws and regulations. It also provides the basis for informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding impacts of the IDARNG's military mission on this species at OCTC.

The section of land on which the Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) is located has a population of *Lepidium papilliferum*. The MATES is land leased from the State of Idaho, contiguous with the boundary of OCTC. Hereafter in this document when OCTC is referenced, the MATES is included, except where specifically discussed separately.

### Species Status

Of 101 known occurrences of *Lepidium papilliferum*, nine are extinct, and 16 have not been relocated at sites originally collected (Moseley 1994; Mancusco 2000; Shelly Cooke, Idaho Conservation Data Center (CDC), personal communication 2002; Colket *et al.* 2006). The total amount of habitat containing interspersed slickspots that have extant occurrences of *Lepidium papilliferum* is about 5,000 hectares. Sixteen of these 76 extant occurrences are considered good-quality habitat (Colket *et al.* 2006).

Three element occurrences consisting of four large subpopulations and five small subpopulations of *Lepidium papilliferum* occur on the northern portion of OCTC. The IDARNG has been monitoring, studying, and protecting these habitats since 1991, starting with the populations first discovered and adding others as found.

*Lepidium papilliferum* reproduces only from seed and is dependent on precipitation for seed germination (Meyer *et al.* 2006). One year there may be tens of thousands of *Lepidium papilliferum* plants in OCTC, but the following year only a few thousand plants, even with little or no disturbance to the plant and its habitat. In a following year with favorable precipitation, there may be tens of thousands of plants again (IDARNG, unpublished data)

In 1990 *Lepidium papilliferum* (as *Lepidium montanum* var. *papilliferum*) was designated as a Category 2 Candidate species by the USFWS. In 1993 Rollins elevated the variety to species level, as it was originally described by Henderson in 1900 (Henderson 1900, Rollins 1993). After various interim actions, in April 2002 the USFWS settled the lawsuit filed for failure to list slickspot peppergrass under the Endangered Species Act. The settlement required the USFWS to issue a proposed listing rule no later than July 15, 2002. The Proposed Rule for listing *Lepidium papilliferum* as endangered was published in the Federal Register on July 15, 2002. On January 22, 2004, the USFWS published a withdrawal of the July 15, 2002 proposal. This withdrawal was based on a lack of evidence supporting a negative population trend and the formation and implementation of conservation plans (Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan). On August 19, 2005, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho reinstated the July 15, 2002 proposed rule to list *Lepidium papilliferum* as endangered. On January 12, 2007 the USFWS withdrew the proposed rule citing little evidence of negative impacts on the abundance of *Lepidium papilliferum*. A subsequent complaint was filed challenging the 2007 decision and on June 4, 2008, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho once again ordered a return to the July 15, 2002 proposal. The most recent proposed rule to list *Lepidium papilliferum* was published in the Federal Register on September 19, 2008 (USFWS 2008). On October

8, 2009, the USFWS published a determination that *Lepidium papilliferum* is a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This Endangered Species Management Plan is prepared as a result of *Lepidium papilliferum*'s threatened status.

The CCA between the BLM, the State of Idaho, the Idaho Army National Guard, and Nongovernmental Cooperators, (drafted 1996, signed December 5, 2003) influenced the 2004 decision not to list the species. This CCA was updated in 2006. All monitoring, management, and research measures undertaken by IDARNG were initiated immediately following the drafting of the 1996 CCA. All conservation measures agreed to by the IDARNG in the CCA reflect current IDARNG management that has been implemented for the past 20 years. Goals in section 4.0 (Conservation Goal, Objectives, and Specific Tasks) of this Endangered Species Management Plan reflect the implementation of the CCA and a continuation of these conservation measures.

### **Habitat Requirements and Primary Threats**

*Lepidium papilliferum* (commonly called slickspot peppergrass) is an endemic of the semiarid sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of southwestern Idaho. It occurs on the Snake River Plain, the Owyhee Plateau, and in adjacent foothills. The conservation of slick spot peppergrass appears to be dependent on the conservation of its sagebrush steppe habitat. Large areas of the Snake River Plain and the nearby foothills have been converted to crop agriculture and urban development. Most remaining sagebrush habitat is in a degraded ecological condition due to intensive use that dates back to the late 1800s (Yensen 1982).

### **Potential Limiting Factors and Summary of Military-related Effects**

Factors related to the IDARNG military mission that potentially affect *Lepidium papilliferum* on OCTC are:

- **Engineer Excavation Training.** Engineer digging at OCTC is limited to two sites: one 5-acre site in the Alpha-4 maneuver area and a 50-acre site in the Charley-4 maneuver area. Additional sites can be used if authorized by the BLM.
- **Administrative Travel of All Military Vehicles.** In the OCTC, any military vehicles not specifically engaged in a maneuver exercise must stay on the network of maintained roads.
- **Bivouacs and Brigade Support Areas.** These military field camps are limited to areas outside *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat.
- **Soldier Foot Traffic.** Soldier foot traffic in occupied *Lepidium papilliferum* populations is not permitted.
- **Firing on Firing Ranges.** *Lepidium papilliferum* does not occur on the OCTC firing ranges. IDARNG firefighters respond to fires in moments, containing nearly all fires inside the impact area and extinguishing most within a few minutes.
- **Fire Suppression.** Since 1987 (the date when OCTC fire records begin), fires on OCTC have not burned any *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat. Fire suppression on OCTC is a priority, with trained firefighters and water trucks on-site when the ranges are active during the fire season.
- **Direct Impacts from Ordnance.** All impacts from ammunition other than small arms take place within the central one-third of the impact area, which is not in *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat.
- **Maneuver Training.** Populations of *Lepidium papilliferum* are off-limits to all military training.

- **Refueling.** Refueling occurs near *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat only on the road network, and even then it is a rare event, as most refueling of military vehicles occurs on the MATES or at Gowen Field in Boise. Any spills of petroleum, oils, or lubricants by soldiers must be reported to Range Control and IDARNG environmental staff who ensures containment and recovery or disposal of contaminated soil. Incident reports are developed for all reported spills.
- **Range Seeding/Planting.** Areas associated with *Lepidium papilliferum* or its habitat is limited to broadcast seedings or live plants, unless otherwise authorized, and all species seeded are species native to the area or approved by the Conservation Branch Manager and BLM.
- **Pesticides and Herbicides.** The IDARNG may only use pesticides or herbicides in a manner that conserves or minimizes risk of exposure to *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat, i.e. control of invasive or noxious weed species or predatory insects..
- **Environmental Monitoring.** Environmental monitoring in *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat consists of very light foot traffic by a handful of trained technicians each year. Technicians are trained not to trample slick spots.

**Conservation Goals, Objectives, and Specific Tasks**

The USFWS does not currently have a Recovery Plan for *Lepidium papilliferum*. The goal of *Lepidium papilliferum* management on OCTC is to protect and enhance *Lepidium papilliferum* populations and to protect and conserve the sagebrush habitat in which *Lepidium papilliferum* populations occur, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*).

To this end, the plan outlines the following objectives and tasks for management of *Lepidium papilliferum*. Range-wide management and site specific projects used to implement these objectives are outlined in Section 8.0 and 9.0 of the INRMP.

**Implementation Summary Table**

Goal, Objective, or Task #	Description and Associated Conservation Measures
<b>Goal 1: Maintain and enhance existing habitats to support known populations of rare, proposed, candidate, threatened, or endangered species in order to maintain the current capabilities of the OCTC to support the military mission.</b>	
<b>Objective 1: Maintain and enhance <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> habitat on OCTC.</b>	
1.1	Prevent damage to and fragmentation of the large sagebrush stand (approximately 23 square miles) in which <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> occurs on OCTC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage and protect the large sagebrush stand in which <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> occurs on OCTC.</li> <li>• Annually monitor vegetation trends in this large sagebrush stand to determine if the vegetation composition is stable under current uses and management.</li> </ul>
1.2	Maintain and, when possible, improve the quality of <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> habitat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain Level I and Level II Management Areas and implement management guidelines for these areas.</li> <li>• Restore damaged habitat using native species and broadcast seeding or live planting. Other tools may be used upon authorization.</li> <li>• Ensure minimal impacts to <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> and its habitats during habitat restoration projects.</li> </ul>



Goal, Objective, or Task #	Description and Associated Conservation Measures
<b>Objective 2: Continue to protect <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> from military training and other Army-related activities.</b>	
2.1	Protect <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> from military training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue specific measures to protect <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> and its habitat from military training damage.</li> <li>• Continue to implement measures from the draft 1996 Conservation Agreement.</li> <li>• Continue reviewing plans for military training exercises and siting them so they do not affect <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> or its habitat.</li> <li>• Maintain signage for off-limits areas.</li> <li>• Monitor <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> populations to ensure that off-limits areas have been respected.</li> <li>• Continue to monitor sagebrush habitat to determine if current management practices are being effective in promoting ecological health and preventing deterioration.</li> <li>• Continue to provide a high level of rapid response fire protection for military-related (and other) fires.</li> </ul>
2.2	Protect <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> from other military-related activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize opportunities for the introduction of non-native plants onto OCTC by requiring pre-washing of non-local vehicles entering the training area.</li> <li>• Directly control non-native noxious weeds, using non-herbicide means in the OCTC, as they are located.</li> <li>• Cooperate with other agencies, particularly BLM, in the control of non-native noxious weeds in the general area of OCTC.</li> <li>• Maintain off-limits status for <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> population centers in OCTC.</li> <li>• Continue to relocate military training exercises away from <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>-occupied slick spots and other slick spots and surrounding habitat where <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> seeds might exist in the soil seed bank.</li> <li>• Do not allow the construction of new roads through Level I Habitat Management Areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 3: Protect <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> from fire.</b>	
3.1	Suppress fires. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suppress fires, regardless of origin, on OCTC and surrounding areas if requested. Maintain fire crews on alert during summer training exercises.</li> <li>• Maintain the mutual support agreement with BLM for the suppression of wildfires in the National Conservation Area.</li> </ul>
3.2	Restore areas damaged by fires. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to restore fire-damaged areas emphasizing native species and reintroduction of forb species for pollinators.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 4: Monitor <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> populations and conduct management-oriented research on OCTC.</b>	
4.1	Monitor <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> populations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually monitor <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> populations and big sagebrush habitat on OCTC.</li> <li>• Monitor <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> habitat annually to ensure that off-limits areas have been respected and that trends in the ecological health of the habitat are not unfavorable.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use monitoring to assess the effectiveness of mitigation and other management actions on <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> over time.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal, Objective, or Task #</b>	<b>Description and Associated Conservation Measures</b>
4.2	<p>Conduct management-oriented <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> research when funding permits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use research projects on <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> to develop and assess the effectiveness of mitigation and other management actions over time.</li> <li>• Use research data/findings to modify management objectives and enhance future management programs.</li> <li>• Provide results of research on <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> with other agencies involved with its protection and recovery.</li> <li>• Continue to participate in interagency groups involved with research, problem solving, and recovery of <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>.</li> </ul>

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Endangered Species Management Plan is the IDARNG planning and consultation document for *Lepidium papilliferum* management on OCTC and on the MATES state section of land. Per AR 200-1, it is an integral component of the *OCTC Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan*, as required by the Sikes Act. The Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan is the implementing document (integration of all natural resources programs and their funding) for all natural resources management on OCTC, including *Lepidium papilliferum* management.

### 1.1 Purpose

Management plans are required by AR 200-1 for all Army installation species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered. Approval by the Installation Commander is required. Failure to develop, approve, or implement management plans for threatened or endangered species can lead to violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and disruption of the military training mission.

This Endangered Species Management Plan programmatically addresses military mission-related threats to *Lepidium papilliferum* on OCTC in anticipation of a formal conservation agreement between the IDARNG and the USFWS for management of the *Lepidium papilliferum* on OCTC. This plan outlines specific management actions to continue protection of *Lepidium papilliferum*.

### 1.2 Species Status

*Lepidium papilliferum* is an endemic of the semiarid sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of southwestern Idaho. It occurs on the Snake River Plain, the Owyhee Plateau, and in adjacent foothills. The conservation of *Lepidium papilliferum* appears to be dependent on the conservation of its sagebrush steppe habitat. Large areas of the Snake River Plain and the nearby foothills have been converted to crop agriculture and urban development. Much of the remaining sagebrush habitat is in a degraded ecological condition due to intensive use that dates back to the late 1800s (Yensen 1982). Loss of sagebrush-steppe habitat with its associated slickspots is the prime reason for proposed listing of this species.

### 1.3 Compliance Status

Federal government actions to protect *Lepidium papilliferum* began when this species (as *Lepidium montanum* var. *papilliferum*) was designated as a Category 2 Candidate in the 1990 Notice of Review (55 CFR 6184). In 1993 Rollins elevated the variety to species level, as it was originally described by Henderson in 1900 (Henderson 1900, Rollins 1993). In February 1996 the Federal Register Notice of Review stated that the USFWS had ceased the use of category designations. *Lepidium papilliferum* was not included as a Candidate species in this Notice of Review. In October 1999 *Lepidium papilliferum* was reinstated as a Candidate species, with a listing priority of 2, in the 1999 Notice of Review (64 CFR 57534).

In April 2001 the Committee for Idaho's High Desert, Western Watersheds Project, The Wilderness Society, and Idaho's Conservation League petitioned the Secretary of Interior and the USFWS to list slickspot peppergrass (*Lepidium papilliferum*) as threatened or endangered pursuant to the Endangered Species Act and to list this species on an emergency basis due to significant risks to the well being of this species. The Regional Director responded to petition proponents that the USFWS had already determined that listing of *Lepidium papilliferum* was warranted due to its Candidate status; however, review of the petition did not indicate emergency listing of this species. It was further stated that funding for fiscal year 2001 to comply with court orders and judicially approved settlement agreements to designate critical habitat for previously listed species had been spent and that the USFWS did not anticipate initiating any new listing actions other than definitive emergency listings until fiscal year 2002 or later.

In January 2002 a complaint was filed by the Committee for Idaho's High Desert and Western Watershed Project against the Region 1 Director and the Acting Director of the USFWS and the Secretary of Interior with the United States District Court District of Oregon by Pacific Northwest Region Office of the Solicitor. In response, the USFWS denied that the listing process was halted in 2000 as a result of political pressures and that the petition for emergency listing was rejected without articulating any reasoned basis for doing so. In April 2002 the USFWS settled the lawsuit filed by the Western Watershed Project and the Committee for Idaho's High Desert for failure to list slickspot peppergrass under the Endangered Species Act. The settlement required the USFWS to issue a proposed listing rule no later than July 15, 2002.

The Proposed Rule for listing *Lepidium papilliferum* as endangered (USFWS 2002) was published in the Federal Register on July 15, 2002 and withdrawn on January 22, 2004, the USFWS citing a lack of evidence supporting a negative population trend and the formation and implementation of conservation plans (Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan). On August 19, 2005, the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho reinstated the July 15, 2002 proposed rule to list *Lepidium papilliferum* as endangered. On January 12, 2007 the USFWS withdrew the proposed rule citing little evidence of negative impacts on the abundance of *Lepidium papilliferum*. As a result of this action, a complaint was filed and the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho once again ordered a return to the July 15, 2002 proposal. The most recent proposed rule to list *Lepidium papilliferum* was published in the Federal Register on September 19, 2008 (USFWS 2008). On October 8, 2009, the USFWS published a determination that *Lepidium papilliferum* is a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This Endangered Species Management Plan is prepared as a result of *Lepidium papilliferum*'s threatened status.

#### **1.4 OCTC *Lepidium papilliferum* Overview**

Four large populations and three small areas of *Lepidium papilliferum* occur on the northern portion of OCTC. The IDARNG has been monitoring, studying, and protecting these habitats since 1991. Much of the primary research on this species was done by the IDARNG in the 1990s. The IDARNG *Lepidium papilliferum* management policy was based on this research and was designed to prevent damage to and fragmentation of the large sagebrush stand (approximately 23 square miles) in which *Lepidium papilliferum* occurs on OCTC; to prevent any military disturbance of *Lepidium papilliferum* population centers and to maintain these off-limits areas into the future; and to monitor both general vegetation trends and *Lepidium papilliferum* population trends into the future.

The Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) section of land has a small population of *Lepidium papilliferum*. However, the 640-acre MATES section is neither Bureau of Land Management land nor a part of OCTC; it is land leased from the State of Idaho and is contiguous with the boundary of OCTC. For purposes of this document, management actions taken by the IDARNG are assumed to apply to the MATES, unless specifically stated otherwise.

#### **1.5 Description, Summary, and Duration of the Proposed Action**

The IDARNG proposes to continue to implement its military mission at OCTC. The mission of the IDARNG at OCTC is to provide Inactive Duty Training and Annual Training facilities first to the National Guard and Reserve Forces, and when possible to other government and civilian organizations.



OCTC mission requirements include (Gene Stout and Associates 2003):

- providing a training area for National Guard and Reserve Forces and Active Component troops providing direct support to the National Guard;
- providing assistance, facilities, training areas, and logistical support to units conducting training;
- providing small arms and crew-served weapons qualification ranges and facilities;
- providing maneuver areas suitable for training heavy armor and mechanized units;
- providing range facilities for tracked fighting vehicles;
- providing for artillery/mortar gunnery and maneuver;
- providing for attack helicopter gunnery; and
- providing or coordinating organizational and direct support maintenance facilities for units conducting training.

## 1.6 Consultation to Date

Before the Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) and the Ammunition Supply Point were constructed, IDARNG Natural Resources staff searched these two sites for *Lepidium papilliferum*. In the case of the MATES, no *Lepidium papilliferum* was found in or near the proposed construction footprint.

In the case of the Ammunition Supply Point, the proposed roadway into the facility was found to have no *Lepidium papilliferum*, nor were any plants found in the proposed footprint of the facility itself, except for three slick spots with *Lepidium papilliferum* that were located on the line of the proposed southern boundary fence. The IDARNG consulted with Dr. Bob Parenti, USFWS, Snake River Basin office. This informal consultation (on an unlisted species) resulted in this fence line being altered to exclude the three slick spots. Also, before Ammunition Supply Point construction began, the three slick spots were fenced to preclude damage during construction. These slick spots remain fenced to protect them from livestock, which tend to make paths along fence lines.

In 1992 the IDARNG received a series of Department of Defense Legacy grants to study *Lepidium papilliferum*, especially its seeds. The IDARNG consulted with the USFWS before beginning this research, and Dr. Parenti approved the study design and seed collection protocols.

In 1998 a *Lepidium papilliferum* interagency technical team was formed to study the species and advise decision makers about actions and policies that had the potential to affect the species or its habitat. IDARNG has been a member of this technical team since its inception.

In November of 2009, IDARNG staff met with the USFWS regarding the October 2009 Final Rule listing *Lepidium papilliferum* as threatened. This meeting resulted in agreement that the IDARNG would submit an Endangered Species Management Plan in an updated Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the OCTC.

## 1.7 Document Overview

This plan conforms to Army guidance on the preparation of Endangered Species Management Plans (U.S. Army Environmental Center 1995). It also conforms to the Endangered Species Consultation Handbook (USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service 1998) requirements for conducting consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. This Endangered Species Management Plan has all elements required for an Endangered Species Management Plan as an efficient means to both manage *Lepidium papilliferum* and consult with the USFWS.

- **Executive Summary:** An abstract of the purpose and scope; species status; habitat requirements and primary threats; conservation goal, objectives and specific tasks for *Lepidium papilliferum* on OCTC; estimated costs of conservation actions; and determination of effect.
- **1.0 Introduction:** A brief overview of the purpose for this Endangered Species Management Plan, species and compliance status, OCTC *Lepidium papilliferum* overview, summary of Proposed Action, and consultation to date.
- **2.0 Species Information:** Current knowledge on *Lepidium papilliferum* description, distribution, habitat requirements, life history, and reasons for listing.
- **3.0 Proposed Action:** Scope of military mission at OCTC; description of military mission, units, and training facilities; and potential **and actual military**-related threats to *Lepidium papilliferum*.
- **4.0 Conservation Goal, Objectives, and Specific Tasks:** Conservation goal for actions taken by IDARNG to protect and manage *Lepidium papilliferum* with objectives and specific tasks to achieve the goal. Both current and planned actions are included.
- **5.0 Implementation Time, Costs, and Personnel Required:** A summary of the Endangered Species Management Plan timeframe, annual costs, and personnel required for implementation.
- **6.0 Determination of Effect:** Determination of “may effect – is not likely to adversely affect.”
- **7.0 References:** References cited in the preparation of the assessment/plan.
- **8.0 External Agencies and Persons Contacted:** List of persons contacted outside of the IDARNG, not including preparer/technical reviewer contractors.

## 2.0 SPECIES INFORMATION

This section provides a description of *Lepidium papilliferum*, including the distribution, habitat/ecosystem, life history, evidence for its decline, and IDARNG conservation. Specific monitoring and management actions taken by the IDARNG on OCTC are described in Chapter 4, *Conservation Goal, Objectives, and Specific Tasks*, with more information found in Chapters 7 and 8 of the INRMP.

### 2.1 Species Description

*Lepidium papilliferum* is an ephemeral monocarpic species of the mustard (Brassicaceae) family. It appears as an intricately branched leafy herb with pinnate to bipinnate leaves and a taproot. Plants may range from as small as three centimeters to four decimeters tall. Numerous small white flowers appear at the ends of the branches in May and June (Figure 2.1). Filaments of the anthers bear club-shaped hairs. Fruits are disc-shaped, approximately three millimeters long, and appear in June or July. Some individuals of the species are annual, and others are biennial.

**Figure 2.1. *Lepidium papilliferum* showing one large plant (biennial) and several annual plants.**

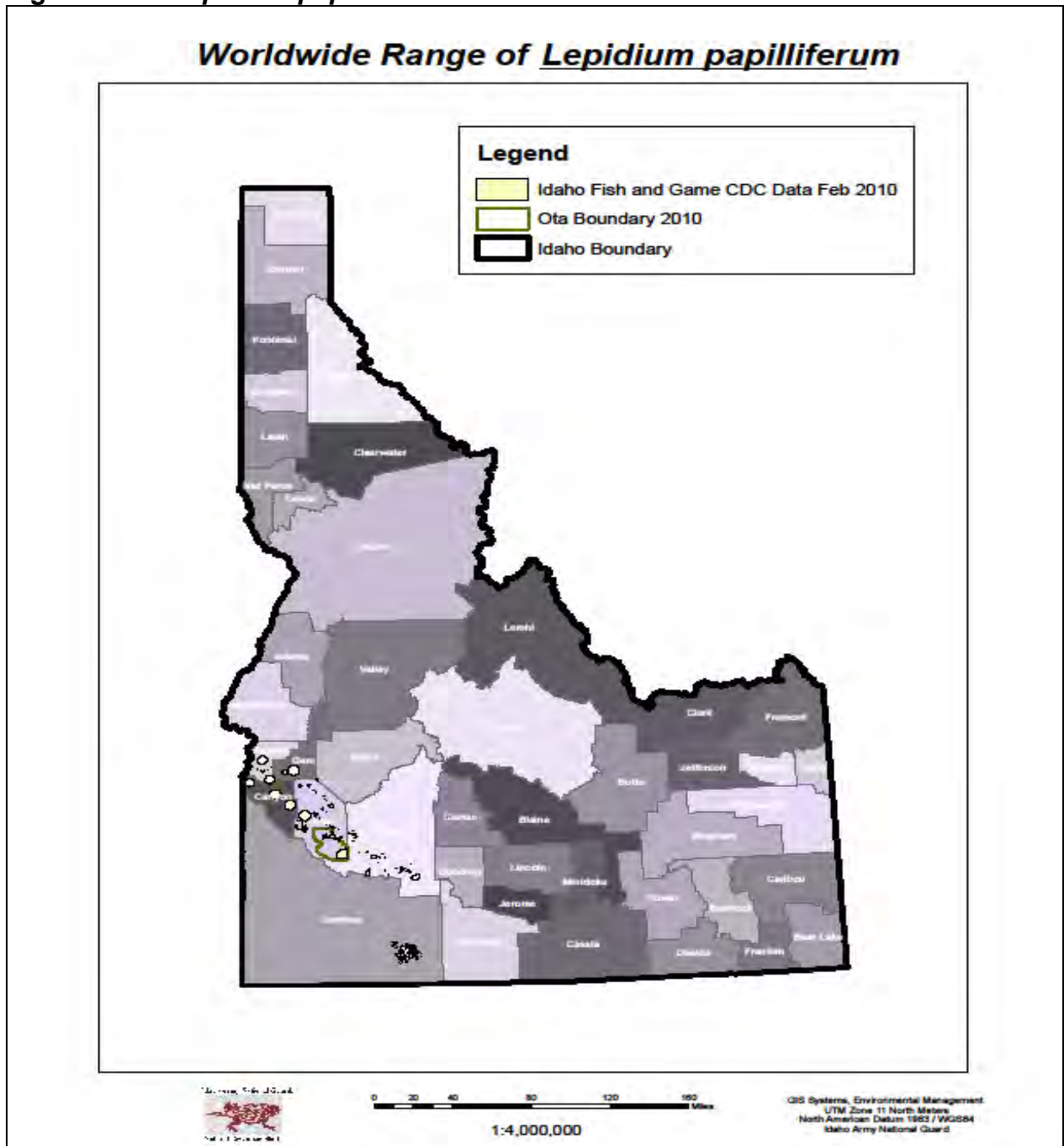


## 2.2 Species Distribution

### 2.2.1 General Distribution

*Lepidium papilliferum*, an Idaho endemic, occurs in sagebrush-steppe habitats at approximately 670-1,645 meters elevation in southwestern Idaho. It is found along the Snake River Plain and Owyhee Plateau in Ada, Canyon, Gem, Elmore, Payette, and Owyhee counties (USFWS 2002).

Figure 2.2.1. *Lepidium papilliferum* General Distribution



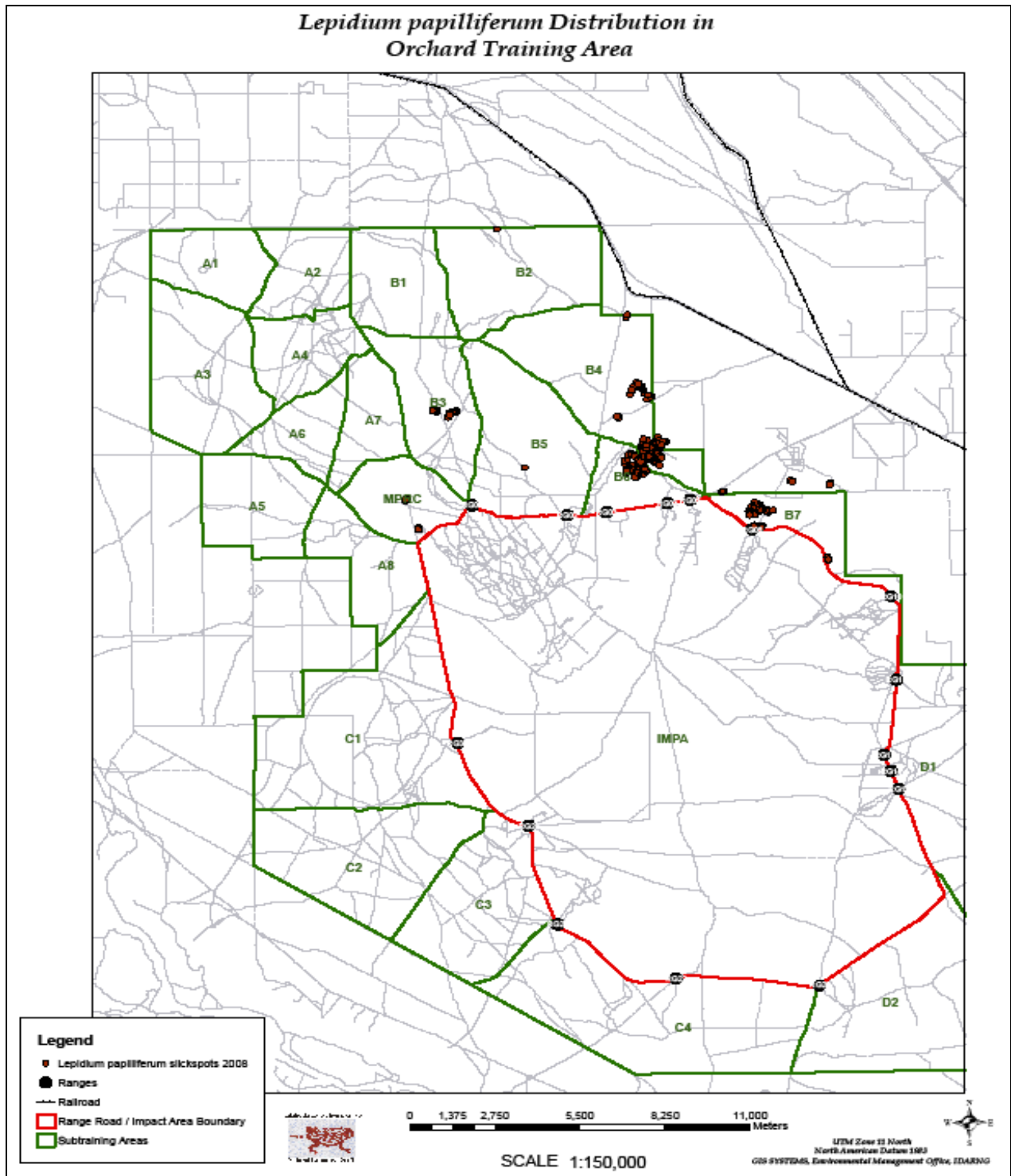
Of 101 known element occurrences (Statewide), 9 are considered extinct, and 16 have not been relocated at sites originally collected (*i.e.*, plants have not been relocated at sites originally collected between 1911 and 1974) (Moseley 1994; Mancusco 2000; Shelly Cooke, Conservation Data Center (CDC), personal communication 2002; Colket *et al.* 2006). *Lepidium papilliferum* occurrences include one or more occupied slickspots within an area determined to be suitable habitat. The total amount of habitat containing interspersed slickspots that have extant occurrences of *Lepidium papilliferum* is about 5,000 hectares. Under the current application of the EO rank specifications, 16 of the 76 extant occurrences are considered good-quality habitat (Colket *et al.* 2006).

### **2.2.2 OCTC Distribution**

OCTC distribution information is from the OCTC Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (Gene Stout and Associates 2003), the IDARNG Natural Resources Staff and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game CDC. In 1991 the IDARNG Natural Resources Staff began to survey OCTC for the presence of *Lepidium papilliferum*. In 1998, IDFG CDC began complementary surveys for *Lepidium papilliferum*. In 2006, the IDFG CDC applied current EO specifications and ranks to all the current three element occurrences (EOs 27, 53 and 67) of *Lepidium papilliferum* that occur in OCTC (Colket *et al.* 2006). They used IDARNG and IDFG CDC survey data and specific criteria that may not precisely correspond to actual areas of the populations or to boundaries of homogeneous habitat in which they occur. Locations in OCTC where *Lepidium papilliferum* has been found are shown in Figure 2.2.2 *Lepidium papilliferum* on OCTC.

The three element occurrences identified by IDFG CDC are made up of four large subpopulations and five small sub-populations. The boundaries of these OCTC subpopulations have been established by Natural Resources Staff using intensive surveys in late spring/early summer during eighteen consecutive years. These occurrences make up a 5,167 acre conservation area, Level I Habitat Management Area, and are off-limits to military training except on designated roads.

Figure 2.2.2. *Lepidium papilliferum* on OCTC.



These subpopulations are known by the names of Red Tie/South Standifer, Emerald Wash, Orchard Corner, Ground Squirrel, Crypt Basin, White Dog/States, Fake Raptor Rock, Christmas Mountain, and Far North (See Figure 3.4).

- The area in the best condition is Red Tie/South Standifer, with approximately 1,410 acres. Red Tie/South Standifer is in excellent to good ecological condition. It has a Wyoming big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*) stand with excellent cryptogamic soil crust, an understory of native grasses including Thurber's needlegrass (*Stipa thurberiana*), and very few non-native weeds. The area is grazed by cattle and sheep in spring and fall.
- The Emerald Wash subpopulation is approximately 350 acres and is in good ecological condition. Emerald Wash also has Wyoming big sagebrush, good cryptogamic crust and a good understory of native grasses with few non-native weeds. This area is grazed in the spring and fall by cattle and sheep, more frequently by cattle.
- The Orchard Corner subpopulation is approximately 1,405 acres of big sagebrush with native grass and weedy areas. The area is grazed by cattle in both the spring and fall (and occasionally by sheep in spring and fall) and is in fair to good ecological condition.
- The Ground Squirrel site is approximately 104 acres of sagebrush with small amounts of non-native weeds and some native grasses. The area is grazed by cattle and sheep in the spring and fall and is in good ecological condition.
- Crypt Basin is approximately 600 acres and is in fair to good ecological condition. It is characterized by sagebrush, an understory of native grasses and forbs with little cheatgrass or non-native weeds. Crypt Basin is grazed mostly by cattle in the spring and fall and occasionally by sheep in spring and fall.
- The White Dog/States subpopulation consists of approximately 2,233 acres of small hills and flats with some big sagebrush, moderate amounts of native grasses, and areas of non-native weeds. It is grazed by cattle in the spring and fall and by sheep in winter in recent years. Portions of the area have burned several times in the past 40 years and contain mostly non-native weeds. The three fenced Ammunition Supply Point slick spots and the small MATES subpopulation are contiguous with and are part of this subpopulation. The area is in fair to poor ecological condition.
- The Fake Raptor Rock subpopulation consists of a few plants south of the White Dog/States subpopulation, in a smaller stand of big sagebrush with some native grasses and some exotic weeds. It is grazed by cattle in the spring and fall and by sheep in winter in recent years. The area is in fair to poor ecological condition, and occupies approximately 5 acres.

Red Tie/South Standifer, Emerald Wash, Orchard Corner, Ground Squirrel, Crypt Basin, White Dog/States, and Fake Raptor Rock are all within Element Occurrence 027, OCTC. This Element Occurrence extends outside the training area boundary, but most of it is on OCTC. The CDC has given this metapopulation EO rank B. This is the largest EO rank B population of *Lepidium papilliferum*. (The USFWS recognizes populations of rare species as *element occurrences*. An element occurrence is formally defined as *an area of land and/or water in which a species or natural community is, or was, present*. The ideal element occurrence represents either a distinct population, part of a population, or a group of subpopulations (NatureServe 2002).) EO rank A is the highest condition-class (no element occurrences currently have an A rank), and EO rank D is the lowest condition class.

- The Christmas Mountain occurrence consists of a few very small microsites in an area that was partly burned by wildfire in the early 1980s. Approximately 2,080 acres are included in the IDARNG Christmas Mountain Administrative Off-Limits Area, but only 15 acres have *Lepidium papilliferum*. Part of this area is dominated by non-native weeds; part of the area is dominated by native grasses; and part of the area is sagebrush with a reduced amount of native grasses but few

exotic weeds, other than bur-buttercup (*Ranunculus testiculatus*). It is grazed in the spring and fall by cattle and sheep and is in fair to poor ecological condition.

Christmas Mountain is Element Occurrence 053, and its CDC rating is EO rank C.

- The Far North population consists of an isolated population in intensively searched big sagebrush habitat inside the training area and adjacent to its northern border. This population is found on approximately 30 acres and is in good ecological condition. It is grazed in the spring and fall by cattle and sheep.

Far North is Element Occurrence 067, on the north edge of OCTC. Identified in 2001, Far North is a small population in good condition big sagebrush habitat with an understory of native perennial grasses and few exotic weeds. It is grazed in the spring and fall by cattle and sheep. This population is currently classified at EO rank B.

The above occurrences are surrounded by a larger area (approx. 26,000 acres) of Wyoming big sagebrush that acts as a buffer to any impacts to *Lepidium papilliferum* sites. This is designated as Level II Habitat Management Area and includes Alpha 2, 4, 6 and 7 Maneuver Areas, all Bravo Maneuver Areas and the MATES Section of state land (see Figure 3.4). Within Level II Habitat Management Area, Military training is restricted to non-shrub areas with no off-road maneuvering allowed per BLM regulations (USDI BLM 2008).

The southern portion of OCTC does not support *Lepidium papilliferum*. The southern part of OCTC is salt-desert shrub habitat rather than big sagebrush habitat, has less rainfall than the northern portion, and does not have the slick-spot-forming soil types required by *Lepidium papilliferum* (Harkness 2001).

**Table 2.2.2 *Lepidium papilliferum* Management Areas**

Name of Area	When Established	Acreage
Red Tie/Orchard Corner	1991	1400
(Emerald Wash, now part of Red Tie/Orchard Corner)	2000	350
Red Tie, South Standifer	2000	1410
Crypt Basin	2003	600
White Dog/States	1991	2233
Christmas Mountain	1991	1 (inside a 2,233-acre administrative off-limits area)
Ammunition Supply Point (contiguous with White Dog/States)	1991	1 (fenced)
MATES (part of White Dog/States)	1991	25
Ground Squirrel	1994	104
Fake Raptor Rock	2001	5
Far North	2001	30

### 2.2.3 Population Trends

*Lepidium papilliferum* is an annual species with some individuals that overwinter and produce seed the following year before dying. Most individuals germinate, bloom, produce seed, and die in the same year. Numbers of this species vary with the amount and timing of precipitation. In years when there is sufficient moisture in April and May, many plants may appear. Additionally, in years with a few summer



and early fall rainstorms, a number of plants may overwinter, grow very large, and bloom and produce seed the following summer. In years when there is little spring and summer rain, very few plants may appear. Numbers of this species fluctuate with precipitation (Meyer *et al.* 2005, 2006)

In this part of the Great Basin, extreme variability in precipitation amount and timing is typical. Therefore, one year there may be tens of thousands of *Lepidium papilliferum* plants in OCTC, but the following year only a few thousand plants (Table 2.2.3), even with little or no disturbance to the plant and its habitat. In a following year with favorable precipitation, there may be tens of thousands of plants again. The reason this species can persist in such a variable environment is that its seed lives for many years in the soil. Living seed of *Lepidium papilliferum* does not germinate readily. Therefore, a *Lepidium papilliferum* slick spot can have plants one year, none the next, and plants again in a later year. Just because no plants are seen in a given year is no reason to assume that the slick spot does not have *Lepidium papilliferum* (Meyer *et al.* 2005, 2006). It is important to protect such slick spots even in years when no plants are evident.

**Table 2.2.3. Variability of *Lepidium papilliferum* and Spring Rainfall in OCTC**

Year	Feb—June Precipitation*	OCTC Rough Census, Number of <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> Plants
1992	3.99	13,509
1993	5.40	95,592
1994	3.04	67,756
1995	5.10	134,989
1996	4.21	29,697
1997	3.21	4,895
1998	8.76	44,074
1999	3.43	Incomplete data
2000	5.60	16,162
2001	2.38	3,792
2002	1.53	4,639
2003	3.69	21,325
2004	5.09	19,440
2005	5.09	18,599
2006	5.34	8,986
2007	3.01	15,518
2008	2.88	35,276
2009	4.48	37,823
2010	3.11	55,735
2011	5.97	15,725
*In inches.		
**Note: Precipitation data from Range 2 weather station.		

## 2.3 Habitat Requirements

### 2.3.1 General

*Lepidium papilliferum* is restricted to visually distinct, small-scale openings within the sagebrush steppe ecosystem. These sparsely vegetated microsites are created by unique edaphic conditions and are variously described as “natric sites”, “mini-playas”, “playettes”, and “slickspots”. These slickspots tend to have little vascular cover other than the slick spot peppergrass. Algae, mosses, and lichens may cover the surface on some sites. Surrounding vegetation on Snake River Plain sites is typically dominated by Wyoming big sagebrush with an understory that may include Sandberg’s bluegrass (*Poa secunda*), bottlebrush squirreltail (*Sitanion hystrix*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Agropyron spicatum*), and Thurber’s needlegrass. There are occurrences in the Snake River Plain where this original vegetation matrix has been altered due to fire and other disturbance, and *Lepidium papilliferum* sites are still present. These sites are generally dominated by cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), numerous exotic annuals, and seeded wheat grasses in some areas. On foothills sites, surrounding vegetation may be dominated by basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata tridentata*) and bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), with an understory of red three-awn (*Aristida longiseta*).

**Figure 2.3.1** Here *Lepidium papilliferum* is shown in good big sagebrush habitat in the Red Tie area.



## 2.4 Life History

*Lepidium papilliferum* displays two life cycle forms, an annual form and a biennial form, and emerges in the spring. The annual form sets seed and dies in the same growing season. Typically, these plants are single-stemmed and have fewer flowers and fruits than the biennial form. The biennial form remains as a rosette through the growing season and winter, then bolts and sets fruit the following spring or summer (Meyer 1995). Seed production is generally higher for biennials; however, the probability of survival to reproduction is lower. This is due to the risk of mortality from late summer drought and long-term flooding of slickspots that may occur in the fall, winter, or early spring (Meyer *et al.* 2005, 2006).

Highly variable weather and precipitation patterns of the region appear to influence the number of individual plants from year to year. This variation may affect the timing of phenological stages, as evidenced by differences of up to a month in some years. This is further seen by the variability in seed production of the biennial plants, which are most influenced by year-to-year variations.

*Lepidium papilliferum* reproduces only from seeds. Seeds possess high viability but do not generally germinate the first year (Meyer 1995). In a long term field experiment, Meyer *et al.* (2005) reported no seed germination during the first winter with persistent germination each year for 11 years. This would indicate the seeds are probably programmed for long-term persistence in the soil seed bank. Seeds that germinate in the seed bank in any given year may represent the offspring of many generations. Gravity is the most likely agent for seed dispersal. *Lepidium papilliferum* seeds (on and off the plant) are at a high risk for depredation (up to 90% of seeds) by the Owyhee harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex salinus*) (Robertson and White 2007). Robertson and White (2008) showed that harvester ants depredated *Lepidium papilliferum* seed as far as 20 m from an ant colony. They also found greater densities of ant colonies in annual grass dominated areas compared to sagebrush habitat; therefore any conversion of sagebrush to annual grasses near *Lepidium papilliferum* slick spots may result in a major depletion of the seed bank. Most of the OCTC's *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat has sagebrush canopy.

*Lepidium papilliferum*'s ability to self-pollinate appears to be very limited and recent work on pollinators strongly suggests that *Lepidium papilliferum* relies on insect-mediated cross-pollination (Robertson 2002, 2004, Robertson and Klemash 2003, Robertson and Ulappa 2004). Further studies show that not only does *Lepidium papilliferum* rely on insect-mediated cross-pollination but that matings between distant (>3m away) *Lepidium papilliferum* individuals resulted in higher seed production compared to matings with immediate neighbors (Robertson and Ulappa 2004, Billinge and Robertson 2008).

Important insect pollinators include bees and wasps (Hymenoptera), beetles (Coleoptera), and flies (Diptera) (Robertson and Klemash 2003). Insects do not always benefit *Lepidium papilliferum*. Recently, Robertson and Maguire (2005) found that crab spiders (*Misumena vatia*) found on *Lepidium papilliferum* flowers will prey on visiting insects, resulting in lower pollinator visitation rates for those flowers with crab spiders. In addition, some beetles (*Phyllotreta* sp.) forage on individual *Lepidium papilliferum* flowers resulting in reduced seed production for damaged flowers (Leavitt and Robertson 2006).

OCTC data indicate that *Lepidium papilliferum* can be present in a slick spot microsite one year, and if conditions are not favorable for seed germination, it may not appear again until a later year. There are many slick spot microsites on the training area where *Lepidium papilliferum* has not been present for many years. An investigation of this species found that *Lepidium papilliferum* seeds typically live for 12 years in the soil. This study concluded that the species would not be able to persist in the western Snake River Plain if the seeds did not have this long period of in-soil dormancy. Since the numbers of plants vary a great deal from year to year, much of the future management of *Lepidium papilliferum* may involve its seed bank (Meyer *et al.* 2005, 2006).

## 2.5 Reasons for Listing

A species is designated as *threatened* when it is *likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range* (USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service 1998). *Lepidium papilliferum* is threatened by a variety of activities, including urbanization, gravel mining, irrigated agriculture, habitat degradation due to cattle and sheep grazing, fire and fire rehabilitation activities, and continued invasion of habitat by non-native plants (Moseley 1994, Mancuso and Moseley 1998).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the present distribution and abundance of *Lepidium papilliferum* is threatened due to the following factors (USFWS 2009):

***Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range.*** Elements contributing to this factor include a modified wildfire regime, invasive nonnative plant species, residential, commercial and agricultural development, and recreation. Fire is directly destructive to *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat and it contributes to nonnative plant invasion through natural postfire processes. Development poses a significant threat within the Boise Foothills and the Snake River Plain. Recreation is seen as posing a localized, minor threat through trampling and spread of invasive nonnative weeds (USFWS 2009).

***Disease or predation.*** Recent studies on seed predation by Owyhee harvester ants has demonstrated potential to significantly impact *Lepidium papilliferum* populations rangewide (Robertson and White 2008).

***Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.*** Local extirpation of *Lepidium papilliferum* populations is a threat due to the extremely small size of most populations and continuing habitat fragmentation. Climate change is also seen as potentially exaggerating and adding to the current threats to *Lepidium papilliferum* (USFWS 2009).

The Final Rule for listing *Lepidium papilliferum* as a threatened species throughout its range (USFWS 2009) includes examples and rationale for the above factors.

## 2.6 IDARNG Conservation

In the case of OCTC, most measures of this management plan have been funded and implemented for over 20 years. Adequate management or protection is provided by a legally operative plan that addresses the maintenance and improvement of primary constituent elements important to the species and manages for the long-term conservation of the species:

**1. The plan provides a conservation benefit to the species.** Cumulative benefits of the management activities identified in a management plan, for the length of the plan, must maintain or provide for an increase in a species' population or the enhancement or restoration of its habitat within the area covered by the plan (*i.e.*, those areas deemed essential to the conservation of the species). A conservation benefit may result from reducing fragmentation of habitat, maintaining populations, ensuring against catastrophic events, enhancing and restoring habitats, buffering protected areas, or testing and implementing new conservation strategies.

***IDARNG Response.*** Flora and fauna inventory and monitoring, habitat management, habitat restoration, and numerous other projects discussed in the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan will provide a cumulative conservation benefit to the species. With the aid of botanist Dr. Susan Meyer, the IDARNG studied *Lepidium papilliferum* in OCTC from 1991 to 1996, with the goal of developing guidelines for

effective conservation of the species and its habitat in the training area. The species was a federal Candidate 2 species under the Endangered Species Act at that time.

In 1991 the IDARNG identified *Lepidium papilliferum* population centers in OCTC and placed them off-limits to military training. Life history, demography, seed biology, reproductive strategy, habitat integrity, soils, and pollination strategy were studied. These were areas where little or no scientific information was available. Several interim reports were produced during IDARNG research, which was initially funded by Department of Defense Legacy grants and later supported by the IDARNG and the U.S. Forest Service (Meyer 1993, Meyer and Quinney 1993, Meyer 1996, Meyer *et al.* 2005, 2006). The research documented many facts new to science regarding *Lepidium papilliferum*'s life history, seed biology, reproductive strategies, and habitat relationships.

As the work progressed, IDARNG and Dr. Meyer developed guidelines for a management strategy for *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat in OCTC and guidelines for subsequent monitoring of the species. These guidelines were implemented by IDARNG as they were formulated during 1991 through 1996, and they were updated as new information became available. This work eventually resulted in A Life History Study of the Snake River Plains Endemic *Lepidium Papilliferum* (Brassicaceae) (Meyer *et al.* 2005) and A Stochastic Population Model for *Lepidium papilliferum* (Brassicaceae), a Rare Desert Ephemeral with a Persistent Seed Bank (Meyer *et al.* 2006). Thus, IDARNG guidelines for the management of military training on OCTC as it might affect *Lepidium papilliferum* are largely based upon this research.

Policies that the IDARNG implemented since 1987 regarding *Lepidium papilliferum* are as follows:

**Table 2.6. IDARNG *Lepidium papilliferum* Management Policies Implemented**

Action	Year Implemented	Comments
When firing on the ranges takes place during fire season, water trucks with trained fire crews must be present.	1987	These firefighting policies have greatly reduced the acreage burned each year.
When smoke is seen during a military training exercise, all firing stops until the fire is out.	1988	Since 1987 OCTC has lost far fewer acres of sagebrush to fire than surrounding lands, less than 150 acres, compared to tens of thousands of acres of sagebrush lost to fire in lands adjoining the training area.
When planning maneuver and bivouac exercises, military units must submit their plans to the IDARNG Natural Resources Staff; if the exercise might affect <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> , Natural Resources Staff work with the units to re-locate the exercises.	About 1990	Maneuver and bivouac exercises are sited so as not to affect <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> or its habitat.
Population centers of <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> are placed off-limits to all military training, 5,167 acres.	1991	Additional off-limits areas were added in 1994, 1990, and 2001, as more populations of the species were found.

Action	Year Implemented	Comments
All areas proposed for construction, development, or changes of use are first surveyed for <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> ; if the species is found, the area is not disturbed; the activity is re-located.	1991	Implemented and enforced by Commanding General authorization.
Newly documented populations of <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> will be added either to the Level I Habitat Management Areas or to the Level II Habitat Management Area, depending upon evaluations of the populations and military use of the area, by the IDARNG natural resources staff.	1991	Annual surveys and LEPA habitat surveys conducted annually.
Maneuvering is not done in sagebrush stands; IDARNG is doing less and less heavy maneuvering.	1996	This was done to protect sagebrush stands from fragmentation and from invasion by exotic annuals.
All military vehicles coming to OCTC from outside the western Snake River Plain must first be washed at the high-pressure wash rack at the MATES before entering the training area.	1999	This was done to prevent the introduction of additional species of exotic annuals.

**2. The plan provides that the conservation effort will be effective.** The following criteria will be considered when determining the effectiveness of the conservation effort. The plan includes (1) biological goals (broad guiding principles for the program) and objectives (measurable targets for achieving the goals); (2) quantifiable, scientifically valid parameters that will demonstrate achievement of objectives and standards for these parameters by which progress will be measured are identified; (3) provisions for monitoring and, where appropriate, adaptive management; and (4) a duration sufficient to implement the plan and achieve benefits of its goals and objectives.

**IDARNG Response.** Goals, objectives, and long-term ecosystem needs, based on land use sustainability for the Defense mission, have been analyzed and considered extensively in collaboration with persons contacted while preparing this plan. Goals and objectives are defined in Section 8 and 9 of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. Monitoring will occur by Natural Resources staff on a regular basis.

All IDARNG conservation and protection measures noted in this Endangered Species Management Plan have been in place for years.

The IDARNG has not lost any *Lepidium papilliferum* plants or habitat to military training or fire since it began monitoring the species in 1991. The IDARNG Natural Resources staff monitors Level I Habitat Management Areas (off-limits) year-round, and since 1991 have recorded only three military trespasses into these areas, none of which affected any *Lepidium papilliferum* or slick spots.

The IDARNG has a sound, science-based management policy that has been in place for over 20 years.

The IDARNG *Lepidium papilliferum* management policy was designed to prevent damage to and fragmentation of the large sagebrush stand, the Level II Habitat Management Area, in which *Lepidium papilliferum* occurs on OCTC; to prevent any military disturbance of *Lepidium papilliferum* population centers and to maintain these off-limits areas into the future; and to monitor both general vegetation trends and *Lepidium papilliferum* population trends into the future. The IDARNG is committed to preventing destruction of *Lepidium papilliferum*'s sagebrush habitat by fire. The IDARNG's firefighting policy protects big sagebrush habitat from fire by actively posting trained firefighters and equipment at possible fire sources 24 hours a day, if necessary, throughout the fire season, and stopping military exercises when safe to suppress fires.

### **3.0 PROPOSED ACTION**

The IDARNG proposes to continue to implement its military mission on OCTC. A brief overview is presented in Section 1.5, *Description, Summary, and Duration of the Proposed Action*. More detail is presented in this section.

#### **3.1 Scope**

The IDARNG plans to continue to conduct its military mission at OCTC, Idaho. The Proposed Action is limited to OCTC and the MATES with regard to this Endangered Species Management Plan.

#### **3.2 General Military Mission**

The mission of the IDARNG is to:

- command, control, and supervise Idaho Army National Guard units allocated to the State to provide trained and equipped units capable of executing their wartime mission; and
- provide organized, equipped, and trained units to protect life and property, and preserve peace, order, and public safety under competent orders of federal and state authorities.

The purpose of the IDARNG is to support federal and state constitutional authority with an organized military force of citizen soldiers.

Over 3,300 soldiers make up the IDARNG. The 116<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Brigade is the state's largest unit. It consists of two armor battalions (one located in eastern Oregon), a mechanized infantry battalion (located in Montana), a Combat Engineer Battalion, a field artillery battalion, and a Support Battalion. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 183<sup>rd</sup> Aviation serves as the air component of the IDARNG.

OCTC is the primary training area for the IDARNG. It is also one of the largest heavy force (armor/mechanized) training areas for the Army National Guard. OCTC provides training for both federal and state missions of the IDARNG. The state mission is to respond to the call of the Governor in times of natural disaster, civil disturbance, or other local emergencies. The federal mission is to respond to the call of the President in times of national emergency.

A typical reserve component-training year normally includes one weekend per month and one to two weeks per year for the Annual Training cycle. Firing on ranges is restricted to the southern part of the area in April to accommodate grazing in the northern portion of the Impact Area, as directed by BLM.

### 3.3 Assigned Units

OCTC supports the following assigned units:

- 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team
- 1-183rd Aviation (Attack Helicopter)
- Company A, 1-168th Aviation
- 204th Regional Training Institute
- 938th Engineer Detachment
- 101st Civil Support Team

The range is also used for training by other National Guard and Reserve Units.

### 3.4 Training Areas, Impact Area, Ranges, and Support Facilities

Below information is taken from the 2012 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan. The OCTC provides for both maneuver and gunnery training. Sixteen active firing ranges are arranged in an irregular circular pattern around a central Impact Area (Figure 3.4). The Impact Area serves as the target area for helicopter, small arms, artillery, tank, and mortar firing. A fenced, smaller, core area within the Impact Area is referred to as the Artillery Impact Area. Artillery and mortar firing from designated positions in the maneuver sectors is directed to this particular target area. Functioning ammunition (*i.e.*, high explosives) is permitted to be fired into this area.

The Impact Area is closed to public access, and though it is not fenced, there are signs every 200 meters to warn the public and troops of the danger in that area. The smaller Artillery Impact area is fenced, primarily as a safety precaution for IDARNG personnel, livestock, and ranchers who may have permission to enter the Impact Area. Non-IDARNG personnel, with the exception of BLM and State-permitted livestock grazing users, are required to have an authorized escort any time they enter the Impact Area, and all activities must be coordinated with Annual Training Site staff. The remainder of OCTC is open to public use for grazing, hunting, off-road vehicle activity and other recreational use, as approved by BLM.

Gunnery ranges are classified by three general types: a Tank and Infantry Fighting Vehicle Range from which tanks and infantry fighting vehicles, in stationary positions, fire at stationary, moving, and pop-up targets; Specialty Weapons Ranges used for firing pistols, rifles, machine guns, mortars, light anti-armored vehicle weapons, and grenade launchers; and the Maneuver and Firing Range (Range 1), a state-of-the-art Multi-Purpose Range Complex-Heavy. The Multi-Purpose Range Complex-Heavy has both moving and stationary targets with an electronic scoring system. Control and evaluation of training scenarios on this range takes place from a tower on Christmas Mountain. At the base of Christmas Mountain is a fenced compound where equipment and supplies for the maintenance of the Multi-Purpose Range Complex-Heavy and other ranges are stored. Most ranges have a tower structure for viewing and evaluating gunnery activity. Helicopter landing pads are also located adjacent to each range, at the MATES facility, and at the Snake River Training Facility.

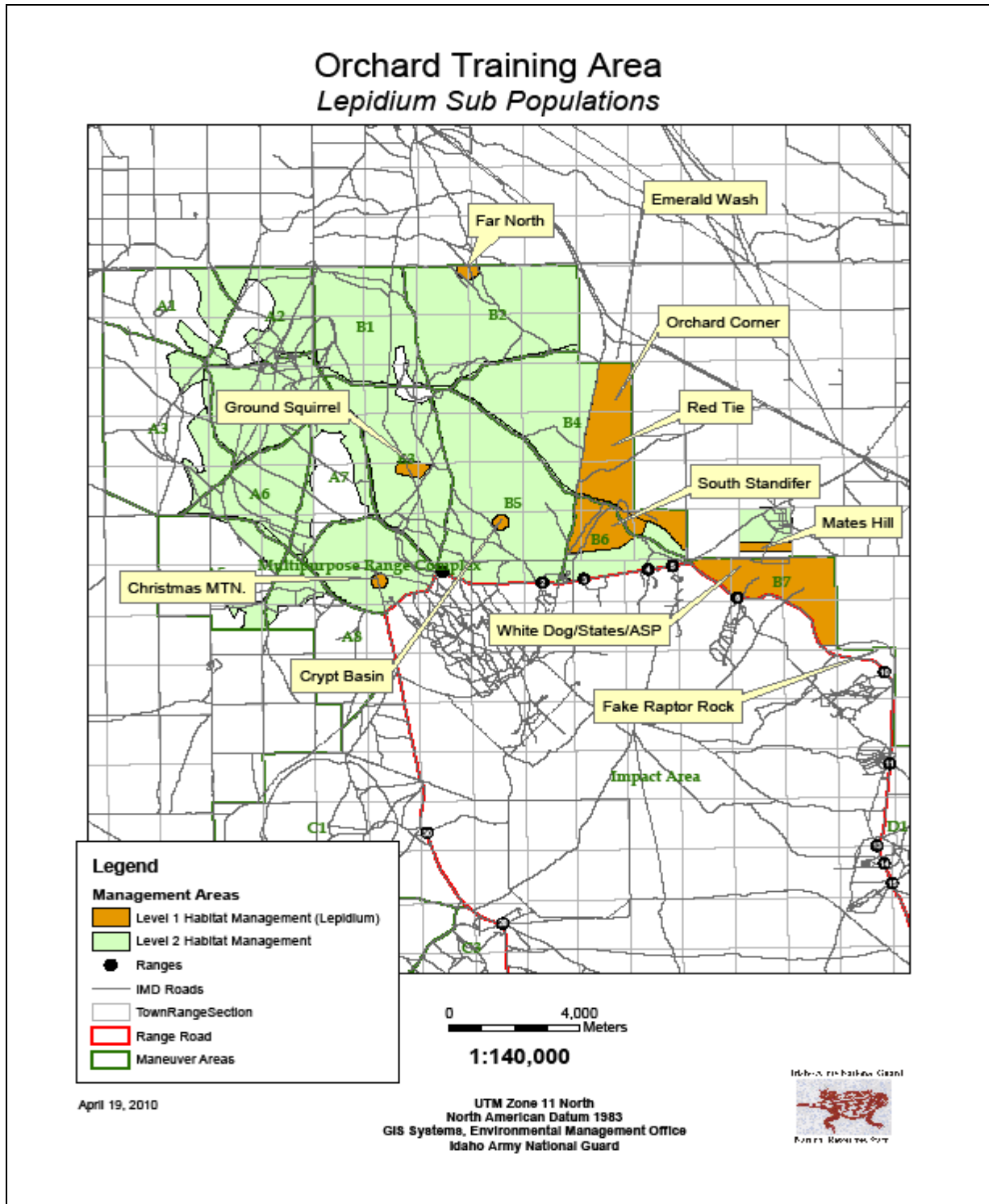
Maneuver areas (Figure 3.4) for vehicle driver familiarization, armored vehicle crew maneuver proficiency, scout squad proficiency, platoon and company level tactics and maneuver, and other combat support training surround the Impact Area. These areas are divided into sections primarily for the management and scheduling of training activities, and are not divided with any regard to changes in vegetation, soils, or other natural factors.

The MATES is located just east of OCTC on Orchard Road (Figure 3.4). This land is owned by the State of Idaho and leased to the IDARNG. This 26-bay facility provides maintenance and storage for most



tracked vehicles used for training on OCTC. Other components of this facility include a fuel point, vehicle wash facility, unit equipment issue compounds, a proposed railhead and proposed barracks (Ch2M Hill, 2008), and an equipment storage facility.

**Figure 3.4. OCTC Military Features and Management Areas**



Near the MATES, just inside the OCTC boundary is the Ammunition Storage Point. This enables units to acquire training ammunition just prior to entering the training area.

Located just inside the OCTC boundary from Orchard Road is the Snake River Training Facility. Originally built to function as a support facility for the Multi Purpose Range Complex - Heavy, this site now serves as the simulation training center

### **3.5 Training Activities in General *Lepidium papilliferum* Habitat and Potential *Lepidium papilliferum* Habitat**

The-IDARNG military activities that take place in the northern portion of OCTC (*Lepidium papilliferum* habitat) consist of the following:

- providing a training area for the IDARNG and other Reserve units;
- providing a training area with logistic support to units conducting inactive duty training, pre-deployment training, and annual training;
- providing small arms and crew-served weapons qualification ranges;
- providing maneuver areas suitable for training heavy armor and mechanized units;
- providing range facilities for M1A1 and M1A2 tank series and Bradley fighting vehicles;
- providing a training area and ranges for AH-64 Apache attack helicopter training and firing; and
- providing and coordinating range and maintenance support for units conducting training.

### **3.6 Potential/Actual Military Mission-related Threats to *Lepidium papilliferum* and Its Habitat**

This section outlines potential military mission-related threats to *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat on OCTC. The below general information is important to understanding the degree to which the IDARNG has avoided impacts to *Lepidium papilliferum*.

OCTC has lost little more than 100 acres of sagebrush habitat in the past 21 years (unpublished IDARNG GIS and fire data). The IDARNG has not lost any *Lepidium papilliferum* plants or habitat to military training or fire since it began monitoring the species in 1991. The IDARNG Natural Resources staff monitors *Lepidium papilliferum* off-limits areas year-round, and since 1991 have recorded only three military trespasses into these areas, none of which affected any *Lepidium papilliferum* or slick spots.

#### **Military Activities**

***Engineer Excavation Training.*** Engineer digging at OCTC is and has been for many years limited to one 5-acre site. This site has been excavated and filled countless times in the past 50 years and is virtually barren of all plants but a few exotic weeds.

***Administrative Travel of All Military Vehicles.*** In OCTC, any military vehicles not specifically engaged in a maneuver exercise must stay on the network of maintained roads.

***Bivouacs and Brigade Support Areas.*** These military field camps occur each year on OCTC. Bivouac (smaller) and brigade support areas (larger) consist of tents and/or mobile kitchens, track and wheeled vehicles, helicopters, portable toilets, dumpsters, and personnel. They are limited to areas outside Level I Habitat Management Areas.

**Firing on Firing Ranges.** OCTC has 21 firing ranges, all located inside Range Road loop, itself an effective firebreak. Tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, small arms (including grenades), and air-to-ground helicopter firing take place inside the Impact Area on these ranges. *Lepidium papilliferum* does not occur on these firing ranges. At points of impact, some munitions are capable of causing fires, and each year munitions-caused fires occur in the Impact Area. The average size of these fires is less than ¼ acre, and they occur in habitat that has burned many times during the past 50 years. IDARNG firefighters stationed on firing ranges during the fire season can respond to a fire in moments, containing nearly all fires inside the impact area and extinguishing most within a few minutes. IDARNG firefighters fight all fires in OCTC, regardless of the cause. There has not been a fire in Level I Habitat Management Areas in OCTC since before 1987, in great contrast to lands just outside OCTC, where tens of thousands of acres of *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat have burned since 1987. In the Level II Habitat Management Area, since 1987 there has been one fire set by a member of the general public, which burned fewer than five acres of weedy habitat, one lightning-strike fire in sagebrush that burned fewer than 50 square feet, and one lightning-strike fire that burned fewer than 40 acres of rabbitbrush.

**Fire Suppression.** During the fire season, IDARNG firefighters with water trucks, and other equipment, are stationed on ranges when soldiers are training there. Helicopter dip tanks are stationed on hardened cinder areas at and near the firing ranges. Unless a fire occurs, fire trucks remain on hardened pads or on the road network. If a fire occurs, training in the vicinity stops until the fire is out. Any damage to *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat during fire suppression would be less severe than damage to the habitat caused by fire. Since 1987 (the date when OCTC fire records begin), fires on OCTC have not burned any occupied *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat (see paragraph above). The IDARNG fire suppression effort has been very effective. See the IDARNG's Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plans for details.

**Direct Impacts from Ordnance.** All impacts from ammunition fall into the impact area, which is not in *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat.

**Maneuver Training.** Maneuver training involves soldiers (foot traffic) and both track and wheeled vehicles, including M1 Abrams tanks, Bradley fighting vehicles, armored personnel carriers, and HUMV vehicles. For all maneuver training in OCTC, military vehicles are required to travel on-road to designated maneuver areas. Population centers of *Lepidium papilliferum* are off-limits to all military training. Other *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat (sagebrush stands in the Level II Habitat Management Area) is under very limited use (See Figure 3.4).

Repeated wheel and track vehicle passes over the same area destroy vegetation and turn the soil structure to a flour-like consistency, exposing it to wind erosion. Intensive maneuver exercises are restricted to non-shrub areas to protect shrubs. IDARNG track vehicle studies (Jones and Bagley 2001) have found that such areas self-recover from this use in two years. Light maneuver exercises are allowed in some shrub areas if the plans are pre-approved by IDARNG Natural Resources staff, with the understanding that vehicles must travel in wedge or column formation, where vehicles are spread out and not following in one another's tracks. Shrubs, other than shadscale, appear to be able to withstand this level of maneuver activity, and it prevents the establishment of new roads (Jones and Bagley 2001).

**Refueling.** Refueling does not occur in *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat unless it takes place on the maintained road network. No refueling occurs in Level I Habitat Management Areas. Military vehicles draw their initial fuel at the MATES fuel facility, outside of OCTC. They may be refueled in the field by military fuel trucks. Any spills of fuels or other materials by soldiers must be reported to Range Control and IDARNG environmental staff who ensure containment and recovery or disposal of contaminated soil. Refueling does not take place in areas occupied by *Lepidium papilliferum*.

## **Military-related IDARNG Activities**

**Range Seeding.** Since 1987, the IDARNG has been in the process of reseeded old burns to native species that once grew on each burn. The IDARNG Natural Resources Staff uses only broadcast-seeding in areas directly adjacent to known *Lepidium papilliferum* sites: hand, aerial, or mechanical. Therefore, no soil is disturbed, and no exotic species are introduced. To determine which site-specific species to seed, the IDARNG Natural Resources Staff consults historic vegetation maps, old photographs, and other sources of information. These activities pose no threat to *Lepidium papilliferum* or its habitat.

**Pesticides and Herbicides.** The IDARNG only uses pesticides or herbicides on OCTC to control noxious weeds species. Pesticide application for OCTC lands is under the management of BLM. When the IDARNG finds areas of weeds that need chemical treatment, it reports them to BLM. On the MATES section of state land (the portal by which vehicles enter the training area and are washed before they proceed onto OCTC), small occurrences of noxious weeds are sometimes found. IDARNG contracts annually with Ada County Weed Control to spray these spot areas (fewer than five acres total area). These spots are in disturbed areas along maintained roads and near loading docks, at least 200 meters from sagebrush stands and from locations where *Lepidium papilliferum* has been found. All *Lepidium papilliferum* sites on the MATES section are uphill from areas that are sprayed for weeds.

**Environmental Monitoring.** Environmental monitoring in *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat consists of very light foot traffic by a handful of trained technicians each year. Much of the primary research documenting the life history and seed biology of *Lepidium papilliferum* has been done by IDARNG Natural Resources Staff, who are trained to do their work with minimum impact.

## **Non-Military Activities**

Since OCTC is on BLM land, only the Impact Area is off-limits to the general public. The general public has access to all other portions of the training area, and engages in a number of activities on this land. Some activities involve shooting, livestock grazing (cattle and sheep), and recreational driving. Although off-road driving by the general public in the National Conservation Area is prohibited by BLM, it does occur. Livestock grazing may impact *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat, but this activity is regulated by BLM. The general public occasionally builds campfires in *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat during the fire season, an activity potentially threatening to *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat, but recreational activities are also under the authority of BLM rather than IDARNG. This Endangered Species Management Plan includes only those activities managed by the IDARNG.

## **4.0 *Lepidium papilliferum* CONSERVATION GOAL, OBJECTIVES, AND TASKS**

### **4.1 Goal**

The IDARNG has a sound, science-based management policy that has been in place for over 20 years. This program is summarized in Section 4.3, *Objectives, Tasks, and Conservation Measures*. The IDARNG *Lepidium papilliferum* management policy was designed to:

- prevent damage to the extent possible and fragmentation of the large sagebrush stand (approximately 23 square miles) in which *Lepidium papilliferum* occurs on OCTC;
- prevent new infestations of exotic plants that may affect *Lepidium papilliferum* on OCTC that might affect *Lepidium papilliferum* or its habitat.
- prevent any military disturbance of *Lepidium papilliferum* population centers and to maintain these off-limits areas into the future; and
- monitor both general vegetation trends and *Lepidium papilliferum* population trends into the future.
- maintain or reestablish viable populations of *Lepidium papilliferum*, as identified, either to the Level I or Level II Habitat Management Areas, depending upon their extent, quality, accessibility, and vulnerability.

The USFWS has not developed a Recovery Plan for *Lepidium papilliferum*. The goal of *Lepidium papilliferum* management on OCTC is to protect and enhance *Lepidium papilliferum* populations and to protect and conserve the sagebrush habitat in which *Lepidium papilliferum* populations occur, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 USC 1531 *et seq.*). This plan falls under Goal 3 and Objectives 1, 2, and 3 of the INRMP (Section 8.0 of the INRMP).

### **4.2 Objectives, Tasks, and Conservation Measures**

#### **Objective 1: Maintain and enhance *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat on OCTC.**

**Task 1.1:** Prevent damage to and fragmentation of the large sagebrush stand (approximately 23 square miles) in which *Lepidium papilliferum* occurs on OCTC.

Sagebrush management is necessary to maintain a healthy population of *Lepidium papilliferum*. The IDARNG has been protecting sagebrush areas of OCTC from fire since 1987 and from all heavy military training exercises since 1991. The IDARNG is committed to the continued protection of sagebrush areas in OCTC from both natural and human threats. Management activities include the identification of areas to be protected based on recent surveys; exclusion of tracked vehicles, pyrotechnics, and off-road training from these areas; and active fire suppression in these areas. The Director, Annual Training Site is responsible for implementation of and compliance with protection measures.

*The IDARNG intends to continue the following specific habitat conservation measures for *Lepidium papilliferum*.*

- Manage and protect the large sagebrush stand in which *Lepidium papilliferum* occurs on OCTC.
- Annually monitor vegetation trends in this large sagebrush stand to determine if the vegetation composition is stable under current uses and management.

**Task 1.2:** Maintain and, when possible, improve the quality of *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat.

The IDARNG has implemented the following measures specifically to maintain and improve sagebrush habitat with its associated *Lepidium papilliferum* slickspots.

- No new roads are constructed through habitat areas.
- The IDARNG continues to restore damaged habitat by planting native sagebrush, grasses, and wildflowers. Due to a very successful wildland fire prevention/suppression program since 1987, this program emphasizes areas where shrubs were lost to fires before 1987.
- Only native seed is used in restoration plantings in *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat, and only broadcast seeding is used as the method of planting. Since 1995, the IDARNG has seeded about 1,000 acres annually to native species.

**The IDARNG intends to continue the following habitat management measures for *Lepidium papilliferum*.**

- Maintain Level I and Level II Habitat Management Areas and implement management guidelines for these areas.
- Restore damaged habitat using native species and broadcast seeding.
- Ensure minimal impacts to *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitats during habitat restoration projects.

**Objective 2: Continue to protect *Lepidium papilliferum* from military training and other Army-related activities.**

**Task 2.1:** Protection of *Lepidium papilliferum* from effects of military activities.

The following *Lepidium papilliferum* management policies were developed by an interagency committee and written into a draft Conservation Agreement in 1996.

- All areas proposed for development or new uses are surveyed for *Lepidium papilliferum* before the project can begin. If *Lepidium papilliferum* is found, the project is modified so that *Lepidium papilliferum* will not be disturbed, or the project moved to an area without *Lepidium papilliferum*.
- *Lepidium papilliferum* on the OCTC is monitored annually using a management-oriented rough census.
- *Lepidium papilliferum* off-limits areas are shown on all maps given to soldiers and are signposted on the ground.
- Before training events, soldiers are given briefings and materials describing *Lepidium papilliferum* and off-limits areas designated to protect it.
- IDARNG produces its own *Lepidium papilliferum* conservation materials to give to the soldiers.
- During training events when firing on the ranges occurs, trained firefighters and fire trucks are present; all training stops when smoke is sighted; firefighters are dispatched at once; and training does not resume until fires are out.

The IDARNG implemented these protection measures before 1996 even though the Conservation Agreement was not signed by other participating agencies.

The primary emphasis of fire management on OCTC is prevention. When the fire danger is high, the use of pyrotechnics and tracers is restricted. Environmental awareness videos, brochures, and posters stress

the importance of preventing fire. Education programs on fire prevention and safety are available to all Range personnel. OCTC's active fire suppression program protects numerous acres of shrub habitat and provides a safe environment for soldiers and the public.

The IDARNG's fire prevention and immediate suppression strategy is effective, as evidenced by OCTC having the largest stand of big sagebrush *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat in the National Conservation Area. Adjacent to OCTC, but just outside its boundaries, most remaining big sagebrush habitat in the National Conservation Area has been burned since 1987, with 10,000 or more acres burned in the 1990s. The IDARNG first implemented its military training-related wildfire suppression program in 1987; since then, there has not been a single fire on OCTC affecting *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat. Details of fire management on OCTC can be found in the IDARNG OCTC Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan (Williamson 2008).

The IDARNG recognizes that mechanical damage to *Lepidium papilliferum* and/or its habitat from military traffic is a potential risk. OCTC *Lepidium papilliferum* populations and their surrounding habitat are off-limits to all military use, both by vehicles and by foot traffic, and have been since 1991. Threats from traffic and the associated soil disturbance have not occurred for over 20 years. A few scattered *Lepidium papilliferum* slick spots occur outside off-limits areas. This area and the slick spots within it are protected by on-going IDARNG policy.

1. All plans for maneuver exercises are pre-approved by IDARNG natural resources staff, who relocate any maneuver activity that might come close to these slick spots; and
2. No maneuver or off-road track vehicle exercises occur in sagebrush stands.

It is important to note that analyses of data from the permanent plots show that vegetation inside the Level II Habitat Management Area has not been significantly different from the Level I *Habitat* Management Areas that have been off-limits to military training for many years. These two types of management areas are not significantly different in disturbance level, species diversity, abundance of native species, abundance of exotic species, and height and density of sagebrush (Bern 2000). This indicates that effects of military use in the sagebrush areas where military use takes place are statistically indistinguishable from the condition of adjacent areas of similar vegetation that have received no military use for a number of years.

***The IDARNG intends to continue the following military training mitigation conservation measures for *Lepidium papilliferum*.***

- Continue specific measures to protect *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat from military training damage.
- Continue to implement measures from the draft 1996 Conservation Agreement.
- Continue reviewing plans for military training exercises and siting them so they do not affect *Lepidium papilliferum* or its habitat.
- Maintain signage for off-limits areas.
- Monitor *Lepidium papilliferum* populations to ensure that off-limits areas have been respected.
- Continue to monitor sagebrush habitat to determine if current management practices are being effective in promoting ecological health and preventing deterioration.
- Continue to offer a high level of rapid response fire protection for military-related (and other) fires.

**Task 2.2:** Continue to protect *Lepidium papilliferum* from other military-related activities.

Non-native and/or noxious weeds threaten native ecosystems, complicate land restoration projects, add to the cost of pest management, foul automated military targets, bury fences, increase fire risk, and in general threaten ecosystem functionality. The IDARNG is dedicated to the prevention and control of invasive species at OCTC, per Executive Order 13112, *Invasive Species*.

OCTC was subject to invasions of several exotic weed species prior to the IDARNG's use of these lands: cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), exotic mustards (*Sisymbrium altissimum*, *Lepidium perfoliatum*, *Descurainia sophia*), Russian thistle (*Salsola kali/iberica*), halogeton (*Halogeton glomeratus*), and others. Weed seeds can be transported into OCTC via persons, vehicles, livestock, and wind (Yensen 1982). In recent years, very small spot populations of rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) and white-top (*Cardaria draba*) have been found on the OCTC. These have been controlled by hand-pulling (D. Quinney, personal observation).

Though chemical exotic plant control in OCTC is under BLM management, the IDARNG has the following specific non-chemical control policies for the non-native weed control.

- To prevent weed seed introduction into OCTC, all military vehicles coming to train on OCTC from a distance greater than 50 miles must be washed at the MATES high-pressure wash rack facility before entering OCTC. This is mandated by IDARNG Regulation 350-12 and has been in force since 1990.
- Existing noxious weed sites on OCTC are few, very small, and localized. Noxious weeds at small sites are treated (hand pulling, mechanical, or chemical treatment only) as they are found by IDARNG staff. Annually, noxious weed sites on OCTC are reported to BLM for treatment.

Cheatgrass is a competitive annual species that has replaced much of the native sagebrush steppe, particularly after an area has burned (Yensen 1982). Dr. Susan Meyer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Intermountain Research Station Shrub Sciences Laboratory in Provo, Utah, and Dr. David Nelson, recently retired from this laboratory, have been working on a biological method of controlling cheatgrass (Meyer *et al.* 1999). Field work on this investigation began in 2000 and continues. Very low rainfall during the first two years of the study has produced inconclusive results. The study will continue for two more years. The IDARNG will use results of this study, if applicable, to attempt to control cheatgrass on OCTC (Meyer *et al.* 1999, Meyer and Nelson 2002).

***The IDARNG intends to continue the following military training-related mitigation conservation measures for *Lepidium papilliferum*.***

- Minimize opportunities for the introduction of non-native plants onto OCTC by requiring pre-washing of non-local vehicles entering the training area.
- Directly control non-native noxious weeds, using non-herbicide means, as they are located.
- Cooperate with other agencies, particularly BLM, in the control of non-native noxious weeds in the general area of OCTC.
- Maintain off-limits status for *Lepidium papilliferum* population centers in OCTC.
- Continue to relocate military training exercises away from *Lepidium papilliferum*-occupied slick spots and other slick spots and surrounding habitat where *Lepidium papilliferum* seeds might exist in the soil seed bank.
- No new roads through Level I Habitat Management Areas.



**Objective 3: Implement strategies to mitigate negative effects to *Lepidium papilliferum* from wildfire.**

**Task 3.1:** Suppress fires.

Fire prevention and suppression on OCTC are the responsibility of the Director, Annual Training Site and the Range staff. Task 2.1 describes efforts to minimize the impacts of wildfires directly related to military activities. However, wildfires that start off the training area can move onto the training area and pose threats to native ecosystems, including *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat. The IDARNG actively suppresses wildfires on OCTC, regardless of their origins. The IDARNG maintains a mutual support agreement with BLM for fire suppression in the National Conservation Area. The IDARNG Natural Resources staff also responds to range fires and assists by providing management-related recommendations on fire suppression.

The IDARNG Range staff and fire crews are equipped with wildland fire fighting apparatus. Firefighters are fully trained in wildfire suppression. Various hand tools are carried on trucks to allow suppression in areas inaccessible to vehicles, although specialized vehicles are available for off-road, fire fighting activities. The road system and established firebreaks in the Impact Area provide quick access for fire management and facilitate effective response to wildfires. Roads also serve as firebreaks in training areas. If necessary, helicopter support with aerial water buckets may be deployed.

***The IDARNG intends to continue the following wildfire suppression conservation measures for *Lepidium papilliferum*.***

- Suppress fires, regardless of origin, on OCTC and surrounding areas if requested. Maintain fire crews on alert during summer training exercises.
- Maintain the mutual support agreement with BLM for the suppression of wildfires in the National Conservation Area.

Again, details of fire management on OCTC can be found in the IDARNG OCTC Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan (Williamson, 2008).

**Task 3.2:** Restore areas damaged by training related fires.

Over the past 20 years most shrub habitat in the National Conservation Area has been lost due to repeated wildfires. Some fires crossed into OCTC. Because of limited rainfall and harsh conditions, restoration is a difficult task and often requires repeated seedings. Since 1987 the IDARNG has examined historical records and has seeded areas back to the native vegetation that was there prior to the fires. Care is taken to ensure that restoration does not damage *Lepidium papilliferum* or its habitat, or introduce species into the habitat that were not present in presettlement times. When sagebrush is seeded back into old burns in which *Lepidium papilliferum* is present, it is done by hand-broadcasting, so that introducing sagebrush seed into slick spots can be avoided.

***The IDARNG intends to continue the following specific fire restoration conservation measures for *Lepidium papilliferum*.***

- Continue to restore fire-damaged areas using native species and broadcast seeding.

**Objective 4: Monitor *Lepidium papilliferum* populations and conduct management-oriented research on OCTC.**

**Task 4.1:** Monitor *Lepidium papilliferum* populations.

*Lepidium papilliferum* has been annually monitored on OCTC in early summer since 1991. A rough census of total numbers of reproductive and nonreproductive *Lepidium papilliferum* plants is done each year. Trend monitoring is accomplished on 16 *Lepidium papilliferum* permanent habitat trend plots. Each year since 1997, 12 Habitat Integrity Index permanent transects are also monitored. Weather data are recorded in the northern portion of OCTC to provide site-specific precipitation patterns to correlate with *Lepidium papilliferum* population numbers.

Although the IDARNG did annual intensive searches of OCTC sagebrush habitats for *Lepidium papilliferum* in the early 1990s, systematic “block searches” of this habitat began in 2000 and are continuing. Each year approximately 100-1,000 acres are intensively ground-searched for *Lepidium papilliferum* and slick spot habitat. These block searches count the following: numbers of reproductive and nonreproductive *Lepidium papilliferum* plants, numbers of occupied slick spots, numbers of unoccupied slick spots, sizes of slick spots, block acreage, and types of disturbance to each slick spot, if any. New *Lepidium papilliferum* locations are verified using a global position system, as are block-search boundaries. One new small *Lepidium papilliferum* population has been located in this way (Far North, see Table 4.2c). These block searches will continue until all potential *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat on OCTC has been intensively searched. To date, 10,028 acres have been block searched.

***The IDARNG intends to continue the following monitoring conservation measures for *Lepidium papilliferum*.***

- Annually monitor *Lepidium papilliferum* populations on OCTC.
- Monitor *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat annually to ensure that off-limits areas have been respected and that trends in the ecological health of the habitat are not unfavorable.
- Analyze and use monitoring to assess the effectiveness of mitigation and other management actions on *Lepidium papilliferum* over time.

**Task 4.2:** Conduct management-oriented *Lepidium papilliferum* research when funding permits.

The IDARNG studied *Lepidium papilliferum* in OCTC from 1991 to 1996, with the goal of developing guidelines for effective conservation of the species and its habitat in the training area. In 1990 little was known about *Lepidium papilliferum*. Where did it occur on OCTC? How large were the populations? How and when did it reproduce? Was it an annual, biennial, or perennial? What soils and habitat conditions were required? What conditions were required for seed germination? What kinds of disturbance could it tolerate?

The early research was initially funded by a Department of Defense Legacy grant, with additional following support from the IDARNG and the U.S. Forest Service. In 1991 the following research projects were initiated.

- Population Biology Study: marking individual plants to discover life span, as well as the timing of sprouting, blooming, producing seed, and dying.
- Reproduction Study: recording how much seed was produced, when the seed was produced, and which plants produced the most seed; plants tagged in the Population Biology Study were used.
- Pollination Study: attempting to discover how flowers were pollinated.

- Laboratory Seed Germination Study: attempting to determine, under controlled conditions , what makes seeds sprout.
- Field Seed Germination Study: Attempting to determine how long seeds remained alive when planted in the desert, and when the seeds sprouted.
- Soil Study: Determining which soils *Lepidium papilliferum* grew on and whether these soils were different from soils in the surrounding sagebrush habitat.
- Habitat Study: Sampling the habitat to discover what other plant species grew in the area, how many *Lepidium papilliferum* plants were present each year, and what types of disturbance the habitat could sustain without deterioration.

Dr. Susan Meyer from the U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Research Station's Shrub Sciences Laboratory in Provo, Utah, performed seed and reproductive investigations and provided analytical support for all of the studies. Dr. Meyer is a noted specialist in seed biology and rare plants of North American deserts. Findings from these studies provided new scientific information and are summarized below.

- Soils analyses found differences in soils in *Lepidium papilliferum* microsites and soils of surrounding sagebrush habitat. *Lepidium papilliferum* microsites had more salt and clay, had less organic matter, and tended to hold more moisture.
- *Lepidium papilliferum* depends solely on seed for reproduction.
- Pollination tests were inconclusive but indicated that insect pollination was probably required. Further research in this area is continuing, conducted by Dr. Ian Robertson of Boise State University.
- The Laboratory Seed Germination Study found the seed stayed alive, but dormant, for several years, not germinating the first year even under many conditions of light and temperature.
- The Field Seed Germination Study found the seed can persist alive for at least four years in the soil and, based on the study results, will probably persist for at least 12 years.
- The Habitat Study found that in years where the spring months were dry, no plants were found in a number of the microsites where they had occurred previously. However, plants would appear in these sites again when there was sufficient spring rainfall.
- Both the Habitat Study and the Population Study indicated livestock trampling in the springtime when the water collected in the microsites was a probable cause for concern.
- Population and Reproduction studies indicated that *Lepidium papilliferum* has a complex life cycle. If there is enough moisture in the spring, seeds will sprout in March, April, and May. Young plants first form a round "rosette" of bright green leaves. In late spring or early summer, some plants will send up a flower stem and bloom. These plants are very small, from ¼ inch to 2 inches tall and from ¼ inch to 1 inch in diameter, usually producing fewer than five flowers. These annual plants produce a few seeds (typically 4-12), drop them to the soil by midsummer, and die. Other plants that do not send up a flower stem stay in the rosette stage until the following late spring or early summer. At that time they send up many flower stems. These plants are much larger, from 3 to 10 inches tall and from 2 to 12 inches in diameter. They produce many more seeds and die shortly after the seeds mature. The portion of annual seedlings compared to biennial seedlings changes from year to year, and in the harsh desert environment, many plants die before producing any seed. It is unusual for a species of flowering plant to have two life-cycle types. It is unknown whether the path an individual plant takes is determined genetically or environmentally, or is influenced by both factors.

In 1991 the IDARNG identified *Lepidium papilliferum* population centers in OCTC and placed them off-limits to military training during the research studies. Life history, demography, seed biology, reproductive strategy, habitat integrity, soils, and pollination strategy were studied. These were areas

where little or no scientific information was available. Several interim reports were produced during IDARNG research, which was initially funded by Department of Defense Legacy grants and later supported by the IDARNG and the U.S. Forest Service (Meyer 1993, Meyer and Quinney 1993, Meyer 1996, Meyer *et al.* 2005, 2006). The research documented many facts new to science regarding *Lepidium papilliferum*'s life history, seed biology, reproductive strategies, and habitat relationships. IDARNG guidelines for the management of military training on OCTC as it might affect *Lepidium papilliferum* are largely based upon this research.

In 2002, with Dr. Meyer and Al Harkness, Soil Scientist at the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Meridian, Idaho, the IDARNG Natural Resources staff began to investigate the *Lepidium papilliferum* soil seed bank. The goal of the research is to understand how to manage the species for continued survival and no loss of viability and requirements to determine levels of seed bank condition, persistence, and robustness on OCTC. The study will examine physical soil layers of slick spots, layers in which *Lepidium papilliferum* seeds germinate, proportions of viable and nonviable *Lepidium papilliferum* seeds in the seed bank, the amount and type of soil disturbance that can occur without *Lepidium papilliferum* seeds losing viability, and soil depths at which *Lepidium papilliferum* seeds can germinate and still reach the soil surface. In addition, slick spots in OCTC known to have had no *Lepidium papilliferum* for more than 12 years will be examined in an effort to determine why these slick spots do not have the species.

As the work progressed, the IDARNG and Dr. Meyer developed guidelines for a management strategy for *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat in OCTC and guidelines for subsequent monitoring of the species. These guidelines were implemented by IDARNG as they were formulated during 1991 through 2005, and they were updated as new information became available. This work eventually resulted in A Life History Study of the Snake River Plains Endemic *Lepidium papilliferum* (Brassicaceae) (Meyer *et al.* 2005) and A Stochastic Population Model for *Lepidium papilliferum* (Brassicaceae), a Rare Desert Ephemeral with a Persistent Seed Bank (Meyer *et al.* 2006).

The IDARNG cooperates and shares information with the Idaho Fish and Game Conservation Data Center, BLM, and the USFWS. The IDARNG natural resources staff supports and participates in management initiatives for *Lepidium papilliferum* that support maintenance, conservation, and/or enhancement of existing *Lepidium papilliferum* habitat, and has done so for more than 20 years. For several years, IDARNG natural resources staff have been part of the *Lepidium papilliferum* Interagency Technical Team, a standing committee with representatives from many agencies and groups that is dedicated to research, problem solving, and understanding of the species' conservation and recovery needs.

***The IDARNG intends to continue the following research conservation measures for *Lepidium papilliferum*.***

- Use research projects on *Lepidium papilliferum* to develop and assess the effectiveness of mitigation and other management actions over time.
- Use research data/findings to modify management objectives and enhance future management programs.
- Continue to participate in interagency groups involved with research, problem solving, and recovery of *Lepidium papilliferum*.
- Continue project at two 7-acre *Lepidium papilliferum* research exclosures, established in 2007. These areas were fenced in that year to facilitate a recovery/re-planting research project that began in 2009. Both exclosures are in the Red Tie/Orchard Corner Management Area.
- Develop a viable *Lepidium papilliferum* seed source for future reintroduction projects.

- Reintroduce *Lepidium papilliferum* seeds to unoccupied slickspots that have suitable soil type and structure needed to sustain reproductive plants.
- Conduct predation reduction projects to research management implications relative to success rates and feasibility.

## 5.0 IMPLEMENTATION TIME, COSTS, AND PERSONNEL REQUIRED

The initial planning and funding period for implementation of this Endangered Species Management Plan is outlined in the 2012 INRMP. Most components of this plan have been ongoing for many years and will likely continue into the future.

## 6.0 SUMMARY OF MILITARY TRAINING AFFECTS

The IDARNG has evaluated the status, biology, habitat requirements, and threats to *Lepidium papilliferum* on OCTC. The IDARNG has evaluated impacts to *Lepidium papilliferum* from its military and military-related activities on OCTC, including both the conservation measures being implemented and those planned for implementation.

The IDARNG has been protecting, monitoring, conducting research upon, and managing *Lepidium papilliferum* and its habitat on OCTC since 1991. Findings of this research have been used to identify strategies for good management of the species. The IDARNG's documented lack of negative impacts (direct or indirect) on the species and its required habitat are compelling evidence of the continued success of the program. The IDARNG monitored and managed for the species and its habitat from 1996 through 1999, when the species had no legal status due to its removal from the Candidate list. There is no reason to suggest that this dedication to the protection and recovery of *Lepidium papilliferum* will not continue.

The IDARNG *Lepidium papilliferum* data (since 1991) and general vegetation trend data (since 1989) indicate no direct adverse effects of military training on *Lepidium papilliferum* or its habitat on OCTC. In 1998 the condition of OCTC sagebrush habitat inside the areas off-limits to military training (Level I *Lepidium papilliferum* Management Areas) since 1991 was indistinguishable from the condition of OCTC sagebrush habitat outside those off-limits areas (Level II Habitat Management Area) (Bern 2000). This is empirical evidence of no adverse effects from military training during an extended period.

OCTC and neighboring BLM lands can be viewed as an island of Great Basin Desert, surrounded by areas of varying levels of growth and development. There are no known changes planned for the IDARNG military mission or to the intensity and extent of training that presently occurs on the installation (Gene Stout and Associates 2003).

The IDARNG has improved the chances of *Lepidium papilliferum* recovery. It has restored habitat within the Level II Habitat Management Area. IDARNG has implemented a continuous and effective fire suppression program. It has sponsored and conducted research on *Lepidium papilliferum* that has influenced management and protection measures and has value throughout *Lepidium papilliferum* range.

Based on the data available, the active management of military training combined with the beneficial effects on *Lepidium papilliferum* associated with the implementation of the IDARNG's INRMP has resulted in some of the highest-quality occupied slickspot peppergrass habitat in the Snake River Plain region. Specifically, the USFWS identified in their 2011 Biological Opinion that 20 of the 35 (60%) individual conservation efforts that were determined to be both certain to be implemented and effective in reducing threats to the slickspot peppergrass, or were already known to be implemented and effective in reducing threats to the species, were implemented by the IDARNG as part of the INRMP.

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## **8.0 EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONTACTED**

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Susan Meyer (PhD), Shrub Sciences Laboratory, U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Research Station, Provo, UT

# Appendix C:

## Laws and Regulations

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## Appendix C: Regulatory Instruments that Affect Natural Resources Management on Orchard Combat Training Center

Below is a list of the most significant federal and state laws and regulations and other regulatory instruments that may govern implementation of this Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan.

### Federal Laws

American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 United States Code (USC))  
Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (PL 101-336; 42 USC 12101)  
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (PL 93-291; 16 USC 469 *et seq.*)  
Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (PL 96-95; 16 USC 470aa-11)  
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c)  
Clean Air Act (as amended through 1990)  
Conservation and Rehabilitation Program on Military and Public Lands (PL 93-452)  
Conservation Programs on Military Reservations (PL 90-465)  
Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 95-632, as amended)  
Erosion Protection Act (33 USC 426e-426h)  
Federal Facilities Compliance Act of 1992 (PL 102-386; amending 42 USC 6961)  
Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (7 USC 136 *et seq.*)  
Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (PL 94-579)  
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 (PL 96-366; 16 USC 2901)  
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (PL 85-624)  
Fish and Wildlife Conservation and Natural Resource Management Programs on Military Reservation  
(Amends Public Law 86-797 (Sikes Act) (PL 96-561))  
Migratory Bird Conservation Act (Chapter 257; 45 Stat 1222; 16 USC 715 *et seq.*)  
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (PL 65-186; 16 USC 703 *et seq.*)  
Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 USC 181 *et seq.*)  
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 USC, Section 3001 *et seq.*)  
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (as amended, PL 91-190; 42 USC 4321 *et seq.*)  
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended, PL 89-665; 16 USC 470 *et seq.*)  
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 USC, Section 3001 *et seq.*)  
Non-game Act (PL 93-366)  
Noxious Plant Control Act (PL 90-583)  
Outdoor Recreation on Federal Lands (16 USC 4601 {1})  
Plant Protection Act of 2000 (replaces Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1973 (PL 93-629))  
Sikes Act Improvement Amendments of 1997 (PL 105-85, as amended; 16 USC)  
Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (Public Law 103-64, 16 USC 460iii)

### Executive Orders and Presidential Memoranda

Quality Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment  
Executive Order 11987, Exotic Organisms  
Executive Order 11989, Off-Road Vehicles on Public Lands  
Executive Order 11991, Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality: Amends Executive Order 11514  
Executive Order 12608, Protection of Wetlands: Amends Executive Order 11990  
Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice

Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites  
Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks  
Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments  
Executive Order 13112, Invasive Species, 1999  
Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds  
Presidential Memorandum, Environmentally and Economically Beneficial Practices on Federal  
    Landscaped Grounds (April 26, 1994)  
Presidential Memorandum, Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal  
    Governments

**Department of Defense (DoD) Directives/Instructions**

DoD Directive 4150.7, DoD Pest Management Program  
DoD Directive 4700.4, Natural Resources Management Program  
DoD Directive 4710.1, Archaeological and Historic Resources Management  
DoD Instruction 4715.3, Environmental Conservation Program  
DoD Instruction 4715.9, Environmental Planning and Analysis  
DoD Instruction 5000.13, Natural Resources  
DoD Directive 6050.1, Environmental Effects in the United States of DOD Actions  
Department of Defense, American Indian and Alaska Native Policy

**Army Regulations (AR)**

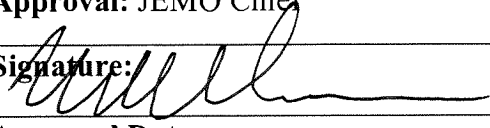
32 CFR Part 651, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (Department of the Army 2002)  
AR 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement (Department of the Army 2007)  
AR 200-2, Environmental Effects of Army Actions  
AR 350-4, Integrated Training Area Management (Department of the Army 1998)

# Appendix D:

## eMS Target Matrix

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DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.2.1 eMS Scope (08) yearly review			
<b>EMS SCOPE 4.2</b>			
<b>Document Owner:</b> Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant		<b>Approval:</b> JEMO Chief	
		<b>Signature:</b> 	
		<b>Approval Date:</b>	
<b>Update Requirements:</b> The Environmental Management System Management Representative (eMSMR). Environmental Protection Technician shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The Environmental Protection Technician must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.			
<b>Revision Information</b>			
<b>Status</b>	<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Revision Summary</b>
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		
<b>References</b>			
a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.			

**1.0 Purpose**

To define and document the scope of the Idaho Army National Guard’s Environmental Management System (eMS).

**2.0 Introduction**

The U.S. Department of Army has issued policy that all army facilities, including the Idaho Army National Guard, will establish an eMS that meets the International Organization for Standards ISO 14001. The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) is committed to sound environmental stewardship in all actions as an integral part of its mission.

**3.0 Overview of Organization Mission**

The Idaho Army National Guard is charged with dual federal and state missions. The federal mission is: “To provide properly trained and equipped units for prompt mobilization for war, national emergency or as otherwise needed.” The Governor may call individuals or units of the Idaho Army National Guard into state service during emergencies or to assist in special situations which lend themselves to use the Army National Guard. The mission assigned to the Idaho Army National Guard is: “To provide trained and disciplined forces for domestic emergencies or as otherwise provided by state law.”

**4.0 Scope of Implementation**

The eMS is designed to include all IDARNG military, federal and state civilian employees. The eMS also includes contractors working within the geographic IDARNG owned or operated boundaries.

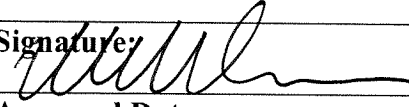
An eMS provides a systematic way to review and improve operations for better environmental performance in the IDARNG. IDARNG's eMS helps improve environmental performance and regulatory compliance. The five main steps of this plan, as defined by ISO 14001 standards, are as follows:

- *Commitment and policy*-TAG's commits to environmental improvements and establishes an environmental policy.
- *Planning*-IDARNG conducts a review of its operations, identifies legal requirements and environmental concerns, establishes objectives, evaluates alternatives, sets targets, and devises a plan for meeting those targets.
- *Implementation*-IDARNG follows through with the plan by establishing procedure and an emergency plan to ensure that environmental targets are met.
- *Evaluation*-IDARNG monitors its operations to evaluate whether the targets are being met, and, if not, takes corrective action.
- *Review*-IDARNG modifies the eMS to optimize its effectiveness. The review stage creates a loop of continuous improvements for the organization.

The IDARNG is implementing the principles in ISO 14001, which include but are not limited to the following:

- eMS Policy Statement
- Legal and Other Requirements
- Environmental Aspects
- Objectives, Targets, and Programs
- Resources, Roles, Responsibility, and Authority
- Competence, Training, and Awareness
- Communication
- Control of Documents
- Operational Control
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Performance Measures and Monitoring and Evaluation of Compliance
- Nonconformance and Corrective/Preventive Action
- Record Management
- Management System Audits
- Management Review

The continued adequacy and suitability of the eMS scope will be evaluated during the Management Review.

IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROCEDURE FOR IDENTIFYING SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS (4.3.1)			
<b>Document Owner:</b> Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant		<b>Approval:</b> JEMO Chief	
		<b>Signature:</b> 	
		<b>Approval Date:</b> 24 Nov 06	
<b>Update Requirements:</b> The Environmental Protection Technician shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The JEMO Chief must retain a log of document history with this procedure.			
Revision Information			
Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		
References			
a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Requirements with Guidance for Use.			

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

In 2005, a cross functional team identified IDARNG’s Impacts & Aspects and established a Target Matrix using the Commanding General’s eMS Policy as the basis. The purpose of this procedure is to document how IDARNG’s environmental aspects were established, implemented, and how it will be maintained with annual reviews.

**2.0 Establish and Implement**

2.1 A representative from each activity met and formed a Cross Functional Team (CFT). The CFT was trained on eMS by a JEMO staff member.

2.2 The CFT identified all mission and installation activities, products, and services and the environmental aspects associated with them.

2.3 Environmental impacts from each aspect were identified.

2.4 The information was compiled into the eMS Aspects & Impacts spreadsheet.

2.6 The cross functional team identified the significant aspects by considering:

- a) the scale of quantity of the impact
- b) severity of the impact or potential impact
- c) probability of occurrence
- d) duration of the impact

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.5.1 Environmental Aspects  
(08) yearly review

- e) scope of the impact
- f) potential regulatory and legal exposure
- g) difficulty of changing impact
- h) cost of mitigating the impact
- i) concerns of interested parties
- j) effect on IDARNG's public image

2.7 The CFT established environmental objectives and targets for the Target Matrix spreadsheet. The Target Matrix is prioritized list of significant environmental aspects that have a significant environmental impact on the environment. The list was achieved through group deliberation and consideration with the JEMO staff facilitating the discussion. The Target Matrix was then briefed to the Chief of Staff at the quarterly JEC meetings.

### **3.0 Maintain**

3.1 A review of the Aspects & Impacts and Target Matrix will be done by the CFT annually. The CFT will consist of members representing:

- a) training
- b) warehousing
- c) aviation
- d) facilities
- e) maintenance
- f) administration
- g) armories

3.2 The CFT will attend annual training provided by the JEMO and review eMS and ISO 14001 definitions:

Aspects-elements of an organization's activities, products, and services which can interact with the environment. An environmental aspect signifies the potential for an environmental impact, whether good or bad.
Environmental Impact-any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's environmental aspects.
Significant Environmental Aspects-an aspect that has or can have significant environmental impact.

3.3 The CFT will review the mission and IDARNG's activities, products, and services within the defined scope of the eMS that it can control and those that it can influence taking into account planned and new development, or new or modified activities, products and services and determine those aspects that have or can have a significant impact(s) on the environment.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.5.1 Environmental Aspects  
(08) yearly review

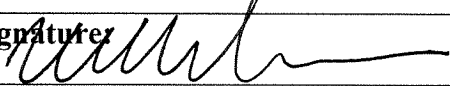
3.4 The CFT will review identified environmental aspects from the eMS Aspects & Impacts for relevancy, accuracy and adequacy.

3.5 The CFT will review the Target Matrix spreadsheet for missing significant aspects.

3.6 Recommendation for change will be forwarded to JEMO office in writing and discussed by JEC members and if approved added to the appropriate document.

3.7 Annual reviews will be documented in the JEC meeting minutes in the first quarter of every year.

3.8 The JEMO staff will ensure the environmental aspects are documented and kept up to date.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.3.2 Legal and other requirements (08) yearly review			
<b>LEGAL AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS 4.3.2</b>			
<b>Document Owner:</b> Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant		<b>Approval:</b> JEMO Chief	
		<b>Signature:</b> 	
		<b>Approval Date:</b> 2 Dec 08	
<b>Update Requirements:</b> Environmental Protection Technician shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The Environmental Protection Technician must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.			
<b>Revision Information</b>			
<b>Status</b>	<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Revision Summary</b>
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		
<b>References</b>			
a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.			

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that appropriate site personnel are aware of all legal and other regulatory requirements that are applicable to the environmental aspects of Idaho Army National Guard’s activities, products, and/or services. Information on legal and other regulatory requirements are incorporated into the installation’s environmental management system (eMS) and will be considered, with other factors, to set objectives and targets.

This procedure satisfies Section 4.3.2 of ISO 14001 for identifying and communicating legal and other requirements.

**2.0 Procedure**

**2.1 Identification of Existing Requirements**

The JEMO staff will obtain and review the regulations pertinent to all environmental aspects identified within their area of responsibility. The JEMO staff may do this by accessing the Internet, subscribing to free e-mail notification services, attending periodic training, reading trade or technical journals and environmental newsletters, consulting with other environmental professionals (other installations or private industry), hiring consultants, other agencies, or requesting input from the legal office on regulatory information associated with environmental aspects. Any of these methods and sources of regulatory information are suitable as long as they provide a high degree of certainty regarding the regulatory implications of each environmental aspect identified by Idaho Army National Guard’s eMS Significant Environmental Aspects. Specific sources, means and methods for identifying legal and other requirements include, but are not limited to the following:

- Code of Federal Regulations,

- Western Review of Legislative and Regulatory Actions
- Defense Environmental Information eXchange Web site,
- DEQ Idaho Web site
- NEPA Web site
- NFPA Web site

## **2.2 Identification of New and Emerging Requirements**

JEMO staff must review legal and other requirements on a regular basis that pertain to their specialty areas. When these requirements change, the JEMO staff must notify the JEMO Chief. Timely notification of changes is necessary to ensure continuous compliance with legal and other requirements. Updates to legal and other requirements will then be used to continually improve relevant parts of the eMS.

## **2.3 Records**

Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant will maintain records of applicable legal and other requirements, and of the steps taken to fulfill the provisions of this procedure. Hard copies of these records will be maintained in the JEMO Office staff areas.

## **2.4 Applying Legal Requirements to Environmental Aspects**

Idaho Army National Guard determines how legal requirements apply to environmental aspects when identifying aspect requirements.

## **2.5 Legal Counsel**

Legal counsel may be notified of permits, agreements, notices of violations, enforcement actions, especially reports of potential liability under paragraph 16-4 of AR 200-1. The JEMO Chief will ensure that all enforcement actions (ENF) are reported using the official electronic Army Environmental Quality Reporting System to the AEC. Initial reports will be entered via the Army Environmental Reporting System within 48 hours (2 business days) for any ENF involving:

- (1) Criminal enforcement
- (2) A fine, penalty, fee, or tax
- (3) Installation-wide (show stopper or major mission restriction), Army wide, or DOD-wide impacted, media attention, or community (on/off post) impact
- (4) Third party fault (that is, a non-Army entity is responsible in whole or part for the alleged violation (s)).

All other violations will be reported within 7 business days through proper Command channels.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.3.3 Objectives, Targets, and Programs (09) yearly review

**OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, AND PROGRAMS (4.3.3)**

**Document Owner:** Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant

**Approval:** JEMO Chief

**Signature:**

**Approval Date:**

12 DEC 08

**Update Requirements:** Environmental Protection Technician shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The Environmental Protection Technician must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.

**Revision Information**

Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		

**References**

- a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement
- b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that appropriate site personnel are aware of Idaho Army National Guard's eMS objectives, targets, and programs.

This procedure satisfies the requirements to maintain a program for achieving objectives and targets in ISO 14001:2004.

**2.0 Procedure**

Idaho Army National Guard shall establish, implement and maintain documented environmental objectives and targets, at relevant functions within the organization. The objectives and targets shall be measurable, where practicable, and consistent with the environmental policy, including the commitment to prevention of pollution, to compliance with applicable legal requirements and with other requirements.

**3.0 Responsibility**

See Operational Control Matrix

**4.0 Time-frame**

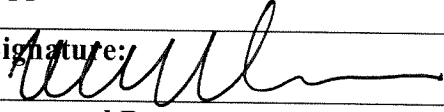
Each objective and target will have a time-frame assigned and the status continually monitored and reviewed annually.

**5.0 Implementation**

The objectives and targets will be listed on the Target Matrix and it will be reviewed annually by the Cross Functional Team (CFT). The Joint Environmental Committee will address the environmental programs and their status at the quarterly meetings. The Operational Control spreadsheets will include means and time-frames for achieving objectives and targets.



DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.4.1 Resources, Roles, Responsibility and Authority (08) yearly review

RESOURCES, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY 4.4.1			
<b>Document Owner:</b> Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant		<b>Approval:</b> JEMO Chief	
		<b>Signature:</b> 	
		<b>Approval Date:</b> 2 Dec 08	
<b>Update Requirements:</b> Environmental Protection Technician shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The JEMO Chief must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.			
Revision Information			
Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		
References			
a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use. c. AR 200-1			

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

To ensure that the installation defines documents and communicates relevant roles, responsibilities and authorities to affected Soldiers, civilian employees and contract personnel.

This procedure satisfies the requirement in ISO 14001:2004 for documenting a procedure for roles and responsibilities.

**2.0 Procedure**

The Adjutant General (TAG) appoints eMS Management Representative (eMSMR) in writing. The TAG will ensure the availability of resources essential to establish, implement and maintain and improve the eMS. The eMSMR will report directly to top management. The eMSMR coordinates the implementation, manages the day-to-day operations, and leads the Cross Functional Team (CFT). The JEMO Chief oversees the eMSMR.

The eMSMR will receive specialized eMS implantation training and use available organizational resources to assist in implementing and maintaining the eMS.

CFT members from training, warehousing, aviation, facilities, maintenance, administration, and armories will assist with the annual reviews of the Aspects & Impacts and the Target Matrix. The Joint Environmental Committee (JEC) will review all CFT recommendations at their quarterly meetings.

The commander/manager is responsible for assigning ECO/ECNCO. The ECO/ECNCO is responsible for briefing his/her company/department on eMS.

The supervisor and project managers of contracted personnel are responsible for communicating the eMS policy.

### **3.0 Roles and Responsibilities for eMS**

#### eMSMR

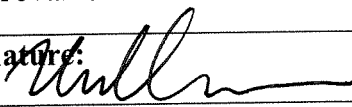
- will report directly to the JEMO Chief
- will have the necessary authority to direct other employees
- will have a good understanding of the installation organization
- will report on implementation
- will plan and manage eMS
- will arrange training , guidance, and assistance

#### CFT

- will gather, organize, and disseminate information
- evaluates eMS documentation
- facilitates eMS implementation
- will participate in annual reviews

#### Joint Environmental Committee (JEC)

- will help execute, plan and monitor actions and programs with eMS
- will identify issues and make recommendations and advise the TAG

<b>COMPETENCE, TRAINING, AND AWARENESS</b>			
<b>Document Owner:</b> Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant		<b>Approval:</b> JEMO Chief	
		<b>Signature:</b> 	
		<b>Approval Date:</b> 16 Jan 09	
<b>Update Requirements:</b> The Environmental Management System Management Representative (eMSMR) shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The eMSMR must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.			
<b>Revision Information</b>			
Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		
<b>References</b>			
a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Requirements with Guidance for Use. c. IDARNG Physical Security/Force Protection/Antiterrorism Plan			

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

This document describes Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Management System (eMS) general awareness and competence training procedure. This procedure applies to all persons working for the Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG), or on its behalf, to include military personnel, civilian personnel, contractor personnel, and tenant organizations.

**2.0 Procedure**

2.1 All personnel working for the IDARNG or on its behalf are required to watch the eMS Awareness/Commanding General's Video as part of new employee orientation.

2.2 Each facility will appoint a full-time officer or NCO as Environmental Compliance Officer (ECO/ECNCO). The facility ECO/ECNCO will attend training taught by the Joint Environmental Management Office (JEMO). The ECO/ECNCO will oversee the environmental program in their facility to ensure compliance with eMS.

2.3 Any person(s) performing tasks for or on behalf of the IDARNG that have the potential to cause significant environmental impact(s) shall receive the appropriate training. Activities that have potential to cause a significant environmental impact include:

- Training in the Orchard Training Area (OTA) and local training areas (LTA)
- Fuel operations involving all military and tactical equipment
- Wash rack operations
- Storage of hazardous material

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.4.2 Competence, training, and awareness (09) yearly review

2.4 The JEMO will provide annual environmental training to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements; maintain awareness of activities that have a significant environmental impact; and promote sustainability. The JEMO will publish a schedule of training dates and locations. The JEMO training will include:

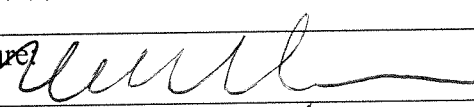
- eMS Awareness
- ECO/ECNCO duties
- OTA
- LTA
- Record of Environmental Consideration
- Water Resource Management
- POL Management/Spill Plan
- Air Emissions
- Hazardous Materials Management

2.4 Hazardous Waste Training is required annually for all personnel who generate, handle, transport, or otherwise manage hazardous waste. Initial training will be given within 90 days after employment. Supervisors and project managers will have any employee that generates; handles, and/or transports hazardous waste attend Hazardous Waste Training. Supervisors and project managers will provide training which is specifically applicable to the function the employee performs. The Hazardous Waste Manger at DSN 422-4174 is the POC for questions.

2.5 Refer to Task/Activity and Training Matrix for required training.

### **3.0 Rosters**

Rosters that pertain to competence, training and awareness will be maintained at the unit/facility and will be readily available. Additionally, supervisors will ensure that copies of the competence and training rosters are sent to the JEMO. Rosters will include date and personnel trained. The supervisor must sign each training roster validating that personnel are competent and understand the potential environmental impact of their activities.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS (4.4.3)			
Document Owner: Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant		Approval: JEMO Chief	
		Signature: 	
		Approval Date: 16 DEC 08	
Update Requirements: The Environmental Management System Management Representative (eMSMR) shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The JEMO Chief must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.			
Revision Information			
Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		Initial version of this procedure
References			
a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.			

1.0 Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure effective and timely communication of eMS and environmentally-related information within the installation, and to ensure proper handling of relevant communications from external interested parties (e.g. community personnel, media, environmental groups).

This procedure satisfies the requirements in Section 4.4.3 of ISO 14001:2004 for establishing a procedure for internal communication and responding to relevant communication from external interested parties.

2.0 Communication

All federal and state personnel hired to work for the installation are required to view the Commanding General's eMS video during orientation. All Soldiers will view the Commanding General's eMS video annually. All personnel working on behalf of the organization must be aware of:

- The importance of conformity with eMS policy and procedures and with the requirements of the eMS
- The significant environmental impacts, actual or potential, of work activities and the environmental benefits of improved personal performance
- Roles and responsibilities in achieving conformance with the eMS policy and procedures, including emergency preparedness and response requirements
- The potential consequences of departure from specified operating procedures

2.1 Internal Communication: Internal communications are a routine part of conducting the normal operations and is crucial for an effective environmental management system. A variety of processes are used for internal communication on environmentally related matters. The effectiveness of these communication processes are evaluated on an ongoing basis through environmental training programs, installation audits and inspections, and informal discussions.

Internal communication methods may include but not limited to:

- Policy and information memoranda-posted on the iPort and filed in JEMO
- JEC meeting minutes-filed in JEMO and distributed through e-mail to JEC members
- Bulletin-board postings-in each facility
- Posters-in each facility
- iPort -intranet
- E-mail-Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router (NIPR)
- Training sessions-rosters kept on site
- Staff meetings-minutes kept on site
- Verbal communications with regulators-documented and filed

2.2 External Communication: The external communication will be handled through the PAO. The Public Affairs Office (PAO) is responsible for coordinating responses for environmental information to or from external interested parties.

Non regulatory – Regarding inputs from external interested parties, Idaho Army National Guard has instituted the following process:

- All written, non-regulatory external input concerning environmental performance is received by, or routed to, the PAO and forwarded to the JEMO Chief. Where necessary, the PAO will obtain input from the JEMO Chief to formulate a proper response.
- PAO will document all telephone conversations with external interested parties that pertain to the environmental management system. All complaints that are related to the scope of the eMS will be forwarded to the JEMO Chief. The JEMO Chief will file communication documentation in Building 518.
- The JEMO Chief has determined the following eMS information will be available to the public, upon request, through the PAO:
- Environmental Policy
- Aspects, Impacts, and Objectives Matrix

Regulatory –The following process has been established for responding to regulatory requests:

- All regulatory requests concerning environmental performance are received or routed to the JEMO Chief.

- The JEMO Chief may obtain input or task the appropriate Program Manager to prepare a response to the regulatory agency.
- The JEMO Chief approves the response and either signs it or routes it for appropriate signature to TAG.
  
- Communications with Contractors – Idaho Army National Guard will communicate that it has implemented an eMS, which is based on ISO 14001. All contractors will watch the Commanding General's eMS Awareness video.

### 3.0 Records and Documents

Records and documents generated from the execution of this procedure include:

- Records of eMS Awareness Training program development and execution
- Record of requests for the Environmental Policy from the public
- Records of submissions to regulatory authorities
- Records of environmental reports to the public
- Records of any external communication regarding significant environmental aspects
- External communications received that are within the scope of the eMS
- Copies of responses to external communications
- Copies of communications to contractors
- Communications from suppliers and contractors relating to these environmental matter
- Annual reviews to maintain procedures

Records and documents generated from this procedure will be filed by the JEMO with the exception of training records; they will be filed on site.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.4.4 eMS Documentation (08)  
yearly review

**DOCUMENTATION 4.4.4**

**Document Owner:** Environmental  
Technical Support  
Specialist/Administrative Assistant

**Approval:** JEMO Chief

**Signature:**

**Approval Date:** 12 DEC 08

**Update Requirements:** Environmental Protection Technician shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The Environmental Protection Technician must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.

**Revision Information**

Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		

**References**

- a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement
- b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.

**1.0 Purpose**

To ensure that eMS information is documented according to ISO 14001 requirements.

**2.0 Documents**

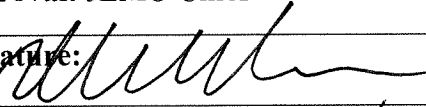
eMS documents will include:

- the environmental policy
- objectives and targets
- description of the scope of the environmental management system
- description of the main elements of the environmental management system and their interaction, and reference to related documents
- documents, including records, determined to be necessary to ensure the effective planning, operation and control of processes that relate to its significant environmental aspects



DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.4.5 eMS Document control (08) yearly review

**IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROCEDURE FOR DOCUMENT CONTROL  
(4.4.5)**

<b>Document Owner:</b> Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant	<b>Approval:</b> JEMO Chief
	<b>Signature:</b> 
	<b>Approval Date:</b> 12 DEC 08

**Update Requirements:** Environmental Protection Technician shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The JEMO Chief must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.

**Revision Information**

Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		Initial version of this procedure

**References**

- a. Idaho National Guard Environmental Policy Statement
- b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that appropriate site personnel are aware of the procedure for controlling eMS documentation. This policy satisfies the requirements in ISO 14001:2004 Documentation 4.4.4.

**2.0 Procedure**

The creation, revision, distribution and version control of eMS documents at Idaho Army National Guard must comply with the requirements set forth in Army Regulation 25-30; and DA Pam 25-40, Army Publishing: Action Officers Guide and IDARNG REG 25-50.

The eMSMR will conduct yearly document reviews and will maintain all documents required by the installation's eMS:

- eMS Policy
- objectives and targets
- description of the scope of the environmental management system
- description of the main elements of the environmental management system and their interaction, and reference to related documents
- documents, including records required by ISO 14001:2004
- documents, including records, determined by the Installation to be necessary to ensure the effective planning, operation and control of processes that relate to its significant environmental aspects

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.4.5 eMS Document control  
(08) yearly review

eMS information will be documented in procedures, memos, spreadsheet, and through e-mails. eMSMR will ensure that documents are current, available to personnel as needed, and are removed when they no longer apply or have been rendered obsolete by updated versions.

#### 2.1 Document Approval

All eMS procedures will be reviewed by the JEMO staff and signed yearly by the JEMO Chief. The procedures will be updated yearly or earlier if necessary. All revisions will be documented in the revision area of the procedure.

#### 2.2 Quality Control

All documents will remain legible, dated, and available in Building 518 and all eMS procedures posted on the iPort. Documents that have an external origin that are determined to be necessary for the planning and operation will be posted on the iPort. Obsolete material will be identified as obsolete.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.4.6 Operational Control (08) yearly review

**OPERATIONAL CONTROL 4.4.6**

**Document Owner:** Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant

**Approval:** JEMO Chief

**Signature:**

**Approval Date:** 12 DEC 08

**Update Requirements:** Environmental Protection Technician shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The Environmental Protection Technician must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.

**Revision Information**

Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		

**References**

- a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement
- b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this procedure is to provide the standard method for operational controls that support the Idaho Army National Guard.

**2.0 Procedure**

The Cross Functional Team (CFT) will review the Aspects and Impacts in conjunction with its activities, products, or services and their associated environmental impact to determine whether operational controls are needed. Operational controls will be done where their absence could lead to deviation from environmental policy, objectives, and targets.

Operational control procedures will be developed, reviewed and approved by activity managers. The activity managers will ensure that the operational controls can be accomplished with minimal impact to mission readiness. Additionally, the installation personnel whose work is covered by the operational controls will be trained on these procedures to ensure that they are made aware of the consequences of deviating from the procedures.

All operational control procedures will be reviewed annually (Army Metric) to assure that they reflect current objectives, targets, expectations, regulatory requirements, or practice in accordance to the installation's document control procedure.

An Operational Control matrix with the following information will be maintained to track the status of all Operational Controls:

- Significant Aspect(s)
- Operational control name and number

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.4.6 Operational Control (08)  
yearly review

Legal and/or Other Requirement that the Operational control pertains to (if applicable)

Location of the Operational Control document

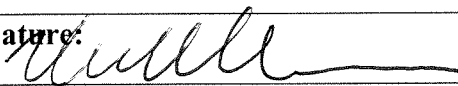
Document owner

Document approver

Current version Date

The location of the master matrix will be maintained by the environmental office.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.4.7 Emergency Preparedness and Response (08) yearly review

<b>EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE 4.4.7</b>			
<b>Document Owner:</b> Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant		<b>Approval:</b> JEMO Chief	
		<b>Signature:</b> 	
		<b>Approval Date:</b> 16 DEC 08	
<b>Update Requirements:</b> The Environmental Management System Management Representative (eMSMR) shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The JEMO Chief must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.			
<b>Revision Information</b>			
Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		
<b>References</b>			
a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Requirements with Guidance for Use. c. IDARNG Physical Security/Force Protection/Antiterrorism Plan			

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that the installation has established and maintains procedures to identify and respond to emergency situations that may have an impact on the environment.

**2.0 Procedure**

IDARNG procedures for emergency operations are covered in the Physical Security/Force Protection/Antiterrorism Plan. The plans are in accordance with the following plans:

- Idaho Emergency Operations Plan (IDEOP)
- IDNG Military Support to Civilian Authorities (MSCA) Plan
- IDNG Fire Plan
- Gowen Field Installation Security Plan

IDARNG PAM 200-1 requires all IDARNG facilities to be covered by an Installation Spill Contingency Plan (ISCP) or a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan (SPCCP).

**3.0 Report**

If immediate state emergency or disaster assistance is required, contact the Idaho Bureau of Disaster Services Duty Officer 24-Hour number 1-800-632-8000 or Duty Officer 208-846-7610.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.4.7 Emergency Preparedness and Response (08) yearly review

All reportable incidents identified in AR 190-40 will be reported in the following order through the chain of command, J3, Joint Operations Center (JOC) if not during normal duty hours. The format to be used is the Serious Incident Report.

3.1 Gowen Field Emergency Numbers:

- On Base Fire 911
- Medical Emergency 911
- On Base Security 5366

All emergencies requiring off base assistance dial 9911. This number can be dialed on phones regardless of class or service

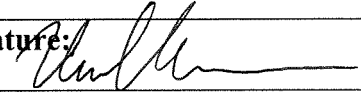
- Boise Fire Dept 99-911
- Ada County Sheriff 99-911
- Idaho State Police 99-846-7500
- Boise Police 99-911
- Ambulance 99-911
- FBI 99-334-1030

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.5.1 Monitoring and Measuring (09) yearly review

**MONITORING AND MEASURING 4.5.1**

**Document Owner:** Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant

**Approval:** JEMO Chief

**Signature:** 

**Approval Date:** 16 Jan 09

**Update Requirements:** The Environmental Management System Management Representative (eMSMR) shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The eMSMR must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.

**Revision Information**

Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		

**References**

- a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement
- b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.

**1.0 Purpose**

This procedure will establish IDARNG's process for monitoring and measuring the performance of its management system.

**2.0 Procedure**

2.1 The following mechanisms have been implemented to monitor and measure environmental performance:

- The environmental staff perform periodic visual inspections of site operations to compare site operating conditions to applicable legal, DoD, Army and other requirements
- Where monitoring equipment is used to measure environmental performance, equipment calibration and maintenance is performed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended procedures and schedule as part of the installation's Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services (PMCS) program

2.2 See attached KN 200-3a1 4.5.1 Monitoring and Measuring Spreadsheet that lists the significant aspects and their associated monitor.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.5.3 Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action (09) yearly review

**NONCONFORMITY, CORRECTIVE ACTION AND PREVENTIVE ACTION 4.5.3**

**Document Owner:** Environmental  
Technical Support  
Specialist/Administrative Assistant

**Approval:** JEMO Chief

**Signature:**

**Approval Date:** 16 Jan 09

**Update Requirements:** The Environmental Management System Management Representative (eMSMR) shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The eMSMS must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.

**Revision Information**

Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		

**References**

- Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement
- ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.

**1.0 Purpose**

This procedure will establish procedures for:

- Identifying and correcting nonconformities and taking action to mitigate their environmental impacts
- Investigating nonconformities, determining the cause and taking actions in order to avoid their recurrence
- Evaluating the need for actions to prevent nonconformity and implementing appropriate actions designed to avoid their occurrence
- Recording the results of corrective action(s) and preventive action(s) taken
- Reviewing the effectiveness of corrective action(s) and preventive action(s) and preventive action(s) taken

**2.0 Procedure**

Nonconformance items, as defined above, are typically identified through the external or internal EPAS process. Additionally, nonconformance items may be identified by personnel at any level of the IDARNG, contractors or interested parties.

**3.0 Noncompliance**

3.1 When a noncompliance is identified, the identifier is responsible for notifying the JEMO Chief. When a noncompliance is found during an EPAS inspection, results are uploaded into the WebCASS system and reviewed by the Joint Environmental Committee (JEC) and National Guard Bureau.



3.2 Upon being notified of a noncompliance, the JEMO staff investigates the problem, identifies the root cause and determines the necessary corrective preventive action to be taken.

3.3 The JEMO staff records the results of the investigation and required corrective and/or preventive action in the Installation Corrective Action Plan (ICAP). The ICAP includes specific action items required to correct and prevent noncompliance issues and includes responsibilities and schedules. Specific action items are submitted to Commanders and Supervisors for corrective preventive action. The JEMO Chief uses the ICAP to track the completion status of corrective actions.

3.4 The JEMO Chief updates and/or revises management system policies and/or procedures to reflect changes that result from the identified corrective/preventive actions. The JEMO Chief is responsible for notifying affected personnel to implement the appropriate corrective actions.

3.5 The ICAP and the status of corrective actions are updated continuously by the JEMO staff and reviewed by the JEC. The eMSMR reports the status of outstanding corrective actions and performance relative to resolving corrective actions to the JEC. The JEC is responsible for expeditiously resolving any deficiencies identified during these reviews. Additionally, the ICAP is submitted to National Guard Bureau for review through the WebCASS system.

#### **4.0 Nonconformance**

4.1 When a eMS nonconformance is identified during the internal or external EPAS, the identifier is responsible for notifying the JEMO Chief. External EPAS results are uploaded into WebCASS and reviewed by the JEMO Chief and USAR Headquarters.

4.2 Upon notification of a eMS nonconformance, the JEMO Chief investigates the impact and root cause and identifies necessary corrective and preventive actions to be taken. The results of the investigation are documented on the ICAP.

4.3 The JEMO Chief is responsible for implementing and communicating required corrective and/or preventive actions to affected personnel.

4.4 The JEMO Chief updates and revises management system policies and/or procedures to reflect changes that result from the identified corrective/preventive actions.

4.5 The ICAP and the status of corrective actions are updated continuously by the JEMO staff and reviewed by the JEC. The eMSMR reports the status of outstanding corrective actions and performance relative to resolving corrective actions to the JEC. The JEC is responsible for expeditiously resolving any deficiencies identified during these reviews. Additionally, the ICAP is submitted to the National Guard Bureau for review through the WebCASS system.

#### **5.0 Enforcement Actions**

All initial reports of enforcement actions are entered via the Army Environmental Quality Reporting System (AEDB-EQ) 48 hours (2 business days) for any ENF involving:

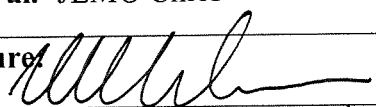
1. Criminal enforcement

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.5.3 Nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action (09) yearly review

2. A fine, penalty, fee, or tax;
3. Installation-wide (show stopper or major mission restriction), Army-wide, or DOD-wide impact, media attention, or community (on/off post) impact; or,
4. Third party fault (that is, a non-Army entity is responsible in whole or part for the alleged violation(s)).

All other ENFs are reported/entered into the AEDB-EQ within 7 business days through proper command channels.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.5.4 Control of Record (08)  
yearly review

IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PROCEDURE FOR THE CONTROL OF RECORDS (4.5.4)			
<b>Document Owner:</b> Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant	<b>Approval:</b> JEMO Chief		
	<b>Signature:</b> 		
	<b>Approval Date:</b> 24 Nov 08		
<b>Update Requirements:</b> Environmental Protection Technician shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The JEMO Chief must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.			
Revision Information			
Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		
References			
a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.			

**1.0 Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this procedure is to describe the process for maintaining records that document IDARNG's conformity to the requirements of its eMS and results achieved.

This procedure satisfies the requirements in Sections 4.5.4 ISO 14001:2004 for establishing, implementing, and maintaining a process for the identification, storage, protection, retrieval, retention, and disposal of IDARNG's eMS records.

**2.0 Identification of Records**

A record is a permanent document that typically is not revised. Records will include:

- information on compliance with applicable legal requirements and other requirements to which the organization subscribes;
- details of nonconformities and corrective and preventive actions;
- results of environmental management system audits and management reviews, and information on environmental attributes of products (e.g. chemical composition and properties);
- evidence of fulfillment of objectives/targets;
- information on participation in training;
- permits, licenses or other forms of legal authorization;
- results of inspection and calibration activity; and
- results of operational controls (maintenance, design, manufacture).

### **3.0 Storage**

Aspects & Impacts and the Target Matrix will be posted on the iPort. In building 518, records will be filed according to Army Records Information Management System (ARIMS) in the JEMO administrative area:

- IPAS findings
- eMS internal audits
- management reviews
- JEC meeting minutes
- training records
- permits, licenses or other forms of legal authorizations

Training records and permits, licenses and other forms of legal authorizations will be filed at the site and in building 518.

### **4.0 Protection**

The files are located in a central area in the JEMO office. Unauthorized personnel in the files will be quickly stopped and questioned by JEMO personnel in the area.

Only authorized personnel will be given system administrator permissions to add or remove records from the iPort.

### **5.0 Retrieval**

Any IDARNG personnel granted access to the iPort intranet may review and retrieve records from the site. Records not posted on the site may be requested through the JEMO office.

### **6.0 Retention**

Records are permanent documents that typically will not be revised. However, most records will eventually be superseded or replaced by a more current record, such as new permit, new audit report, etc. In many cases the duration a record should be retained will be governed by a regulatory or legal requirement.


Records shall be and remain legible, identifiable and traceable.

### **7.0 Disposal**

Prior to disposing of any record, the Environmental Protection Technician should coordinate with the JAG office.

### **8.0 Implementation**

JEMO staff will file identified records in the filing cabinet in building 518. The administrative assistant will assist with creating a new file or filing questions.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.5.5 Internal Audit (09) yearly review			
<b>INTERNAL AUDIT 4.5.5</b>			
<b>Document Owner:</b> Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant		<b>Approval:</b> JEMO Chief	
		<b>Signature:</b> 	
		<b>Approval Date:</b> 16 Jan 09	
<b>Update Requirements:</b> The Environmental Management System Management Representative (eMSMR) shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The eMSMR must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.			
<b>Revision Information</b>			
<b>Status</b>	<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Revision Summary</b>
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		
<b>References</b>			
a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.			

**1.0 Purpose**

To define the process for conducting periodic audits of the management system to verify that the management system conforms to planned arrangements and is properly implemented and maintained.

**2.0 Procedure**

2.1 The JEMO EPAS Manager is responsible for planning IDARNG’s annual EPAS assessment, which includes a performance assessment of the eMS. Audits are performed at the frequency determined to be appropriate by the JEMO Chief. At a minimum, core elements of the eMS will be audited during the annual audit.

2.2 The eMSMR and the designated lead auditor collaborate to complete an audit plan prior to the audit. The audit plan establishes audit objectives, scope, criteria, staffing, reporting requirements, ect.

2.3 The lead auditor notifies personnel who will be affected by the audit within a reasonable time period prior to the audit.

2.4 The lead auditor prepares the audit team to conduct the audit. This includes providing audit team members with the plan, audit assignments and relevant supporting documentation (protocols, checklists, procedures, previous audit reports, ect). The lead auditor also consults with audit team members prior to the audit to verify that they have reviewed the necessary audit information and clearly understand their audit assignments. Each auditor is responsible for reviewing the documentation that is provided to them by the lead auditor to develop an understanding of the objectives and scope of the audit.

2.5 The overall objective of the audit program is to evaluate the IDARNG’s existing eMS against the ISO 14001 standard and against the IDARNG’s eMS documentation.

2.6 The lead auditor directs the following reporting efforts:

- Documentation of nonconformance items/audit findings-each auditor records detailed audit findings based on the results of their audit activities, nonconformance items and associated corrective and/or preventive actions are integrated into the ICAP
- National Guard Bureau-the ICAP is submitted to National Guard Bureau through WebCASS system

2.7 Audit findings that require corrective actions are managed in accordance with the nonconformity, corrective action and preventive action procedure.

2.8 The audit team will use the "Compliance Category: Other Environmental Issues U.S. Team Guide: ARNG Supplement" as the basis for the audit.

DOCUMENT CONTROL INFORMATION: KN 200-3a 4.6 Management Review (09) yearly review

**MANAGEMENT REVIEW 4.6**

**Document Owner:** Environmental Technical Support Specialist/Administrative Assistant

**Approval:** JEMO Chief

**Signature:**

**Approval Date:** 16 Jan 09

**Update Requirements:** The Environmental Management System Management Representative (eMSMR) shall maintain this procedure. This procedure must be reviewed and approved annually. This document and its revisions shall remain current for no more than one year from the approval date. The eMSMR must maintain a record of document history with this procedure.

**Revision Information**

Status	Version Number	Effective Date	Revision Summary
Baseline Procedure	V1.0		

**References**

- a. Idaho Army National Guard Environmental Policy Statement
- b. ISO 14001: 2004, Environmental Management System eMS – Specification with Guidance for Use.

**1.0 Purpose**

This procedure documents the formal review of the eMS. The management review process is designed to ensure the continued suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the IDARNG's eMS. IDARNG is committed to continually improve the eMS.

**2.0 Procedure**

At a minimum, The Joint Environmental Committee (JEC) Chairman conducts a formal review of the eMS once per year. The following information is reviewed and evaluated:

- Results of internal audits and evaluations of compliance with legal requirements and with other requirements to which the IDARNG subscribes
- Communication(s) from external interested parties, including complaints
- The environmental performance of the organization
- The extent to which objectives and targets have been met
- Status of corrective and preventive actions
- Follow-up actions from previous management reviews
- Changing circumstances, including developmental aspects
- Assessing for needed changes to the eMS (including the policy and objectives and targets)
- Assessing for opportunities and making recommendations for improvement

The results of the management review will be recorded and posted on the JEMO iPort site.

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Appendix E:  
OCTC Wildland Fire  
Management Plan

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**ORCHARD COMBAT TRAINING CENTER  
IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

**INTEGRATED WILDLAND FIRE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN  
2011**



**Joint Environmental Management Office  
Idaho Army National Guard**

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## **Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan**

Orchard Combat Training Center  
Idaho Army National Guard

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### **ENDORSEMENT**

**Approving Official:**

MICHAEL J. WOODS  
COL, AR, IDANG  
Commanding

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## **Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan**

Orchard Combat Training Center  
Idaho Army National Guard

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### **Prepared By**

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Idaho Army National Guard, Instillation Support Unit  
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Insert Name and Contact

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## Table of Contents

<b><u>1. WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT CONTEXT .....</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>
1.1. LOCATION	5
1.2. OCTC MISSION	5
1.3. PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT	8
1.4. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES	8
1.5. WILDLAND FIRE HISTORY	13
1.6. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS	13
1.7. ORGANIZATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES	16
1.8. PERSONNEL TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION STANDARDS AND RECORDS	16
1.9. PHYSICAL FITNESS STANDARDS	17
1.10. INTERAGENCY COOPERATION AND MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS	17
1.11. MISSION CONSIDERATIONS	17
1.12. MILITARY TRAINING RESTRICTIONS	17
1.13. WILDLAND AND COMMUNITY/URBAN INTERFACE	18
1.14. FIRE DANGER INDICES/RISK ASSESSMENT	20
1.15. SAFETY AND EMERGENCY OPERATIONS	21
1.16. PUBLIC RELATIONS	21
<b><u>2. WILDFIRE OPERATIONS .....</u></b>	<b><u>22</u></b>
2.1. EQUIPMENT	22
2.2. PREVENTION	23
2.3. DETECTION PROCEDURES	23
2.4. DISPATCH PROCEDURES	24
2.5. SUPPRESSION	25
2.6. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN	28
2.7. EXTENDED ATTACK PROCEDURES	28
2.8. RECORDS, REPORTS AND MONITORING	28
2.9. REHABILITATION NEEDS AND/OR PROCEDURES	28
<b><u>3. HAZARDOUS FUELS MANAGEMENT/ PRESCRIBED FIRE .....</u></b>	<b><u>29</u></b>
3.1. SCOPE OF PROGRAM	29
3.2. OCTC BURN PLAN	29
3.3. SMOKE MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY	29
3.4. PROJECT PLANNING	30
3.5. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS	30
3.6. USE OF FIRE BREAKS	30
3.7. CONTINGENCIES FOR AN ESCAPED BURN	30

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## Table of Figures

Map 1: OCTC Vicinity Map	7
Chart 1: Total Acres Burned (1994-2010)	13
Map 2: General Community Types	14
Map 3: OCTC Fuel Breaks	15
Table 2: Fire danger adjective rating	20
Table 3: OCTC weather conditions indicative of extreme fire behavior potential	21
Map 5: OCTC wildfire suppression priorities	26

<b>4. REFERENCES .....</b>	<b>32</b>
----------------------------	-----------

<b>5. APPENDICES .....</b>	<b>33</b>
----------------------------	-----------

5.1. APPENDIX A: COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT	33
5.2. APPENDIX B: ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN	42
5.3. APPENDIX C: OCTC BURN PLAN TEMPLATE	45
5.4. APPENDIX D: FIREFIGHTER QUALIFICATIONS DESCRIPTION	58
5.5. APPENDIX E: FIRE DANGER RATING POCKET CARD	60
5.6. APPENDIX F: ADA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS	62
5.7. APPENDIX G: FIRE REPORT FORM	63
5.8. APPENDIX H: IDARNG ICRMP SOP#5, INADVERTENT DISCOVERY	64
5.9. APPENDIX I: LOWER SNAKE RIVER DISTRICT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR <i>LEPIDIUM PAPILLIFERUM</i>	68

## 1. Wildland Fire Management Context

### 1.1. Location

The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC) occupies 143,304 acres in southeastern Ada County and southwestern Elmore County, Idaho. The IDARNG utilizes U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land for the OCTC, as authorized by a Memorandum of Understanding. The OCTC is located entirely within the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA).

The Cooperative Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Appendix A) and Annual Operating Plan (Appendix B) between IDARNG and the BLM give OCTC firefighters initial attack responsibility for the area within the OCTC boundary. Firefighters may assist the BLM on wildland fires outside of the OCTC. Map 1 shows the OCTC location.

### 1.2. OCTC Mission

The mission of the OCTC is to provide Inactive Duty for Training and Annual Training facilities first to the National Guard and Reserve Forces, and when possible to other government and civilian organizations.

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Specific OCTC mission requirements include:

- providing a training area for National Guard and Reserve Forces;
- providing assistance, facilities, and training areas for logistical support to units conducting inactive duty training and annual training;
- providing small arms and crew-served weapons qualification ranges and facilities;
- providing maneuver areas suitable for training heavy armor and mechanized units;
- providing range facilities for M1A1 tank series and Bradley fighting vehicles;
- providing for artillery gunnery and maneuver;
- providing for AH-64 Apache attack helicopter gunnery;
- providing or coordinating organizational and direct support maintenance facilities for units conducting training; and
- providing training areas and facilities to local law enforcement agencies, civil defense organizations, Reserve Officers Training Corps departments, public education institutions, and other civilian activities as long as no interference occurs with existing military training activities.

The OCTC supports the following assigned units, in addition to other state and out of state units that use the OCTC in order to meet their training requirements:

- 116th Armor Cavalry Brigade,
- 1-183rd Attack Helicopter,
- Co B, 1-112th Aviation,
- Gowen Field Training Center,
- 204th Regional Training Institute,
- 938th Engineer Detachment,
- 101st Civil Support Team, and
- Detachment 1, 115th Public Affairs

The ability of the men and women committed to defending and protecting the American public is dependent upon having training lands and facilities that provide training proficiency. The IDARNG is committed to environmental stewardship on the public land it utilizes for training.

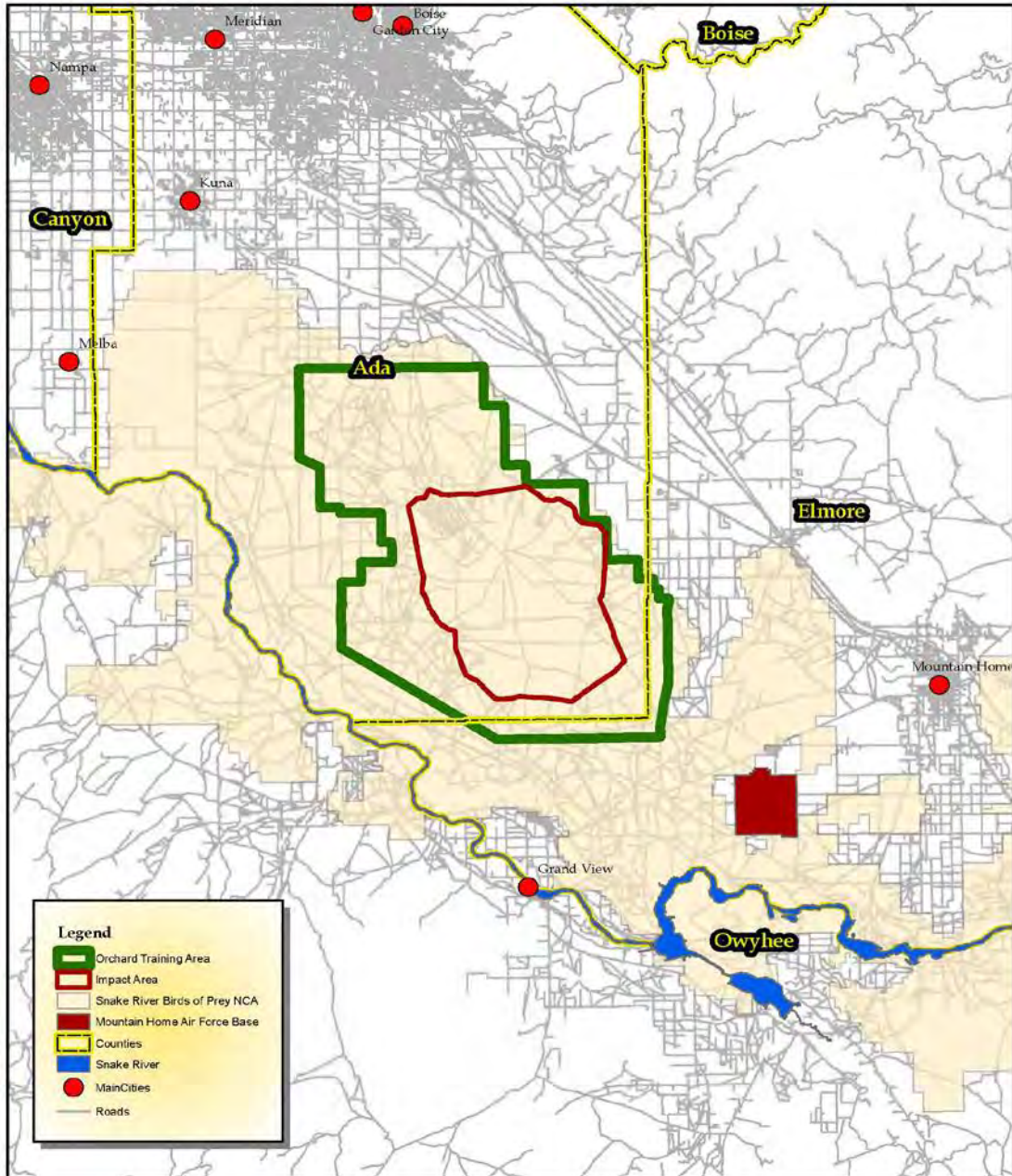
The 116th Cavalry Brigade is Idaho's largest unit. It consists of two armor battalions (one located in eastern Oregon), a mechanized infantry battalion (located in Montana), a combat engineer battalion, a field artillery battalion, and a combat support battalion. The 1st Battalion, 183rd Aviation serves as the air component of the IDARNG.

The OCTC is the primary training area for the IDARNG. It is also one of the largest heavy force (armor/mechanized) training areas for the National Guard. The OCTC provides training for both the federal and state missions of the IDARNG. The state mission includes providing assistance as requested to the Governor during state emergencies. These could include natural disasters, civil disturbance, or terrorist attacks. During times of national emergencies, the President reserves the right to mobilize the National Guard, putting them in federal duty status.

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# Orchard Training Area Location



UTM Zone 11 North Meters  
North American Datum 1983  
GIS Systems, Environmental Management Office, IDARNG  
4/20/2013

0 2 4 6 8 10  
Kilometers  
0 2 4 6 8 10  
Miles



**Map 1: OCTC Vicinity Map**

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### 1.3. Programmatic Environmental Assessment

Activities described in this Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan implement the direction established in the OCTC’s 2001 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) and Environmental Assessment (INRMP; Idaho National Guard Joint Environmental Management Office 2012). The programmatic Environmental Assessment will be developed for the INRMP, which this document and associated management actions are included.

### 1.4. Goals and objectives

The following goals, objectives, and management actions (Table 1) were developed using an interdisciplinary approach, and are based on the best available information and management guidelines developed by the resource specialists of the IDARNG’s Conservation Branch and Instillation Support Unit (ISU). The goals, objectives, and management actions identified in this document are included in the INRMP and associated EA.

**Table 1. Goals, Objectives and Management Actions Table.**

Objective	Management Action	Implementation Status
<b>Goal 1:</b> Develop and maintain a wildland fire suppression and education program in order to maintain the current capabilities of the OCTC to support military missions.		
<i>Objective 1:</i> Provide a high level of rapid response fire protection for the OCTC and surround lands.	Suppress all fires, regardless of origin, within the OCTC, and the surrounding areas if requested (See Map 2 for wildland fire protection responsibility area).	Ongoing
	Maintain a minimum of six trained and equipped two-person fire crews during the fire season while training activities are occurring.	Seven two person fire crews are funded annually between May-October.
	All full-time and supplemental fire crews will be trained and certified to Type 1 status.	Ongoing-Annual Certifications on Record
	Respond to wildfires as soon as possible and begin immediate suppression, consistent with safety requirements.	Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected weekly at a minimum.

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Objective	Management Action	Implementation Status
<i>Objective 1: (Continued)</i>	Maintain the mutual support agreement with BLM for the suppression of wildfires in the National Conservation Area.	Ongoing
<i>Objective 2: Manage range and training activities to prevent wildfires.</i>	Conduct annual fuel inventories and map area-wide fuel loads for management prioritization.	Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected annually.
	Use IDARNG weather stations to manage and enforce temp, humidity, and wind speed-related training requirements.	Ongoing
<i>Objective 3: Develop and maintain a fire education program.</i>	Provide environmental awareness materials to stress the importance of fire prevention to all users of OCTC.	Ongoing
<b>Goal 2:</b> Inventory, monitor, and protect species and/or communities that are components of prey habitat and/or indicators of ecosystem integrity, emphasizing federal and state-listed sensitive species, in order to maintain the current capabilities of OCTC to support military missions.		
<i>Objective 1: Protect areas associated with sensitive species, including their habitat, from fire and damage. Emphasize <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> (LEPA) and associated habitat.</i>	Develop and annually maintain a programmatic-level sensitive species map annually for use by Range personnel and seasonal fire crews.	Ongoing  Maps to be updated annually and completed prior to May 1 of each calendar year.
	Implement fire protection actions outlined in <i>Lepidium papilliferum</i> Endangered Species Management Plan (2012).	Ongoing
	Implement the standard operating procedures (SOP) outlined in Appendix I.	Ongoing  Update as required.
	Provide natural resource-based management recommendations relative to suppression activities to OCTC Range personnel	Ongoing

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Objective	Management Action	Implementation Status
<p><i>Objective 2:</i> Protect areas associated with sensitive cultural resources from fire and damage.</p>	<p>Develop and maintain a programmatic-level cultural resource map annually for use by Range personnel and seasonal fire crews.</p>	<p>Currently under development. Maps to be updated annually and completed prior to May 1 of each calendar year.</p>
	<p>Provide cultural resource-based management recommendations relative to suppression activities to OCTC Range personnel</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Goal 3:</b> Use soil parameters and historical vegetation data to protect soil stability, maintain or rehabilitate wildlife habitat, and stabilize training lands.</p>		
<p><i>Objective 1:</i> Stabilize and rehabilitate fire-damaged areas with greater than 10% shrub cover, or greater than 50% native cover.</p>	<p>Utilize native and desirable non-native species for stabilization and rehabilitation, emphasizing nutrient cycling, hydrologic function, energy flow, and wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><i>Objective 2:</i> Stabilize fire-damaged areas having greater than 50% non-native cover.</p>	<p>Utilize native and desirable non-native species for stabilization, emphasizing soil retention.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><i>Objective 3:</i> Stabilize and restore any LEPA habitat adversely affected by wildland fire.</p>	<p>Utilize native and desirable non-native species for stabilization and restoration, emphasizing nutrient cycling, hydrologic function, energy flow, and LEPA habitat.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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<b>Objective</b>	<b>Management Action</b>	<b>Implementation Status</b>
<p><i>Objective 4:</i> Protect sensitive natural and cultural resources during stabilize, rehabilitation, or restoration actions.</p>	<p>All fires, and associated spatial and attribute data, should be recorded within seven days of each occurrences.</p>	<p>Ongoing  Data dictionary to be completed prior to 2013 fire season.</p>
	<p>A set protocol, including: site clearances, equipment, and species mix, will be in place for emergency stabilization actions.</p>	
	<p>An annual work plan will be developed in September of each year to address stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><i>Objective 5:</i> Stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore fire-damaged areas using Adaptive Management.</p>	<p>Use any available/authorized methods or techniques to do initial stabilization, rehabilitation, or restoration actions within one year of fire event.</p>	<p>Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected annually.</p>
	<p>Collect and plant small amounts of native seed not commercially available, or use collection for growth of live plants.</p>	<p>Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected annually.</p>
	<p>Monitor the success of the stabilization, rehabilitation, or restoration action. Make annual changes, if necessary, to long-term management of the area. The proposed change and justification should be included in the annual work plan (above).</p>	<p>Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected annually.</p>

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Objective	Management Action	Implementation Status
<b>Goal 4:</b> Develop a prescribed burning program to maintain training mission capabilities and protect habitat for raptors and their prey on the NCA.		
<i>Objective 1:</i> Address fuel continuity and accumulation throughout the OCTC, emphasizing the Impact Area and LEPA habitat.	Develop a baseline map of fire breaks, general fuel loads/types, and fuel catches such as pits, target areas, and fence lines, in order to be used to develop an annual maintenance and prescribed burn plan.	Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected annually.
	Annually maintain existing fuel breaks, and enhance through enlargement or green-stripping as needed.	Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected annually.
	Develop, record, and maintain all new fuel breaks as needed and incorporate spatial data into the annual burn plan and fire database.	Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected annually.
	Conduct prescribed burns based on the annual burn plan to address fuels loads and accumulation such as, but not limited to, cheatgrass stands and tumbleweeds along the livestock drift fence and near target areas.	Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected annually.
	Incorporate and maintain prescribed burn areas as a GIS data layer for fire effects monitoring and coordination purposes.	Ongoing  Spatial and Attribute data collected annually.

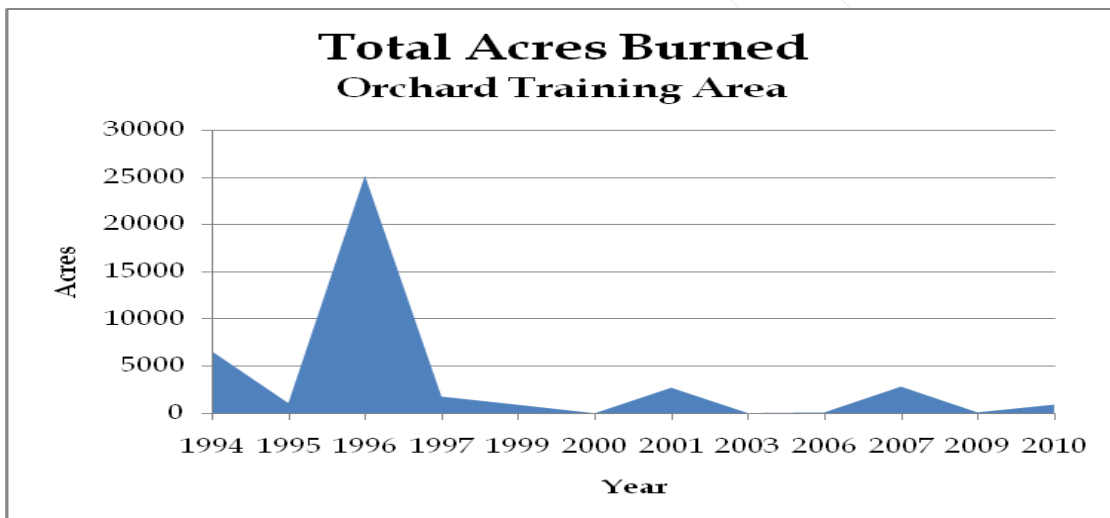
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## 1.5. Wildland fire history

Wildland fire history data for the OCTC comes from the Range Facilities Management Support System (RFMSS) and the Incident Qualification System (IQS) Database. The IDARNG records all fire data within the OCTC regardless of ignition source.

Available data (Chart 1) indicate that fires on the OCTC typically consume few acres, but there is the potential for occasional moderate incidents, as in 1997, 2001, and 2007, and the isolated large incidents, as in 1996. This suggests that OCTC fire suppression efforts are largely effective; however, in some years, weather and fuel conditions can increase the potential for wildfire.

**Chart 1: Total Acres Burned (1994-2010)**



## 1.6. Natural and cultural resource considerations

Wildland fire management on the OCTC must implement natural and cultural resource conservation direction given in the 2012 INRMP and in the 2012 Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP).

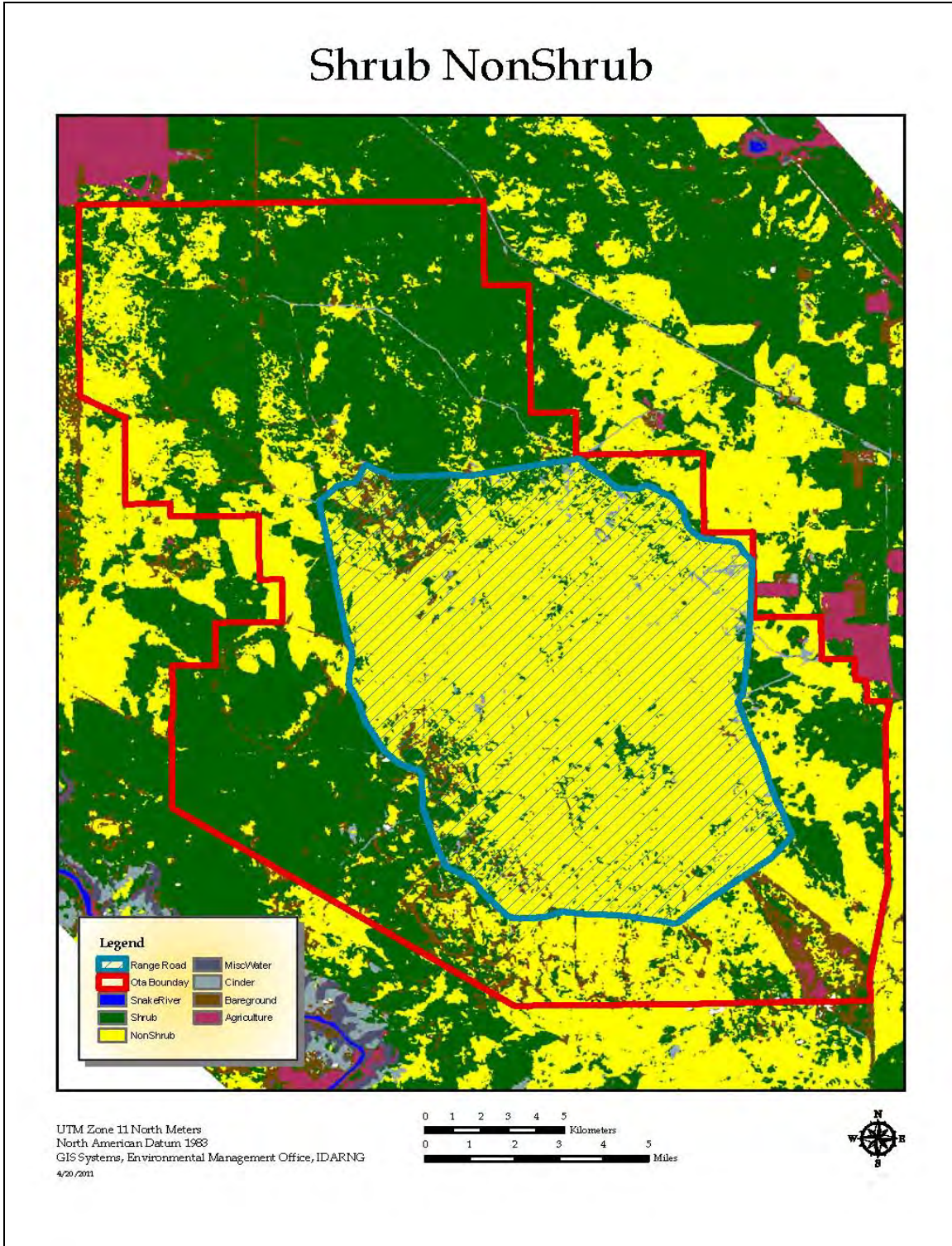
Primary natural resource considerations are to protect the plant *Lepidium papilliferum*, in accordance with the Endangered Species Management Plan outlined in the 2001 INRMP, and to maintain foraging grounds for raptors in the NCA. Both considerations have similar requirements: intact native sagebrush stands and native perennial grasses.

Natural resource implications for fire management include:

- Aggressively, but safely, suppress all wildfires in or threatening native shrub stands (Map 2); and
- Do not use tracked vehicles in fire suppression activities associated with shrub communities.

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The existing firebreaks (Map 3) will be cleared and maintained annually prior to fire seasons. The Lower Snake River District Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for *Lepidium papilliferum* (Appendix I) contains additional guidance.

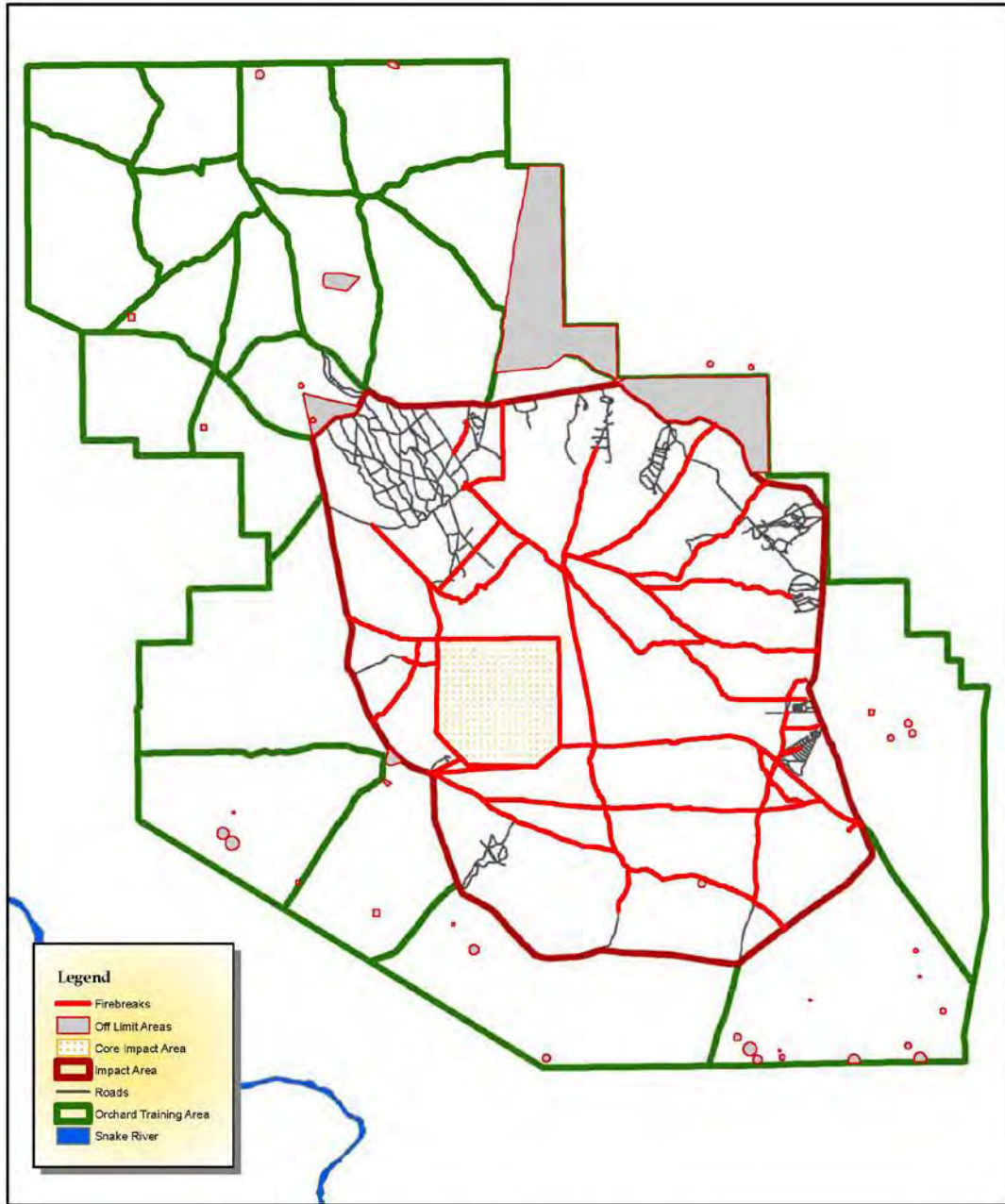


**Map 2: General Community Types**

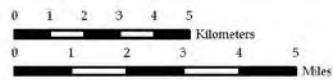
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# Orchard Training Area Fire Breaks



UTM Zone 11 North Meters  
North American Datum 1983  
GIS Systems, Environmental Management Office, IDARNG  
4/25/2011



**Map 3: OCTC Fuel Breaks**

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Cultural resources on the OCTC are primarily susceptible to fire management activities, not to fire damage. Within the maneuver areas, some cultural resources eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) have been either fenced or marked off-limits to protect them from maneuver activities as well as fire suppression actions. These sites make up only a very small fraction of the recorded sites within the OCTC. The residual recorded cultural sites include both eligible and ineligible sites, but have been passively managed, i.e. not fenced or marked off-limits, in order to reduce awareness and possible impacts to the sites. Maps of these site locations are available through the Environmental Management Office's Cultural Resources Manager, but are not made available to fire crews or the general public, see the 2012 ICRMP for specific laws and regulations. As such, general guidelines associated with cultural resource implications for fire management include:

- Do not employ ground-disturbing tactics in fenced or posted off-limit areas;
- Minimize disturbance of known or identified cultural resource sites that are not fenced or posted (see annual mapping requirements below);
- Notify the IDARNG's Cultural Resources Manager if any cultural resources or sites are found during fire management activities; and
- All fire crews and range personnel associated with suppression efforts or post fire stabilization will refer to the IDARNG's ICRMP relative to Inadvertent Discovery (Appendix H).

Within the OCTC, cultural sites eligible for listing on the NRHP will be mapped to a level commensurate with state and federal regulations or posted by the end of fiscal year 2012. Any new sites eligible for listing will be mapped and/or posted as identified.

### **1.7. Organization and responsibilities**

Orchard Range Control (ORC) is responsible for wildland firefighting activities on the OCTC. The Facilities Management Officer (FMO) is responsible for the firefighting budget. The Wildland Fire Management Specialist (WFMS) reports to the Range Officer for the OCTC. The WFMS ensures seasonal firefighters are trained to National Wildfire Coordination Group Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2, basic firefighter) standards (Appendix D) and is responsible for their scheduling and pay. Based on the OCTC's yearly training schedule, firefighters will be hired and trained to provide wildfire suppression during OCTC training seasons.

### **1.8. Personnel training and certification standards and records**

The WFMS, OCTC firefighters, and Range Operations personnel who may have wildland firefighting duties must meet the Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) requirements (Appendix D) established in the Wildland Fire Qualification System Guide, PMS 310-1 (NWCG 2006). This standard requires completion of basic firefighter training and an annual safety

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refresher. The annual safety refresher must be completed prior to beginning firefighting duties.

WFMS has been certified to teach the basic firefighter training and the annual safety refreshers and administers the physical fitness testing to all OCTC firefighters. Certification records are kept by the WFMS. In order to be effective and safe while conducting fire suppression activities in the OCTC, the following briefs are given to each firefighter prior to entering into the OCTC: Range Safety, Environmental/Hanta Virus, Unexploded Ordinance, Range Flag, UTV Driving and Safety, Radio Communications, OCTC Map and GPS, Military Rank and Customs and courtesies and Military Maintenance Procedures.

### **1.9. Physical fitness standards**

The OCTC has determined that the WFMS and the OCTC firefighters must meet the arduous physical fitness level established in the PMS 310-1. This standard requires passing the pack test: completing a 3-mile hike with a 45 pound pack in 45 minutes. The WFMS and firefighters will take the pack test annually, prior to beginning their firefighting duties. Physical fitness records will be kept with the certification records.

### **1.10. Interagency cooperation and mutual aid agreements**

IDARNG has a Cooperative Wildland Fire Protection Agreement (Cooperative Agreement) with the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Boise District (Boise District BLM), found in Appendix A. The Cooperative Agreement is accompanied by an Annual Operating Plan (AOP), in Appendix B. Together, the Cooperative Agreement and the AOP establish a fire protection responsibility area for the OCTC firefighters; identify incident command, organization, and communications; and outline the cooperators' capabilities and limitations. Under the Cooperative Agreement, BLM resources may assist OCTC resources on wildfires on the OCTC.

Mutual aid agreements with adjacent Rural Fire Departments will be established when appropriate.

### **1.11. Mission considerations**

To minimize impact on training units' time, wildfire suppression activities will be conducted as quickly as safety permits. In addition, no suppression actions will be taken on wildfires occurring within the Artillery Impact Area, given the presence of unexploded ordinance (UXO). A firebreak surrounds the Artillery Impact Area, minimizing the threat to adjacent lands.

### **1.12. Military training restrictions**

On high fire danger days, the WFMS will recommend modifying the use of pyrotechnics. These devices may be fired in open-topped 50-gallon drums. These drums mitigate the risk of fire and allow training to continue with minimal disruption. On very high and extreme fire danger days, the WFMS will recommend curtailing the use of pyrotechnics.

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ORC retains the authority to accept or reject recommendations to limit the use of certain munitions based on fire danger. Determination of fire danger is made based on the criteria established in Section 1.14, Fire Danger Indices.

### **1.13. Wildland and Community/Urban Interface**

OCTC firefighters are not equipped or trained and therefore not permitted to suppress structure fires. The OCTC firefighters' involvement in structure firefighting will be limited to suppressing the fire while still in wildland fuels.

#### ***On-installation Wildland and Community/Urban Interface***

There are no communities or urban areas within the OCTC or the agreement area. However, there are numerous IDARNG structures that have been constructed within and adjacent to the OCTC. The primary structures include but are not limited to:

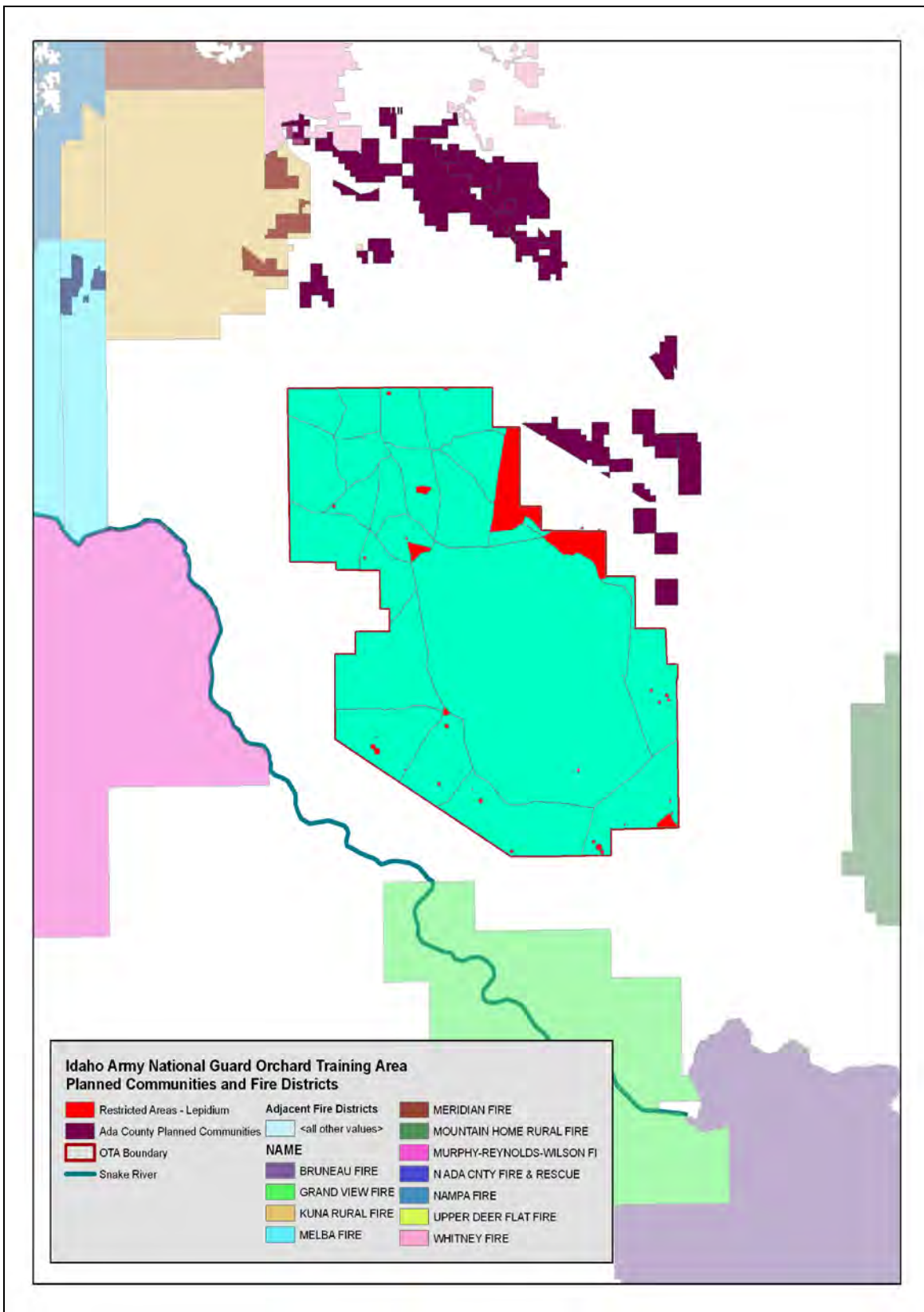
- Multi-Purpose Range Complex – Heavy (MPRC-H) facility at the base of Christmas Mountain contains multiple storage buildings and new Administrative building. This facility is on a hardened area.
- Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) facility and the Ammunition Supply Point (ASP). Both of these facilities are constructed of non-flammable materials, have flammable materials cleared from their sites, and are surrounded by mineral soil firebreaks. Both sites also contain hazardous materials and are appropriately placarded.
- Live Fire Shoot House, located on Range 14.
- Combined Arms Training Facility (CATF) located on Range 12.
- Urban Assault Course (UAC) on Range 11.
- Live Fire Exercise Breach Facility located on Range 11 B.
- Infantry Squad Defense Range located on Range 17; and
- Heavy Sniper Range located on Range 18.

#### ***Off-installation Wildland and Community/Urban Interface***

Development planned for the vicinity of the OCTC will bring concerns for wildland and community/urban interface (WUI). Map 4 identifies a number of planned or proposed planned communities in Ada County within two miles of the OCTC boundary. A similar number of communities have also been identified in Elmore County.

Based on their proximity to the OCTC, these developments would increase the amount of WUI in the region, resulting in the increased wildfire hazard to structures as well as the incidence of human-caused starts within the OCTC. This is of particular concern, given the planned communities' proximity to the intact sagebrush stands and *Lepidium* populations in maneuver areas B-6 and B-7.

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**Map 4: Proposed and potential planned communities in Ada County**

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### 1.14. Fire danger indices/risk assessment

Fire danger indices correlate weather and fuel moisture data to potential fire activity and intensity. These indices are used to determine the need to modify or limit the use of pyrotechnics and certain munitions. Table 2 relates the fire danger rating (NWCG 2002) to the Burning Index (BI). The correlation of fire danger rating to BI is based on historical BI data and past fire activity. Boise Dispatch Center calculates the BI daily and broadcasts the index as part of the fire weather forecast.

BI is derived from a combination of how fast the fire will spread and how much energy it will produce. The BI value for a particular fuel type is roughly equivalent to ten times the potential flame length in that fuel. For example, a BI of 40 indicates a potential flame length of four feet.

**Table 2: Fire danger adjective rating**

<b>Fire Danger Rating and Color Code</b>	<b>Burning Index (BI)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Recommended Military Considerations</b>
<b>Low (Green)</b>	0-20	Fuels do not ignite readily from small firebrands. Most prescribed burns are conducted in this range.	None.
<b>Moderate (Blue)</b>	21-40	Fires are not likely to become serious and control is relatively easy. Fires burning in these conditions generally represent the limit of control for direct attack methods.	None.
<b>High (Yellow)</b>	41-60	Fires may become serious and their control difficult unless they are attacked successfully while small. Machine methods are usually necessary or indirect attack should be used.	FFS will recommend firing pyrotechnics into open drums altering firing times to hours with lower fire danger.
<b>Very High (Orange)</b>	61-79	Fires start easily from all causes and, immediately after ignitions, spread rapidly and increase quickly in intensity. The prospects for direct control by any means are poor at this intensity.	No pyrotechnics allowed, except with written authorization from ORC.
<b>Extreme (Red)</b>	80+	Fires start quickly, spread furiously, and burn intensely. All fires are potentially serious. The heat load on people within 30 feet of the fire is dangerous.	No pyrotechnics allowed.

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Fire danger rating pocket cards (pocket cards) illustrate daily historic average BI and maximum BI for a given area and fuel model. Information displayed on these pocket cards can indicate how a particular day’s index rates relative to historical ones. Boise Dispatch Center posts the pocket cards for the Boise District BLM on their website:

[http://www.idahofireinfo.blm.gov/southwest/pocket\\_cards.htm](http://www.idahofireinfo.blm.gov/southwest/pocket_cards.htm)

Table 3 displays additional local weather conditions that have historically led to extreme fire behavior and large fire growth. All weather parameters are reported in the Boise Dispatch Center daily weather forecast. Breakpoint values are identified on the Boise District BLM pocket cards.

**Table 3: OCTC weather conditions indicative of extreme fire behavior potential**

Fuel model	Weather parameter	Value
Sagebrush – grass (Maneuver areas)	Wind (20')	>12 mph
	Relative humidity	< 19 %
	Temperature	> 82 deg F
	BI	> 55
	Haines	> 5
<hr/>		
Western annual grasses (Impact area)	Wind (20')	> 12 mph
	Relative humidity	< 14 %
	Temperature	> 91 deg F
	BI	> 44
	Haines	> 5

Note: Fuel models group vegetation based on potential fire behavior, not actual vegetation composition.

Pocket cards are distributed annually to OCTC firefighters and a poster of the pocket card is posted at ORC. Pocket cards are updated annually by the Boise Dispatch Center.

Appendix E contains the pocket card and explains the information presented on the cards.

### 1.15. Safety and emergency operations

All safety and emergency operations are coordinated through ORC or the Security Operation Center (SOC). Any need to evacuate the OCTC due to wildfire will be communicated to personnel by ORC or the Security Personnel. Medical emergencies requiring evacuations are also coordinated through ORC or the Security Operation Center.

### 1.16. Public relations

The Idaho National Guard Public Affairs Officer will provide public information for any fires on the OCTC.

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## 2. Wildfire Operations

OCTC firefighters are only trained and equipped to respond and fight range land fires within the OCTC boundaries, unless requested to assist with rangeland fires adjacent to the OCTC. At no time will the fire fighting assets be used for fighting vehicle, fuel, or structure fires.

### 2.1. Equipment

#### *Personal Protective Equipment*

All OCTC firefighting personnel will be issued, and will carry, personal protective equipment (PPE) that meets the minimum standards identified by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). This includes:

- Flame-resistant Nomex pants and shirts;
- Eight-inch (minimum) leather boots with lug sole (provided by employee);
- Hard hats;
- Gloves;
- Eye and ear protection; and
- Fire shelter.

OCTC firefighters have fourteen (14) pieces of equipment assigned to them:

- 1-2010 Ranger 4X4 UTV with 70 Gallon. (RC 10);
- 1-1987 International KFT8 4X4 with 400 Gallon. (RC 11);
- 1-1987 International KFT8 4X4 with 300 Gallon. (RC 12);
- 1-1986 International KFT1 4X4 with 400 Gallon. (RC 13);
- 1-2008 Ford F450 Attack 1-662 Brush 4X4 with 298 Gallon. (RC 14);
- 1-2003 Ford F450 XL, SD, E501 A1-662 Brush 4X4, 298 Gallon.(RC 15);
- 1-2004 Ford F450 XL, SD, E501 A1-662 Brush 4X4, 298 Gallon. (RC 16);
- 2-2008 Ford F350 Dually (GSA) each with 275 Gallon. (RC 17-18);
- 2-1972 5-Ton 6X6 Dist Water Tank (Old Refueler) 1000 Gallon. (RC 19-20);
- 1-1983 Water Tender K-500/KM-393 Dist Water Tank 5000 Gallon. (RC 21);
- 1-2010 Trailer-Water Distribution/Sprayer 500 Gallon.(RC 24)
- 1-2010 Ranger 6X6 UTV with 150 Gallon. (RC 25)

#### *Aerial resources*

The MATES Equipment Wash Rack Ponds are the primary dip sites for helicopters providing bucket support.

Single-engine air tankers (SEAT) are available for fire retardant drops. The SEAT must be requested through Boise Dispatch Center. ORC will contact Boise Dispatch Center if a SEAT is required. Additional helicopters may also be obtained through Boise Dispatch Center if necessary. The cooperative fire agreement with the BLM covers billing for assistance on wildfires.

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### ***Water sites***

Eight sites on the OCTC provide water for engine refill. Three, one at Snake River Support (30,000 gallons), one at MATES and one at MPRC-H Supply compound, are constant flow. The other five sites require refill. These water sites' locations and capacities include:

- Range 1 (MPRC-H); 30,000 gallons
- Range 26; 5,000 gallons
- Range 20; 5,000 gallons
- Range 11; 5,000 gallons
- Wind Butte; 1,500 gallons

The MATES Equipment Wash Rack Ponds are the primary dip sites for helicopters providing bucket support.

## **2.2. Prevention**

Wildfire prevention on the OCTC encompasses four activities: unit briefing, firebreak maintenance, prescribed burning, and munitions management.

- All personnel training at OCTC are briefed on wildfire hazard. Briefing includes instructions to report fires to ORC, procedure for fires occurring down range, and restrictions on firefighting (for example, no tracked vehicles).
- All maintained roads within the OCTC are considered firebreaks. Range Operations personnel clear vegetation from the roads annually.
- On high, very high and extreme fire danger days, the WFMS will recommend limiting the use of pyrotechnics or other mentions. Refer to Section 1.12 for additional information.

The IDARNG and ORC do not have the authority to establish non-military fire restrictions (for example, a campfire ban). All fire restrictions are determined and enforced by the BLM.

## **2.3. Detection procedures**

All personnel using or working on the OCTC are responsible for detecting and reporting wildfires. All wildfires must be reported to ORC. OCTC Firefighters are only seasonal assets and if available will conduct fire watch from the hours of 1200-2200 or as needed. The Security Operation Center conducts periodic patrols throughout the OCTC 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. BLM does not have any fire lookouts in the vicinity of the OCTC and does not schedule wildfire reconnaissance flights regularly.

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## 2.4. Dispatch procedures

### *Fires on Range 1*

This applies to fires no further into the impact area than the MPRC-H return road. Range 1 is the only range that may maintain a 'hot' status while fire fighters are down range fighting a fire behind the firing vehicle. Firefighters must not get closer than 50 meters from the rear of the firing vehicle. Range 1 OIC/RSO will authorize and identify where the fire is in relation to the firing vehicle. The normal suppression processes includes:

- Wildfire reported to ORC;
- ORC will "check fire" on all ranges affecting the wildfire area;
- If wildfire is down range from firing vehicle: clear and elevate the weapon system; ORC Operator (Range 1) will place range in "check fire";
- If wildfire is behind firing vehicle: notify ORC;
- ORC will dispatch firefighters down range while coordinating with Range 1 Tower; and
- Once wildfire is out, the fire information recorded, and firefighters are clear of Range 1, the firefighters will contact ORC and inform them that all vehicles and equipment are clear of down range 1.

### *Fires inside Impact Area, excluding Range 1*

- Wildfire reported to ORC;
- ORC requests an approximate location;
- ORC will "check fire" all ranges affecting the wildfire area; and
- ORC dispatches firefighters down range.

### *Fires in the Maneuver Area*

- Wildfire reported to ORC;
- ORC requests an approximate location; and
- ORC dispatches firefighters to wildfire.

### *Fires outside OCTC, within the agreement area*

- Wildfire reported to ORC;
- ORC requests an approximate location;
- Boise Dispatch Center notified;
- ORC dispatches firefighters to wildfire as long as they are not being used in the OCTC;
- Once BLM resources arrive, IDARNG may request OCTC firefighters' release to the OCTC; and
- If BLM requests OCTC firefighters' assistance, they may assist as long as there is no wildfire activity on the OCTC.

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## 2.5. Suppression

### *Staffing*

Seasonal OCTC firefighters, supplemental fire personnel, and the WFMS will be available during fire season. The firefighters will work as fire crews of two. The number of crews on duty at any time will depend on fire danger and range activity, although all firefighters will be scheduled for 40 hours per week.

The WFMS may determine that a fire watch is necessary during periods of high fire danger, when red flag warnings have been issued, or when night training activities are scheduled. The fire watch will be staffed by one fire crew; from 12:00 to 22:00 (exact times may change). Fires when ORC is not on duty will be reported to the Military Point of Contact (MPOC). The fire crew on duty will then notify the WFMS and additional firefighters. The WFMS will notify the ORC emergency contact and request that ORC be staffed.

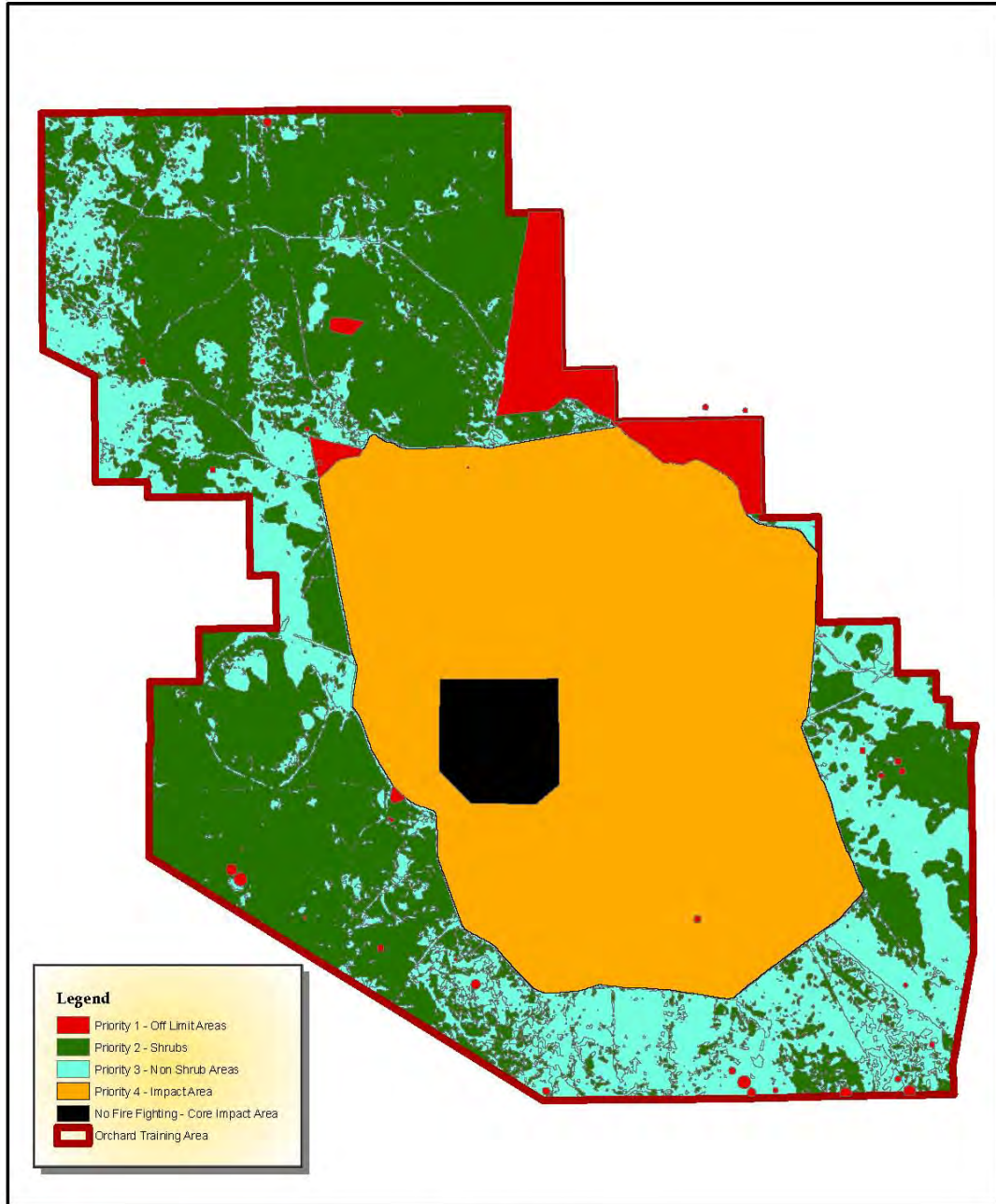
### *Priorities*

- Top Priority-firefighter and public safety.
- Primary suppression priority will be on areas within the restricted portions of the maneuver areas (for sagebrush and *Lepidium* protection).
- Secondary priority will be for any fire within the shrub stands in the maneuver areas.
- Tertiary priority is given to fires in the maneuver areas.
- Lowest priority is given to fires in the impact area. No suppression action will be taken on fires in the Artillery Impact Area.

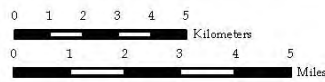
Fires in the OCTC will take precedence over fires in the agreement area. Map 5 illustrates the suppression priorities. Suppression actions taken on active ranges will be conducted as quickly as safety permits.

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# Orchard Training Area Wildfire Suppression Priorities



UTM Zone 11 North Meters  
North American Datum 1983  
GIS Systems, Environmental Management Office, IDARNG  
4/20/2011



**Map 5: OCTC wildfire suppression priorities**

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### ***Pre-positioning firefighting resources***

If staffing permits, one fire crew will be stationed by each range in use. If staffing is limited, one fire crew will be stationed by each of the active ranges with high fire danger or mid-way between two active ranges.

Additional consideration for pre-positioning:

- Fire crews may be positioned by active maneuver areas if no firing ranges are occupied

### ***Hazards***

Firefighting on the OCTC presents multiple hazards in addition to those typically present in the wildland fire environment. These hazards demand heightened situational awareness:

- Flashy fuels
- Frequent strong winds, typically from the southwest
- UXO within the impact area and potential for UXO in maneuver areas from World War II training activities
- High voltage lines in target pits (Ranges 1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Live Fire Shoot house, 15, 16, 17, 18)
- Potential for stray fire from adjacent ranges
- Potential for accidental fire from range on which wildfire is located
- Hunters/shooters firing weapons in the training area.
- Recreational vehicles operating within the training area.

### ***Fire suppression and post-fire reports***

Once ORC or Range 1 Control dispatches the firefighters downrange, the firefighters will:

- Suppress fire
- Estimate fire size
- Obtain 6-8 digit coordinates for fire
- Ensure fire is out
- Exit range

Once past the range tower, firefighters will call ORC, report 'clear from downrange' and give a fire report. Firefighters will then fill the tanks on their trucks then reposition themselves.

All fires exceeding five acres must be reported to Boise Dispatch Center as soon as possible. Report will include location, size, and expected time of control.

OCTC firefighters protect the origin of non-military; non-lightning caused wildfires and, if needed, requests a fire investigator from Boise Dispatch Center. Request for investigator will be submitted to ORC. ORC will then contact Boise Dispatch Center. Wildfire cause is tracked in RFMSS and the IQS Data system.

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## **2.6. Communications plan**

All fire engines assigned to the WFMS have mobile radios programmed with ORC frequencies. Operators of equipment without mobile radios carry handheld ones.

All fire traffic takes place on ORC Net, channel 7. Any fire occurring on Range 1, within the MPRC return road, will initially have communication with ORC on channel 7.

The WFMS and ORC have the BLM contact phone number and the BLM Command frequency (168.425) on their radios. Contact with the BLM will take place either by phone or on the radio.

## **2.7. Extended attack procedures**

The WFMS will report any fire that cannot be controlled with IDARNG resources to Boise Dispatch Center. The WFMS will notify ORC that additional resources are necessary. The WFMS will contact Boise Dispatch Center directly to request these resources. Non-IDARNG resources will not assist on wildfires within the Impact Area. The cooperative fire protection agreement with the BLM covers billing for assistance on wildfires.

## **2.8. Records, reports and monitoring**

Firefighters call in a fire report to ORC after every fire. These fire reports include:

- Date, time, location
- Approximate size
- Cause
- Number of personnel and equipment, amount of water used
- Names of fire crewman assigned

Reports are stored in the Range Facility Maintenance System (RFMSS) and IQS Data system. Fire perimeters or point data are recorded on site and before the unit leaves. In the event that training activities prevents a unit from recording the fire perimeter prior to leaving the site, the unit will return and record the site at the next available opportunity. All spatial and attribute data will be stored in a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Year-end reporting to the BLM includes the total acreage burned on the OCTC, net and gross, and a breakdown of fire cause.

## **2.9. Rehabilitation needs and/or procedures**

All fires over five acres will be evaluated by the Natural Resources Staff to determine stabilization, rehabilitation, and restoration needs or potential. If deemed necessary, a stabilization and rehabilitation plan will be submitted to the BLM within 90 days of evaluation utilizing identified SOPs and best management practices. Native plant species

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would be emphasized, but desirable non-native species can also be used unless their use may adversely affect, either directly or indirectly LEPA or LEPA habitat. The Natural Resources Staff will determine post-rehabilitation monitoring needs on a site by site basis.

### **3. Hazardous Fuels Management/ Prescribed Fire**

#### **3.1. Scope of program**

Tumbleweed removal and firebreak maintenance constitute the hazardous fuels management program on the OCTC. This meets the prescribed fire Goal 1, Objective 1 from the INRMP. No other prescribed fires are conducted; no naturally-ignited wildland fires may be managed for resource benefit.

#### **3.2. OCTC burn plan**

Per Army Wildland Fire Policy Guidance (2002), fence line and other annual tumbleweed clearing burns will be covered in a burn plan. This burn plan should be submitted to the BLM, Boise District Fuels Program, annually for review. A proposed template for this burn plan is included in Appendix C.

#### **3.3. Smoke management and air quality**

The OCTC is in an area with degraded air quality. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) to limit pollutants harmful to public health, per direction in the Clean Air Act. Areas that do not meet the NAAQS are considered non-attainment areas. Until recently, Ada County was a non-attainment area for carbon monoxide (2002) and PM10 (2003), pollutants contained in wildland fire smoke. The county must follow a maintenance plan for these pollutants (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality [ID DEQ] 2007). In addition, the ID DEQ might recommend designating Ada County as a non-attainment area for PM2.5, another pollutant found in wildland fire smoke. Recommendations will be submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by the end of calendar year 2007.

The EPA identifies wildfires as natural events, therefore smoke from wildfires is exempt from the NAAQS. Prescribed fires, however, must not exceed the NAAQS and may affect an area's attainment status. The ID DEQ, Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) and the Montana/Idaho Airshed Group manage a voluntary smoke permit process for prescribed burning in Idaho.

Prior to burning, the WFMS ensures that air quality and burning conditions will allow burning by:

- Using the ID DEQ website to determine whether a burn ban is in effect;
- Notifying the ID DEQ Boise Regional Office prior to initiating any burns-  
Contact information: Mike Dubois, 373-0550;

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- 
- Notify Environmental Management Office that ID DEQ was contacted; and
  - Notifying Boise Dispatch Center of intention to burn.

### **3.4. Project planning**

Tumbleweed burning is conducted in the spring by ORC personnel and the seasonal firefighters. The WFMS supervises the burning activities. While tumbleweeds accumulate throughout the OCTC, build-up consistently occurs in the following locations:

- All fence lines;
- All firebreaks, including a two-to-three foot buffer along the firebreaks;
- Target pits;
- Areas around wildlife guzzlers, especially the one in maneuver area D-2;
- Restricted area in maneuver area C-3;
- Target movers on Ranges 1, 6, and 10; and
- Drainage south of Range 22 (does not require annual clearing).

Annual burning has reduced vegetation along the fences. This facilitates using fire to remove tumbleweed accumulation along the fence lines. Other vegetated areas have fuel loads that would carry fire. For these areas, tumbleweeds are first removed to an un-vegetated area (road, range pad, or concrete pit), and then burned.

### **3.5. Training requirements**

Anyone participating in the tumbleweed burning must be an FFT2 at a minimum, with current safety refresher and physical fitness standard and required PPE. The WFMS will be on scene.

### **3.6. Use of fire breaks**

All maintained roads on the OCTC are considered fire breaks. In addition, fire breaks are constructed around most structures on the OCTC. Fire breaks are bladed annually or as needed, and can be augmented with adjacent green strips.

### **3.7. Contingencies for an escaped burn**

The scope of the tumbleweed burn program limits the likelihood of an escape. All tumbleweed clearing burns are conducted with a minimum of one fire truck present. Personnel present may initiate mop-up or suppression activities if burn activity exceeds the desired level.

When an escape is declared, the WFMS will act as the Incident Commander unless relieved. The IC will organize all on-site resources for an aggressive response. Containment opportunities include roads, natural barriers, and areas with reduced fuel. Containment will minimize wildfire size. Direct hand line should be effective for the

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time of year prescribed for the fence line burn. Upon escape, all key personnel will continue documentation of actions taken.

The WFMS will notify ORC and they will notify Boise Dispatch Center. Boise Dispatch Center will notify the Duty Officer, Fire Management Officer, Field Office Manager, and District Manager of the situation. Field office personnel will notify adjacent landowners as needed. The IC will coordinate suppression actions with other affected parties as needed. Additional personnel needed for controlling an escaped fence line burn will be requested through ORC. These contingency forces will be identified prior to ignition.

After the incident is contained, the WFMS will submit a report of all actions prior to and after the escape including weather, resources on site, ignition sequence, suppression actions and other pertinent data.

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## 5. Appendices

### 5.1. Appendix A: Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement

**COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
BOISE DISTRICT  
AND  
Military Division, Army National Guard**

THIS COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT, is made and entered into by and between Boise District BLM, hereinafter referred to as the BLM; and the Military Division, Army National Guard, hereinafter referred to as the National Guard under the authority and provisions of the Reciprocal Fire Protection Act of May 27, 1955 (42 USC 1856a, P.L. 84-46) and the authority and provisions of the Idaho Statewide Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (BLM DAA010203 and the authority addressed in the Idaho State Statutes and Code/s, Chapter 10, Section 46-1014, Idaho Forestry Act, Title 38 Chapter 1, and the Idaho State Disaster Preparedness Act, Section 46-1001.

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Agreement is to provide for cooperation in the prevention, detection and suppression of wildland fires within the protection areas of parties signatory to this Agreement.

#### II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFITS AND INTERESTS

The BLM has the responsibility for prevention, protection and suppression of wildland fires on Bureau of Land Management administered lands, and on adjacent or intermingled U.S. Forest Service and State lands as identified through the Idaho Statewide Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement.

The Fire Department has the responsibility for prevention, protection and suppression of structure, wildland, and other non wildland fires within the established fire district. These structures and lands protected by the Fire Department are intermingled or adjacent to lands protected by the BLM.

Therefore it is mutually advantageous, and in the public interest, for the parties to coordinate their efforts in the prevention, detection, and suppression of wildfires in and adjacent to their at risk-areas of responsibility.

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### III. DEFINITIONS

1. **ADMINISTRATIVE OVERHEAD:** Indirect administrative costs that cannot be readily identified with specifically financed programs and functions.
2. **AGENCY ADMINISTRATOR:** Agency officials who are signatory to this agreement, as follows: Idaho Department of lands, Director; Bureau of Land Management, State Director; Forest Service, Regional Forester ; BIA, Area Director; National Park Service, Regional Director; Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Director.
3. **AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:** An individual assigned to an incident with full authority to make decisions on all matters affecting that Agency's participation at the incident.
4. **BOUNDARY LINE FIRE:** This includes (i) a fire burning jointly on lands of more than one party and the boundary line is known, (ii) where the fire location is known, but the protection boundary on the ground is uncertain, or (iii) where the location of a reported fire is uncertain in relation to the protection boundary. Once the exact location of the fire is determined in relation to the protection boundary, it ceases to be a boundary fire unless falling in category (i) above.
5. **CLOSEST FORCES CONCEPT:** This is the philosophy of committing the closest available appropriate resources, regardless of agency, for initial attack or for extended attack.
6. **COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION.** Specific fire protection services furnished by one party to the other on a reimbursable basis pursuant to the Annual Operation Plan.
7. **COST SHARE AGREEMENT:** A document prepared between a Federal and State agency to distribute costs on a multi-jurisdictional incident or an incident which burns across boundaries of direct protection areas of the State and the Federal agencies.
8. **DIRECT PROTECTION AREA:** That area which, by law or identified or authorized pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, is provided wildland fire protection by the State or by a Federal agency. This may include land protected under exchange or payment for protection.
9. **EQUIVALENT:** Equivalent wildland fire protection is that which may be reasonably compared, using mutually agreed to measures such as staffing, organization, performance, acreage, and/or available resources, with consideration for values at risk.
10. **ESCAPED FIRE:** A fire which has exceeded, or is anticipated to exceed, preplanned initial action capabilities or the fire management direction.
11. **FIRE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** All or any activities that relate to managing fire or natural fuels on lands under the jurisdiction of any party to the agreement. Activities include but are not limited to planning, prevention, detection, suppression of wildfires and planning and conducting natural fuel management activities.
12. **IDAHO INTERAGENCY FIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:** A group consisting of the Agency Administrators or their designated representatives to oversee the *Firefighter and public safety is the top priority.*

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terms of this Agreement and to provide general oversight for interagency wildland fire management activities in Idaho.

13. **INITIAL ATTACK ZONE:** An identified area in which predetermined resources would normally be the initial resource to respond to an incident.
14. **JURISDICTIONAL AGENCY:** The Agency which has overall land and resource management and/or protection responsibility as provided by Federal or State law.
15. **MUTUAL AID:** Assistance provided by a Supporting Agency at no cost to the Protecting Agency. Mutual aid is limited to those initial attack resources that have been determined to be appropriate and documented in Annual Operating Plans.
16. **OPERATING PLAN - LOCAL:** A plan generated at a local level and authorized by the appropriate officials for implementing the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement in their respective areas of responsibilities.
17. **OPERATING PLAN - STATEWIDE:** A plan which will include all statewide considerations. This will be developed by the Idaho Interagency Fire Management Committee and approved by the appropriate officials for each agency.
18. **PRESCRIBED FIRE:** The planned and/or permitted use of fire to accomplish specific land management objectives.
19. **PREPAREDNESS:** Activities in advance of fire occurrence to ensure effective suppression action. Includes training and placement of personnel, planning, procuring and maintaining equipment, development of fire defense improvements, and maintaining cooperative arrangements with other agencies.
20. **PREVENTION:** Activities directed at reducing the number of person-caused fires, including public education, law enforcement, dissemination of information, and the reduction of hazards.
21. **PROTECTING AGENCY:** The Agency responsible for providing direct wildland fire management to a given area pursuant to this Agreement.
22. **PROTECTION AREA MAPS:** Official maps which identify areas of direct fire protection responsibility for each Agency.
23. **PROTECTION BOUNDARIES:** Mutually agreed upon boundaries delineated on maps, or otherwise described, identifying areas of direct fire protection responsibility.
24. **REIMBURSABLE ASSISTANCE:** Fire suppression resources that will be paid for by the Protecting Agency per the conditions of this Agreement.
25. **REIMBURSABLE COSTS:** All costs associated with direct fireline/fire site operations and incident support ordered by or for the incident. Such costs may include but are not limited to the following:
  - Costs incurred for suppression resources.-Agency costs for transportation, salary, benefits, and per diem of individuals assigned to the incident.
  - Additional support dispatching, warehousing or transportation services requested through a resource order.
  - Cost of equipment in support of the incident, contract equipment costs and operating costs for agency equipment.
  - Operating supplies for equipment assigned to the incident such as fuel, oil,

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and equipment repairs.

- Aircraft, airport fees, and retardant costs.
- Agency owned equipment and supplies lost, damaged, or expended by the Supporting Agency.
- Cost of reasonable and prudent supplies expended in support of the incident.
- Charges from the State for State-controlled resources such as inmate crews, National Guard resources, and county and local resources.

26. **SUPPORTING AGENCY:** An Agency providing suppression or other support and resources to the Protecting Agency.

27. **SUPPRESSION:** All the work of confining and extinguishing a fire beginning with its discovery through the conclusion of the incident.

28. **UNIT ADMINISTRATOR:** The individual assigned administrative responsibilities for an established organizational unit, such as Forest Supervisors for the Forest Service, District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management, Area Supervisors for the State, Agency Superintendent for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Park Superintendent for the National Park Service, and Refuge Manager (Project Leader) for Fish and Wildlife Service.

29. **WILDLAND FIRE.** Any fire occurring on wildland except a fire under prescription.

#### **IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. **ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN.** The parties will meet annually, prior to the declaration of fire season to prepare/review an Annual Operating Plan (AOP). This AOP will include protection area maps for all parties, lists of principal personnel, dispatching procedures, identification notification, command and control, and any other items identified in this Agreement as necessary for efficient implementation. Individuals responsible for negotiating and signing the AOP will be the BLM Fire Management Officer (FMO) and the Fire Chief or as delegated by Agency Administrators and Fire Commissioners. This AOP shall become attached to and made a part of this Agreement.

2. **PROTECTING PARTY.** The PROTECTING PARTY is responsible for providing direct fire protection in a given area pursuant to this Agreement.

3. **SUPPORTING PARTY.** The SUPPORTING PARTY is responsible for providing suppression assistance or other support and resources to the PROTECTING PARTY.

4. **JURISDICTIONAL PARTY.** The JURISDICTIONAL PARTY has the overall land and resource management and/or protection responsibility as provided by

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law.

5. RECIPROCAL FIRE PROTECTION. As deemed appropriate, the parties will establish reciprocal initial attack areas for lands of intermingled or adjoining protection responsibilities. Within such areas a SUPPORTING party will, upon request or voluntarily, take initial attack action in support of the PROTECTING party. The PROTECTING party will not be required to reimburse the SUPPORTING party for initial attack actions. It shall be the responsibility of the PROTECTING party to release SUPPORTING party resources in a timely manner to ensure that SUPPORTING party resources are not needlessly detained. If appropriate and deemed necessary by the PROTECTING IC, a time limitation as to the number of hours spent on any wildfire incident by the SUPPORTING party may be negotiated. Any time limitations shall be identified and agreed to by all participating parties and shall be specified in the Annual Operating Plan.

6. REQUESTED ASSISTANCE. Outside reciprocal initial attack areas, when requested by the PROTECTING party, the SUPPORTING party may, within their capability, provide initial action or other support on wildland fires. If reimbursement for this action is required an agreement with the Idaho Department of Lands will be needed. Agreement sign up, mobilization process and requests for the fire department assistance on Federal lands outside the protection area referenced by this agreement fall under the Idaho Department of Lands standards of "Fire Service Organization Rate Book."

7. INDEPENDENT ACTION. Except as otherwise described in the AOP, any party on its own initiative and without reimbursement may go upon lands protected by another party to suppress wildfires, if the fire is a threat to property within that party's protection responsibility. In such instances, the party taking action will promptly notify the PROTECTING PARTY.

If either party takes action on a fire independently, the SUPPORTING party will furnish the PROTECTING party a preliminary report (oral) within 24 hours of the action taken and a written incident report with 10 days. Incident report items shall be agreed upon and included within the Annual Operating Plan.

8. NOTIFICATIONS. Each party will promptly notify the PROTECTING party of fires burning on or threatening lands for which that party has protection responsibility. When taking action, the SUPPORTING party will, as soon as possible, notify the PROTECTING party in accordance with the AOP; detailing what equipment and personnel have been dispatched to the incident location.

9. BOUNDARY LINE FIRES. Boundary line fires will be the initial attack responsibility of the PROTECTING PARTY(S) on either side of the boundary. Neither party will assume the other is aware of the fire, or is taking action. The officer-in-charge who arrives first at the fire will act as Incident Commander. When both parties have arrived it will be mutually agreed to the designation of the Incident Commander.

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10. COST SHARING. On multi-jurisdictional incidents and incidents which threaten or burn across direct protection boundaries, the parties will jointly develop a written cost share agreement which describes a fair distribution of financial responsibilities. The parties agree that all reasonable and necessary costs incurred to meet the protection responsibilities within each Party's direct protection area will be the responsibility of that party

11. REQUESTED ASSISTANCE PAYMENT PROCESSING. As specified in the Idaho Department of Lands "Fire Service Organization Rate Book", the Fire Department must submit a statement of fire cost to the nearest IDL office to include: a copy of the Emergency Rental Agreement, Emergency Firefighter time reports, I-9's, completed Equipment Daily Shift Tickets, and Equipment use Invoices with requesting agency resource order and request number. The department must insure that an initial resource order and request number is initiated upon determination that the Agency has formally requested assistance over and above mutual aid.

12. COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. The Parties agree to share the use of communication systems, radios and radio frequencies for the execution of this Agreement. Sharing of frequencies must be approved only by authorized personnel for each Party and documented in the AOP.

13. DETERMINATION OF CAUSE AND PRESERVATION OF EVIDENCE. Parties will attempt to protect point of origin of the fire and evidence pertaining to the fire cause.

14. TRAINING. Each party will advise the other of applicable cross training opportunities for personnel.

15. FIRE PREVENTION. Parties agree to share responsibilities and materials for fire prevention activities. Materials may include posters for display in public buildings, businesses and the like. Parties will share responsibility for fire prevention and rural fire safety presentations and demonstrations.

16. FIRE RESTRICTIONS AND CLOSURES. Parties will coordinate restrictions and closures as per the Southern Idaho Fire Restrictions and Procedures Guide.

17. PRESCRIBED FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT. The JURISDICTIONAL party will inform all parties of prescribed fires it is managing. A separate agreement will be negotiated if cooperator's resources are required for prescribed fire and fuels management activities.

18. EMPLOYMENT POLICY. Employees of the parties to this Agreement shall at all times be subject only to the laws, regulations, and rules governing their employment, regardless of incident location, and shall not be entitled to compensation or

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other benefits of any kind other than specifically provided by the terms of their employment.

19. LIABILITIES AND WAIVERS: Each party waives all claims against each other for compensation for any loss, damage, personal injury, or death occurring as a consequence of the performance of this agreement unless gross negligence on any part of any party is determined.

20. CLAIMS. Claims for damage will be processed as determined by applicable Federal law. Fire Department employees acting under the terms of this Agreement are not considered Federal employees and are not covered under the Federal Tort Claims Act.

21. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS. Each party shall give the other, or their authorized representative, access to, and the right to examine all records, books, papers and documents related to this Agreement.

22. CIVIL RIGHTS. The parties shall comply with all State and Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination.

23. NATIONAL INTERAGENCY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. The parties to this Agreement will operate under the concepts defined in the National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS) including: Incident Command system (ICS), qualifications system, training system, the management of publications, and participate in the review, exchange, and transfer of technology as appropriate for providing qualified resources, and for the management of incidents covered by this Agreement.

24. EQUIPMENT. Equipment owned and used by either party to suppress fires in lands for which the other is responsible shall normally be operated, serviced, and repaired by the owning agency. Exceptions to this practice, where needed, shall be agreed to in writing by both parties in advance.

25. AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS. All aircraft and pilots used shall be certified by a qualified Forest Service or United States Department of Interior Office of Aviation Services.

26. FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ACT. Any service performed hereunder by any officer or employee of the United States or any member of any Armed Forces of the United States shall constitute service rendered in the line of duty in such office, employment, or force. The performance of such service by any other individual shall not constitute such individual an officer or employee of the United States for the purposes of the Federal Employment Compensation Act, as amended.

27. NONDISCRIMINATION. The parties shall comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination and all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, Executive orders, regulations, and policies. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title

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VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d, 2000e-16), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, disability, or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended (29 U.S.C. 794) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disabilities.

28. INCIDENT COMMANDER. When a wildfire is burning on or near lands of both parties, the officer-in-charge who arrives first will act as Incident Commander. When both parties have arrived, the officers-in-charge for each party will mutually agree to the designation of a fully qualified Incident Commander.

29. TAXPAYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER. The Fire Department shall furnish their tax identification number upon execution of this instrument.

30. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Any information under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

31. MODIFICATION. Modifications within the scope of the instrument shall be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification, signed and dated by all parties, prior to any changes being performed.

32. LEGAL AUTHORITY. The Fire Department has the legal authority to enter into this instrument, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project.

33. TERMINATION. Any of the parties, in writing, may terminate the instrument in whole, or in part, by providing 30 days written notice to the other party.

34. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This instrument is executed as of the date of last signature and is effective for five years from that date at which time it will expire unless renewed.

35. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this instrument are:

BLM Contact	National Guard Contact
Andy Delmas	
Fire Management Officer	
3948 Development	
Boise, ID 83705	

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## 5.2. Appendix B: Annual Operating Plan

2007

### ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN

between

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, BOISE DISTRICT**

and the

**Military Division, Army National Guard**

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this operating plan is to provide a basis for cooperative wildland fire suppression and multi-risk incident management on adjoining Fire Department/District and Federal jurisdictional lands. This operating plan is in conjunction with existing Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement and provides the basis for annual discussion and review of protection areas, overlapping jurisdiction, mode of operation, command and control of incidents, and tactical aspects of fire suppression operations.

#### II. NOTIFICATION AND ACTION

Upon discovery, or report, and through coordination of each Dispatch Center, respond the necessary firefighting resources to wildland or structure fires within or threatening the Fire District or protection area. Upon receiving a report of any wildfire or fire threat, each party will transmit the report to the other party without delay.

#### III. COMMAND AND ORGANIZATION

The Incident Command System (ICS) will be utilized on all fires. The first qualified Officer on-scene will be the Incident Commander (IC) until relieved by a qualified Officer from the Agency having protection responsibility. Assisting units will fall under the established ICS organization as directed. A Chief Officer from assisting agencies will report to the Incident Command Post (ICP) and jointly coordinate resources with the Incident Commander. Respective Dispatch Centers will advise incoming resources on incident radio frequencies, field contacts, and instructions. On-scene Chief Officers will determine and implement suppression objectives, brief incoming resources on tactical assignments, relay fire behavior and weather information, and jointly coordinate field activities.

#### IV. COMMUNICATIONS

All responding resources will utilize **168.425 (BLM Command)** frequency for initial contact. Tactical or alternate frequencies will be assigned by the Boise Interagency Logistics Center (BILC). Chief Officers will provide a communication link for any resources that do not have designated radio frequency capability. Dispatch Centers will coordinate resources and assure Chief Officer Communication and contact has been established.

#### V. MEDIA AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Qualified Information Officers will be dispatched as needed to coordinate with the incident command structure and media. The information section can be expanded at BILC to serve as the focal point for all media inquiries. When the information function has been expanded at BILC, news releases from all participating agencies should be coordinated through the Center.

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**VI. SECURITY AND ACCESS**

Incident access routes identified need to be secured by local law enforcement at the request of the Incident Commander.

**VII. MUTUAL-AID AND ASSISTANCE-BY-HIRE**

Upon request, provide fire suppression equipment and mutual-aid assistance within Agency or Fire District protection guidelines, safety limitations, and availability of resources. Provide mutual-aid assistance with no reimbursement to participating parties on areas within the Fire Protection District. If fire duration or special equipment needs dictate, the BLM IC has the discretion to put equipment in pay status within the fire protection district. Provide processing and reimbursement for Fire Department resources requested outside the District jurisdictional protection area in accordance with the Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA) process identified within the Idaho Department of Lands mobilization plan; to include the following:

1. Agency prepared resource order, documenting order and request number.
2. Completion of EERA with current Federal Emergency Equipment rate/s/.
3. Inspection of ordered equipment.
4. Completion of equipment use shift-ticket with approving official's signature/s.
5. Completion of Equipment Use Invoice.
6. Submission of paperwork for processing.

**VIII. QUALIFICATIONS/MINIMUM RECOMMENDATIONS**

Minimum wildland fire training and qualification is recommended, as identified in the Idaho Department of State Lands operational guide. Annual wildland firefighter recurrent training is recommended, reviewing Standards for Survival, Fire Shelter Use, Fire Behavior, and wildland fire suppression tactics.

**IX. PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND PHYSICAL FITNESS**

Minimum standards for personal protective equipment (PPE) as identified by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) for wildland fire suppression is recommended. Physical fitness recommendations as identified by the Idaho Department of Lands is optimum, with individual firefighters participating in physical fitness to the best of their abilities.

**X. COOPERATION OF RESOURCES**

It is mutually agreed that on a recurring basis each party will share Departmental expertise, coordinate training opportunities, combine fire prevention efforts, maintain fire investigation coordination, and stress safety awareness throughout all field operations.

**XI. CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS**

1. Bureau Resources:
  - a.) Bureau resources will not be planned, nor dispatched as normal response for structure or vehicle fires, except in those cases where these fires pose significant threat to BLM administered lands. In those situations, resources should only be used in wildland protection. BLM employees may only take action on structure or vehicle fires when adequate local firefighting forces are not yet present. Actions will be limited to the exterior of the structure or vehicle unless there is immediate threat to

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human live. BLM employees must not knowingly be exposed to noxious gases or chemical or other situations that require the use of self-contained breathing apparatus. Resources will withdraw from structural fire suppression and protect adjoining wildland resources when local fire agency units arrive in sufficient force.

- b.) The number, type, and location of bureau firefighting resources will not be based on, nor justified by, I structure or vehicle firefighting needs.

No bureau employee should respond to a structure or vehicle fire prior to receiving specialized training in hazard awareness and unique safety considerations associated with structure and vehicle protection. A local fire department with responsibility for structure and vehicle protection will provide this training.

- c.) Bureau personnel agree to meet with local Fire Department/District fire suppression personnel on an annual basis to discuss joint capabilities and limitations of equipment and personnel. Refer to the capabilities and limitations checklist for annual review of joint suppression operations.

2. National Guard Fire Protection Resources:

- a.) No Department/District employee should respond to a wildland fire prior to receiving specialized training in wildland suppression tactics and unique safety considerations associated with wildland fire behavior.
- b.) National Guard/District resources placed in wildland fire suppression operations will be commensurate with their training, experience level, and capability of equipment. If comfort level for safety is not maintained or if personnel are outside of their department policies and procedures an action to relocate to a safe zone or an adjustment of duties must be initiated.
- c.) National Guard/District personnel agree to meet with local Bureau fire suppression personnel on an annual basis to discuss joint capabilities and limitations of equipment and personnel. Refer to the capabilities and limitations checklist for annual review of joint suppression operations.
- d.) The Bureau will release the National Guard resources from BLM jurisdictional Incidents in a timely manner as to ensure protection of home unit boundaries.

**XI. APPROVAL/SIGNATURES:**

**U.S.D.I BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
BOISE DISTRICT**

*signed:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire Management Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

**Military Division, Army National Guard**

*signed:* \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

*signed:* \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title**

\_\_\_\_\_  
date

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### 5.3. Appendix C: OCTC Burn Plan Template

## Fenceline Prescribed Burn Orchard Combat Training Center

#### Review Page:

Prepared By:		Date:	
Reviewed By:		Date:	

The approved Prescribed Fire Plan constitutes the authority to burn. No one has the authority to burn without an approved plan or in a manner not in compliance with the approved plan. Actions taken in compliance with the approved Prescribed Fire Plan will be fully supported. Personnel will be held accountable for actions taken which are not in compliance with elements of the approved plan regarding execution of the objectives in a safe and cost-effective manner.

**The complexity of this project is rated as: Low**

Approved By:

Date:

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## Prescribed Fire Management Summary and Risk Analysis

### Management summary:

The purpose of this project is to reduce the Russian thistle accumulations by 70-100% within the project area in an effort to minimize the potential for fire spread. Furthermore, the implementation of this project will ease the strain (and subsequent repair costs) on fence lines that result from the Russian thistle buildup. Accumulations will be burned along approximately 72 miles of roadways and fence lines (200/300 acres) in Ada and Elmore counties with the project area entirely located within the Orchard Combat Training Center.

Ignition operations will occur during late winter and early spring when risk of escape is low due to high fuel moistures and high soil moisture content. It is anticipated that multiple engines will work each day in various locations over the course of approximately one month in an effort to complete this project.

Firefighter safety concerns are minimal due to high live fuel moistures and relatively light fuel loading adjacent to treatment areas. As a result, concerns can be mitigated through LCES and attention to issues identified in the JHA. Smoke amounts are not expected to pose health or safety concerns to project personnel or public. Furthermore, it is anticipated that smoke impacts to public or users will be minimal. In addition, smoke impacts to residences, roads, or other facilities are expected to be minor. Resource concerns are limited to areas of known *Lepidium papilliferum* populations and areas of potential habitat. Prior to project implementation, these areas will be identified on a map and avoided.

The overall risk, technical difficulty, and potential consequences of this project are low due to the time of year in which the project will be implemented.

Coordination with the BLM and the ID DEQ will precede burn implementation to minimize smoke impacts during periods of ignition.

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**Project Goals**

Reduce wildfire hazard in project area by reducing the amount and continuity of Russian thistle accumulations in target pits, drainages, and along roads and fence lines.

**Project Objectives**

Resource objectives

Reduce quantity and continuity of fuels within project area.

Fuels treatment objectives

Reduce the accumulations of Russian Thistle within the project area by 70-100% through Rx burning operations.

**Additional Resource Management Concerns**

The under carriage of all vehicles involved in the prescribed burn will be cleaned as necessary before traveling in to and from the project area to reduce the likelihood of introducing noxious weed seeds.

Fire engines and ATV's travel will be restricted to roads and existing trails when possible.

Lepidium papilliferum sites will be identified and avoided.

**Burn Area Description**

Primary areas of concern:

All fencelines  
Areas around wildlife guzzlers, especially the one in maneuver area D-2  
Restricted area in maneuver area C-3  
Target movers on Ranges 1, 6, and 10  
Drainage south of Range 22

Acres:

2000

County:

Ada, Elmore

Low elevation:

Drainage:

Snake River

Avg. aspect:

All

High elevation:

2900

Avg. slope:

0 - 20%

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<b>Fuels Description</b>			
<b>On-Site Fuels Data (Tons/Acre):</b>			
FBPS Fuel Model(s):	3	FBPS Fuel Model(s):	
NFDRS Fuel Model(s):	N	NFDRS Fuel Model(s):	
1 hour	1 t/a	1 hour	
10 hour	N/A	10 hour	
100 hour	N/A	100 hour	
1000 hour	N/A	1000 hour	
Litter depth:	N/A	Litter depth:	
Duff depth:	<1"	Duff depth:	
Live woody:	N/A	Live woody:	
Live herbaceous:	N/A	Live herbaceous:	
Total fuel loading:	1 t/a	Total fuel loading:	
<b>Comments:</b>			
<p>Fuel Model 3 was used to represent the fuels within the treatment area because it most closely represents predicted fire behavior of tumbleweeds piled along fence lines.</p> <p>The available fuel load adjacent to the areas of Russian thistle accumulation is minimal due to the time of year the burn will be implemented. Fuel Model 1 (with scattered areas of Fuel Model 2) is most representative of the potential fire behavior outside of the treatment area. However, rates of spread and flame lengths outside of the treatment area will be lower than those predicted in BEHAVE due to high fuel moisture content. Consequently, it is anticipated there will be minimal risk when conducting burn operations.</p>			

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**Weather and Fuel Parameters**

<b>Acceptable Prescription Range</b>				
	<b>Low Fire Intensity</b>	<b>Desired Fire Intensity</b>	<b>High Fire Intensity</b>	
Temperature (Bf)	30	70	80	Outside area at critical holding point Minimum acceptable moisture
Relative humidity (%)	60	40	15	
Mid-flame wind speed (mph) <sup>1</sup>	2mph	7mph	18mph	
Wind direction (azimuthE)	Any	Any	Any	
1 hour fuel moisture (%)	11	5	3	3
10 hour fuel moisture (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
100 hr. fuel moisture (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	<b>Prescription</b>			Outside area at critical holding points
	Acceptable range Low Fire Intensity	Desired Fire Intensity	High Fire Intensity	
Fuel model(s)	3	3	3	1
Rate of spread chains/hour	29	197	829	59
Flame length (in feet)	6.6	17.4	36	8.2
Live Fuel Moisture (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Duff Moisture (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Soil Moisture (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Scorch Height (in feet)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Probability of Ignition (%)	20	60	90	85
Spotting distance (in miles)	.1	.6	1.9	.4

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**Fire Behavior Narrative**

Narrative: The aforementioned environmental conditions and fire behavior will produce the desired fire effects. Fire intensity will vary considerably with the lowest intensity occurring in areas of lighter Russian thistle accumulations. As the fire spreads into areas of heavier concentrations, intensity, flame length, and rate of spread will increase. Critical holding points will be in areas where heavy Russian thistle accumulations occur in conjunction with areas of mixed grass and sagebrush (FM 2). Fire behavior will be monitored and documented during the ignition phase. In addition, fire weather observations will be taken and documented every 30 minutes during the ignition phase and hourly during the post ignition phase. All monitoring information will be documented on the Weather & Fire Behavior observation sheet.

The fire prescription is any combination of variables, within the prescribed range above, which produces the desired flame length and maintains the fire effects within the desired range of severity.

Scheduling: February – May

Preferred season: Winter / Spring

Limitation on season or day(s) of week: None

Length of ignition phase (est. days or hours) Up to one month

Constraints or special considerations:

**Test Fire Provisions**

A daily test fire will be used to verify that the fire behavior every day of the burn will achieve the fire treatment and resource objectives and that the fire behavior is as described in the above narrative. The test fire should be done in a location that can be easily controlled or extinguished and should be representative of the general fuel type and other conditions in the burn unit(s) under the actual weather conditions on the day of the burn. Documentation of the test fire conditions and results will be placed on the test fire provision worksheet and will be signed by the Prescribed Fire Boss and retained as part of the project file.

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**Ignition & Holding**

Pre-burn preparation: A spot weather forecast will be obtained the first day of ignition and on an “as needed” basis depending on the initial forecast received. The need for additional spot weather forecasts will be determined by the Burn Boss. On-site weather observations will be obtained prior to ignition to see if prescription parameters are favorable.

**Ignition plan:**

All ignitions will take place using ground-based ignition devices such as drip torches or a terra torch. Ignition will begin on the downwind section of the concentration and will progress into the wind until the concentration is consumed. All firing operations will be under the supervision of the ignition specialist or burn boss to control the intensity of the burn so that it best meets management objectives and minimizes risk of escape.

**Potential holding problems:**

Due to seasonality, natural fuel breaks, lack of fuel continuity, fuel types, and existing roads, there is minimal risk of fire escaping contingency. However, critical holding points will be identified and managed as necessary.

**Location of holding forces and instructions:**

Holding forces if necessary will work directly with ignition personnel, as lighting progresses from one fuel concentration to the next. This tactic should greatly diminish the chances for an escape fire situation.

**Water sources:**

Snake River Support and MATES: constant flow.

Range 1 (MPRC-H); 30,000 gallons

Range 26; 5,000 gallons

Range 20; 5,000 gallons

Range 11; 5,000 gallons

**Public safety provisions:**

Warning signs may be placed in vicinity of burning operations during ignition phase.

**Other:**

Firefighters will wear all PPE. 10 Fire Orders, 18 Standards and LECS will be followed.

Lookouts will be posted as needed for traffic control.

**Mop-up and Patrol**

Complete 100% mop-up of all spots or slopovers. Mop-up to the extent appropriate considering: Season and predicted weather. Patrol as needed until burn is declared out. In addition, concentrate mop-up efforts (as determined by the prescribed burn boss) on: piles adjacent to private property lands and areas of heavy smoke production.

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<b>Workforce and Equipment Needs</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Total amount needed</b>
Burn Boss	
Holding Personnel	
Ignition Personnel	
<b>Equipment</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Total amount needed</b>
Drip Torches	
Drip Torch Fuel	
ATV	
Type 4 Engines	
Water Tender	
Dozer	
Collapsible Tank (optional)	

Communications Plan: may be adjusted on site by the Burn Boss.		
CHANNEL	FREQUENCY	ASSIGNMENT
	168.425 RX 168.425	Contact BLM

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**Smoke Management**

Transport wind and stability conditions needed for burning:

Transport winds from any direction are acceptable with highly stable air mass being the only condition that is undesirable due to smoke dispersion issues.

Visibility hazards (roads, airports, etc) and actions to reduce hazards:

Visibility hazards have potential to occur in the local area during the night. Use road signs and road guards on heavily traveled roadways adjacent to the burn, as needed, to warn the public of reduced visibility at night due to smoke. (To be determined by the burn boss.)

Residual smoke issues and mitigation actions:

Monitor smoke dispersion and direction of travel. Terminate burning if causing impact to local communities during the ignition phase of the burn. The burn will be conducted with atmospheric conditions conducive to the rapid dispersion of smoke away from smoke sensitive areas.

In the event that smoke is moving in a direction that could generate complaints from 'nuisance' smoke, contact will be made to the airshed coordinator to update on the situation and forewarn state DEQ that the potential exists for 'nuisance' smoke complaints. At this time, the prescribed fire manager and the burn boss will determine if burning should continue or if the potential for smoke impacts indicate a need to terminate burning operations.

The fuel loading will be moderate during ignition operations. However, it is anticipated that smoke impacts to public or users will be minimal due to time of year and associated decline in visitation. Furthermore, duration of smoke is expected to be minimal due to the fact that the burn piles consist primarily of small diameter fuels. In addition, mixing height and transport winds are expected to be adequate for transporting smoke from the area. If by chance there is an unexpected smoke problem, then firing will be immediately stopped.

Special constraints / considerations:

No firing will be initiated if IDEQ has an open burn ban.

Documentation:

**Escaped Fire Plan**

**Decision:** A prescribed fire becomes a wildfire when the prescribed burn boss determines that an escape has, or is likely to occur. Fire outside of the planned perimeter, threatening or outside any planned allowable areas, that cannot be contained with the holding forces identified in the Prescribed Fire Plan is an escape and will be declared a wildfire.

**Organization:** When an escape is declared, the FFS will act as the Incident Commander until relieved. The IC will organize all on site resources for an aggressive response. Containment opportunities include; roads, natural barriers, and areas with reduced fuel loading provide excellent opportunities for containment of an escaped fire. Upon escape, all key personnel will continue documentation of actions taken. After the incident is contained, the FFS will submit a report of all actions prior to and after the escape including weather, resources on site, ignition sequence, suppression actions and other pertinent data.

**Notifications:** The FFS will notify ORC and they will notify Boise Dispatch Center. Boise Dispatch Center will notify the Duty Officer, Fire Management Officer, Field Office Manager, and District Manager of the situation. Field office personnel will notify adjacent landowners as needed. The IC will coordinate suppression actions with other affected parties as needed.

**Containment strategy:** Will be to minimize wildfire size, taking in consideration of firefighter safety to flank the fire from an anchor point until the forward rate of spread is stopped. Direct handline should be effective for the time of year prescribed for the fence line burn.

**Containment opportunities:** Due to time of year and expected burning conditions (high live fuel moisture content in vegetation) additional containment opportunities are not expected to be necessary.

**Resource ordering:** The FFS will confirm with ORC that the following suppression resources are available during the prescribed burn and order other resources as needed for containment.

Other:

**Contingency Resources**

Resource	Mobilization Time*	Availability	Confirmation of Availability (Date, Time & initial)
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\* Time it takes for mobilization and travel to site.

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**Medical Plan**

*Notify FFS of any accidents or injuries. The FFS will initiate on site response and coordinate additional needs through ORC. If using an ambulance for transport, send someone to meet the ambulance at a known location, i.e.: a highway junction or other known landmark.*

Medical Resources	Location on Project	Paramedics	
		Yes	No
First Aid and Burn Kits			
EMT			

**Ambulance services**

Name	Telephone	Location	Paramedics	
			Yes	No
Elmore County	208-587-8661	520 S. Main Mountain Home, ID		X
ADA-BOI	208-362-2973	3985 Summerset Way Boise, ID	X	
Life Flight	208-384-3400 (BILC)		X	

**Hospitals**

Name	Address *or Lat/Long.	Travel time		PHONE	Helipad		Burn Center	
		Air	Ground		Yes	No	Yes	No
Elmore Medical Center	895 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> E. Mtn. Home, ID	20 min.	1 hr.	208-587-8401		X		X
St. Luke's Meridian Medical Center	520 S. Eagle Rd. Meridian, ID 43° 35.8' 116° 21.2'	40 min.	2 hr.	208-706-5000	X			X
St. Luke's	190 E. Bannock Boise, ID 43 36'46" 116 15'68" State Com 115.340	20 min.	1 hr.	208-381-2222 155.280 RX & TX	X			X
St. Alphonsus	1055 N. Curtis Rd. Boise, ID 43 36'82" 116 15'68" State Com 115.340	20 min.	1 hr.	208-367-2121 155.280 RX & TX	X			X
Inter- mountain Burn Center	50 N. Medical Dr. Salt Lake City, UT 40 46'34" 111 50'24"	1.5 hrs.	6 hrs.	801-581-2700	X		X	

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<b>Notifications</b>						
<b>Who to Notify:</b>	<b>When:</b>	<b>Phone #:</b>	<b>Responsibly of:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Initials:</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Boise Dispatch Center	1 week prior, day of	384-3400	FFS			Name/Legal
ID DEQ, Mike Dubois	(B)	373-0550	FFS			Name/Legal
District Fire Management Officer Andy Delmas	(B)	384-3486	FFS			Decision to Burn
Birds of Prey NCA Manager Patricia Roller	(B,D,A)	384-3336	FFS			Go/No Go Decision
<i>When to Notify</i>		<i>Before (B): The day prior to burn day. Smoke = by 12:00am</i> <i>Day of (D): Prior to ignition on burn day.</i> <i>After (A): After burn is completed</i>				

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<b>Go / No-Go Checklist</b>	YES	NO
<p>Has the burn unit experienced unusual drought conditions or contain above normal fuel loading, which were not considered in the prescription and development? If NO, go to item 1. If YES, go to item B.</p> <p>If YES, have appropriate changes been made to the Ignition and Holding Plan and the Mop-up and Patrol Plans? If YES, go to item 1. If NO, STOP.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A NO response to any item means STOP!</p>		
Checklist Items	YES	NO
Are ALL fire prescription specifications met?		
Are ALL smoke management prescription specifications met and/or has smoke management clearance been given for the project?		
Has an area or spot fire weather forecast been obtained? Is it favorable?		
Are ALL personnel required in the Prescribed Fire Plan onsite?		
Is ALL equipment required in the Prescribed Fire Plan in place and functional?		
Have ALL personnel been briefed on the project objectives and their assignments?		
Has ALL pre-burn preparation work been completed?		
Have ALL personnel been briefed on safety hazards, escape routes, safety zones and communications?		
Have ALL required notifications been made – including Field Office Manager?		
Are the onsite resources adequate for containment under expected conditions?		
In your opinion, can the burn be carried out according to plan and will it meet the planned objectives?		

If ALL answers are YES, proceed with the project briefing and the test fire. Document the conditions, location and results. Concurrence is documented by the signatures below.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Prescribed Fire Burn Boss

Date:

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### 5.4. Appendix D: Firefighter qualifications description

Wildland firefighting positions follow the Incident Command System (ICS). ICS places one person, the incident commander, in charge of all incident activities. The organization may be expanded or contracted based on incident complexity. For moderate to highly complex incidents, some or all command and general staff positions (safety, information, liaison, plans, logistics, finance/administration, operations) may be activated. Regardless of organization size, ICS seeks to maintain a ratio of one supervisor per three to seven personnel (NWCG 1994).

In wildland fire, ICS has pre-identified incident complexity levels, Type 5 through Type 1, that correspond to the minimum organization required for management. With both incident complexity and position level, a lower type number indicates higher complexity. For example, an Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4) is qualified to manage a more complex incident than an Incident Commander Type 5 (ICT5). Similarly, a Type 1 firefighter (FFT1) has more qualifications than a Type 2 firefighter (FFT2). Qualification requirements for each position are described in PMS 310-1 (NWCG 2006).

Table 1 describes some of the characteristics of very low and low complexity incidents (typical for OCTC), and Table 2 describes the primary function and responsibilities of the ICS positions recommended for OCTC (NWCG 2004).

**Table 1:** Characteristics of low and moderate complexity incidents

Incident Type	Complexity	Characteristics
5	Very low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resources vary from one to five firefighters</li> <li>▪ Incident is normally contained rapidly during initial attack</li> <li>▪ A written action plan is not required</li> <li>▪ Command and General staff positions are not activated</li> </ul>
4	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resources vary from a single firefighter to several single resources (staffed engines, helicopters, air tankers, for example)</li> <li>▪ The incident is limited to one operational period in the control phase. Mop-up may extend into multiple periods</li> <li>▪ A written plan is not required</li> <li>▪ Command and General staff positions are not activated</li> </ul>

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**Table 2:** Primary function and responsibilities of ICS positions recommended for OCTC

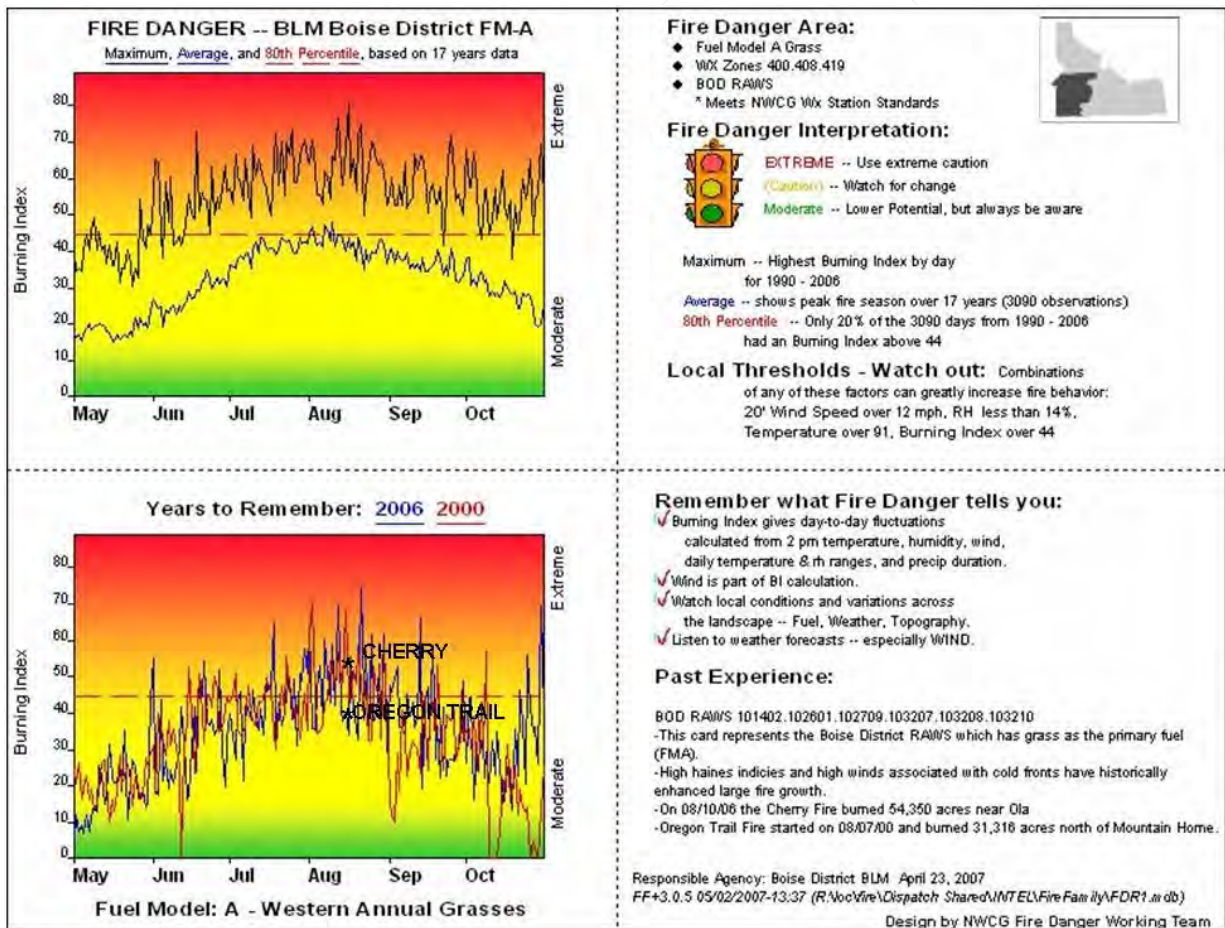
<b>Position</b>	<b>Primary Function</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
<b>Incident Commander (IC)</b>	Responsible for all incident activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that safety receives priority consideration in the analysis of strategic alternatives, and in all incident activities.</li> <li>• Assess incident situation, both immediate and potential.</li> <li>• Conduct risk assessment for all strategic alternatives.</li> <li>• Maintain command and control of the incident management organization.</li> <li>• Ensure safety and welfare of all incident personnel and the public is maintained.</li> </ul>
<b>Single Resource Boss- Engine (ENGB)</b>	Responsible for supervising and directing a fire suppression module.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review assignments with subordinates and assign work tasks.</li> <li>• Review current and predicted weather conditions and brief subordinates on expected fire behavior.</li> <li>• Ensure adequate communications with supervisor and subordinates.</li> <li>• Set up a backup chain of command to function when boss is absent.</li> <li>• Keep supervisor informed of progress and any changes.</li> <li>• Inform supervisor of problems with assigned resources.</li> <li>• Brief subordinates on safety items including escape routes and safety zones.</li> <li>• Obtain necessary equipment and supplies.</li> <li>• Provide for their welfare.</li> <li>• Monitor work progress.</li> </ul>
<b>Advanced Firefighter/ Squad Boss (FFT1)</b>	Working leader of a small group (<7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand exactly what the supervisor wants</li> <li>• Ensure that personnel have proper safety equipment and tools and know how to care for and use them.</li> <li>• Look after the safety of assigned personnel.</li> </ul>
<b>Firefighter (FFT2)</b>	Basic resource used in the control and extinguishment of wildland fires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform manual and semi-skilled labor as assigned.</li> <li>• Ensure that objectives and instructions are understood.</li> <li>• Perform all work in a safe manner.</li> <li>• Keep personal clothing and equipment in serviceable condition.</li> <li>• Report accidents or injuries to supervisor.</li> <li>• Report hazardous conditions to supervisor.</li> </ul>

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### 5.5. Appendix E: Fire danger rating pocket card

The Fire Danger PocketCard communicates information on fire danger to firefighters. The PocketCard describes seasonal changes in fire danger and gives firefighters a general indicator of the potential for the fuels to support extreme fire behavior. The PocketCard does NOT provide site specific fire behavior predictions. Daily fire danger indices, including the Burning Index (BI), are read as part of the weather forecast broadcast by Boise Dispatch Center.

PocketCards are updated annually to include the previous year's data. Updated cards are available at: <http://famweb.nwcg.gov/pocketcards/boiblmn.htm>



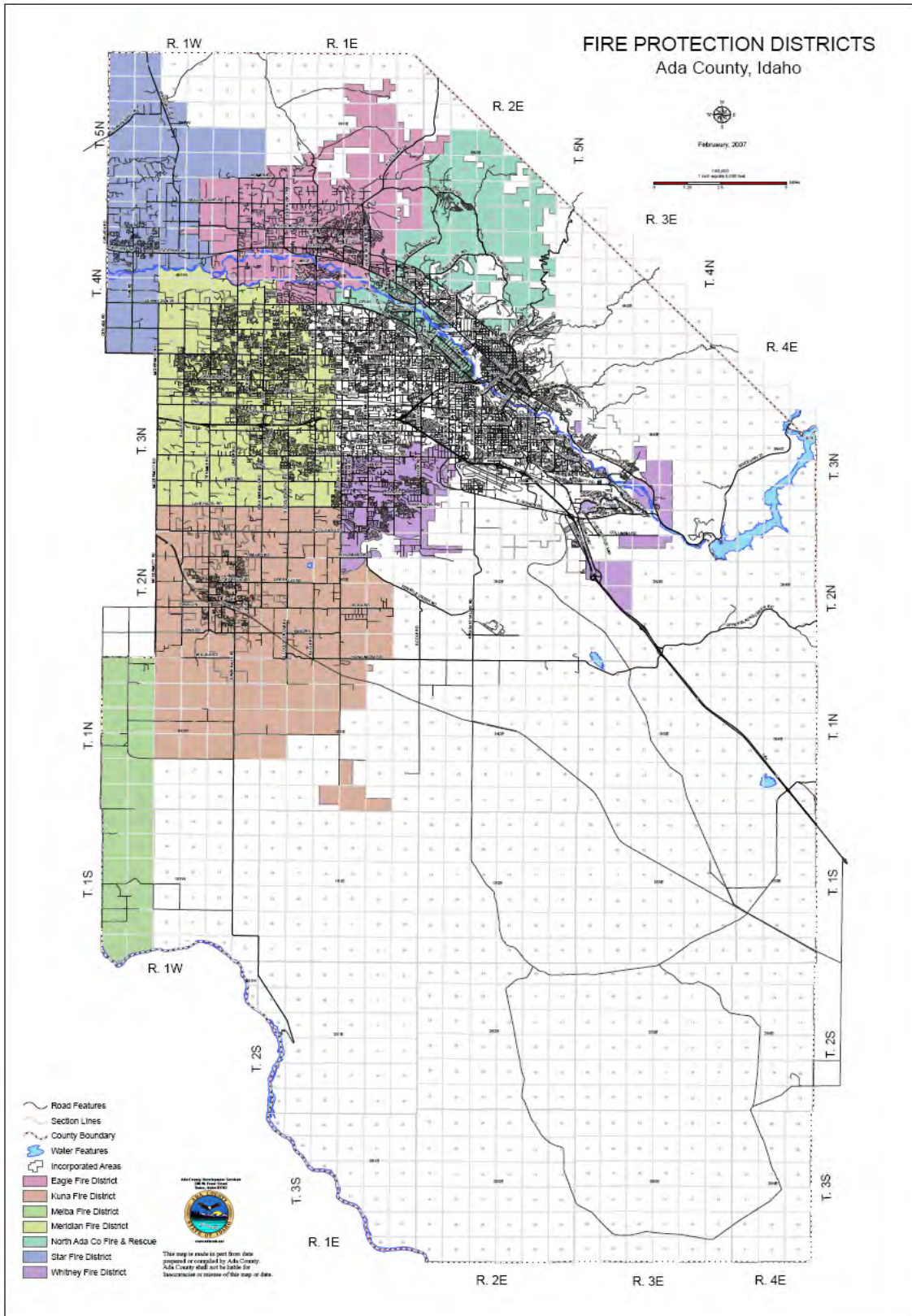
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**Information contained on PocketCard and utility:**

<b>Section</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<b>Utility</b>
<b>Fire Danger (Chart)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Title indicates area (Boise BLM) and fuel model (fuel model A, grass) that PocketCard applies to</li> <li>▪ Chart graphs BI versus day</li> <li>▪ Chart illustrates maximum and average daily values and plots 80<sup>th</sup> percentile BI</li> <li>▪ Color background distinguishes extreme and moderate fire danger potential.</li> </ul>	Firefighters can determine how the day’s BI compares to the historical average and maximum
<b>Years to Remember (Chart)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plots BI versus day</li> <li>▪ Labels days with large fire occurrence</li> <li>▪ Color background distinguishes extreme and moderate fire danger potential.</li> </ul>	Firefighters can see the indices and time of year that have allowed large fire growth in the past.
<b>Fire Danger Area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Summarizes fuel model, fire weather zone, and weather stations used to create PocketCard</li> </ul>	Firefighters can verify that they are looking at the appropriate card.
<b>Fire Danger Interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Describes color background for charts</li> <li>▪ Describes thresholds for maximum, average, and 80<sup>th</sup> percentile fire danger</li> </ul>	Helps firefighters understand information contained on charts
<b>Local thresholds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Describes combinations of temperature, wind speed, relative humidity, and BI that greatly increase fire behavior</li> </ul>	Gives firefighters thresholds for extreme fire behavior potential.
<b>What fire danger tells you</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explains components of BI</li> <li>▪ Describes additional factors contributing to extreme fire behavior</li> </ul>	Allows interpretation by inexperienced firefighters
<b>Past experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Describes factors that have contributed to large fire growth in the past</li> <li>▪ Gives large fire dates and acreages</li> </ul>	Reminds firefighters of locally significant weather factors. In combination with ‘Years to remember’ chart, illustrates the potential for large fire growth under the right conditions.

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### 5.6. Appendix F: Ada County fire protection districts



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### 5.7. Appendix G: Fire report form

This form is the same as that used by the National Interagency Coordination Center and the Geographic Area Coordination Centers for tracking wildfire activity on federal land. The common causes listed below the table are the same as those used and tracked in the Interagency (USDA Forest Service and USDOJ Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and US Fish and Wildlife Service) wildland fire statistics database.

Unit Name: Orchard Combat Training Center

Agency: Idaho Army National Guard

Date	Wildfire Activity				Year to Date					
	New		Uncontrolled		Lightning		Human		Total	
	Cause	Fires	Acres	Fires	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres	Fires	Acres

Common fire causes:

- 00. Military mission
- 01. Lightning
- 02. Equipment use (non-military)
- 03. Smoking
- 04. Campfire
- 05. Debris burning
- 06. Railroad
- 07. Arson
- 08. Children (playing with matches, for example)
- 09. Miscellaneous

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## 5.8. Appendix H: IDARNG ICRMP SOP#5, Inadvertent Discovery

Regulations: NAGPRA, ARPA, NHPA

Applies to: Field Troops, Unit Commanders, ORC Officer, Installation Commander, Facilities Management Officer, and Natural/Cultural Resources Manager.

Typical Situations: Field training exercises; off-road traffic; activities such as digging, bulldozing, cleaning borrow pits; clearing fire breaks; road maintenance; building of fences; observation of eroded areas, dirt trails, and badger mounds.

Typical triggering events: Discovery of known or likely to be human remains, unmarked graves, Native American or historical artifacts, archaeological features.

Policy: The IDARNG shall ensure that in the event of the inadvertent discovery of archaeological and/or culturally sensitive resources, measures are taken promptly within 48 hours of discovery to protect them from further disturbance, assess the significance of the discovery, and implement appropriate protection and mitigation measures. In the event of discovery of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony, the IDARNG shall ensure that all appropriate measures are implemented to protect the remains and/or items, all appropriate Tribes and agencies are promptly notified of the discovery, and that all applicable federal, tribal, and state procedures are followed.

Situation # 1. Discovery during field training exercises. (Including IRT training)

A. Field Troops.

1. Cease training activity immediately.
2. Establish a 30-meter protective boundary around the site.
3. Notify the Unit Commander of the discovery.

B. Unit Commander.

1. Contact ORC immediately, if training on the OCTC.
2. Contact the primary land management agency and the Natural/Cultural Resources Manager if training on other sites.
3. Ensure the protective perimeter has been secured and maintained.

C. ORC Officer.

1. Immediately notify the Natural/Cultural Resource Manager and the Installation Commander of the discovery.

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2. Examine the location of the discovery and ensure it has been properly secured. Take appropriate measures to further secure the location as needed.
  3. Give the Unit Commander direction regarding locations where training exercises may continue.
  4. Await further instructions from the Natural/Cultural Resources Manager.

D. Installation Commander.

1. Ensure the site is protected until further determination can be made regarding its significance.
2. Prepare a written report documenting the circumstances of the discovery.
3. Assist in the implementation of appropriate protection and mitigation measure as directed by the Natural/Cultural Resources Manager.

E. Natural/Cultural Resources Manager.

1. Gather information regarding the site.
2. Notify both by phone and written communication the designated BLM POC (if on the Orchard Combat Training Center), the appropriate primary land management agency (on other locations), the appropriate Tribal Cultural Resources Officers, and the SHPO and the Advisory Council. If human remains or a grave is discovered the Sheriff and Coroner must be notified.
3. In coordination with staff from the above groups, visit the site of the discovery and determine the appropriate course of action to be followed at that time.
4. Prepare a written report documenting the circumstances of the discovery, the condition and character of the find and the context, the notification procedures that were followed, the results of the site visit, the decisions that were made in consultation with the appropriate agency and tribal representatives, and any future actions that will be taken as a result of the discovery.

F. Special Staff.

1. If it is evident the human remains represent a probable recent crime scene, law enforcement personnel representing the appropriate land management agency will be contacted immediately.

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**Situation # 2. Discovery during Range operations and maintenance activities.****A. Range Staff.**

1. Cease operational or maintenance activity immediately.
2. Establish a 30-meter protective boundary around the site.
3. Notify the ORC Officer of the discovery.

**B. ORC Officer.**

1. Immediately notify the Natural/Cultural Resources Manager and the Installation Commander of the discovery.
2. Examine the location of the discovery and ensure it has been properly secured.
3. Await further instructions from the Natural/Cultural Resources Manager.

**C. Installation Commander.**

1. Ensure the site is protected until further determination can be made regarding its significance.
2. Prepare a written report documenting the circumstances of the discovery.
3. Assist in the implementation of appropriate protection and mitigation measure as directed by the Natural/Cultural Resources Manager.

**D. Natural/Cultural Resources Manager.**

1. Gather information regarding the site.
2. Notify both by phone and written communication the designated BLM POC (if on the Orchard Combat Training Center), the appropriate primary land management agency (on other locations), the appropriate Tribal Cultural Resources Officers, and the SHPO.
3. In coordination with staff from the above groups, visit the site of the discovery and determine the appropriate course of action to be followed at that time.
4. Prepare a written report documenting the circumstances of the discovery, the condition and character of the find and the context, the notification procedures that were followed, the results of the site visit, the decisions that were made in consultation with the appropriate agency and tribal representatives, and any future actions that will be taken as a result of the discovery.

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**Situation # 3. Construction activities.****A. IDARNG work crews and Contractors.**

1. Cease construction immediately.
2. Establish a 30-meter protective boundary around the site.
3. Notify the Facilities Management Officer immediately.

**B. Facilities Management Officer.**

1. Immediately notify the Natural/Cultural Resources Manager of the discovery.
2. Examine the location of the discovery and ensure it has been properly secured.
3. Advise the construction workers that work will not continue until the appropriate evaluation has been made.
4. Await further instruction from the Natural/Cultural Resources Manager.

**C. Natural/Cultural Resources Manager.**

1. (Same as previous situations.)

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## 5.9. Appendix I: Lower Snake River District Standard Operating Procedures for *Lepidium papilliferum*

### Lower Snake River District Standard Operating Procedures for **Lepidium Papilliferum (LEPA)** **Slickspot Peppergass**

Over time, a significant deviation in the natural fire regime has occurred across the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem. As wildfires have burned with increasing frequency, intensity, and size, there has been a concomitant increase in the encroachment and spread of non-native plant species. Due in part to their flammability, these non-native species have perpetuated the fire regime changes and contributed to the deteriorating health of the ecosystem. Among the most noticeable change occurring as a result of this process is the decline and loss of habitat for native plant species, and particularly the valued Slickspot Peppergrass.

Recognizing a need to stem the decline of habitat and protect remaining sites, the Lower Snake River District is a signatory to a Candidate Conservation Agreement among several government agencies and nongovernmental cooperators for Slickspot Peppergrass. As the lead wildfire suppression agency in southwest Idaho, the district is committed to implementing the conservation measures and operating procedures outlined below in an effort to prevent further losses of Slickspot Peppergrass habitat.

#### **Conservation Measures**

The Fire Management Officer will ensure the following:

1. Make protection of known Element Occurrence (EO) a priority over the surrounding Management Area (MA).
2. Utilize aggressive fire suppression tactics in MAs when priority EOs are threatened.
3. Evaluate, create, and maintain fire breaks along areas where fires affect occupied and suitable habitat.
4. Implement Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics (MIST) to minimize ground disturbance impacts to Slickspot Peppergrass, where feasible.
5. Distribute maps and inform agency fire crews and local cooperators about locations of MAs and EOs to avoid or minimize impacts to habitat areas.
6. Use stationary and mobile vehicle wash points for all fire vehicles and equipment to reduce the transportation of undesirable plant materials.
7. Protect remnant blocks of native vegetation, especially late seral sagebrush-steppe habitat.
8. Provide adequate fire suppression coverage at all stations that respond to a given MA to achieve the following suppression objectives (see attached map).
  - **New Plymouth / Canyon County MA** suppress 90% of fires to less than 200 acres.
  - **Boise Foothills / BLM MA** suppress 90% of fires to less than 200 acres.
  - **Boise MA** suppress 90% of fires to less than 20 acres.

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- 
- **Kuna MA** suppress 90% of fires to less than 100 acres.
  - **Gowen Field / Orchard Combat Training Center MA** suppress 90% of fires to less than 100 acres.
  - **Orchard MA** suppress 90% of fires to less than 100 acres.
  - **Mountain Home MA** suppress 90% of fires to less than 100 acres.
  - **Glenns Ferry / Hammett MA** suppress 90% of fires to less than 100 acres.
  - **Jarbidge MA** suppress 90% of fires to less than 500 acres.
9. Provide GPS coordinates in datum NAD83 using UTM coordinate system and GIS maps of perimeter and significant islands of all fires in EOs and MAs to the District BOCTCnist by November 1<sup>st</sup> annually.

### **Standard Operating Procedures:**

Although firefighter and public safety, along with the protection of property, will remain the BLM's highest priorities, the following operating procedures will be implemented in an effort to keep Slickspot Peppergrass habitat conservation at the forefront:

- Crew Leaders are responsible for checking their LEPA MA and EO site map on every fire dispatch.
- When conducting fire operations within a LEPA MA or EO it is the incident commander's responsibility to ensure that the duty officer and/or line officer are aware of the location of the fire in relation to the LEPA MA and/or EO.
- The incident commander is responsible for conveying suppression options based on current and expected fire behavior with particular attention to the threat of fire and ground disturbance to a LEPA MA and/or EO.
- The line officer or appropriate land manager will approve the use of any ground-disturbing equipment for fire suppression efforts.
- Whenever possible, the Incident Commander will ensure that Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics are implemented.
- Fire suppression chemicals, such as foam and retardant, will be utilized by the Incident Commander unless informed otherwise by the duty officer or appropriate land manager.
- Incident Commanders will ensure that equipment is washed prior to leaving fires in LEPA MA's at identified vehicle wash sites to prevent the potential spread of non-native species. These sites will have GPS coordinates documented and forwarded to dispatch, the District Weeds program coordinator, and the District BOCTCnist.
- Incident Commanders will make it a priority to protect all existing sagebrush stands during suppression efforts, and make certain that any significant sagebrush islands are protected during mop up operations using minimal ground-disturbing tactics.
- Special considerations will be made by the Incident Commander when determining the location of fire camps and staging areas when in and around LEPA MAs and EOs. Considerations will include site location and access-egress routes where ground disturbance is acceptable.
- The Fire Management Officer will ensure that the LEPA MA and EO map is updated and LEPA educational refresher training is provided on an annual basis.

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# Appendix F:

## OCTC Soils

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## Appendix F: Orchard Combat Training Center Soils Descriptions

Soil Complex	Primary Soil Series	Description	Use and Vegetation
Badland	N/A	Highly eroded and distinctly dissected soft geologic material; surface usually crumbly and nearly barren of vegetation.	
Banbury-McPan-Rock outcrop	Banbury Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Loamy, mixed, superactive, mesic Lithic Xeric Haplargids.</p> <p>The Banbury series consists of shallow, well drained soils that formed in old alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash mixed with colluvium derived from basalt. The soils are on hills, terraces, and terrace plains. Permeability is moderate. Slopes are 2 to 25 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 9 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 50 degrees F. Typical pedon of Banbury loam, in an area of rangeland.</p>	Banbury soils are used mainly as rangeland and irrigated pasture. Minor areas are used as irrigated cropland. The native vegetation is Wyoming big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber needlegrass, and Sandberg bluegrass.
Catchell-Chilcott-Banbury	Catchell Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Fine, smectitic, mesic Abruptic Xeric Argidurids.</p> <p>The Catchell series consists of soils that are moderately deep to a duripan, are well drained, and formed in a thin mantle of loess over silty alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash mixed with colluvium derived from basalt or welded rhyolitic tuff. The soils are on lava plains, structural benches, mesas, buttes, and foothills. Permeability is very slow. Slopes are 0 to 30 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 10 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 49 degrees F. Typical pedon of Catchell silt loam, in an area of rangeland.</p>	Catchell soils are used mainly as rangeland, irrigated pasture, and wildlife habitat. The dominant natural vegetation is big sagebrush, low sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber needlegrass, and Sandberg bluegrass.

Soil Complex	Primary Soil Series	Description	Use and Vegetation
Chardoton,  Chardoton-Power	Chardoton Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Fine, smectitic, mesic Xeric Paleargids.</p> <p>The Chardoton series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in a thin mantle of loess over silty alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash over loamy alluvium derived from basalt and volcanic ash. The soils are on plains. Permeability is very slow. Slopes are 0 to 4 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 11 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 52 degrees F. Typical pedon of Chardoton silt loam, in a nearly level lava flow trough at an elevation of 3,100 feet, in an area of rangeland.</p>	<p>The Chardoton soils are used mainly as rangeland. The natural vegetation is bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber needlegrass, basin wildrye, Wyoming big sagebrush, and threetip sagebrush.</p>
Chattin-Slickspots	Chattin Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Fine-loamy, mixed, superactive, mesic Typic Calciargids.</p> <p>The Chattin series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in silty alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash over loamy alluvium derived from basalt and volcanic ash. These soils are on plains. Permeability is moderately slow. Slopes are 0 to 4 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 7 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 54 degrees F. Typical pedon of Chattin silt loam, in a nearly level lava flow trough at an elevation of 2,830 feet, in an area of rangeland.</p>	<p>Chattin soils are used mainly as rangeland. The natural vegetation is shadscale, bud sagebrush, Thurber needlegrass, and Indian ricegrass.</p>

Soil Complex	Primary Soil Series	Description	Use and Vegetation
<p>Chilcote-Catchell-Chardoton,</p> <p>Chilcote-Chardoton,</p> <p>Chilcote-Purdam-Bowns</p>	Chilcote Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Fine, smectitic, mesic Abruptic Xeric Argidurids.</p> <p>The Chilcote series consists of soils that are moderately deep to a duripan and are well drained. These soils formed in a thin mantle of loess and silty alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash over loamy or sandy and gravelly alluvium derived from igneous material. The soils are on plains and in valleys. Permeability is slow. Slopes are 0 to 30 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 10 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 51 degrees F. Typical pedon of Chilcote silt loam, in an area of rangeland at an elevation of 2,720 feet</p>	<p>The Chilcote soils are used mainly as irrigated cropland, hayland, and pastureland at the lower elevations and as rangeland and wildlife habitat at higher elevations. Crops grown include corn and small grain. The dominant natural vegetation is Wyoming big sagebrush, Thurber needlegrass, and bluebunch wheatgrass.</p>
Colthorp-Minveno	Colthorp Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Loamy, mixed, superactive, mesic, shallow Xeric Argidurids.</p> <p>The Colthorp series consists of soils that are shallow to a duripan and are well drained. These soils are on basalt plains and terraces. They formed in silty alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash. Permeability is moderately slow. Slopes are 0 to 20 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 11 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 51 degrees F. Typical pedon of Colthorp silt loam, on a nearly level lava flow lobe at an elevation of 3,010 feet, in an area of rangeland.</p>	<p>The Colthorp soils are used mainly as rangeland. Some areas are irrigated and are used for pasture and hay and for cultivated crops such as corn, small grain, sugar beets, and potatoes. The potential natural plant community is mainly Wyoming big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Sandberg bluegrass, and Thurber needlegrass.</p>

Soil Complex	Primary Soil Series	Description	Use and Vegetation
Corder-Tadpole	Corder Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Loamy, mixed, superactive, mesic, shallow Typic Argidurids.</p> <p>The Corder series consists of soils that are shallow to a duripan and are well drained. These soils are on plains. They formed in loess and weathered volcanic ash mixed with colluvium derived from basalt. Permeability is moderate. Slopes are 0 to 25 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 7 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 53 degrees F. Typical pedon of Corder silt loam, on a nearly level lava flow lobe at an elevation of 3,200 feet, in an area of rangeland.</p>	<p>Corder soils are used mainly as rangeland. The natural vegetation is shadscale saltbush, bud sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, and Thurber needlegrass.</p>
<p>Dolman-Minveno-Power,</p> <p>Dolman-Minveno-Trevino</p>	Dolman Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Coarse-silty, mixed, superactive, mesic Xeric Haplodurids.</p> <p>The Dolman series consists of soils that are moderately deep to a duripan and are well drained. These soils formed in silty alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash over loamy or sandy alluvium derived from igneous material. They are on old dissected terraces and plains. Permeability is moderate. Slopes are 1 to 15 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 9 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 48 degrees F. Typical pedon of Dolman silt loam, on a northeast-facing slope of 2 percent at an elevation of 3,475 feet, in an area of rangeland.</p>	<p>Dolman soils are used mainly as rangeland and for irrigated crops. The native vegetation is Wyoming big sagebrush, Thurber needlegrass, and Sandberg bluegrass. Irrigated crops grown are mainly wheat, barley, sugar beets, potatoes, beans, and alfalfa hay.</p>

Soil Complex	Primary Soil Series	Description	Use and Vegetation
Elijah-Chilcott-Power,  Elijah-Dolman-Minveno,  Elijah-McPan-Catchell	Elijah Series	Taxonomic class: Fine-silty, mixed, superactive, mesic Xeric Argidurids. The Elijah series consists of soils that are moderately deep to a duripan and are well drained. These soils are on plains and in valleys. They formed in silty alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash over loamy or sandy and gravelly alluvium derived from igneous material. Permeability is moderately slow. Slopes are 0 to 15 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 9 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 50 degrees F. Typical pedon of Elijah silt loam at an elevation of 2,575 feet, in a cultivated field.	The Elijah soils are used mainly as irrigated cropland and rangeland. The principal crops are small grain, corn, potatoes, sugar beets, alfalfa, and pasture. The natural plant community is Wyoming big sagebrush, Sandberg bluegrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, and Thurber needlegrass.
Lankbush-Tindahay	Lankbush Series	Taxonomic class: Fine-loamy, mixed, superactive, mesic Xeric Haplargids. The Lankbush series consists of very deep, well drained soils on plains and valleys. These soils formed in loamy alluvium derived from igneous material over sandy alluvium derived from granite. Permeability is moderately slow. Slopes are 0 to 65 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 10 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 49 degrees F. Typical pedon of Lankbush sandy loam, on a southwest-facing slope at an elevation of 2,680 feet, in an area of rangeland.	The Lankbush soils are mainly used as rangeland. The natural vegetation is bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber needlegrass, Indian ricegrass, Sandberg bluegrass, basin big sagebrush, and Wyoming sagebrush. Irrigated small grain, alfalfa, corn, potatoes, sugar beets, hay, and pasture are grown in some areas.

Soil Complex	Primary Soil Series	Description	Use and Vegetation
McPan-Purdam	McPan Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Fine-silty, mixed, superactive, mesic Xeric Argidurids. The McPan series consists of soils that are moderately deep to a duripan and are well drained. These soils formed in loess and silty alluvium derived from weathered volcanic ash mixed with colluvium derived from basalt. The soils are on plains. Slopes are 1 to 20 percent. Permeability is moderately slow. The average annual precipitation is about 10 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 50 degrees F. Typical pedon of McPan silt loam, in an area of irrigated cropland, on a 3-percent, southwest-facing slope at an elevation of 3,580 feet.</p>	<p>The McPan soils are used mainly as rangeland and for irrigated crops. The potential native vegetation is Wyoming big sagebrush and Thurber needlegrass.</p>
Montezuma-Ota	Montezuma Taxadjunct	<p>Taxonomic class: Ashy, glassy, mesic Xereptic Haplodurids. The Montezuma Taxadjunct consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in loamy and gravelly colluvium derived from cinders and volcanic ash. Permeability is moderate. Slopes are 4 to 15 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 8 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 53 degrees F. Typical pedon of Montezuma Taxadjunct sandy loam, on a 7-percent, west-facing slope at an elevation of 3,100 feet; in an area of rangeland.</p>	<p>Montezuma Taxadjunct soils are used mainly as rangeland. The natural vegetation is Wyoming big sagebrush and Thurber needlegrass</p>
Playas	N/A	<p>Ephemeral ponds in natural depressions; ponding result of runoff; surface usually dry, level, and nearly barren of vegetation; common sparse mantle of rock fragments. Abrupt textural change at a depth of 0 to 2 inches.</p>	



Soil Complex	Primary Soil Series	Description	Use and Vegetation
Power-Purdam	Power Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Fine-silty, mixed, superactive, mesic Xeric Calcargids</p> <p>The Power series consists of very deep, well drained soils on plains and in valleys. These soils formed in silty alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash over loamy alluvium derived from igneous material. Permeability is moderately slow. Slopes are 0 to 15 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 9 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 51 degrees F. Typical pedon of Power silt loam, on a nearly level terrace, in an area of rangeland.</p>	<p>The Power soils are used mainly as rangeland and irrigated cropland. The principal crops grown are small grain, potatoes, sugar beets, beans, and alfalfa hay. The natural plant community is Wyoming big sagebrush, Thurber needlegrass, and bluebunch wheatgrass with basin big sagebrush in some areas.</p>
Purdam-McPan	Purdam Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Fine-silty, mixed, superactive, mesic Haploxeralfic Argidurids.</p> <p>The Purdam series consists of soils that are moderately deep to a duripan and are well drained. These soils are in valleys and on plains. They formed in silty alluvium derived from loess and weathered volcanic ash over medium textured or moderately coarse textured alluvium derived from igneous material. Permeability is moderately slow. Slopes are 0 to 30 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 9 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 48 degrees F. Typical pedon of Purdam silt loam, on a nearly level lava plain at an elevation of 2,500 feet, in an area of cropland.</p>	<p>The Purdam soils are used mainly as irrigated cropland. A few areas are used as rangeland. The crops grown are small grain, corn, sugar beets, alfalfa, potatoes, and onions and some pasture. The potential natural plant community is Wyoming big sagebrush, bluebunch wheatgrass, Thurber needlegrass, and Sandberg bluegrass.</p>
Strike-Slickspots-Tadpole	Strike Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Coarse-loamy, mixed, superactive, mesic Durinodic Haplocambids.</p> <p>The Strike series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in loess and weathered volcanic ash over coarse-loamy alluvium derived from basalt and weathered volcanic ash. These soils are on plains. Permeability is moderate. Slopes are 0 to 4 percent.</p>	<p>The Strike soils are used mainly as rangeland. The natural vegetation is shadscale saltbush, bud sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, and Thurber needlegrass.</p>

Soil Complex	Primary Soil Series	Description	Use and Vegetation
		<p>The average annual precipitation is about 7 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 53 degrees F. Typical pedon of Strike loam, on a nearly level lava flow trough at an elevation of 2,940 feet, in an area of rangeland.</p>	
<p>Tadpole silt loam, Tadpole silt loam, saline, Tadpole-Corder, Tadpole-Purdam-Trevino, Tadpole-Scism, Tadpole-Strike</p>	Tadpole Series	<p>Taxonomic class: Coarse-silty, mixed, superactive, mesic Durinodic Haplocalcids.</p> <p>The Tadpole series consists of very deep, well drained soils that formed in loess and weathered volcanic ash over coarse-loamy alluvium derived from basalt and volcanic ash. These soils are on plains. Permeability is moderate. Slopes are 0 to 20 percent. The average annual precipitation is about 7 inches, and the average annual air temperature is about 53 degrees F. Typical pedon of Tadpole silt loam, on a nearly level lava flow trough at an elevation of 2,950 feet, in an area of rangeland.</p>	<p>The Tadpole soils are used mainly as rangeland. The natural vegetation is shadscale saltbush, bud sagebrush, Indian ricegrass, and Thurber needlegrass, and winterfat in saline areas.</p>

Appendix G:  
OCTC Plants  
(General)

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## Appendix G: Orchard Combat Training Center Flora List

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Genus/Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Plant Family</b>
ACMI	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	ASTERACEAE
AGDE	<i>Agropyron desertorum</i>	crested wheatgrass	POACEAE
ALAC	<i>Allium acuminatum</i>	tapertip onion	LILIACEAE (pink)
ALNE	<i>Allium nevadense</i>	Nevada onion	LILIACEAE (white)
AMAL	<i>Amaranthus albus</i>	prostrate pigweed	AMARANTHACEAE
AMTE	<i>Amsinckia tessellata</i>	rough fiddleneck	BORAGINACEAE
AMRE	<i>Amsinckia retrorsa</i>	fiddleneck	BORAGINACEAE
ANDI	<i>Antennaria dimorpha</i>	low pussytoes	ASTERACEAE
ARCA	<i>Artemisia cana</i>	silver sage	ASTERACEAE
ARLU	<i>Artemisia ludoviciana</i>	Louisiana sage	ASTERACEAE
ARSP	<i>Artemisia spinescens</i>	bud sage	ASTERACEAE
ARTR	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	big sagebrush	ASTERACEAE
ASSP	<i>Asclepias speciosa</i>	showy milkweed	ASCLEPIADACEAE
ARTRI	<i>Artemisia tripartita</i>	tripartite sage	ASTERACEAE
ASBE	<i>Astragalus beckwithii</i>	Beckwith's milkvetch	FABIACEAE
ATCA	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	four-wing saltbush	CHENOPODIACEAE
ATCO	<i>Atriplex confertifolia</i>	shadscale	CHENOPODIACEAE
ATGA	<i>Atriplex gardneri/falcata</i>	Nuttall's saltbush	CHENOPODIACEAE
BAHO	<i>Balsamorhiza hookeri</i>	Hooker's balsamroot	ASTERACEAE
BRRU	<i>Bromus rubens</i>	red brome	POACEAE
BRTE	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	cheatgrass	POACEAE
CAMA	<i>Calochortus macrocarpus</i>	greenbanded startulip	LILIACEAE
CABO	<i>Camissonia boothii</i>	Booth's evening primrose	ONAGRACEAE
CACO	<i>Camissonia contorta</i>	evening primrose	ONAGRACEAE
CAIN	<i>Caulanthus crassicaulis</i>	wild cabbage	BRASSICACEAE
CAPI	<i>Caulanthus pilosus</i>	hairy wild cabbage	BRASSICACEAE
CADR	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	white-top	BRASSICACEAE
CELA	<i>Ceratoides lanata</i>	winterfat	CHENOPODIACEAE
CHDO	<i>Chaenactis douglassii</i>	Douglas pincushion	ASTERACEAE
CHST	<i>Chaenactis stevioides</i>	broad-flower pincushion	ASTERACEAE
CHAL	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	lamb's quarters	CHENOPODIACEAE
CHJU	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>	rush skeletonweed	ASTERACEAE
CHNA	<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	gray rabbitbrush	ASTERACEAE
CHVI	<i>Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus</i>	green rabbitbrush	ASTERACEAE
CIAR	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle	ASTERACEAE
COCA	<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	horseweed	ASTERACEAE
COPA	<i>Collinsia parviflora</i>	blue-eyed Mary	BORAGINACEAE

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Genus/Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Plant Family</b>
CRAC	<i>Crepis acuminatus</i>	tapertip hawksbeard	ASTERACEAE
CRCI	<i>Cryptantha circumscissa</i>	cushion catseye	BORAGINACEAE
CRRG	<i>Cryptantha gracilis</i>	narrow-stem catseye	BORAGINACEAE
CUPE	<i>Cuscuta pentagona</i>	bush clover dodder	CUSCUTACEAE
DEBI	<i>Delphinium bicolor</i>	larkspur	RANUNCULACEAE
DEPI	<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	pinnate tansymustard	BRASSICACEAE
DESO	<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	tansymustard	BRASSICACEAE
DRVE	<i>Draba verna</i>	whitlowgrass	BRASSICACEAE
ELCI	<i>Elymus cinereus</i>	Great Basin wild rye	POACEAE
ELJU	<i>Elymus junceus</i>	Russian wild rye	POACEAE
EPPA	<i>Epilobium paniculatum</i>	willow-herb	ONAGRACEAE
ERSE	<i>Eremocarpum setigerus</i>	turkey-mullein	EUPHORBIACEAE
ERWI	<i>Eriastrum wilcoxii</i>	Wilcox woolstar	POLEMONIACEAE
ERPU	<i>Erigeron pumilus</i>	fleabane daisy	ASTERACEAE
EROV	<i>Eriogonum ovalifolium</i>	yellow buckwheat	APIACEAE
ERVI	<i>Eriogonum vimineum</i>	leafy buckwheat	APIACEAE
ERRE	<i>Erysimum repandum</i>	spreading wallflower	BRASSICACEAE
ERTR	<i>Eremopyrum triticeum</i>	annual wheatgrass	POACEAE
ERCI	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	storksbill	GERANIACEAE
FEID	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho fescue	POACEAE
FRAL	<i>Frasera albicaulis</i>	white frasera	GENTIANACEAE
GARA	<i>Gayophytum ramosissima</i>	pinyon groundsmoke	ONAGRACEAE
GISI	<i>Gilia sinuata</i>	shy gilia	POLEMONIACEAE
GNPA	<i>Gnaphalium palustre</i>	western marsh cudweed	ASTERACEAE
GRSP	<i>Grayia spinosa</i>	spiny hop sage	CHENOPODIACEAE
GUSA	<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	snakeweed	ASTERACEAE
HAGL	<i>Halogeton glomeratus</i>	halogeton	CHENOPODIACEAE
HEAN	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	annual sunflower	ASTERACEAE
HOUM	<i>Holosteum umbellatum</i>	chickweed	CARYOPHYLLACEAE
HOGL	<i>Hordeum glaucum</i>	wild barley	POACEAE
IPMI	<i>Ipomopsis minutiflora</i>	small-flowered skyrocket	SCROPHULARIACEAE
KOSC	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	summer cypress	CHENOPODIACEAE
KOPR	<i>Kochia prostrata</i>	prostrate kochia	CHENOPODIACEAE
LASE	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	prickly lettuce	ASTERACEAE
LASE2	<i>Langloisia setosissima</i>	langloisia	POLEMONIACEAE
LARA	<i>Lagophylla ramosissima</i>	hareleaf; rabbitleaf	ASTERACEAE
LAEC	<i>Lappula echinata</i>	stickseed	BORAGINACEAE
LEDA	<i>Lepidium davisii</i>	Davis' peppergrass	BRASSICACEAE
LEPA	<i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>	slick-spot peppergrass	BRASSICACEAE

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Genus/Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Plant Family</b>
LEPE	<i>Lepidium perfoliatum</i>	peppergrass	BRASSICACEAE
LEPU	<i>Leptodactylon pungens</i>	prickly phlox	POLEMONIACEAE
LIGL	<i>Lithophragma glabrum</i>	starflower	SAGIFRAGACEAE
LIPA	<i>Lithophragma dissectum</i>	prairie star	SAXIFRAGACEAE
LODI	<i>Lomatium dissectum</i>	chocolate tips	APIACEAE
LOGR	<i>Lomatium grayi</i>	mountain desert parsley	APIACEAE
LOMA	<i>Lomatium macrocarpum</i>	bigseed lomatium	APIACEAE
LUHO	<i>Lupinus holosericeus</i>	Nuttall's silky lupine	FABACEAE
LUUU	<i>Lupinus uucialis</i>	little lupine	FABACEAE
MACA	<i>Machaeranthera canescens</i>	hoary aster	ASTERACEAE
MAGL	<i>Malacothrix glabrata</i>	smooth desert dandelion	ASTERACEAE
MAPE	<i>Matricaria perforata</i>	scentless mayweed	ASTERACEAE
MESA	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	alfalfa	FABACEAE
MEAL	<i>Mentzelia albicaulis</i>	blazing star	LOASACEAE
MISU	<i>Mimulus suksdorfii</i>	miniature monkeyflower	SCROPHULARIACEAE
MONU	<i>Monolepis nuttalliana</i>	Nuttall's povertyweed	CHENOPODIACEAE
MYAR	<i>Myosurus aristatus</i>	mousetail	RANUNCULACEAE
MYMI	<i>Myosurus minimum</i>	tiny mousetail	RANUNCULACEAE
NOTR	<i>Nothocalis troximoides</i>	false agoseris	ASTERACEAE
ORHY	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	Indian ricegrass	POACEAE
PEAC	<i>Penstemon acuminatus</i>	St. Joseph's wand, blue penstemon	SCROPHULARIACEAE
PECU	<i>Penstemon cusickii</i>	Cusick's penstemon	SCROPHULARIACEAE
PEDE	<i>Penstemon deustus</i>	hot rock penstemon	SCROPHULARIACEAE
PEBO	<i>Perideridia bolanderi</i>	Bolander's yampa	APIACEAE
PHLU	<i>Phacelia lutea</i>	yellow phacelia	HYDROPHYLLACEAE
PHAC	<i>Phlox aculeata</i>	Snake River Plain phlox	PLOEMONIACEAE
PLHI	<i>Plagiobothrys hispidus</i>	shaggy popcorn flower	BORAGINACEAE
PLMA	<i>Plectritis macrocera</i>	white sea blush	VALERIANACEAE
POAR	<i>Polygonum ariculare</i>	prostrate knotweed, flat driveway plant	POLYGONACEAE
POSE	<i>Poa secunda</i>	Sandberg's bluegrass	POACEAE
PSSP	<i>Pseudoroegneria spicata</i>	Bluebunch wheatgrass	POACEAE
RAGL	<i>Ranunculus glabratus</i>	sagebrush buttercup	RANUNCULACEAE
RATE	<i>Ranunculus testiculatus</i>	bur-buttercup	RANUNCULACEAE
RUCR	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	curly dock	POLYGONACEAE
SAKI	<i>Sairocarpus kingii</i>	least toadsmouth	SCROPHULARIACEAE
SAKA	<i>Salsola kali=iberica</i>	Russian thistle	CHENOPODIACEAE
SAVE	<i>Sarcobatus vermiculatus</i>	black greasewood	CHENOPODIACEAE

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Genus/Species</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Plant Family</b>
SEHY	<i>Senecio hydrophyllus</i>	alkali marsh butterweed	ASTERACEAE
SIAL	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	tumblemustard	BRASSICACEAE
SIHY	<i>Sitanion hystrix</i>	squirreltail	POACEAE
SOOL	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	sow thistle	ASTERACEAE
SOTR	<i>Solanum triflorum</i>	cutleaf nightshade	SOLANACEAE
SPMU	<i>Sphaeralcea munroana</i>	white-stemmed globemallow	GERANIACEAE
STTH	<i>Stipa thurberiana</i>	Thurber's needlegrass	POACEAE
TAAS	<i>Taeniatherium asperum</i>	medusahead rye	POACEAE
TEGL	<i>Tetradymia glabrata</i>	horsebrush	ASTERACEAE
TESP	<i>Tetradymia spinosa</i>	spiny horsebrush	ASTERACEAE
TOFL	<i>Townsendia florifer</i>	Townsend daisy	ASTERACEAE
TRDU	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	meadow goatsbeard, salsify	ASTERACEAE
VEBL	<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>	moth-mullein	SCROPHULARIACEAE
VETH	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	mullein	SCROPHULARIACEAE
VEBR	<i>Verbena bracteata</i>	prostrate vervain	VERBENACEAE
VUBR	<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	brome six weeks' fescue	POACEAE
VUOC	<i>Vulpia octoflora</i>	six weeks' fescue	POACEAE
XAST	<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	cocklebur	ASTERACEAE
ZYPA	<i>Zygadenus paniculatus</i>	foothills death camas	LILIACEAE



Appendix H:  
OCTC Plants  
(Special Status)

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## Appendix H: Orchard Combat Training Center Species of Concern

**Lepidium papilliferum**, slickspot peppergrass, is discussed in Appendix B.

**Lepidium davisii**, Davis' peppergrass, is a perennial mustard species that grows only in playas. Its status is G3 (rare or uncommon but not imperiled), Idaho S3 (state rare or uncommon, but not imperiled), and BLM Sensitive. *Lepidium davisii* is a former federal Category 2 Candidate species under the Endangered Species Act.



*Lepidium davisii* occupies specialized habitat. The species is reasonably stable, but it is vulnerable because of the few sites it can occupy. All playas and buffer zones around them are off-limits to all military training and have been for 12 years, so *Lepidium davisii* is protected from damage from military training. Native species have been hand-seeded around *Lepidium davisii* playas, and this practice will continue until a buffer of native species has been established around all such playas. Every other year, IDARNG natural resources staff assists BLM in monitoring this species.



**Texosporium sancti-jacobi**, woven-spore lichen, is a G2 (globally imperiled because of extreme rarity or because some factor of its biology makes it very vulnerable to extinction) and Idaho S2 (imperiled because of rarity or because other factors demonstrably make it very vulnerable to extinction) species. Woven-spore lichen is listed as BLM Sensitive. Adding to the seriousness of its ranking is the fact that it is a monotypic genus. Woven-spore lichen in OTA grows mainly upon dead cores of Sandberg bluegrass that have been dead for at least 10 years.

This species occurs on hundreds of acres in OTA, nearly all of which are in good condition Wyoming big sagebrush habitat that are already protected from military training inside the *Lepidium papilliferum* Level I Management Areas. These species grow near each other in many of their occurrences, both inside and outside OTA. The *Lepidium papilliferum* Level I Management Areas have been protecting *Texosporium* from military training since 1991 and will continue to do so. A few very small *Texosporium* sites are located in the Level II Habitat Management Area; IDARNG staff review plans for off-road military training activities and relocates them if there is a possibility that they would affect these sites.

**Chaenactis stevioides**, desert pincushion, is a white wildflower. Its status is G4 (usually having more than 100 occurrences and not rare, but with cause for long-term concern); it is Idaho S2 (imperiled because of rarity or because other factors demonstrably make it very vulnerable to extinction) and BLM Sensitive. In Idaho the species is at the northern limit of its range, and there are few occurrences. Desert



pincushion occurs in the southern half of OTA in years when there is above-average spring and early summer rainfall. When it is present, most of the OTA has hundreds of thousands of plants of this species.

IDARNG management activities consist of maintaining off-limits areas to protect most of these species. Monitoring and management activities are limited to travel on established roads and trails and light foot traffic by trained technicians, which will not affect rare or sensitive plant species.

### BLM Species of Concern (Four River Field Office)

Common Name	Species	Status	Present (OTA)	Absent (OTA)	Comments
Aase's onion	<i>Allium aaseae</i>	Type 2		X	No habitat within OTA
American wood sage	<i>Teucrium canadense</i> <i>var. occidentale</i>	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA
Bank monkey-flower	<i>Mimulus clivicola</i>	Type 5		X	No habitat within OTA
Calcareous buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum ochrocephalum</i> <i>var. calcareum</i>	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA
Chatterbox orchid	<i>Epipactis gigantea</i>	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA
Coral lichen	<i>Aspicilia fruticulosa</i> (lichen)	Type 4		X	No habitat within OTA
Cronquist's forget-me-not	<i>Hackelia cronquistii</i>	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA
Cusick's camas	<i>Camassia cusickii</i>	Type 5		X	No habitat within OTA
Cusick's primrose	<i>Primula cusickiana</i> <i>Acomplex</i>	Type 5		X	No habitat within OTA
Davis peppergrass	<i>Lepidium davisii</i>	Type 3	X		See Section 3.4
Desert pincushion	<i>Chaenactis stevioides</i>	Type 4	X		See Section 3.4
Douglas clover	<i>Trifolium douglasii</i>	Type 2		X	No habitat within OTA
Earth lichen	<i>Catapyrenium congestum</i>	Type 4		X	No habitat within OTA
Indian apple	<i>Peraphyllum ramosissimum</i>	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA
Indian Valley sedge	<i>Carex aboriginum</i>	Type 2		X	No habitat within OTA
Mahala mat	<i>Ceanothus prostratus</i>	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA
Malheur cryptantha	<i>Cryptantha propria</i>	Type 5		X	No habitat within OTA
Malheur princesplume	<i>Stanleya confertiflora</i>	Type 2		X	No habitat within OTA
Mourning milkvetch	<i>Astragalus atratus</i> <i>var. insepatus</i>	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA

Common Name	Species	Status	Present (OTA)	Absent (OTA)	Comments
Mulford=s milkvetch	<i>Astragalus mulfordiae</i>	Type 2		X	No habitat within OTA
Packard's buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum shockleyi</i> var. <i>packardiae</i>	Type 2		X	No habitat within OTA
Packard's milkvetch	<i>Astragalus cusickii</i> var. <i>packardiae</i>	Type 2		X	No habitat within OTA
Plumed clover	<i>Trifolium plumosum</i> var. <i>amplifolium</i>	Type 2		X	No habitat within OTA
Shining flat sedge	<i>Cyperus rivularis</i>	Type 5		X	No habitat within OTA
Silver-skin lichen	<i>Dermatocarpon lorenzianum</i>	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA
Slickspot peppergrass	<i>Lepidium papilliferum</i>	P	X		See Section 3.5
Snake River golden weed	<i>Haplopappus radiates</i> ( <i>Pyrrocoma radiata</i> )	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA
Snake River milkvetch	<i>Astragalus purshii</i> var. <i>ophiogenes</i>	Type 5		X	Located within OTA, but associated soil type not consistent with project area.
Stalk-leaved monkey-flower	<i>Mimulus patulus</i>	Type 2		X	No habitat within OTA
Turtleback	<i>Psathyrotes annua</i>	Type 3		X	No habitat within OTA
White eatonella	<i>Eatonella nivea</i>	Type 4			No habitat within OTA
White-margined wax plant	<i>Glyptopleura marginata</i>	Type 4	X		Historic collection has not been relocated
Woven-spore lichen	<i>Texosporium sancti-jacobi</i>	Type 2	X		See Section 3.4

**E-Endangered; T-Threatened; C-Candidate; P-Proposed**

**Type 1.** Federally Listed, Proposed and Candidate Species: Includes species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act, proposed or candidates for listing.

**Type 2.** Rangewide / Globally Imperiled Species - High Endangerment: Includes species that are experiencing declines throughout their range with a high likelihood of being listed under the Endangered Species Act in the foreseeable future due to their rarity and significant endangerment factors.

**Type 3** Rangewide / Globally Imperiled Species - Moderate Endangerment: Includes species that are globally rare with moderate endangerment factors. Their global rarity and inherent risks associated with rarity make them imperiled species.

**Type 4.** Species of Concern: Includes species that are generally rare in Idaho with currently low endangerment threats.

**Type 5.** Watch List: Includes species that are not considered Idaho BLM sensitive species but current population or habitat information suggests that species may warrant sensitive species status in the future.

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# Appendix I:

## OCTC Wildlife

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## Appendix I: Orchard Combat Training Center Fauna List

Tables 1 through 5 identify the wildlife species recorded to date within or adjacent to the OCTC boundaries. Table 6 lists, by type, wildlife species of concern identified within the Four Rivers Field Office, which the NCA falls within. While many of these species are not found within the OCTC boundary, we continue to monitor for them based on BLM requirements.

**Table 1. Raptors of the Orchard Combat Training Center**

Common Name	Species	Breeding	Resident	Casual
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		X	
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			X
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>			X
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>			X
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	X		
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>			X
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	X		
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>		X	
Goshawk	<i>Accipter gentilis</i>			X
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>			X
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>			X
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			X
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	X		
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>			X
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			X
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	X		
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		X	
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		X	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipter striatus</i>			X
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	X		
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	X?		
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		X	
<b>See Appendix J for an expanded description.</b>				

**Table 2. Birds of the Orchard Combat Training Center**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Breeding</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Casual</b>
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>			X
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>			X
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>			X
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Poecile gambeli</i>			X
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>			X
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>			X
California Valley Quail	<i>Callipepla californica</i>			X
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>			X
Gray Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>			X
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>			X
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	X		
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>			X
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			X
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>			X
Grey Crowned Rosy Finch	<i>Leucosticte tephrocotis</i>			X
Common Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>			X
Western Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>			X
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			X
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>			X
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>			X
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>			X
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>			X
White Fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>			X
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>			X
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>			X
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>			X
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>			X
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>			X
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	X		X
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>			X
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	X		
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>			X
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			X
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	X		
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	X		
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			X
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	X		
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>			X
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>			X
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludouicianus</i>			X

Common Name	Species	Breeding	Resident	Casual
Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		X	
Black Throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	X		
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	X		
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	X		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X		
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	X		
Sage Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	X		
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>			X
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>			X
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			X
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>			X
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			X
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>			X
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>			X
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>			X
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	X		
American Widgeon	<i>Anas americana</i>			X
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>	X		
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	X		
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>			X

**Table 3. Mammals of the Orchard Combat Training Center.**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Status</b>
Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	common
Bushy-tailed Woodrat	<i>Neotoma cinerea</i>	uncommon
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>	common
Chisel-toothed Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys microps</i>	uncommon
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	common
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	common
Great Basin Pocket Mouse	<i>Perognathus parvus</i>	common
Least Chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus</i>	common
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	uncommon
Mule Deer	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	casual
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>	common
Nuttall's Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>	common
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	common
Pronghorn	<i>Antilocapra americana</i>	casual
Short-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	uncommon
Piute Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus mollis</i>	common
Northern Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	uncommon
Ring Tailed Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	casual
Wapiti	<i>Cervus elephas</i>	casual
Western Harvest Mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	common
Yellow-bellied Marmot	<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	rare

**Table 4. Reptiles and Amphibians of the Orchard Combat Training Center.**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Status</b>
Flat-horned Horned Lizard	<i>Phrynosoma platyrhinos</i>	uncommon
Gopher Snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	common
Great Basin Spadefoot Toad	<i>Spea intermontana</i>	rare
Ground Snake	<i>Sonora semiannulata</i>	uncommon
Leopard Lizard	<i>Gambellia wislizenii</i>	uncommon
Long-nosed Snake	<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>	uncommon
Racer	<i>Colubler constrictor</i>	uncommon
Sagebrush Lizard	<i>Sceloporus graciosus</i>	common
Side-blotched Lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	common
Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	rare & ephemeral; introduced into cattle watering ponds
Western Fence Swift	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	uncommon
Western Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	common
Western Whipsnake	<i>Masticophis taeniatus</i>	uncommon
Western Whiptail	<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	uncommon

**Table 5. Invertebrates of Orchard Combat Training Center.**

<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Breeding</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Casual</b>
Raptor Shrimp	<i>Branchinecta raptor</i>	X	X	

**Table 6. Idaho BLM Wildlife Species of Concern (Four Rivers Field Office)**

<b>BLM Type 1- ESA Listed, Proposed &amp; Candidate Species</b>					
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Potentially Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
<b>Mammals</b>					
Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus brunneus brunneus</i>	T			X
Southern Idaho Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus brunneus endemicus</i>	C			X
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	T			X
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	T			X
<b>Birds</b>					
Greater Sage-grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	C			X
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	C			X
<b>Amphibians</b>					
Columbia Spotted Frog	<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	C			X
<b>Fish</b>					
White Sturgeon	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>	E			X
Sockeye Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i>	E			X
Chinook Salmon	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	T			X
Steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	T			X
Bull Trout	<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	T			X
<b>Invertebrates</b>					
Bliss Rapids Snail	<i>Taylorconcha serpenticola</i>	T			X
Banbury Springs Limpet	<i>Lanx</i> sp.	E			X
Snake River Physa Snail	<i>Physa natricina</i>	E			X
Bruneau Hot Springsnail	<i>Pyrgulopsis bruneauensis</i>	E			X

BLM Type 2 – Rangewide/Globally Imperiled Species				
Common Name	Species	Present	Potentially Present	Not Present
<b>Mammals</b>				
Pygmy Rabbit	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i>			X
<b>Birds</b>				
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>			X
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>		X	
<b>Amphibians</b>				
Boreal Toad	<i>Bufo boreas boreas</i>			X
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>			X
<b>Fish</b>				
Pacific Lamprey	<i>Lampetra tridentata</i>			X
White Sturgeon – above Hells Canyon	<i>Acipenser transmontanus</i>			X
Redband Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss gibbsi</i>			X
Westslope Cutthroat	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi</i>			X
Bonneville Cutthroat	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki utah</i>			X
Yellowstone Cutthroat	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki bouveri</i>			X
Bear Lake Cutthroat	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki ssp.</i>			X
Bear Lake Whitefish	<i>Prosopium abyssiicola</i>			X
Bonneville Whitefish	<i>Prosopium spilonotus</i>			X
Bonneville Cisco	<i>Prosopium gemmiferum</i>			X
Bear Lake Sculpin	<i>Cottus extensis</i>			X
Shoshone Sculpin	<i>Cottus greenei</i>			X
Wood River Sculpin	<i>Cottus leiopomus</i>			X
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
Shortface Lanx	<i>Fisherola nuttalli</i>			X
Marbled Disc	<i>Discus marmorensis</i>			X
Mission Creek Oregonian	<i>Cryptomastix magnidentata</i>			X
Striate Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix strigosa goniogyra</i>			X

BLM Type 2 – Rangewide/Globally Imperiled Species (Cont.)				
Common Name	Species	Present	Potentially Present	Not Present
<b>Invertebrates (Cont.)</b>				
Idaho Banded Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix idahoensis idahoensis</i>			X
Lava Rock Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix waltoni</i>			X
Whorled Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix vortex</i>			X
Idaho Point-headed Grasshopper	<i>Acrolophitus pulchellus</i>			X
St. Anthony Sand Dunes Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela arenicola</i>			X
Burneau Dunes Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela waynei waynei</i>			X
Columbia River Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela columbica</i>			X
Blind Cave Leiodid Beetle	<i>Glacivicola bathyscoides</i>			X



BLM Type 3 – Regional/State Imperiled Species				
Common Name	Species	Present	Potentially Present	Not Present
<b>Mammals</b>				
Fringed Myotis	<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>		X	
Spotted Bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>		X	
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>		X	
Piute Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus mollis artemisiae</i>		X	
Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>			X
Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>			X
California Bighorn Sheep	<i>Ovis canadensis californiana</i>			X
<b>Birds</b>				
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>			X
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	X		
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	X		
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	X		
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	X		
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus</i>			X
Mountain Quail	<i>Oreortyx pictus</i>			X
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			X
Flammulated Owl	<i>Otus flammeolus</i>			X
Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Stellula calliope</i>			X
Lewis' Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>			X
Williamsons Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i>			X
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>		X	
Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax hammondii</i>		X	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus borealis</i>		X	
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	X		
Sage Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza belli</i>	X		
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	X		

BLM Type 3 – Regional/State Imperiled Species (Cont.)				
Common Name	Species	Present	Potentially Present	Not Present
<b>Reptiles</b>				
Mojave Black-collared Lizard	<i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i>		X	
Longnose Snake	<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>		X	
Western Ground Snake	<i>Sonora semiannulata</i>	X		
Common Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>			X
<b>Amphibians</b>				
Coeur d'Alene Salamander	<i>Plethodon idahoensis</i>			X
Idaho Giant Salamander	<i>Dicamptodon aterrimus</i>			X
Western Toad	<i>Bufo boreas</i>			X
Woodhouse Toad	<i>Bufo woodhousii</i>			X
<b>Fish</b>				
Leatherside Chub	<i>Gila copei</i>			X
Burbot	<i>Lota lota</i>			X
<b>Invertebrates</b>				
Boulder Pile Mountainsnail	<i>Oreohelix jugalis</i>			X
California Floater	<i>Anodonta californiensis</i>			X
Columbia Pebblesnail	<i>Flumincola fuscus</i>			X

<b>BLM Type 4 – Peripheral Species: generally rare in Idaho with majority of breeding range outside the state.</b>				
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Potentially Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
<b>Mammals</b>				
Coast Mole	<i>Scapanus orarius</i>			X
California Myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>		X	
Cliff Chipmunk	<i>Tamias dorsalis</i>			X
Uinta Chipmunk	<i>Tamias umbrinus</i>			X
Meriam's Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus canus vigilis</i>			X
Wyoming Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus elegans nevadensis</i>			X
Little Pocket Mouse	<i>Perognathus longimembris</i>			X
Dark Kangaroo Mouse	<i>Microdipodops megacephalus</i>			X
Kit Fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>			X
Northern Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys borealis</i>			X
<b>Birds</b>				
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>		X	
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>			X
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>		X	
Black Swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>			X
White-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides albolarvatus</i>			X
Virginia's Warbler	<i>Vermivora virginiae</i>			X
Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>	X		

BLM Type 5 – Watch List Species				
Common Name	Species	Present	Potentially Present	Not Present
<b>Mammals</b>				
Yuma Myotis	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>		X	
Long-eared Myotis	<i>Myotis evotis</i>		X	
Long-legged Myotis	<i>Myotis volans</i>		X	
Western Small-footed Myotis	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>		X	
Western Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus hesperus</i>		X	
Rock Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus variegatus</i>			X
<b>Birds</b>				
Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>		X	
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	X		
Blue Grouse	<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>			X
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	X		
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>		X	
Northern Pygmy-owl	<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>			X
Great Gray Owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>			X
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	X		
Boreal Owl	<i>Aegolius funereus</i>			X
Western Burrowing Owl	<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i>	X		
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>			X
Red-naped Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i>			X
Black-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides arcticus</i>			X
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>			X
Pinyon Jay	<i>Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus</i>			X
Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>			X
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	X		
Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>			X
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>		X	

BLM Type 5 – Watch List Species (Cont.)				
Common Name	Species	Present	Potentially Present	Not Present
<b>Mammals (Cont.)</b>				
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	X		
Cassin's Finch	<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>		X	
<b>Reptiles</b>				
Northern Alligator Lizard	<i>Elgaria coerulea</i>		X	
Ringneck Snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>			X
Night Snake	<i>Hypsiglena torquata</i>		X	
<b>Amphibians</b>				
Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>			X
<b>Fish</b>				
Shorthead Sculpin	<i>Cottus confusus</i>			X
Torrent Sculpin	<i>Cottus rhotheus</i>			X

**BLM Listing Definitions:**

**Type 1.** Federally Listed, Proposed and Candidate Species: Includes species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act, proposed or candidates for listing (**E-Endangered; T-Threatened; C-Candidate; P-Proposed**).

**Type 2.** Rangewide / Globally Imperiled Species - High Endangerment: Includes species that are experiencing declines throughout their range with a high likelihood of being listed under the Endangered Species Act in the foreseeable future due to their rarity and significant endangerment factors.

**Type 3** Rangewide / Globally Imperiled Species - Moderate Endangerment: Includes species that are globally rare with moderate endangerment factors. Their global rarity and inherent risks associated with rarity make them imperiled species.

**Type 4.** Species of Concern: Includes species that are generally rare in Idaho with currently low endangerment threats.

**Type 5.** Watch List: Includes species that are not considered Idaho BLM sensitive species but current population or habitat information suggests that species may warrant sensitive species status in the future.

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# Appendix J:

# OCTC Raptors

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## Appendix J: Orchard Combat Training Center Raptor Species Descriptions

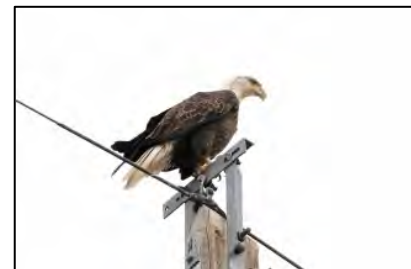
**Golden Eagles** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) frequently forage in OCTC, but nesting habitat does not exist on OCTC. BLM censuses of Golden Eagles within the NCA have identified about 36 historic nesting territories (USDI, BLM 1979). Hunting ranges of Golden Eagles are limited to about four miles from the nest; this is a much smaller than normal home range, an indicator of the high-quality shrub-steppe foraging habitat and its importance for wildlife. During the breeding season, most Golden Eagle use of OCTC occurs in the southern and western portions (Marzluff *et al.* 1992). However, in winter months, an influx of Golden Eagle "floaters" occurs. These birds forage throughout OCTC. Golden Eagles are opportunistic feeders and prey on a variety of animals. Within the NCA, eagle productivity is closely tied to black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) population cycles. When jackrabbit populations are high, a corresponding response in Golden Eagle productivity occurs, resulting in higher numbers of eggs produced and more young fledged. Good black-tailed jackrabbit habitat is an important component of Golden Eagle habitat (USDI, BLM 1995). Other important prey species include Nuttall's cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*) and Piute ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mollis*).



The **Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*), common in the western United States, is abundant in the NCA throughout much of the year. Hunting ranges for Prairie Falcons are much larger than those of Golden Eagles. Prairie Falcons in the NCA range as far as 23 miles from the nest (Marzluff *et al.* 1993). The most important prey item for the Prairie Falcon in the NCA is the Piute ground squirrel. BLM studies have shown that 59% of the falcon prey biomass comes from ground squirrels. The Prairie Falcon's breeding cycle is synchronized to take advantage of the seasonal abundance of Piute ground squirrels; Prairie Falcon nestlings hatch at the

same time that juvenile ground squirrels emerge. Both young and adult falcons leave the NCA by late June/early July when ground squirrels have aestivated (USDI, BLM 1979). Falcons prey upon several other species of mammals, birds, and reptiles, but only ground squirrel population variations seem to affect Prairie Falcon abundance and productivity. The relationship between falcons and ground squirrels is critical. When drought or other factors reduce ground squirrel productivity, Prairie Falcon productivity is affected in following years (USDI, BLM 1979). Therefore, it is important to monitor ground squirrel abundance and manage for habitat needed by this species.

The **Bald Eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), a sensitive species once listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, is discussed below in Section 3.3.2.5, *Special Status Fauna*.





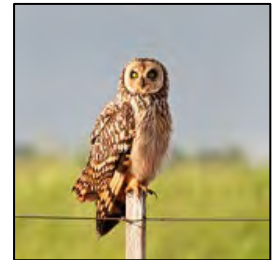
The **ferruginous hawk** (*Buteo regalis*) is a common breeding resident of the training area. Although the birds forage throughout OCTC, in recent years most nests have been found on the Pacific Power and Light transmission line that runs east-west across the northern boundary of the training area. Pacific Power and Light has erected nesting platforms on some transmission towers. Historic ferruginous hawk nesting sites have been found in the Impact Area and in other parts of training area (D. Quinney, personal communication). Ferruginous hawks prey upon small mammals, principally black-tailed jackrabbits and ground squirrels (Palmer 1988). The ferruginous hawk is a former federal Category II candidate species and is further discussed in Section 3.3.2.5, *Special Status Fauna*.

The **northern harrier** (*Circus cyaneus*) is the most commonly seen raptor in the NCA and is very common in OCTC year-round. It is likely that harriers nest, as well as hunt, on OCTC; locating harrier nests is very difficult. The harrier is a species that will switch prey preference to the most available prey. Harriers feed on small mammals, birds, and reptiles (Palmer 1988).



The **burrowing owl** (*Athene cunicularia*) breeds on the training area. This species nests in burrows abandoned by badgers (*Taxidea taxus*). They prey upon small mammals, reptiles, and large insects. During the BLM-IDARNG cooperative research effort, burrowing owls were found to be more common in OCTC than in the adjacent NCA. This species is listed as a Sensitive Species by BLM and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The burrowing owl is perhaps the most common breeding raptor on the OCTC.

The **short-eared owl** (*Asio flammeus*) breeds on the OCTC (personal communication, Quinney and Weaver 2002). These ground-nesting owls prey upon mice and other small rodents (Burrows 1989). This species was also found by the BLM-IDARNG cooperative research effort to be more common in the training area than in the surrounding NCA. During the early 2000s IDARNG Natural Resources staff noticed that there were many fewer short-eared owls in the training area and the surrounding NCA. From 2010-11, short-eared owls have become more common and their population has appeared to rebound.



The **Red-tailed hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*) is a frequent visitor to OCTC. This hawk is *the coyote of the sky* and will readily switch prey as different animals become more abundant. During average years, the primary prey of the red-tailed hawk is the Piute ground squirrel. However, it will also feed on gopher snakes (*Pituophis catenifer*), kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys ordii* and *Dipodomys microps*), and rabbits when ground squirrel populations are low. Census records have shown that in the NCA, approximately 60 Red-tailed Hawk nesting territories are occupied during a typical breeding season. Some adults stay in the area year-round, but most adults and all young migrate south in

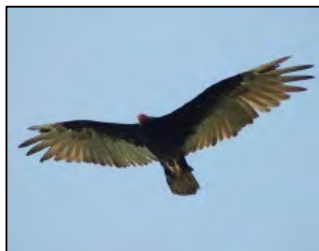
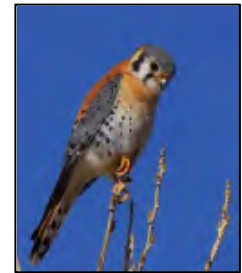
the fall (USDI, BLM 1995). The red-tailed hawk does not nest in the training area.

The **Swainson's hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*), is commonly observed foraging on the OCTC during summer months. Swainson's hawks nest on nearby cliffs and scattered trees, however no known nests occur on the OCTC. It uses the OCTC to forage for rabbits, lizards, snakes, small birds and insects.



The **rough-legged hawk** (*Buteo lagopus*), is the most common raptor found on the OCTC during winter months. They can be seen hunting voles, mice and rabbits on the OCTC from November through April. The rough-legged hawk breeds on open treeless areas in arctic and sub-arctic Alaska and migrate to open areas of southern Canada and the U.S. where they often roost communally where rodent populations are high.

The **American kestrel** (*Falco sparverius*), is a small falcon found on and near the OCTC. It feeds primarily on insects but also small mammals, birds and small reptiles. This falcon requires a cavity, natural or manmade, for nesting and will use bird boxes, holes in trees, cliffs or crevices of buildings. Boise State University students have erected and maintained several kestrel nest boxes on Pleasant Valley Road, main access road to the OCTC, attracting several nesting pairs.



The **turkey vulture** (*Cathartes aura*) is a large raptor occasionally found on the OCTC from March through August.

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Appendix K:  
OCTC Projects Funding  
Request Summary

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## Appendix K: Orchard Combat Training Center Funds Request Summary (2012)

Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
INRMP Update	ENV-1	Update INRMP annually. Review INRMP in coordination with FWS, BLM, and IDFG, specifically goals/objectives and planned projects. Track status of planned projects and revise as required.	Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Fauna Survey	ENV-2	Compile and maintain comprehensive inventory of all faunal species, from common to rare. Maintain current OCTC plant list.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Floristic Survey	ENV-3	Compile and maintain comprehensive vascular plant inventory, common to rare species, and noxious/invasive weeds. Maintain current OCTC plant list.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually	\$0.00	NA
BLM- and State-Listed Special Status Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	ENV-4	Survey for and monitor known Compile and maintain comprehensive BLM- and State-listed special status species inventory. Maintain current OCTC species list and GIS data layer.	BLM MOU, BLM M6840, Public Law 103-64	Annually, project specific	\$0.00	NA
Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys/Annual Monitoring	ENV-5	Compile and maintain comprehensive threatened and endangered species inventory. Maintain current OCTC threatened and endangered species list and GIS data layer.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually, project specific	\$0.00	NA

Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
Long-billed Curlew Annual Monitoring	ENV-6	Conduct long-billed curlew survey routes. Will use acoustic and visual survey methods and record number of birds, locations, activity, and nesting information. Monitor population level and distribution (approx. 40 miles of survey routes completed annually), develop/maintain project database and GIS data layers and produce project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, BLM M6840	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Burrowing Owl Annual Monitoring	ENV-7	Conduct burrowing owl survey routes. Will use acoustic and visual survey methods and record number of birds, locations, activity, and nesting information. Monitor population level and distribution (approx. 40 miles of survey routes completed annually), develop/maintain project database and GIS data layers, and produce project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, BLM M6840	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Raptor Road Surveys	ENV-8	Will perform year-round raptor road surveys on established transects. Will record species, number, location, habitat, and activity. Monitor population level and distribution (2 routes monthly), develop project database and GIS data layers, and produce project report. Survey OCTC monthly.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, BLM M6840, BGEPA	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Golden Eagle Project	ENV-9	Purchase two golden eagle GPS tracking devices, trap and fit two golden eagles with tracking device, monitor/record movements and distribution. Will develop species project database and GIS data layers and produce project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, BLM M6840, AR 200-1, BGEPA	2012–2017	\$0.00	See Migratory Bird Monitoring



Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
Migratory Bird Inventory	ENV-10	Will conduct acoustic/visual surveys at approximately 150 points on and near the OCTC. Establish base line population information, species diversity, and distribution. Repeat entire survey at 5-year intervals (adding survey points as necessary). Develop project database and GIS layers and project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, NMBTA, BGEPA	Initiated 2011, repeated at 3-year intervals	\$0.00	On Hold
Migratory Bird Annual Monitoring	ENV-11	Will conduct acoustic/visual surveys at approximately 40 points on and near the OCTC. Measure population information, species diversity, and distribution. Develop/maintain project database and GIS layers and project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, NMBTA, BGEPA	Annually	\$8,000.00	IDA25090006
Bat Inventory	ENV-12	Comprehensive bat inventory. Will use acoustic bat detectors and visual inspection to determine areas of greatest bat activity, will conduct further acoustic monitoring and mist net surveys if appropriate (per current WNS activity) and habitat analysis in these areas. Will determine bat population level, species diversity, and distribution; develop species database and GIS layers; and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Initiated 2011, repeated at 5-year intervals	\$0.00	On Hold
Bat Annual Monitoring	ENV-13	Annual bat acoustic monitoring at minimum of 4 sites, and annual cave census per current WNS guidelines. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually	\$8,000.00	IDA25090008

Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
Jackrabbit Annual Surveys	ENV-14	Will conduct approximately 6 repetitions of surveys on established OCTC transects (4x). Develop and maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Herpetological Inventory	ENV-15	Comprehensive herpetological inventory at 40 OCTC sites. Develop and maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Initiated 2011/2012, repeated at 5 year intervals	\$0.00	IDA25110002
Herpetological Annual Monitoring	ENV-16	Annually monitor 20% of herpetological inventory sites. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Rattlesnake Inventory and Distribution Project	ENV-17	Identify OCTC rattlesnake population centers. Trap, PIT tag, and monitor tagged individual movements; prepare project database and GIS layers; and identify important use areas/habitat in project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	2014/2015	\$0.00	NA
Small Mammal Inventory	ENV-18	Comprehensive Develop and maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	2012/2013 repeated at 5 year intervals	\$20,000.00	IDA25110003
Small Mammal Annual Monitoring	ENV-19	Annually monitor small mammals at 20% of inventory sites. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Candidate Species Monitoring-Pygmy Rabbit Inventory	ENV-20	Comprehensive search for presence of pygmy rabbits on/near the OCTC. Will use visual site visits and fecal pellet collection and appropriate DNA analysis to determine presence of pygmy rabbits. Develop project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	2012	\$0.00	IDA25060003

Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
Aquatic Invertebrate Inventory	ENV-21	Comprehensive aquatic invertebrate inventory at 3 OCTC sites or as conditions allow. Develop and maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	2014/2015	\$0.00	NA
Aquatic Invertebrate Annual Monitoring	ENV-22	Annual aquatic invertebrate sampling at 20% of known OCTC invertebrate sites. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Wildlife Guzzler Maintenance	ENV-23	Monthly inspection of two wildlife guzzler sites. Maintain water level at no less than 75% of full. Keep tank clear of vegetation.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA, NMBTA	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Vegetation Community Survey	ENV-24	Comprehensive update of existing (outdated) OCTC-wide vegetation map	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	2017	\$75,000.00	IDA25110004
Soil Survey	ENV-25	Comprehensive update of existing (outdated) OCTC-wide soil map	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	2014/2015	\$0.00	NA
Conservation Program Awareness	ENV-26	Evaluate and update SRA materials, military personnel awareness materials, and military briefings with focus on accuracy and updates to newly designated federally protected species, BLM sensitive species, and habitats. Attain 95% soldier participation.	Sikes Act, AR-350-4, Public Law 103-64, stewardship	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Endangered Species Monitoring-Slickspot Peppergrass	ENV-27	Annual census 20% of general slickspot peppergrass census areas. Complete 100% census of HIP monitoring areas. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually	\$64,000.00	IDA25070001

Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
NCA Habitat Restoration Project	ENV-28	Identify important sites for rehabilitation, record current habitat quality, and develop and implement site-specific habitat restoration projects on a minimum of 5 acres annually. Develop and implement appropriate long-term monitoring program emphasizing raptor/ raptor prey habitat. Develop/ maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually	\$21,000.00	IDA25060007
Slickspot Peppergrass Pollinator/Predator Project	ENV-29	Inventory/analysis of slickspot peppergrass habitat pollinator and seed predator communities. Study aims at evaluating the long-term viability of slickspot peppergrass in relation to these communities.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	2012-2017	\$25,000.00	IDA25060008
Wildland Fire Management	ENV-30	Develop programmatic-level sensitive species location map and distribute to Range personnel/seasonal fire crews. Provide slickspot peppergrass habitat distribution map to Range/wildland fire personnel. Implement BLM fire suppression guidelines for slickspot peppergrass. Provide personnel for seasonal suppression staff.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually	\$36,000.00	IDA25110001
Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan	ENV-31	Development or update of annual Wildland Fire Management Plan. Emphasize slickspot peppergrass protection and raptor/ raptor prey habitat.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Updated Annually, with full revision every 5-years or as needed.	\$0.00	IDA25060012

Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
Slickspot Peppergrass Restoration	ENV-32	Identify, stabilize, and restore any slickspot peppergrass habitat adversely affected by wildland fire. Utilize native and desirable non-native species for stabilization and restoration, emphasizing nutrient cycling, hydrologic function, energy flow, and slickspot peppergrass habitat.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually	\$20,000.00	IDA25060002
Fire Education Program	ENV-33	Provide/update environmental awareness materials to stress the importance of fire prevention to all OCTC users	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually	\$0.00	NA
LEPA Fuels Control-Cheatgrass Control	ENV-34	Initiate primary fuels (cheatgrass) control study associated with bacterial control measures	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Initiated in 2012, 5 Year Estimated Project	\$16,000.00	IDA25100001
Noxious Weed Mapping	ENV-35	Map 100% of noxious weed locations annually. This will be done concurrently with RTLA data acquisition.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, Public Law 93-629, E.O. 13112	Annually	\$0.00	NA
Heavy Maneuver Training Area Maintenance	ITAM-1	Maintain land condition suitable to for M1A1 maneuvers on >35,000 acres of the OCTC. Perform land condition evaluation and erosion control. Repair maneuver damage and revegetate as necessary.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Heavy Maneuver Trail Maintenance	ITAM-2	Convert current 65 miles of heavy maneuver trails to ≥31 miles of improved heavy maneuver trails and 34 miles of unimproved heavy maneuver trails suitable for M1A1 use.	AR 200-1 350-19	2013	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA

Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
Light Maneuver Training Area Maintenance	ITAM-3	Maintain land condition suitable for light (wheeled) maneuvers on ≥38,000 acres of OCTC. Perform land condition evaluation and erosion control. Repair maneuver damage and revegetate as necessary.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Light Maneuver Trail Maintenance	ITAM-4	Convert 30 miles of OCTC light (wheeled) maneuver trails to 15 miles of improved trails and 15 miles of unimproved trails in MAs Bravo 1–7. Improved trails require single lane, some turn outs, pit run and/or cinder overlay, drainage, and grading maintenance primarily for erosion control. Treatment of improved trails includes overlay 2 inches of ¾ minus and 12–18 inches of 6 inch, pit run overlay with 4 inches of ¾ minus, 13 feet wide with some turnouts.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Combat and Horizontal Engineer Training Area Maintenance	ITAM-5	Maintain 3 dig sites suitable for combat and horizontal engineer training. Sites are 5, 50, and 35 acres. Maintenance includes erosion control, repair training damage, and revegetation.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Heavy Maneuver Trail Maintenance	ITAM-6	Maintain 30 miles of maneuver trails; overlay 2 inches of ¾ minus. Repair/improve approximately 35 miles of maneuver trails; 12–18 inches of 6 inch, pit run overlay with 4 inches of ¾ minus, 13 feet wide with some turnouts.	AR 200-1 350-19	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA

Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
RTLA Surveys	ITAM-7	Continue to monitor and assess approximately 325 RTLA plots associated with the OCTC. Maintain project database, annually analyze data, and prepare data summary and project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Vegetation Photo Points	ITAM-8	Annually photograph habitat condition at 51 photo points within the OCTC. Maintain photo/project database and GIS layers and prepare project report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Map Production	ITAM-9	Funds will be used to produce installation-specific maps upon request. Create maps for annual RTLA crew. Use GPS/GIS to record existing and new OCTC range/target features and update the OCTC map as needed.	Army Policy	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Training Event Stabilization/Rehabilitation	ITAM-10	Inspect all military training exercises for landscape impacts, identify necessary habitat rehabilitation, and implement restoration measures on 85% of identified sites or approximately 75 acres of engineer training damage and approximately 10 acres of maneuver training damage with 1,120 hours of heavy equipment operator labor (based on previous years). Perform 1-year site visit and evaluate restoration effectiveness. Maintain project database and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1 350-19	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA

Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
Invasive Weed Control	ITAM-11	Use mechanical, biological, chemical, and prescribed fire measures to control invasive weed species that adversely affect training on the OCTC. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	AR 200-1, Public Law 93-629, E.O. 13112	Annually	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore fire-damaged areas with greater than 10% shrub cover or greater than 50% native cover	ITAM-12	Utilize native and desirable non-native species for stabilization and rehabilitation, emphasizing nutrient cycling, hydrologic function, energy flow, and wildlife habitat	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually Oct/Nov as needed	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Stabilize fire-damaged areas having greater than 50% non-native cover	ITAM-13	Utilize native and desirable non-native species for stabilization, emphasizing soil retention	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually Oct/Nov as needed	See ITAM Plan Budget	NA
Noxious Weed Eradication	FMO-1	Use mechanical, biological, and chemical measures to control 75% of known populations of noxious weeds within the OCTC. Maintain project database and GIS layers and prepare annual report.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, Public Law 93-629, E.O. 13112	Annually	See FMO Budget	NA
Construction Erosion Control	FMO-2	Incorporate efforts into all construction projects to reduce nonpoint wind and water-borne pollution. Monitor effectiveness with post-project site photos.	Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, AR 200-1s	Annually	See FMO Budget	NA



Name	ID#	Description	Legal Drivers	Date	Estimated Funding Required (2013)	STEP Project #
Wildland Fire Suppression	FMO-3	Suppress all wildland fires, regardless of origin within the OCTC and surrounding areas as requested. Maintain a minimum of 6 trained and equipped 2-person fire crews during the fire season and/or while training activities are occurring. Train all crews to National Wildfire Coordination Group Firefighter Type 2 standards. Maintain mutual support agreement with the BLM for suppressing wildfires in the NCA.	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually	See FMO Budget	NA
Firebreak Maintenance	FMO-4	Maintain, grade, or seed 80% of mapped firebreaks annually	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually	See FMO Budget	NA
Install New Firebreaks	FMO-5	Create approximately 3.5 miles of new firebreaks associated with the MA Bravo	Public Law 103-64, BLM MOU, Sikes Act, AR 200-1, ESA	Annually	See FMO Budget	NA

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Appendix L:  
OCTC Standard  
Operating Procedures  
(SOP)

**Appendix L: Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Orchard Combat Training Area-IDARNG**

Event	SOP
<p><b>OCTC Construction Activities</b></p>	<p>All construction activities will be cleared by natural and cultural resource staff prior to any surface disturbing activities.</p>
	<p>A review of existing ROWs will be completed for all proposed projects.</p>
	<p>A project summary and, if needed, a ROW amendment will be submitted to BLM for NEPA determination.</p>
	<p>A record (source, deposit location, and date) of all off-site soil or other fill material will be developed and given to the Conservation Branch within 15 days after materials are received.</p>
	<p>All construction areas using off-site fill material will be mapped and monitored for the introduction of invasive species for a minimum of two years.</p>
	<p>A post-construction site reclamation plan will be included in all MILCON projects and approved by the Conservation Branch manager.</p>
	<p>Post-construction disturbed sites will be seeded or hydro-seeded using the IDARNG approved species list prior to project completion.</p>
	<p>Post-construction disturbed sites will managed for invasive or noxious weeds species using mechanical, biological, cultural, or chemical control. Chemical control must meet the requirements set forth in the IDARNG Pest Management Plan and use only BLM approved pesticides.</p>
<p><b>Training-Related Disturbance</b></p>	<p>All soldiers conducting training activities within the OCTC are required to participate in the Environmental and Cultural Brief prior to field training activities.</p>
	<p>The Environmental Protection Specialist and Conservation Branch Manager will review and approve all maneuver area training plans.</p>
	<p>The Environmental Protection Specialist will conduct in-field evaluations of training operations relative to environmental and cultural resources.</p>
	<p>Trainers and Range Personnel will record and report any issues associated with fire, rare plant species, or wildlife species.</p>
	<p>Trainers, Range Personnel, and Conservation staff will record and map unauthorized or intensive military-related ground disturbance and wildfires.</p>

Event	SOP
<b>Training-Related Disturbance (Cont.)</b>	ITAM and Range staff will coordinate with the Conservation Branch to address unauthorized or intensive military-related ground disturbances or wildfires.
	Rehabilitation of unauthorized or intensive military-related ground disturbances or wildfire will use native or approved desirable non-native species.
	All rehabilitation projects will be recorded with photos, GIS and Meta data, and attribute data.
<b>Wildlife in Equipment/Bldgs.</b>	Check equipment prior to transport to OCTC. If issue occurs on OCTC contact Range Control and fill out and submit an incident form to the Conservation Branch office within 24 hours.
	Conduct weekly or monthly monitoring of Ranges to proactively address nesting birds on structures. If a nest is under construction contact Range Control and fill out and submit a bird incident form to the Conservation Branch office within 24 hours.
<b>Injured/Orphaned Wildlife</b>	Contact Range Control and fill out and submit an incident form to the Conservation Branch office within 24 hours.
	All injured wildlife will be handled by Conservation Branch staff or qualified subject matter expert.
	A necropsy will be conducted on all dead raptors found within the OCTC boundary and the results compiled by the Conservation Branch.
<b>Conflict with General Public or Shooting Incident</b>	Report all issues to Range Control.
<b>Livestock</b>	Report all livestock related issues to Range Control. Complete and submit incident report if applicable.
	Report cow damage to occupied LEPA slickspots to Conservation Office. All observed impacts will be included in an incident report and submitted to the Conservation Branch manager within 48 hours.
<b>Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL)</b>	See IDARNG PAM.
<b>Invasive Species</b>	All vehicles using the OCTC from greater than 50 miles away will be washed prior to entering the OCTC to limit the establishment of invasive species.
	Known noxious and prioritized invasive plant species will be mapped and monitored annually, with a copy of the map submitted to BLM.
	Based on the current distribution of noxious weeds within the OCTC, the IDARNG will continue to manage for full eradication.

Event	SOP
<b>Invasive Species (Cont.)</b>	An annual noxious and invasive species control plan will be prepared by the Conservation Branch in coordination with Facilities and Training staff, and submitted to the BLM.
<b>Wildland Fires (See Appendix E)</b>	All Wildland fires observed within the OCTC will be reported to Range Control immediately.
	IDARNG firefighters will record all fire data (see IWFMP) within 24 hours of the incident and submit an annual summary to the Conservation Branch and BLM.
	Areas affected by Wildland fires will continue to be reseeded based on the priorities outlined in the IWFMP. All seedings will comply with authorized species list. Additional species may be used if authorized by the Conservation Branch Manager.
<b>Note: These are general SOP based on conservation of natural resources. Additional branch-specific, Idaho Guard-wide, and National Guard Bureau SOP are also implemented.</b>	

Appendix M:  
NEPA Documentation-  
2004 FONSI (Signed)  
and 2012 REC

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## Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

### Implementation of an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area

#### Introduction

The Idaho Army National Guard (IDARNG) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to identify and evaluate potential environmental effects from implementing a revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) at Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area, Idaho. The EA was incorporated into the INRMP and presented for review as a combined document. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations 40 CFR Part 1500-1508, and 32 CFR Part 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*).

#### 1.0. Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

**Proposed Action.** The IDARNG proposes to implement the revised INRMP during 2004 through 2008. Development of an INRMP is required by the Sikes Act (16 USC 670 *et seq.*), Department of Defense Instruction 4715.3 (*Environmental Conservation Program*), Army Regulation 200-3 (*Natural Resources – Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management*), and Army Memorandum (21 March 1997), *Army Goals and Implementing Guidance for Natural Resources Planning Level Survey (PLS) and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMP)*. Implementation of the INRMP would 1) conserve Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area land and natural resources and ensure compliance with environmental laws and regulations; 2) ensure the maintenance of quality training lands on Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area to accomplish the military mission on a sustained basis; 3) ensure that natural resources conservation measures and Army military mission activities are integrated and consistent with federal and state stewardship requirements; and 4) ensure military training remains compatible with Public Law 103-64.

**Alternatives Considered.** In addition to the proposed action, a No Action alternative was analyzed. Current natural resources management measures would remain in effect under the No Action alternative. The No Action alternative is not viable to the IDARNG because it does not meet the requirements of the Sikes Act, Department of Defense Instruction 4715.3, and Army Regulation 200-3. Nevertheless, an environmental analysis of a No Action alternative is required by Council on Environmental Quality regulations to serve as a benchmark against which the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

#### 2.0. Environmental Analysis

Based upon the analysis contained in the EA, it has been determined that the known and potential impacts of the Proposed Action on the physical, biological, and human-related environment would be of a positive nature. Implementation of the IDARNG's revised INRMP

will result in the efficient management of natural resources at Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area in a manner that is integrated with military training. As a result, natural resources at Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area will receive more consideration and protection than previously afforded. Implementation of the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse environmental effects.

Based on this analysis of environmental conditions, proposed activities, comparative data from past activities, proposed environmental protection and management actions, and coordination with other agencies, no significant adverse effects to the environment would be expected under the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.

### **3.0. Regulations**

The Proposed Action would not violate the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC § 4321 to 4370e), its regulations promulgated by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), 32 CFR Part 651 (*Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*), or any other federal, state, or local environmental regulations.

### **4.0. Public Review and Comment**

The INRMP/EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact will be available for public review and comment for 30 days after publication of the Notice of Availability. The INRMP/EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact will be available for review via the Idaho National Guard web site: [emomil.state.id.us](http://emomil.state.id.us) at locations listed in the Notice. Send written comments to:

Chief, Joint Environmental Management Office  
Idaho National Guard  
4715 S. Byrd Street  
Boise, Idaho 83705

For more information, contact Marjorie McHenry at (208) 422-4180.

The first draft INRMP/EA was made available for a 30-day public review and comment period from 24 November to 23 December 2003. Comments provided during the 30-day public review and comment period support the Proposed Action. The final draft INRMP/EA was made available for an additional 30-day public review and comment period from 28 July to 31 August 2004. No additional comments were received during that period.

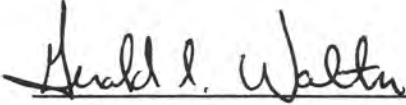
### **5.0. Commitment to Plan Implementation**

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) and IDARNG affirm their commitment to implement the INRMP for Gowen Field/Orchard Training Area in accordance with the Sikes Act. Implementation is dependent on funding. The IDARNG and the NGB Environmental Programs, Training, and Installations Divisions will ensure that adequate funds are requested in future years' budgets to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the INRMP.

### 6.0. Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

After careful review of the EA, I have concluded that implementation of the proposed action would not generate significant controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. No public comments were received. This analysis fulfills the requirements of NEPA and the CEQ Regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared, and the National Guard Bureau is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

September 21, 2004  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald I. Walter  
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army  
Chief, Environmental  
Programs Division

Enviro Tracking #:	<b>ARNG ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST</b>	State ARNG
2012-021	Enter information in the yellow shaded areas.	Idaho
<b>PART A - PROJECT INFORMATION</b>		
1. PROJECT NAME: 2012 Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) Update		
2. PROJECT NUMBER: (MILCON if applicable)	3. DATE PREPARED: 12 December, 2012	
4. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE PROJECT/PROPOSED ACTION:		
a. Location (Include a Detailed Map): INRMP prepared for the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), Boise, Idaho		
b. Description: In accordance with the Sikes Act, the IDARNG has updated the INRMP for the OCTC.		
c. The proposed action will involve (check all that apply):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Training Activities/Areas <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Resource Management <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance/Repair/Rehabilitation <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate Action <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Plans/Surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative Rediness Training Project <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain):		
d. Project Size (Acres): (if applicable)	NA	Acres of New Surface Disturbance (Proposed): (if applicable) NA
5. START DATE of PROPOSED ACTION (dd-mmm-yy): 31 December, 2012      Note: This must be a future date.		
6. PROGRAMMED FISCAL YEAR (if applicable): NA		
7. END DATE (if applicable): NA		
<b>PART B - DECISION ANALYSIS GUIDE</b>		
To use a categorical exclusion, the project must satisfy the following three screening criteria: no segmentation, no exceptional circumstances and a qualifying categorical exclusion that covers the project. The following decision tree will guide the application and documentation of these three screening criteria. The criteria were extracted from 32 CFR Section 651.29 and represent the most common screening conditions experienced in the ARNG. NOTE: Each question in Part B must have a block checked for concurrence with REC.		
1. Is this action segmented (the scope of the action must include the consideration of connected, cumulative, and similar actions)? <input type="checkbox"/> YES (go to #30) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (go to #2)		
2. Is there reasonable likelihood of significant environmental effects (direct, indirect, and cumulative)? If action meets screening criteria but is assessed in an existing EA or EIS, check NO and proceed to the next question. <input type="checkbox"/> YES (go to #30) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (go to #3)		
3. Is there a reasonable likelihood of significant effects on public health, safety or the environment? If action meets screening criteria but is assessed in an existing EA or EIS, check NO and proceed to the next question. <input type="checkbox"/> YES (go to #30) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (go to #4)		
4. Is there an imposition of uncertain or unique environmental risks? If action meets screening criteria but is assessed in an existing EA or EIS, check NO and proceed to the next question. <input type="checkbox"/> YES (go to #30) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (go to #5)		
5. Is the project of greater scope or size than is normal for the category of action? If action meets screening criteria but is assessed in an existing EA or EIS, check NO and proceed to the next question. <input type="checkbox"/> YES (go to #30) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (go to #6)		
6. Does the project introduce or employ unproven technology? If action meets screening criteria but is assessed in an existing EA or EIS, check NO and proceed to the next question. <input type="checkbox"/> YES (go to #30) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (go to #7)		

**PART B - DECISION ANALYSIS (continued)**

7. Will there be reportable releases of hazardous or toxic substances as specified in 40 CFR Part 302? If action meets screening criteria but is assessed in an existing EA or EIS, check NO and proceed to the next question.

- YES (go to #30)  NO (go to #8)

8. Will air emissions exceed de minimus levels or otherwise require a formal Clean Air Act (CAA) conformity determination? If action meets screening criteria but is assessed in an existing EA or EIS, check NO and proceed to the next question.

- YES (go to #30)  NO; ensure RONA is completed and on-file at State (go to #9)

9. Will the project have effects on the quality of the environment that are likely to be highly controversial? If action meets screening criteria but is assessed in an existing EA or EIS, check NO and proceed to the next question.

- YES (go to #30)  NO (go to #10)

10. Will the project establish a precedent (or make decisions in principle) for future or subsequent actions that are reasonably likely to have future significant effects? If action meets screening criteria but is assessed in an existing EA or EIS, check NO and proceed to the next question.

- YES (go to #30)  NO (go to #11)

11. Has federal funding been secured for the Innovative Readiness Training project?

- N/A (go to #13)  YES (go to #13)  NO (go to #12)

12. NOTE: IRT projects not currently funded can secure approved NEPA documentation. However, once funding is secured State ARNG is required to coordinate with ARNG-ILE-T to complete natural and cultural surveys via proponent funding.

- CONFIRMED (go to #27)

13. Do you have a species list from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that is less than 90 days old?

- YES (go to #14) Date of List: 18, October 2012  NO (update species list return to #13)

14. In reviewing the species list, what determination was made by the State ARNG?

- No species present (go to #16)  
 No affect (go to #16)  
 May affect but not likely to adversely affect (go to #16)  
 May affect likely to adversely affect (go to #15)

15. Does an existing Biological Opinion cover the action?

- YES (go to #16)  NO (go to #30)

16. Have the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 requirements been completed?

- YES (go to #17) Date of Documentation: 7 November, 2012  NO (complete documentation, return to #16)

17. Does the project involve an undertaking to a building or structure that is 50 years of age or older?

- YES (go to #18)  NO (go to #20)

18. Has the building or structure been surveyed for the National Register of Historic Places?

- YES (go to #19)  NO (complete inventory, return to #18)

19. Is the building or structure eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places?

- YES (go to #20)  NO (go to #20)

20. Does the action involve ground disturbing activities?

- YES (go to #21)  NO (go to #22)

21. Has an archaeological inventory or research been completed to determine if there are any archeological resources present?

- YES (go to #22)  NO (complete inventory or conduct research, return to #21)

22. In reviewing the undertaking, under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (for both above and below ground resources), what determination was made by the State ARNG?

- No resources present (go to #24)  
 No properties affected (go to #24) Date of SHPO Concurrence:  
 No adverse affect (go to #24) Date of SHPO Concurrence:  
 Adverse affect (go to #23)

23. Has the State ARNG addressed the adverse effect?

- YES (place date of MOA or existing PA and explanation of mitigation in box below, go to #24)  NO (go to #30)

23a.

**PART B - DECISION ANALYSIS (continued)**

24. Per DoDI 4710.02 did the state ARNG determine that tribal consultation was necessary for this project?

- YES (provide date of MFR, go to #25)  
 NO (Provide reason in this block 24a, go to #27)

Date of MFR: 16 August, 2012

24a.

25. Did the Tribes express an interest or respond with concerns about the project?

- YES (go to #26)  NO (go to #27)

Date of Documentation: 16 August, 2012

26. Has the State ARNG addressed the Tribal concerns?

- YES (place date of MOU or explanation of how State ARNG addressed tribal concerns in box below, go to #27)  
 NO (address concerns, return to #26)

Complete only if additional documentation is required in question #26

26a.

27. Does the project involve an unresolved effect on areas having special designation or recognition such as those listed below? For any yes responses go to #30 otherwise go to #28. If any No response is a result of negotiated and/or previously resolved effects please describe resolution in box 27a below.

TYPE	Unresolved Effects?	TYPE	Unresolved Effects?
a. Prime/Unique Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/> Y or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	e. Wild/Scenic River	<input type="checkbox"/> Y or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N
b. Wilderness Area/National Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Y or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	f. Coastal Zones	<input type="checkbox"/> Y or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N
c. Sole-Source Aquifer	<input type="checkbox"/> Y or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	g. 100-year Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/> Y or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N
d. Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> Y or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	h. National Wildlife Refuges	<input type="checkbox"/> Y or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N

27a.

28. Is this project addressed in a separate EA or EIS review?

- YES (complete table below; go to Part C, Determination)  NO (go to #29)

Document Title:	<b>Implimentation of a Intigrated Natural Resource Plan Gowen Field/Orchard Trainign Area</b>
Lead Agency:	<b>IDARNG</b>
Date of Decision Document:	<b>21 September, 2004</b>

29. Does the project meet at least one of the categorical exclusions listed in 32 CFR 651 App B?

- YES (complete table below; go to Part C, Determination)  NO (go to #30)

List primary CAT EX code

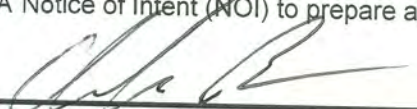
Descibe why CAT EX applies

30. At this time your project has not met all the qualifications for using a categorical exclusion under 32 CFR 651. Unless the scope of the project is changed, it will require an Environmental Assessment or possibly an Environmental Impact Statement. If you feel this is in error, please call your NEPA Regional Manager to discuss. If needed, go to Part C Determination.

**PART C - DETERMINATION**

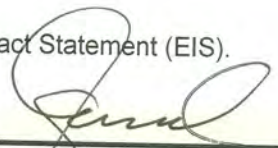
**On the basis of this initial evaluation, the following is appropriate:**

- IAW 32 CFR 651 Appendix B, the proposed action qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CX) that does not require a Record of Environmental Consideration.
- A Record of Environmental Consideration (REC).
- An Environmental Assessment (EA).
- A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Proponent (Requester)

Baun, Charles  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Proponent (Requester)

12 Dec 2012  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Environmental Program Manager

Price, Joel D. COL  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name of Env. Program Manager

14 Dec 12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

**Other concurrence (as needed):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

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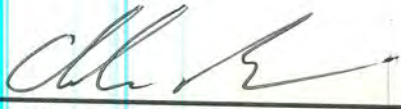

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Date Signed

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Signed

Enviro Tracking #: 2012-021	ARNG Record of Environmental Consideration	State ARNG
Enter information in the yellow shaded areas.		
Idaho		
1. PROJECT NAME: 2012 Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) Update		
2. PROJECT NUMBER: (MILCON if applicable)	3. DATE PREPARED: 12 December, 2012	
4. START DATE of PROPOSED ACTION (dd-mmm-yy): 31 December, 2012 <span style="float: right;">Note: This must be a future date</span>		
5. PROGRAMMED FISCAL YEAR: NA		
6. END DATE: NA		
7. DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: a. Location (Include a Detailed Map): INRMP prepared for the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), Boise, Idaho  b. Description: In accordance with the Sikes Act, the IDARNG has updated the INRMP for the OCTC.		
8. CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: <input type="checkbox"/> An existing Environmental Assessment adequately covers the scope of this project. Attach FNSI if EA was completed by another federal agency (non-ARNG). EA Date (dd-mmm-yy): _____ Lead Agency: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> An existing Environmental Impact Statement adequately covers the scope of this project. EIS Date (dd-mmm-yy): _____ Lead Agency: _____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> After reviewing the screening criteria and completing the ARNG Environmental Checklist, this project qualifies for a <b>Categorical Exclusion</b> (select below). Categorical Exclusion Code: <input type="text" value="B-3: Preparation of regulations, procedures, manuals, and other..."/> See 32 CFR 651 App. B Categorical Exclusion Code: <input type="text"/> See 32 CFR 651 App. B Categorical Exclusion Code: <input type="text"/> See 32 CFR 651 App. B <input type="checkbox"/> This project is exempt from NEPA requirements under the provisions of: Cite superseding law: _____		
9. REMARKS: See attached Memorandum for Record (MFR) outlining the justification.		
 <hr/> Signature of Proponent (Requester)  Baun, Charles <hr/> Printed Name of Proponent (Requester)  12 Dec 2012 <hr/> Date Signed	 <hr/> Environmental Program Manager  Price, Joel D. COL <hr/> Printed Name of Env. Program Manager  14 Dec 12 <hr/> Date Signed	
10. STATE/ORGANIZATION: IDARNG		11. SERVICE COMPONENT:
12. ADDRESS: 4715 S. Byrd Street, Boise, Idaho 83705		
13. PROPONENT/UNIT NAME: IDARNG		14. POC: Charles Baun
15. PROPONENT/UNIT ADDRESS: 4715 S. Byrd Street, Boise, Idaho 83705		
16. COMM VOICE: 208-272-4180		17. COMM FAX:
19. DSN FAX:		18. DSN:
20. EMAIL: <a href="mailto:charles.w.baun@us.army.mil">charles.w.baun@us.army.mil</a>		





**IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD  
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS  
4040 WEST GUARD ST., BLDG 600  
BOISE, IDAHO 83705-5004**



12 December, 2011

IDARNG

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

**SUBJECT: Update Justification for 2012 INRMP**

The only changes made to the 2012 INRMP relative to the 2004 INRMP are associated with document format, the inclusion of an Endangered Species Management Plan (ESMP), and the addition of 2,400 acres to the Orchard Combat Training Center (OCTC), formally called the Orchard Training Area (OTA), boundary.

The formatting changes are based on guidance sent out by NGB-ILE, referencing Title 32, CFR, Part 90 Appendix-Integrated Natural Resource Management. The 2004 and draft 2008 INRMP content was used to develop the 2012 version with changes made only to format and updates to training operations.

The 2004 INRMP included all of the same management actions identified in the 2012 ESMP. When they developed the ESMP in 2008, the species was listed in 2009, they basically just took the requirements outlined in the 2003 Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA), which the IDARNG was a signatory on and was included in the 2004 INRMP, and put them into an ESMP. As we are not the land owner, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is, we did not complete a Biological Opinion or associated Biological Assessment. These were completed and finalized by the BLM and USFWS this last year using the 2003 CCA guidelines, aka 2004 INRMP requirements, and the ESMP, which are all the same. In short, there are no changes in management between the 2004 INRMP and now, we just shifted from a CCA to an ESMP. These management guidelines were also incorporated into all fire and pest management plans since 2003.

The boundary adjustment to the OTA was a BLM decision based on management goals outlined in the BLM's 2008 Resource Management Plan (RMP), Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and Record of Decision (ROD). In total the boundary adjustment added roughly 6,400 acres to the OCTC on the eastern and south eastern boundary, but reduced the OCTC by 4,000 acres on the western boundary. This was an administrative boundary

adjustment by the BLM, which they did under the 2008 RMP and is allowed for under the 2010 MOU with BLM and the 1993 Public Law 103-64. The BLM is the land owner and the administrative boundary change did not adversely affect our ability to train or decrease the area available to train. All new acreage is managed under the INRMP just as all the other lands are so there is no significant change in mission or environment.

Encl:

Charles Baun  
Conservation Branch Manager