Final
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Implementation of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 2020-2024 Revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere

January 2020

Proponent:
Louisiana Army National Guard
Joint Force Headquarters
420 F Street
Pineville, Louisiana 71360

Environmental Assessment Organization

This Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the potential environmental, socioeconomic, and cultural effects of the implementation of the 2020-2024 Revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere, Louisiana. The Proposed Action would carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on the three major training installations of the Louisiana Army National Guard (LAARNG). Implementation of the program elements of the revised INRMP will support the LAARNG's continuing requirement to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission, practice sound resource stewardship, and comply with environmental policies and regulations.

As required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 USC 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and 32 CFR Part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, Final Rule), the potential effects of the Proposed Action are analyzed. This EA will facilitate the decision process by the LAARNG regarding the Proposed Action and its considered alternatives, and is organized as follows:

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

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Environmental Assessment Signature Page

LEAD AGENCY: National Guard Bureau

COOPERATING AGENCIES: None

TITLE OF PROPOSED ACTION: Implementation of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 2020-2024 Revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

AFFECTED JURISDICTION: Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere

POINT OF CONTACT: CPT Jeremy Futrell, LAARNG
Joint Forces Headquarters
420 F Street, Camp Beauregard
Pineville, Louisiana 71360

PROPONENTS: Louisiana Army National Guard

REVIEWED BY:

LTC Jason Mahfouz	CPT Jeremy Futrell	Kevin Chapman
EN, LAARNG	LAARNG	LAARNG
CFMO	Environmental Program Manager	Conservation Manager

DOCUMENT DESIGNATION: Final Environmental Assessment

ABSTRACT: The LAARNG proposes to enhance natural resources management by implementing a revised 2020-2024 INRMP that provides for the conservation and rehabilitation of the natural resources on Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. Previously, each sites had standalone INRMPs. The new INRMP combines all three sites into one single INRMP. The purpose of updating and implementing the revised INRMP is to meet the requirements of the Sikes Act (Title 16, United States Code 670a et seq.) as amended, which provides the primary legal basis for the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations.

This Environmental Assessment evaluates the individual and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action (implementation of the revised INRMP) and the No Action Alternative with respect to the following criteria: location and land use, air quality, noise, soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic environment, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials/wastes.

The evaluation performed within this EA concludes that there would be no significant adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, to environmental, cultural, or socioeconomic resources as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action. Overall, beneficial effects are anticipated.

Executive Summary

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to approve and implement the LAARNG 2020-2024 revised INRMP for the area encompassed by Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. The revised INRMP provides LAARNG and visiting personnel with a description of the three training installations (such as location, history, and mission), information about the surrounding physical and biotic environment, and an assessment of the impacts to natural resources resulting from mission activities. This EA addresses the LAARNG's proposal to implement the 2020-2024 INRMP for Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the INRMP revision (Proposed Action) is to carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at Camps Beauregard (13,361 acres), Minden (14,993 acres), and Villere (1,480 acres). Implementation of the program elements of the revised INRMP will support the LAARNG's continuing requirement to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission, practice sound resource stewardship, and comply with environmental policies and regulations.

Revisions to the 2020-2024 INRMP include:

- The addition of the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) to the endangered species list at Camps Beauregard and Minden. Survey results have determined the presence of northern long-eared bats at both installations.
- The addition of the Louisiana pine snake (*Pituophis ruthveni*) to the endangered species list at Camps Beauregard.
- Inclusion of updated survey data for endangered and invasive species across all three installations.
- Revised INRMP combines three individual INRMPs into one INRMP to reduce redundancy and focus on important resources and management actions.

Alternatives

The following criteria were used to screen potential alternatives and determine if they were reasonable in fulfilling the purpose and need, and appropriate for detailed analysis in this EA:

1. Will the alternative provide LAARNG natural resource personnel with an updated baseline description of Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere and their surrounding environment?

2. Will the alternative present practical options and management activities consistent with LAARNG's training mission and provide for the management and stewardship of natural resources to promote conservation, enhancement, and sustainability of existing ecosystems within Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere?

3. Will the alternative be compliant with the SAIA and Department of Army guidance (DOD Instruction 4715.03), which requires cooperating partners to review the existing INRMP at least once every five years for operation and effect?

Applying the screening criteria, no reasonable alternative to the preparation of a "new" compliant INRMP that meets the purpose and need for the action has been identified for detailed analysis in this EA. The No Action Alternative is to continue to operate under the non-compliant outdated 2015 Plan, has been analyzed as required by NEPA and its implementing regulations. The No Action Alternative is the baseline against which the proposed action is compared

Environmental Consequences

The Proposed Action was evaluated to determine its potential direct or indirect impact(s) at the three LAARNG training sites on the physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the Proposed Action and the surrounding area. Technical areas evaluated include: land use; air quality; noise; topography, geology, and soils; water resources; biological resources; cultural resources; socioeconomics; environmental justice; infrastructure and hazardous and toxic materials and waste. The Proposed Action Alternative and No Action Alternative would result in the impacts identified throughout **Section 4** and summarized in **Table ES-1**.

Table ES-1. Alternative Comparison Matrix

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Land Use	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short-term impacts to land use because land use will not be immediately impacted by the Proposed Action. Long-term beneficial impact through programmatic monitoring and BMPs described in the INRMP.
Air Quality	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action, as current operations emissions would continue.
Noise	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts to noise are anticipated, as the Proposed Action would not result in increased traffic.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short-term impacts to geology, topography, or soils were identified, because these attributes would not be immediately impacted by the Proposed Action. Long-term beneficial impacts through programmatic monitoring and BMPs described in INRMP.
Water Resources	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short-term impacts to water resources, as the Proposed Action does not directly affect water resources. Long-term beneficial impacts achieved through the proposed projects and BMPs described in INRMP.
Biological Resources	Potential long-term, significant adverse impact to the northern long-eared bat (species was not included in 2015 INRMP).	No short-term impacts to biological resources. Long-term beneficial impacts through surveys, programmatic monitoring, and BMPs described in INRMP.
Cultural Resources	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts resulting from the Proposed Action.

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Socioeconomics (including Environmental Justice and Protection of Children)	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.
Infrastructure	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.

In accordance with Army NEPA Regulations (32 CFR 651), the proponent must indicate if any mitigation measures are needed to minimize potential adverse effects. No mitigation measures have been identified in this EA due to the lack of significant adverse impacts from the Proposed Action.

Public and Agency Involvement

The preparation of the revised INRMP and this EA was coordinated with the public, federal, state and local agencies, and Native American Tribes following review of the EA by the National Guard Bureau.

Conclusion

The Proposed Action would implement management of natural resources within the context of an approved natural resources management plan to maintain and improve the ecological integrity of Camp Beauregard, Minden, and Villere lands in order to accommodate continued military training with minimal restrictions. The Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse environmental effects, and mitigation measures would not be required. The Proposed Action is the LAARNG's preferred alternative. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) is appropriate.

Table of Contents

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

ATTACHMENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AR	Army Regulation
ARNG	Army National Guard
ARNG-I&E	ARNG's Installation and Environmental Directorate
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CBTS	Camp Beauregard Training Site
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibels
dBA	a-weighted decibels
dbC	C-weighted decibels
DoD	Department of Defense
DoDI	Department of Defense Instruction
EA	Environmental Assessment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FNSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FY	Fiscal Year
Hz	Hertz
ICRMP	Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan
IICEP	Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
LAARNG	Louisiana Army National Guard
LDAF	Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
LDEQ	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
LDWF	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
LNHP	Louisiana Natural Heritage Program
MFR	Memorandum for Record
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NLEB	Northern Long-Eared Bat
NOA	Notice of Availability
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
RCW	Red-cockaded Woodpecker
SAIA	Sikes Act Improvement Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S.C	U.S. Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

1.0 Purpose, Need, and Scope

1.1 Introduction

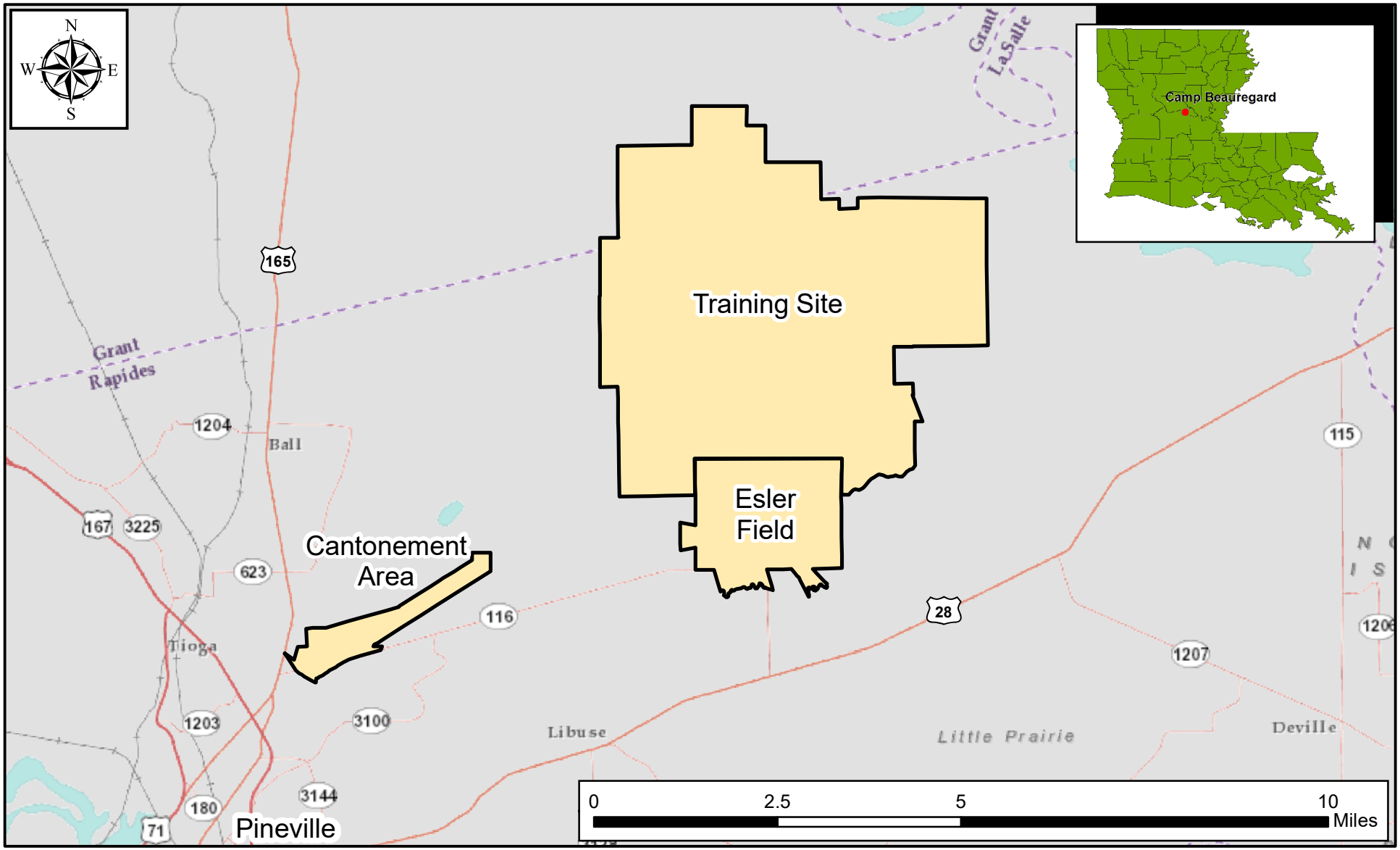
The Louisiana Army National Guard (LAARNG) has revised the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for the area encompassed by Camps Beauregard (to include Esler Field), Minden, and Villere (see **Figures 1, 2, and 3** on the following pages for installation locations). The revised INRMP provides LAARNG and visiting personnel with a description of the installations (e.g., location, history, and mission), information about the surrounding physical and biotic environment, and an assessment of the impacts to natural resources resulting from adoption of the revised INRMP. Furthermore, in compliance with federal, state, and local standards, the INRMP outlines various management practices designed to manage impacts and to enhance the positive effects of the installations' mission on local ecosystems. The revised INRMP is a Proposed Action that requires review in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Army Regulation (AR) 200-1 *Environmental Protection and Enhancement* prior to implementation of its goals, objectives, and projects. The original INRMPs for Camps Beauregard Minden, and Villere were signed in 2001. Since that time there have been multiple changes to land management at these locations due to changes in training, newly listed species, and expansion of the LAARNG natural resources program. The current INRMP for these locations has signatures over 5 years old and is considered non-compliant, per the 2019 ARNG I&E INRMP Policy.

The initial implementation of the revised INRMP requires preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with NEPA requirements, with topics related to the effects of the proposed plan on natural and cultural resources. As such, this EA has been drafted to evaluate the environmental, cultural, and social impacts associated with the proposed management plan, pursuant to the NEPA requirements (42 U.S. Code [USC] 4321 et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); and 32 CFR Part 651; as well as the Army National Guard (ARNG) NEPA Handbook – *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with NEPA* (2011) and *ARNG I&E Directorate Policy for INRMPS* (2019).

This EA analyzes and documents environmental effects associated with the Proposed Action, revisions to the LAARNG INRMP, last dated 2015-2019. It intends to promote public participation and provide input into the decision-making process of the Proposed Action. The EA presents information on the Proposed Action, its alternatives, a description of the affected environment, and an analysis of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts. Based on this information, LAARNG expects to have no adverse environmental impacts resulting from implementation of the 2020-2024 revised INRMP.

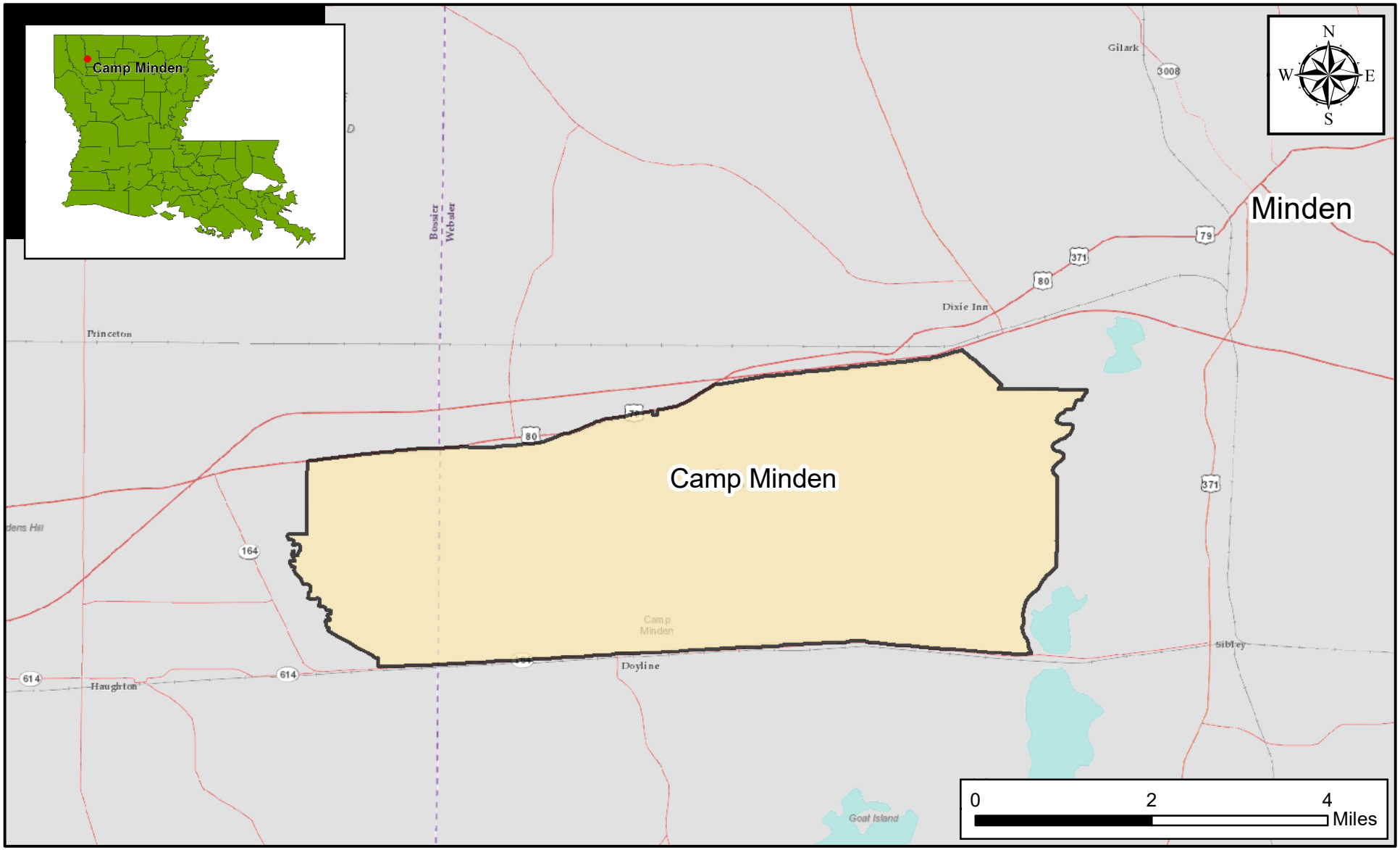
All persons and organizations having a potential interest in the Proposed Action, including Native American groups, and minority, low income or disadvantaged individuals are urged to participate in the decision making process.

Figure 1. Location of LAARNG Camp Beauregard and Esler Field



Land Management Group, LLC.	Date: June 16, 2017

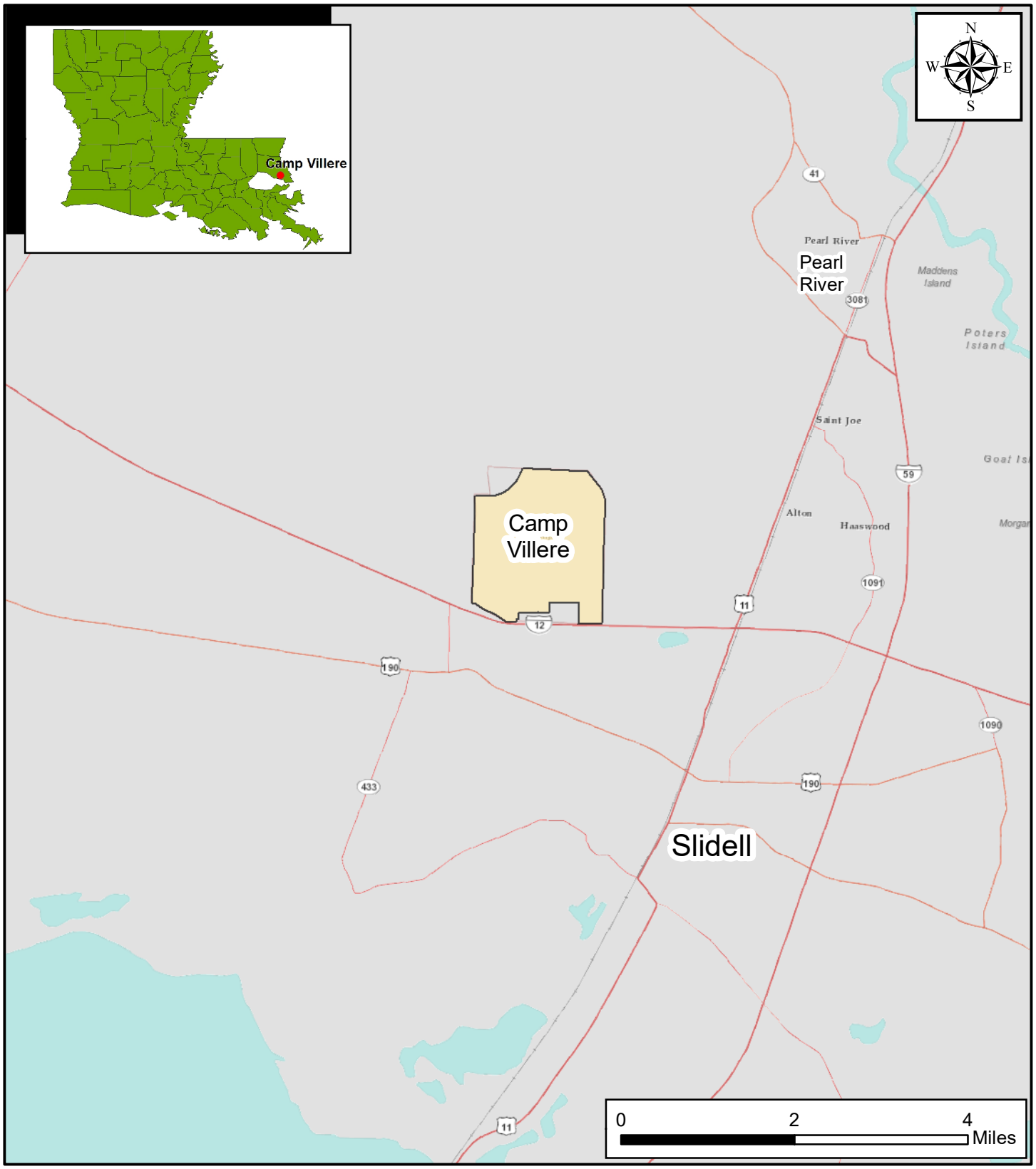
Figure 2. Location of LAARNG Camp Minden



Land Management Group, LLC.

Date: June 21, 2017

Figure 3. Location of LAARNG Camp Villere



Land Management Group, LLC.

Date: June 21, 2017

1.2 Purpose and Need

The goal of the ARNG's environmental programs and policies is to conserve the environment for mission sustainability (Department of Defense [DoD] Memorandum 4715.03 November 25, 2013). The revised INRMP is intended for use by the National Guard Bureau (NGB), the LAARNG, and Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere environmental personnel as the primary tool for managing natural resources on the installations, in accordance with Code of Federal Regulations, Title 32, Part 651 – Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR Part 651, 2002) and the provisions of the Sikes Act Improvement Act (SAIA).

According to the SAIA, the INRMP must address the following:

- Document mutual agreement between the USFWS and the LDWF concerning conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources
- The management of land, forests, fish and wildlife, and fish and wildlife-oriented recreation;
- Wetland protection and enhancement;
- Fish and wildlife protection and enhancement or modification;
- Sustainable public use of natural resources and public access for such use (subject to requirements necessary to ensure safety and military security);
- Integration of and consistency among the various activities conducted under the INRMP;
- Natural resource management goals, objectives, and time frames for this Proposed Action;
- Enforcement of applicable natural resource laws (including regulations);
- No net loss of the capability of the installation to support the military mission;
- Other activities as the Secretary of the Army determines appropriate.

The LAARNG has ensured that the 2020-2024 revised INRMP has met the Sikes Act requirement as listed above. The focus of the INRMP is to be ecosystem based, rather than management for single-species. To ensure that the LAARNG can meet its mission needs now and into the future, the natural resources that provide the training environment must be managed such that they are ecologically sustainable. Updating and implementing the INRMP would ensure that desired future conditions, which envision all aspects of a future ecosystem and include conservation and military mission related needs, are integrated and consistent with applicable Federal and state stewardship requirements. Fundamentally, an INRMP would represent a proactive approach in assuring training over the long-term continues through the sustainability of the natural resources.

The purpose of the INRMP revisions (Proposed Action) is to carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. Implementation of the program elements of the revised INRMP will support the LAARNG's continuing requirement to ensure the safety and efficiency of the mission, practice sound resource stewardship, and comply with environmental policies and regulations. The need for the Proposed Action is to: (1) Execute the revised INRMP to satisfy statutory and regulatory requirements, such as the SAIA (16 USC §670a et seq), AR 200-1 – *Environmental Protection and Enhancement*, and DoD Instruction 4715.03 – *Environmental*

Conservation Program; and, (2) ensure that natural resource compliance and conservation is maintained while reaching training goals needed to meet mission essential requirements.

1.3 Scope of the EA

The purpose of this EA is to inform decision-makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and alternatives, and to solicit input from the public and regulators concerning implementation of the revised INRMP. This EA includes evaluation of potential environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts to resources that could result from management practices at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. As required by the NEPA (United States Code 4321 et seq.), the CEQ Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), 32 CFR Part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions, Final Rule; 29 March 2002), and the ARNG NEPA Handbook, the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative physical, environmental, cultural, and socioeconomic effects of this federal Proposed Action are analyzed in this EA.

The outline and content of this EA have been prepared in accordance with the guidelines provided in the ARNG publication *Guidance on Preparing Environmental Documentation for Army National Guard Actions in Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969* (ARNG NEPA Handbook). This EA considers the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts from implementation of the Proposed Action. The scope of this EA includes descriptions and evaluation of two alternatives, summarized as follows:

> **Proposed Action** – Implement the 2020-2024 revised INRMP defined in **Section 2** to fulfill the assigned environmental protection requirements of the LAARNG. This is the LAARNG's preferred alternative.
>
> **No Action Alternative** – Continue natural resource management under the 2015-2019 INRMP.

Detailed descriptions of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative are presented in **Section 2**.

The following resources, described in **Section 3** and evaluated in **Section 4,** were identified and analyzed for the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative: land use; air quality; noise; geology, topography, and soils; water resources; biological resources; cultural resources; socioeconomics; environmental justice; infrastructure; and hazardous and toxic materials/wastes. This EA also considers the cumulative effects of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions within the region.

As specified under NEPA and CEQ Regulations 40 CFR 1500-1508, a monetary cost-benefit analysis is not required as part of the EA. The Proposed Action and its alternatives have been developed based on Federal and state environmental regulations and mission requirements. As such, no quantitative financial assessment has been performed as part of this EA.

1.4 Decision-making

Per amendments to 10 USC §10501, described in DoD Directive 5105.77, the NGB is a joint activity of the DoD (DoD 2015). NGB serves as a channel of communication and funding between the U.S. Army and state ARNG organizations in the 54 U.S. states, territories, and the District of Columbia. The ARNG is a Directorate within NGB. The ARNG's Installation and Environment Directorate (ARNG-I&E) is the directorate within ARNG that is responsible for environmental matters, including compliance with NEPA. As ARNG is the Federal decision-maker concerning this Proposed Action, this is a Federal Proposed Action. The Federal decision-making on the part of the ARNG includes selecting an alternative to implement, and identifying the actions that the Government will commit to undertake to minimize environmental effects, as required under NEPA, CEQ Regulations, and 32 CFR Part 651.

1.5 Public and Agency Involvement

Examination of the views and recommendations of all interested persons enables better decision making. As such, the ARNG encourages public participation in the NEPA process. In accordance with both the Intergovernmental and Interagency Coordination of Environmental Planning (IICEP) and Native American Consultation processes, all agencies, organizations, federally recognized Native American Tribes and members of the public having an interest in the Proposed Action are invited to participate in the decision-making process. Environmental compliance documents 40 CFR §1506.6, 32 CFR §651.47 and Section 2.3.1 of the 2011 ARNG NEPA Handbook were reviewed to ensure that they identify and coordinate with, all agencies, organizations and individuals that may be interested in or affected by this proposal.

An interdisciplinary team of environmental scientists, planners, engineers, biologists, and military technicians has reviewed the Proposed Action in consideration of existing conditions, and due to the resources not being present or not likely to be impacted through implementation of the alternatives, several environmental impact categories did not require further analysis. These resources include socioeconomics, environmental justice, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic material and waste, which are discussed in the following paragraphs.

- **Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Health and Safety** – The Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative would have no effect on the current socioeconomic environment around Camps Beauregard, Minden, or Villere. Impacts from dollars spent within the communities would be negligible. No environmental justice effects are anticipated. No effects to the health and safety of children would occur as a result of either the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative.

- **Infrastructure** – Impacts to traffic, transportation, and utilities would be considered negligible as management and existing conditions of these resources would remain unaffected and unchanged by the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative.

- **Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes** – Potential adverse impacts would be short-term and localized in nature, to the extent of being considered negligible. These impacts would be the result of invasive species removal and pesticide use on the installations. All pesticide applications are carried out by licensed LAARNG personnel and/or contracted

pest control companies. Adherence to the LAARNG's statewide Integrated Pest Management Plan and Invasive Species Management Plan would reduce any potential impacts to negligible amounts.

Scoping letters were mailed to state and federal agencies to obtain information concerning the revised INRMP and to identify potential issues. A list of agencies and individuals consulted is presented in **Section 8** of this document. Two responses were received. Copies of all correspondence are included in **Attachment 1**.

- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) response dated November 6, 2017 indicated that "the Department has no objections based on the information provided."

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Vicksburg District, response dated September 15, 2017 only indicated that they had assigned a correspondence identification number for the project.

Section 8 also contains a list of the federally recognized Native American tribes that were invited to consult. An initial scoping letter notified these Native American groups of the Proposed Action and asked if the Native American groups wanted to initiate Section 106 consultation. One responses was received. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma requested shapefiles of the project locations. The LAARNG Cultural Resource Manager responded to explain that this was a planning level document. The Tribe then requested a copy of the EA.

Copies of letters submitted to all federally recognized Native American tribes and their responses will be maintained in the project file at Camp Beauregard. For those tribes for which LAARNG did not receive a response, LAARNG will send a copy of the Final EA to provide an opportunity for comment. If a tribe at any time indicates they are not interested in consulting at any point, the LAARNG is not required to send subsequent information. A copy of the EA will be provided to the tribes expressing interest in further consultation and those that have not responded to consultation attempts. The LAARNG has prepared a memorandum for record (MFR) of Native American Consultation efforts during the NEPA process. A copy of the MFR is included in **Attachment 2**.

The SAIA requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to jointly review existing INRMPs for operation and effect at least once every five years. This joint review evaluates the implementation and effectiveness of the INRMP and whether LAARNG should continue following the 2015-2019 INRMP or whether it should revise the INRMP to reflect changes in mission, goals, or objectives in regard to conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources.

Public participation in the preparation of this EA is guided by 32 CFR Part 651, *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*. The LAARNG, as the proponent of the Proposed Action, published and distributed the Final EA and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for a 30-day public comment period (December 1, 2019 to January 3, 2020), as announced by a Notice of Availability (NOA) published in *The Baton Rouge Advocate*. A copy of the newspaper proof of

publication is included as **Attachment 3**. When the Final EA was distributed to the public, copies of the document were also made available for public review at the Rapides Parish, St. Tammany Parish, and Webster Parish Libraries. No comments were received.

Once the final review period was completed, the LAARNG will, if appropriate, execute the FNSI and implement the Proposed Action.

1.6 Related NEPA, Environmental, and Other Documents and Processes

Development and implementation of the INRMP is guided by the SAIA and supported by the Army's implementing guidance on INRMP requirements in AR 200-1 – *Environmental Protection and Enhancement*. Environmental analysis of the Proposed Action is mandated by NEPA and the Army's implementing regulations at 32 CFR Part 651 (Environmental Analysis of Army Actions).

Various other DoD, Department of the Army, and NGB documents provide additional guidance for INRMP coordination and implementation. The primary guidance documents are: DoD Manual, Number 4715.03 (Nov 2013), INRMP Implementation Manual; DoD Instruction, Number 4715.03 (March 2011), Natural Resources Conservation Manual; and NGB Army National Guard Guidance for Creation, Implementation, Review, Revision, and Update of INRMPs (April 2012).

1.7 Regulatory Framework

Numerous planning and NEPA documents, integrated management plans, and other relevant environmental studies and reports related to this Proposed Action have been reviewed and/or referenced in the preparation of this EA. Additionally, during the development of the INRMP, the following resources were utilized:

- The SAIA, as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, codified at 16 USC 670a et seq.
- The Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2004, codified at 16 USC 1533(b)(2) and 1533 (a)(3)(b).
- AR 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement, 13 December 2007.
- Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4715.03, Natural Resources Conservation Program, 18 March 2011.
- Department of Defense Memorandum, Updated Guidance for Implementation of the Sikes Act Improvement Act, 10 October 2002.
- Department of Defense Memorandum, Updated Guidance for Implementation of the Sikes Act Improvement Act – Supplemental Guidance Concerning INRMP Reviews, 1 November 2004.
- Department of the Army Memorandum, Guidance for Implementation of the Sikes Act Improvement Act, 25 May 2006.
- Army National Guard Memorandum, Guidance for the Creation, Implementation, Review, and Revision and Update of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (9 April 2012).

2.0 Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 Introduction

The name of this project is Implementation of the 2020-2024 Revised INRMP for Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. Compliance status of INRMPs are defined using the below criteria (DoDI 4715.03, 2013):

1. Compliant INRMP - An INRMP that has been both approved in writing, and reviewed, within the past five years, as to the operation and effect, by authorized officials of the DoD (e.g., NGB), Department of the Interior (e.g., USFWS), and each appropriate state fish and wildlife agency (e.g., LDWF).

2. Review for Operation and Effect - A comprehensive, joint review by the parties to the INRMP, conducted no less often than every five years, to determine whether the plan needs an update or revision to continue to adequately address SAIA purposes and requirements.

3. INRMP Update - Any change to an INRMP that, if implemented, is not expected to result in consequences materially different from those in the existing INRMP and analyzed in an existing NEPA document. Such changes will not result in a significant environmental impact, and installations are not required to invite the public to review or to comment on the decision to continue implementing the revised INRMP.

4. INRMP Revision - Any change to an INRMP that, if implemented, may result in a significant environmental impact, including those not anticipated by the parties to the INRMP when the plan was last approved and/or reviewed as to operation and effect. All such revisions require approval by all parties to the INRMP, and will require a new or supplemental NEPA analysis.

Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere's INRMPs was last updated 2015. In the past, the LAARNG has prepared separate INRMPs for each installation; however, internal review of the 2015 INRMPs determined that the three documents could be combined into one document that addressed all three installations. In addition, two new species were added by the USFWS to the endangered species list, requiring their incorporation into the document. As such, revisions to the 2015 INRMP were required per 2019 ARNG I&E INRMP Policy.

Revisions to the 2020-2024 INRMP include:

- The addition of the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) (NLEB) to the endangered species list at Camps Beauregard and Minden. Survey results have determined the presence of northern long-eared bats at both installations.
- The addition of the Louisiana pine snake (*Pituophis ruthveni*) to the endangered species list at Camps Beauregard.
- Inclusion of updated survey data for endangered and invasive species across all three installations.

- Revised INRMP format to reduce redundancy and focus on important resources and management actions.

2.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to approve and implement a revised INRMP for Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere, which collectively includes numerous tasks for Fiscal Years (FY) 2020 through FY 2024. The revised INRMP provides a comprehensive overview of the installations' natural resources, and establishes goals, objectives, projects, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the management of natural resources that are consistent with the military mission, which is the training of soldiers. Specific projects are identified to accomplish the objectives of the INRMP for a five-year period. These are detailed in **Tables 1, 2, and 3**.

This INRMP is a revision to the existing INRMPs adopted in 2015, and combines the existing three INRMPs into one single document. The Revised INRMP is consistent with the military use of the installations and the requirements of the Sikes Act.

The revised INRMP provides a strategy of planned projects and programs to integrate the entirety of the natural resource program with ongoing mission activities, allows for identification of potential conflicts between the LAARNG's mission and natural resources, and identifies compliance actions necessary to maintain the availability of mission-essential properties and acreage. In accordance with the SAIA (16 USC §670a et seq), INRMPs are updated annually and revised every five years. Tasks comprising the Proposed Action fall under 13 program areas for the LAARNG: Ecosystem Management; Fish and Wildlife Management; Migratory Bird Management; Hunting and Fishing Program; Water Resources Protection; Wetland Protection; Soil Erosion Control Management; Threatened and Endangered Species Management; Forest Management; Fire Management; Integrated Pest Management; Invasive Species Management; and Climate Change.

Table 1. Camp Beauregard Planned Projects (Subject to Funding Availability)

Management Area	INRMP Appendix	Objectives and Projects to Achieve Objectives	Year	Method[1]	Proponent[2]	STEP #	Status
Ecosystem Management	E	Objective 1a: Characterize natural communities					
		Installation-wide mammal survey	2022	C	ENV		
		Develop long-term monitoring program (database)	2021	C	ENV		
		Objective 1b: Manage for ecosystem health, wildlife, and improved habitat quality					
		Continue RTLA program	Annually	C, IH	ITAM		Ongoing
Fish and Wildlife Management	E	Objective 2b: Manage habitats for all native species					
		Maintain native species vegetative buffers around water sources	Continually	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
Migratory Bird Management	E	Objective 3a: Establish baseline population data for migratory species.					
		Installation-wide bird survey	2020	C	ENV		
Hunting and Fishing Program	E	Objective 4a: Collect and maintain data on game species					
		Collect and analyze harvested game data	Annually	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
		Collect and analyze turkey polt counts	Annually	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
		Collect and analyze bobwhite quail surveys	Annually	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
Water Resources Protection	E	Objective 5a: Improve knowledge of riparian areas and their conditions					
		Conduct stream erosion surveys	Annually	IH	ENV, SITE		
		Objective 5b: Implement and enforce riparian buffers					
		Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		
Wetland Protection	E	Objective 6a: Implement and enforce wetland buffers					
		Identify buffer needs	2023	IH	ENV		
		Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		

[1] Probable method of conducting project: C = contract; IH = in-house.

[2] Party responsible for funding and/or conduct of action: ENV = environmental office; FAC = facilities maintenance funds; ITAM = training funds; SITE = training site staff.

Management Area	INRMP Appendix	Objectives and Projects to Achieve Objectives	Year	Method[1]	Proponent[2]	STEP #	Status
Soil Erosion Control Management	E	Objective 7a: Identify and rehabilitate eroding training lands					
		Installation-wide survey	Annually	C	ITAM		
		Update Soil Erosion Control & Restoration Plan	2021	C	ITAM		
		Repair erosion problems	per need	IH	ITAM, SITE		
		BMP Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ITAM, SITE		
Threatened and Endangered Species Management	F	Objective 8a: Monitor communities that could support threatened and endangered species					
		Update the ESMC	2020	C, IH	ENV		
		NLEB acoustic surveys	Annually	C, IH	ENV		Ongoing
		NLEB mist-net surveys	2020	C	ENV		
		Installation-wide survey for federal species	2025	C	ENV		
		Field habitat assessments of potential LA pine snake habitat	2020	C, IH	ENV		
		RCW surveys in Longleaf Pine Demo Areas	Annually	C	ENV		Ongoing
		Request updates and monitor populations of RCW on Kisatchie	Annually	IH	ENV		Ongoing
		State rare species survey	2021	C	ENV		
		Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		
Forest Management	G	Objective 9a: Maintain forest inventory					
		Installation-wide forest inventory and Forest Management Plan Update	2021	C	ENV		
		Objective 9b: Improve forest health and habitat quality by timber harvesting					
		Conduct timber harvesting IAW Forest Management Plan	Annually	C	ENV		Ongoing
Fire Management	G	Objective 10a: Suppress or prevent damage caused by wildfire					
		Purchase fire suppression equipment and train personnel	per need	IH	ENV		Ongoing
		Suppress wildfires	per need	C, IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
		Maintain firebreaks and construct new ones	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
		Objective 10b: Prescribe burn					
		Continue prescribed fire regime (2,500 acres per year)	Annually	C, IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
Integrated Pest Management	I	Objective 12a: Adhere to the guidelines and projects presented in the LAARNG's IPMP					
		Objective 12b.: Use IPM techniques to eliminate, suppress, or control pests using both chemical and nonchemical control techniques					
		Objective 12c: Continue to conduct pest monitoring and pest management requirements outlined in the statewide IPMP					

Management Area	INRMP Appendix	Objectives and Projects to Achieve Objectives	Year	Method[1]	Proponent[2]	STEP #	Status
Invasive Species Management	J	Objective 13a: Adhere to the guidelines and projects presented in the Camp Beauregard Invasive Species Management Plan					
		Objective 13b: Control invasive species					
		Eliminate invasive species (10 acres per year)	Annually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Clean and inspect vehicles and equipment	Continually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Prohibit the planning of invasive species	Continually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Reseed with native grasses	Continually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Installation-wide survey	2019	C	ENV		Contracted
Climate Change	K	Objective 14a: Determine thresholds where climate change actions will be required.					
		Develop Climate Change Vulnerabilities Assessments for priority natural resources	2023	IH	ENV		

Table 2. Camp Minden Planned Projects (Subject to Funding Availability)

Management Area	INRMP Appendix	Objectives and Projects to Achieve Objectives	Year	Method[1]	Proponent[2]	STEP #	Status
Ecosystem Management	E	Objective 1a: Characterize natural communities					
		Installation-wide mammal survey	2022	C	ENV		
		Develop long-term monitoring program (database)	2021	C	ENV		
		Objective 1b: Manage for ecosystem health, wildlife, and improved habitat quality					
		Continue RTLA program	Annually	C, IH	ITAM		Ongoing
Fish and Wildlife Management	E	Objective 2b: Manage habitats for all native species					
		Maintain native species vegetative buffers around water sources	Continually	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
Migratory Bird Management	E	Objective 3a: Establish baseline population data for migratory species.					
		Installation-wide bird survey	2020	C	ENV		
Hunting and Fishing Program	E	Objective 4a: Collect and maintain data on game species					
		Collect and analyze harvested game data	Annually	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
Water Resources Protection	E	Objective 5a: Improve knowledge of riparian areas and their conditions					
		Conduct stream erosion surveys	Annually	IH	ENV, SITE		
		Objective 5b: Implement and enforce riparian buffers					
		Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		
Wetland Protection	E	Objective 6a: Implement and enforce wetland buffers					
		Identify buffer needs	2023	IH	ENV		
		Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		
Soil Erosion Control Management	E	Objective 7a: Identify and rehabilitate eroding training lands					
		Installation-wide survey	Annually	C	ITAM		
		Update Soil Erosion Control & Restoration Plan	2021	C	ITAM		
		Repair erosion problems	per need	IH	ITAM, SITE		

[1] Probable method of conducting project: C = contract; IH = in-house.

[2] Party responsible for funding and/or conduct of action: ENV = environmental office; FAC = facilities maintenance funds; ITAM = training funds; SITE = training site staff.

Management Area	INRMP Appendix	Objectives and Projects to Achieve Objectives	Year	Method[1]	Proponent[2]	STEP #	Status
		BMP Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ITAM, SITE		
Threatened and Endangered Species Management	F	Objective 8a: Monitor communities that could support threatened and endangered species					
		Update the ESMC	2020	C, IH	ENV		
		NLEB acoustic surveys	Annually	C, IH	ENV		Ongoing
		NLEB mist-net surveys	2020	C	ENV		
		Installation-wide survey for federal species	2025	C	ENV		
		State rare species survey	2021	C	ENV		
		Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		
Forest Management	G	Objective 9a: Maintain forest inventory					
		Installation-wide forest inventory and Forest Management Plan Update	2021	C	ENV		
		Objective 9b: Improve forest health and habitat quality by timber harvesting					
		Conduct timber harvesting IAW Forest Management Plan	Annually	C	ENV		Ongoing
Fire Management	G	Objective 10a: Suppress or prevent damage caused by wildfire					
		Purchase fire suppression equipment and train personnel	per need	IH	ENV		Ongoing
		Suppress wildfires	per need	C, IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
		Maintain firebreaks and construct new ones	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
		Objective 10b: Prescribe burn					
		Continue prescribed fire regime (2,500 acres per year)	Annually	C, IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
Integrated Pest Management	I	Objective 12a: Adhere to the guidelines and projects presented in the LAARNG's IPMP					
		Objective 12b: Use IPM techniques to eliminate, suppress, or control pests using both chemical and nonchemical control techniques					
		Objective 12c: Continue to conduct pest monitoring and pest management requirements outlined in the statewide IPMP					
Invasive Species Management	J	Objective 13a: Adhere to the guidelines and projects presented in the Camp Minden Invasive Species Management Plan					
		Objective 13b: Control invasive species					
		Eliminate invasive species (10 acres per year)	Annually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Clean and inspect vehicles and equipment	Continually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Prohibit the planning of invasive species	Continually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Reseed with native grasses	Continually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Installation-wide survey	2020	C	ENV		

Management Area	INRMP Appendix	Objectives and Projects to Achieve Objectives	Year	Method[1]	Proponent[2]	STEP #	Status
Climate Change	K	Objective 14a: Determine thresholds where climate change actions will be required.					
		Develop Climate Change Vulnerabilities Assessments for priority natural resources	2023	IH	ENV		

Table 3. Camp Villere Planned Projects (Subject to Funding Availability)

Management Area	INRMP Appendix	Objectives and Projects to Achieve Objectives	Year	Method[1]	Proponent[2]	STEP #	Status
Ecosystem Management	E	Objective 1a: Characterize natural communities					
		Installation-wide mammal survey	2022	C	ENV		
		Develop long-term monitoring program (database)	2021	C	ENV		
		Objective 1b: Manage for ecosystem health, wildlife, and improved habitat quality					
		Continue RTLA program	Annually	C, IH	ITAM		Ongoing
Fish and Wildlife Management	E	Objective 2b: Manage habitats for all native species					
		Maintain native species vegetative buffers around water sources	Continually	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
Migratory Bird Management	E	Objective 3a: Establish baseline population data for migratory species.					
		Installation-wide bird survey	2020	C	ENV		
Hunting and Fishing Program	E	Objective 4a: Collect and maintain data on game species					
		Collect and analyze harvested deer data	Annually	IH	ENV, SITE		Ongoing
Water Resources Protection	E	Objective 5a: Improve knowledge of riparian areas and their conditions					
		Conduct stream erosion surveys	Annually	IH	ENV, SITE		
		Objective 5b: Implement and enforce riparian buffers					
		Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		
Wetland Protection	E	Objective 6a: Implement and enforce wetland buffers					
		Identify buffer needs	2023	IH	ENV		
		Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		

[1] Probable method of conducting project: C = contract; IH = in-house.

[2] Party responsible for funding and/or conduct of action: ENV = environmental office; FAC = facilities maintenance funds; ITAM = training funds; SITE = training site staff.

Management Area	INRMP Appendix	Objectives and Projects to Achieve Objectives	Year	Method[1]	Proponent[2]	STEP #	Status
Soil Erosion Control Management	E	Objective 7a: Identify and rehabilitate eroding training lands					
		Installation-wide survey	Annually	C	ITAM		
		Develop a Soil Erosion Control & Restoration Plan	2021	C	ITAM		
		Repair erosion problems	per need	IH	ITAM, SITE		
		BMP Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ITAM, SITE		
Threatened and Endangered Species Management	F	Objective 8a: Monitor communities that could support threatened and endangered species					
		Update the ESMC	2020	C, IH	ENV		
		Installation-wide survey for federal species	2025	C	ENV		
		State rare species survey	2021	C	ENV		
		Training for LAARNG personnel	per need	IH	ENV, SITE		
Integrated Pest Management	I	Objective 12a: Adhere to the guidelines and projects presented in the LAARNG's IPMP					
		Objective 12b: Use IPM techniques to eliminate, suppress, or control pests using both chemical and nonchemical control techniques					
		Objective 12c: Continue to conduct pest monitoring and pest management requirements outlined in the statewide IPMP					
Invasive Species Management	J	Objective 13a: Adhere to the guidelines and projects presented in the Camp Villere Invasive Species Management Plan					
		Objective 13b: Control invasive species					
		Eliminate invasive species (10 acres per year)	Annually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Clean and inspect vehicles and equipment	Continually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Prohibit the planning of invasive species	Continually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Reseed with native grasses	Continually	IH	FAC, SITE		Ongoing
		Installation-wide survey	2020	C	ENV		
Climate Change	K	Objective 14a: Determine thresholds where climate change actions will be required.					
		Develop Climate Change Vulnerabilities Assessments for priority natural resources	2023	IH	ENV		

2.3 Alternatives Considered

NEPA, CEQ regulations and 32 CFR Part 651 requires Federal agencies to consider reasonable alternatives to a Proposed Action. The development and consideration of alternatives helps identify and avoid impacts while also identifying reasonable ways to achieve the stated purpose and need. An alternative must be considered reasonable to warrant detailed evaluation. The LAARNG planning process included extensive screening and has considered two alternatives: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. This section discusses the development and screening of considered alternatives, addresses alternatives to the Proposed Action and describes the No Action.

2.3.1 Alternatives Development (Screening Criteria)

The following screening criteria were developed and applied to evaluate alternatives for meeting the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action:

1. Will the alternative provide LAARNG natural resource personnel with an updated baseline description of Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere and their surrounding environment?

2. Will the alternative present practical options and management activities consistent with LAARNG's training mission and provide for the management and stewardship of natural resources to promote conservation, enhancement, and sustainability of existing ecosystems within Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere?

3. Will the alternative be compliant with the SAIA and related Department of Army guidance, which requires cooperating partners to review the existing INRMP at least once every five years for operation and effect?

Table 4. Screening Criteria Comparison Matrix

Screening Criteria	No Action Alternative	Preferred Action Alternative
Update baseline description of Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere and its surrounding environment	No	Yes
Provide options for management and stewardship of natural resources	Yes	Yes
Compliant with SAIA, Army guidance, and with signatures obtained in the previous 5 years	No	Yes

2.3.2 Evaluated Alternatives

NEPA, CEQ regulations, and 32 CFR 651 require all reasonable alternatives to be rigorously explored and objectively evaluated. Alternatives eliminated from detailed study must be identified along with a brief discussion of the reasons for eliminating them. For purposes of analysis, an alternative was considered "reasonable" only if it would enable the LAARNG to accomplish the environmental mission of enhancing natural resources at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere to meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action. "Unreasonable" alternatives would not enable the LAARNG to meet the purpose of and need for the Proposed Action.

The 2015 INRMP identified goals, objectives, and projects to sustain military readiness, promote environmental stewardship, and conserve biodiversity. These were reevaluated and some of the goals, objectives, and projects were changed or deleted for the revised INRMP. Some new goals, objectives, and projects were introduced in the revised INRMP. Cooperatoive Preparation with the USFWS and LDWF, and full implementation of the INRMP is an Army requirement. As such, other alternatives, including partial implementation of the 2015 or 2020 INRMP, were considered but were dismissed as not feasible, impracticable, or precluded by legal insufficiency.

Applying the screening criteria, no reasonable alternatives were identified for detailed analysis in this EA. As such, only the No Action Alternative and Proposed Action Alternative will be evaluated throughout the remainder of this document.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, natural resource management would continue under the outdated 2015-2019 INRMP. This alternative has been analyzed as required by NEPA and its implementing regulations. The 2015 INRMP does not address the NLEB or Louisiana pine snake, nor does it include updated survey data. Additionally, per SAIA the existing INRMP is over five years old. Furthermore, failure to approve and implement a revised INRMP may result in gaps in protection of environmental resources. While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action, this alternative was retained to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, as required under the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Part 1502.14). The No Action Alternative reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action entails approval and implementation of the revised INRMP. The revised INRMP encompasses current operations at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere, as well as ensures compliance with current environmental standards and with the SAIA. This INRMP provides LAARNG natural resource personnel with a baseline description of the installations and their surrounding environments. The revised INRMP also provides management practices that will allow the LAARNG to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate negative impacts while enhancing the positive impacts of the installations' mission on regional ecosystems. Natural resources management has been integrated with the military operations. Accordingly, this revised INRMP presents management activities that are consistent with the LAARNG's training mission and stewardship of natural resources on the installations. In some cases, the implementation of these management activities may sacrifice the improvement of natural resources in deference to the safety and efficiency of the military mission.

2.3.3 Alternatives' Impacts Comparison Matrix

The environmental consequences of both alternatives have been evaluated in the coming sections, and a summary of the environmental consequences is provided in **Table 5**.

Table 5. Summary of Environmental Consequences

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Land Use	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short-term impacts to land use because land use will not be immediately impacted by the Proposed Action. Long-term beneficial impact through programmatic monitoring and BMPs described in the INRMP.
Air Quality	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action, as current operations emissions would continue.
Noise	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts to noise are anticipated, as the Proposed Action would not result in increased traffic.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short-term impacts to geology, topography, or soils were identified, because these attributes would not be immediately impacted by the Proposed Action. Long-term beneficial impacts through programmatic monitoring and BMPs described in INRMP.
Water Resources	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short-term impacts to water resources, as the Proposed Action does not directly affect water resources. Long-term beneficial impacts achieved through the proposed projects and BMPs described in INRMP.
Biological Resources	Potential long-term, significant adverse impact to the northern long-eared bat (species was not included in 2015 INRMP).	No short-term impacts to biological resources. Long-term beneficial impacts through surveys, programmatic monitoring, and BMPs described in INRMP.
Cultural Resources	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts resulting from the Proposed Action.
Socioeconomics (including Environmental Justice and Protection of Children)	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.
Infrastructure	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.

3.0 Affected Environment

This section describes the existing conditions at Camps Beauregard (specifically the Camp Beauregard Training Site [CBTS] and Esler Field), Minden, and Villere and provides a basis for evaluating the effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives. This EA focuses on resources and issues of concern within the following general environmental resource categories:

- Land Use
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Geology, Topography, and Soils
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Socio-Economics
- Environmental Justice
- Infrastructure
- Hazardous and Toxic Materials

Additional detailed information on the past and existing conditions at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere can be found in the 2020-2024 Revised INRMP.

As indicated in **Section 1.5**, a precursory look at socioeconomics, environmental justice, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials/waste was conducted. However, due to these resources not being present or not likely to be impacted through implementation of the Proposed Action, these environmental impact categories did not require further analysis.

3.1 Location Description

3.1.1 Camp Beauregard

Camp Beauregard and Esler Field are located in north central Louisiana, northeast of the Cities of Alexandria/Pineville (see **Figure 1**), with borders extending into Grant and Rapides parishes. Camp Beauregard encompasses approximately 13,361 acres and is divided into two units, a 12,642 acre training site (CBTS) and a cantonment area of 719 acres. The CBTS is bordered by the Kisatchie National Forest to the north and west, undeveloped timber lands with scattered small residences to the east, and Esler Field to the south. The CBTS is designated as a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) under the limited management of the LDWF. Esler Field, which lies immediately south of the CBTS, encompasses a total of 2,136 acres.

3.1.2 Camp Minden

Camp Minden is located in Webster and Bossier parishes in northwest Louisiana approximately 22 miles east of Shreveport (see **Figure 2**). The site is bordered by U.S. Highway 80 to the north, State Highway 164 to the south, Clarke Bayou to the west, and Bayou Dorcheat to the east. Camp Minden occupies 14,993 acres of land within the former boundaries of the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant.

3.1.3 Camp Villere

Camp Villere is located on approximately 1,480 acres in St. Tammany Parish in southeast Louisiana approximately three miles northeast of Slidell (**Figure 3**). It is bounded by West Perimeter Road on the north and west, East Perimeter Road on the north and east, and Grantham College Road to the south.

3.2 Land Use

3.2.1 Camp Beauregard

Camp Beauregard has one cantonment area, which accounts for only 5.7 percent of the entire installation land area. This area is essentially urban and contains the majority of the facilities related to administrative, command, industrial, maintenance, warehousing, housing, logistical, billeting, and other installation support land uses. There are an additional 1,672 acres on the CBTS and Esler Field that are cleared of trees, and include buildings, parking lots, mowed fields and roadsides, and military ranges. These areas are primarily used for training and maneuvers.

Currently, Camp Beauregard serves as one of the primary training sites for the LAARNG, with over 13 field-training areas and with temporary housing for over a thousand soldiers. Existing training facilities on the CBTS include:

MPMG Range
Zero Range
Modified Record Fire Range
Mini Tank Range
Non-automated Pistol Range
25 mm Pistol Range
M203 Grenade Launcher Range
Light Demolition Range
Combat Pistol Qualification Course
Hand Grenade Qualification Course
Urban Assault Course
U.S. Marshal Service Complex
U.S. Marshal Service KD Range

The majority of Esler Field is either maintained grasslands and/or developed. There are approximately 30 buildings and structures on the facility to include the airport terminal, two runways, two aircraft hangers, a fire department, maintenance sheds, an airport office, several temporary trailers, storage buildings, an air traffic control tower, Federal Aviation Administration radio equipment buildings, taxiways, a Combined Maintenance Facility, and an Army Aviation Support Facility. In addition, the airfield encompasses approximately 500 acres adjacent to the runways and on the runway approaches that have been cleared of obstructions per Federal Aviation Administration regulations. Approximately five miles of paved roads, 10 miles of unpaved roads, and numerous paved parking areas are located throughout the airfield.

3.2.2 Camp Minden

The main cantonment area is located adjacent to Gate 1 in the north central portion of the installation and consists of the Post Headquarters, Regional Training Institute (RTI), Armed Forces Reserve Center and Readiness Center, Post Exchange, Range Central, Facility Engineers, Unit Training Equipment Shop, state maintenance shop, billeting facilities, drill hall, and dining facility. Additional facilities include nine water wells, five water towers, a sewage treatment plant, and a water treatment plant.

The 199th Leadership Regiment is responsible for conducting the RTI's training courses. The RTI conducts leadership training, military occupational and skill qualification courses including:

- Senior Leaders Course
- Army Basic Instructor Course
- Advanced Leaders Course
- Carpentry and Masonry Specialist
- Officer Candidate School
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Military Policeman
- Motor Transport Operator
- Warrior Leader Course

Collectively, there are approximately 100 miles of paved and improved roads within the boundaries of Camp Minden. This includes approximately 60 miles of improved convoy training routes and 47 miles of un-improved convoy training routes. Perimeter roads have been established along the property boundary. An undetermined number of miles of dirt roads and logging trails are also present throughout the undeveloped, wooded portions. There are also 65 miles of railways present (LAARNG 1998).

Existing training facilities on Camp Minden include:

Combat Pistol Range	Land Navigation Course
Multi-Purpose Training Range	Field Training Areas
Wheel Vehicle Driving Course	Confidence Course
Light Maneuver Training Areas	Rappelling Tower
Heavy Maneuver Training Areas	ROPES Course

Camp Minden has a total of 13 maneuver training areas consisting of 11,419 acres.

3.2.3 Camp Villere

Camp Villere contains a small cantonment area on the southwest corner of the installation. The training site is primarily used as a maintenance support site and equipment storage facility. Training facilities consist of a rope course, confidence course, seven bivouac sites, two small arms ranges offering alternate C qualification, and the Slidell Regional Public Safety Academy. One of the arms ranges is currently licensed to local law enforcement agencies.

3.3 Air Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 6 and the LDEQ regulates air quality in Louisiana. The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q), as amended, gives USEPA the responsibility to establish the primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (40 CFR §50) that set acceptable concentration levels for six criteria pollutants: particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ozone (O_3), and lead. Short-term NAAQS (1-, 8-, and 24-hour periods) have been established for pollutants contributing to acute health effects, while long-term NAAQS (annual

averages) have been established for pollutants contributing to chronic health effects. Each state has the authority to adopt standards stricter than those established under the Federal program; however, Louisiana accepts the Federal standards.

Areas are designated by the USEPA as “attainment”, “nonattainment”, “maintenance”, or “unclassified” with respect to the NAAQS. Regions in compliance with the standards are designated as “attainment” areas. In areas where the applicable NAAQS are not being met, a “nonattainment” status is designated. Areas that have been classified as "nonattainment" but are now in compliance can be redesignated "maintenance" status if the state completes an air quality planning process for the area. Areas for which no monitoring data is available are designated as “unclassified,” and are by default considered to be in attainment of the NAAQS.

The General Conformity Rule (40 CFR Part 51, Subpart W) requires Federal agencies to prepare written Conformity Determinations for Federal actions in or affecting NAAQS in non-attainment areas, except when the action is covered under the Transportation Conformity Rule or when the action is exempted because the total increase in emissions is insignificant, or a *de minimis* amount.

In 2010, the CEQ issued guidance on incorporating greenhouse gas considerations into NEPA review of federal actions. Annual carbon dioxide equivalent emissions of more the 25,000 metric tons are the minimum level in assessing impacts on the environment and for reporting emissions under the Clean Air Act. Examples of proposals for federal agency actions that may warrant a detailed analysis and discussion of the greenhouse gas impacts and mitigation include: 1) approval of a large solid waste landfill; 2) approval of energy facilities; or 3) authorization of a methane venting coal mine (CEQ 2010).

3.3.1 Camp Beauregard

The Proposed Action includes activities at Camp Beauregard, which is located in Rapides and Grant Parishes. Ambient air quality in both parishes is in attainment with all six NAAQS criteria pollutants (USEPA 2019). Therefore, a conformity analysis is not required for this action.

Prescribed burning is an area source of criteria pollutant emissions on Camps Beauregard. Whereas wildfires are unplanned events and the smoke generated cannot be managed for reduced impacts to smoke sensitive areas, prescribed fires reduce the potential for destructive wildfires and contribute to the maintenance of long-term air quality as acknowledged in the USEPA’s Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildlands and Prescribed Fires (USEPA 1998). This policy also recognizes that prescribed fires are an irreplaceable management tool in the process of maintaining biological diversity and balance within fire-dependent natural communities. Furthermore, the USEPA policy is that land managers should coordinate with state air quality managers to “allow fire to function in its natural role in wildlands” while “protecting public health and welfare by minimizing smoke impacts” (USPEA 1998). Moreover, timing of prescribed burns will be based on environmental factors which include air quality considerations.

The LAARNG proposes to annually burn 18% (2,500 acres) of Camp Beauregard while minimizing any impacts to the training mission. The LAARNG Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan’s primary purpose is to ensure that fire management program areas and

military activities on LAARNG's lands are integrated and consistent with federal stewardship requirements. The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) oversees prescribed burning at Camps Beauregard and is responsible for fire protection and suppression of wildfire and non-structural fires with LAARNG support as necessary. The LDAF utilizes smoke management plans to address procedures to manage smoke and achieve national clean air objectives while improving the quality of wildland ecosystems through the use of prescribed fire.

3.3.2 Camp Minden

The Proposed Action includes activities at Camp Minden, which is located in Bossier and Webster Parishes. Ambient air quality in both parishes is in attainment with all six NAAQS criteria pollutants (USEPA 2019). Therefore, a conformity analysis is not required for this action.

Prescribed burning is also an area source of criteria pollutant emissions on Camps Minden. Prescribed burning activities at Camp Minden are conducted in the same manner as described for Camp Beauregard, including the proposal to burn 2,500 acres per year. As at Camp Beauregard, the LDAF oversees prescribed burning at Camps Minden and is responsible for fire protection and suppression of wildfire and non-structural fires with LAARNG support as necessary.

3.3.3 Camp Villere

The Proposed Action includes activities at Camp Villere, which is located in St. Tammany Parish. Ambient air quality in St. Tammany Parish is in attainment with all six NAAQS criteria pollutants (USEPA 2019). Therefore, a conformity analysis is not required for this action.

No prescribed burning is conducted at Camp Villere.

3.4 Noise

Noise is defined as any sound that is undesirable because it interferes with communication, is intense enough to damage hearing, or is otherwise intrusive. Human response to noise varies depending on the type and characteristics of the noise, distance between the noise source and the receptor, receptor sensitivity, and time of day. Noise is often generated by activities part of everyday life, such as construction or vehicular traffic.

Sound varies by both intensity and frequency. Sound pressure level, described in decibels (dB), is used to quantify sound intensity. The dB is a logarithmic unit that expresses the ratio of a sound pressure level to a standard reference level. Hertz (Hz) are used to quantify sound frequency. The human ear responds differently to different frequencies. A-weighing, described in a-weighted decibels (dBA), approximates this frequency response to express accurately the perception of sound by humans. Sounds encountered in daily life and their approximate level in dBA are provided in **Table 6**.

Table 6.Common Sounds and Their Levels

Outdoor	Sound level (dBA)	Indoor
Motorcycle	100	Subway train
Tractor	90	Garbage disposal
Noisy restaurant	85	Blender
Downtown (large city)	80	Ringing telephone
Freeway traffic	70	TV audio
Normal conversation	60	Sewing machine
Rainfall	50	Refrigerator
Quiet residential area	40	Library

Source: Harris 1998

C-weighted decibels (dBC) are similar to dBA, except they incorporate more low-frequency noise. C-weighting is predominately used to describe noise that has a component of rumble or the potential for noise-induced vibrations. It has been used traditionally to describe extreme impulse-type sounds, such as the sounds from large-caliber weapons firing and demolition operations (FICUN 1980).

The Military Noise Environment and Land Use Compatibility. The military noise environment consists primarily of three types of noise: transportation noise from aircraft and vehicles, noise from firing at small-arms ranges, and impulsive noise from large-caliber weapons and demolitions. AR 200-1 defines recommended noise limits from activities for established uses of land with respect to environmental noise. Three noise zones are defined in the regulation:

- Zone I: Relatively quiet noise environment. Acceptable for housing, schools, medical facilities, and other noise-sensitive land uses.
- Zone II: Moderately loud noise environment. Normally not recommended for housing, schools, medical facilities, and other noise-sensitive land uses.
- Zone III: Loud noise environment. Not recommended for housing, schools, medical facilities, and other noise-sensitive land uses.

3.4.1 Camp Beauregard

Camp Beauregard trains over 20,000 soldiers annually. Existing noise conditions on Camp Beauregard include live-fire exercises, maneuvering mechanized/armored vehicles; small arms range firing, and maneuver training. The training areas and the firing ranges are used extensively throughout the year with the heaviest times being between June and August. Noise Zone III from the small arms activity is contained within the training area boundary and Noise Zones II activity extends slightly beyond the southern installation boundary onto Esler Field. It is estimated that up to 3 percent of individuals near the installation boundary are annoyed by exiting training noise.

Rapides Parish noise ordinance (municipal code §19-51) does not include specific not-to-exceed sound levels or specific construction activity restrictions; however, unnecessary or continued loud noise is not allowed between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

3.4.2 Camp Minden

Camp Minden has a single existing combat pistol range located in the southeast quadrant of the installation. The range is fully automated with six lanes. The existing small-arms noise Zones I and II do not extend beyond the boundary of the installation.

The LAARNG does not directly conduct or oversee any military demolitions or large caliber training activities on the installation; however, two lease tenants test explosive products on the installation. Noise Zone II extends beyond the northeast boundary less than one-half mile. Noise Zone III is completely contained within the installation boundary.

Camp Minden has no airfield, aircraft assault airstrips, landing zones, or drop zones. Therefore, aircraft operations or activities do not contribute to the existing noise environment.

Camp Minden, though not subject to local noise policies or ordinances, has no existing activities that conflict with local standards and guidelines related to human health and safety.

3.4.3 Camp Villere

Camp Villere is primarily utilized for maintenance support and equipment storage; however, there are two small arms ranges located on the installations. The existing small-arms noise Zones I and II do not extend beyond the boundary of the installation.

The LAARNG does not directly conduct or oversee any military demolitions or large caliber training activities on Camp Villere. Camp Villere has no airfield, aircraft assault airstrips, landing zones, or drop zones. Therefore, aircraft operations or activities do not contribute to the existing noise environment.

Camp Villere has no existing activities that conflict with local standards and guidelines related to human health and safety.

3.5 Geography, Topography, and Soils

3.5.1 Camp Beauregard

Geology

Camp Beauregard consists of steeply sloping uplands and nearly level upland drainages, both of which are carved into two terrace formations. The bulk of Camp Beauregard lies on the Williana terrace, the oldest of the Pleistocene formations in the State. These formations are well-oxidized, cross-bedded, fluvial coarse sands with extensive irregular zones or layers of chert gravels (Saucier 1974). They appear to have been deposited by swiftly flowing braided streams as a widespread blanket over a dissected Tertiary age landscape (Saucier 1974). Subsequent erosion resulted in the diminishment of the blanket of soil to discontinuous ridge and hilltop caps of graveliferous material (Saucier 1974). Although these gravel deposits can be as thick as 15 feet in places, at Camp Beauregard they are only several feet thick (Klug 1955).

Camp Beauregard lies across a unit of the Williana Terrace that is approximately 15 square miles in size. The ground surface is eroded deeply from stream action, and erosion, in some places, has exposed the older Tertiary bedrock. The sediments underlying the ground surface consist of

gravel, course sand, silt, and unconsolidated clay. Intermittent streams dissect the surface heavily, and the general appearance of Camp Beauregard is of rolling hills (Fisk 1940).

The western edge of Camp Beauregard is situated on the Bentley terrace formation. The Bentley terrace also is categorized as an undifferentiated terrace, sharing the same general depositional and formational history as the adjacent Williana terrace (Saucier 1974). The topography of the Bentley Terrace is relatively angular, distinguishing it from the more gently rolling hills of the Williana Terrace (Fisk 1940). This area contains red clays and brown silts with layers of gravel.

The area directly surrounding Flagon Bayou consists primarily of recently deposited alluvium and materials of the Fleming formation of the Miocene series. The Fleming formation consists of undifferentiated fluvial silts and sands, with calcareous brackish-water clays (Fisk 1940). Two of six members of the Fleming formation are present. First is the Carnahan Bayou member, located along slopes of a finger-ridge between two small tributaries flowing west into Flagon Bayou and in the Longleaf Glade Natural Area (McInnis et al. 1995a). This member is fluvial in origin and is characterized by alternating beds of siltstones, sandstones, clays, and black chert gravel (McInnis et al. 1995a). The second member of the Fleming Formation is Dough Hills, exposed along the western slopes above Flagon Bayou in the southwestern corner, as well as in glade-like areas of the Flagon Bayou Tributaries Natural Area (McInnis et al. 1995).

The youngest soils present consist of the alluvial deposits along Flagon Bayou and other streams (Fruge 1996). These soils are Holocene in age, and they include meander belt alluvium, backswamps, natural levees, and undifferentiated alluvium.

Low, circular mounds known sometimes as “pimple mounds” are found throughout Camp Beauregard. These features can be up to 100 feet in diameter and up to five or six feet in height (Kniffen 1988). The origin of these mounds is still under debate. It has been suggested that pimple mounds are the result of Native American construction, burrowing animals, ants, the wallowing of bison, clumps of vegetation, gas, artesian water, whirlwinds, and overturned trees (Kniffen 1988). Saucier (1974) favors a biological origin for these features, based on geological and temporal factors, such as the fact that none are associated with deposits younger than 2,000 years old.

Topography

Camp Beauregard is located in the Upper West Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic region (U.S. Geological Survey [USGS] 2003). Topographic relief for the installation is depicted on the USGS Alexandria, Holloway, Green Gables, and Ball topographic quadrangles. Topography on Camp Beauregard is hilly to gently rolling, with elevation ranging from approximately 210 feet mean sea level to approximately 40 feet above mean sea level. The higher elevations of the site occur on scattered knolls that are separated by broad drainages. The lower elevations of the site are located along the floodplains of Flagon Bayou and its tributaries at the eastern boundary of the installation.

Soils

Soil types on Camp Beauregard and Esler Field were determined by using the Soil Survey of Fort Louisiana (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2004). Two soil associations comprise

approximately 90 percent of the surface area: the Ruston-Malbis Association in Rapides Parish and the Smithdale-Ruston Association in Grant Parish. Based on the soil surveys, there are 17 soil series present on Camp Beauregard and Esler Field (**Table 7**).

Table 7. Soils at Camp Beauregard and Esler Field

Symbol	Series
CeC	Cadeville very fine sandy loam, 1-5 percent slopes
CeE	Cadeville very fine sandy loam, 5-20 percent slopes
GaB	Glenmora very fine sandy loam, 1-3 percent slopes
GeC	Gore silt loam, 1-5 percent slopes
GeD	Gore silt loam, 5-12 percent slopes
GoA	Guyton-Ouachita silt loams, frequently flooded
GsA	Guyton-Sardis silt loams, frequently flooded
KeC	Keithville very fine sandy loam, 1-5 percent slopes
KnB	Kolin silt loam, 1-5 percent slopes
LsB	Libuse silt loam, 1-5 percent slopes
MkD	Mckamie very fine sandy loam, 5-12 percent slopes
PkC	Pinetucky fine sandy loam, 1-5 percent slopes
RsB	Ruston fine sandy loam, 1-3 percent slopes
RsC	Ruston fine sandy loam, 3-8 percent slopes
RSG	Ruston soils, graded, 1-12 percent slopes
SmE	Smithdale fine sandy loam, 8-12 percent slopes
UrA	Urbo silty clay loam, frequently flooded

Source: USDA 2004.

3.5.2 Camp Minden

Geology

Camp Minden is located in the Western Gulf Coastal Plain Province, north and east of the present-day Red River channel. Pertinent geological elements in the area include Tertiary, Pleistocene, and Holocene deposits. Tertiary deposits are the result of sea level fluctuations on shallow marine sediments. Sands, silts, and clays comprise the majority of the deposits. Tertiary deposits have been identified to the west, but not inside Camp Minden's boundaries. Tertiary deposits, however, directly underlie the more recent surface sediments found throughout the facility. When exposed, Tertiary deposits appear as uplifted and heavily eroded hills.

Tertiary deposits were eroded during the Pleistocene era by the Red River and its tributaries. The resulting terraces are found in descending order, from oldest to youngest, along the tops and flanks of the older Tertiary deposits. In northwest Louisiana, several terraces have been identified that roughly correspond to the sequence of terraces described for central Louisiana that includes the Williana, Bentley, Montgomery, and Prairie terraces. Only the two more recent formations, the Montgomery and Prairie terraces, are found at the surface within Camp Minden's boundaries (Peter et al. 1990). While there is some disagreement about the actual extent of each terrace, the general distribution suggests that Montgomery terrace deposits are dominant in the northern part of Camp Minden. There the uplands are higher in elevation and more dissected. Meanwhile the southern part of the installation is primarily comprised of Prairie terrace deposits

that are lower in elevation and have fewer deeply-cut drainage channels. At the lowest elevations, Holocene alluvial deposits are accumulating along the present-day waterways.

Pimple mounds have been observed within both the uplands and bottoms of the Camp Minden property. Most often, these small circular rises are associated with the Pleistocene terraces present at the facility.

Topography

Camp Minden is located in the Upper West Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic region (USGS 2003). The installation is bounded to the east by Bayou Dorcheat and to the west by Clark Bayou. Topographic relief for the installation is depicted on the USGS Doyline and Minden South topographic quadrangles. The area is generally flat to gently rolling except near streams where downcutting has occurred. The highest elevation at Camp Minden is approximately 225 feet, while the lowest (along Bayou Dorcheat) is 145 feet. The greatest change in elevation over a relatively short distance is along the east-facing escarpment of Bayou Dorcheat. Much micro-topographic variation occurs due to the presence of natural hillocks or "pimple mounds". These mounds average approximately 3 feet high and 50 feet in diameter and are especially evident in areas with Wrightsville soils, where they support islands of upland vegetation in otherwise wetland forests.

Soils

Soil types on Camp Minden were determined by using the USDA Soil Survey of Fort Louisiana (USDA 2004). The primary soil association is Kolin-Gore-Wrightsville, which covers roughly 78 percent of the installation. Overall, 13 soils have been mapped for Camp Minden and are primarily silty and sandy loams with a clay subsoil (**Table 8**).

Table 8. Soils at Camp Minden

Symbol	Series
BnC	Bienville loamy fine sand, 1-5 percent slopes
CaB	Cahaba fine sandy loam, 1-3 percent slopes
GeC	Gore silt loam, 1-5 percent slopes
GeD	Gore silt loam, 5-12 percent slopes
GnA	Gurdon silt loam, 1-3 percent slopes
GoA	Guyton-Ouachita silt loams, frequently flooded
GtA	Guyton silt loam
KnB	Kolin silt loam, 1-5 percent slopes
PkC	Pinetucky fine sandy loam, 1-5 percent slopes
PkD	Pinetucky fine sandy loam, 5-8 percent slopes
RsB	Ruston fine sandy loam, 1-3 percent slopes
SmD	Smithdale fine sandy loam, 5-12 percent slopes
WvA	Wrightsville silt loam

Source: USDA 2004.

3.5.3 Camp Villere

Geology

Camp Villere is located in an area of the state with a different geological history than Camp Beauregard or Camp Minden. Camp Villere is in the East Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic zone, and much of the installation is situated on the Prairie terrace. The Prairie terrace is an area of Pleistocene epoch relict lagoons, barrier islands, and shallow offshore zones (Saucier 1974). Most of the barrier island complexes of a Pleistocene shoreline now lie beneath Lake Pontchartrain and its swamps, and the area where Camp Villere is situated probably was the Pleistocene relict lagoon that existed north of the barrier islands (Saucier 1974). In addition, deposition of alluvium throughout the Pleistocene in response to sea level increases contributed to terrace formation in this area, as did colluvial deposition (The Nature Conservancy [TNC] 2000). The final contributing factor to terrace formation around Camp Villere was the structural uplifting to the north and subsidence to the south of east-west fault lines located along the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain (TNC 2000).

Pimple mounds, although associated with prairie terrace deposits elsewhere in the state, are conspicuously absent from the Prairie terrace of southeastern Louisiana (Saucier 1974).

Topography

Camp Villere is located in the East Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic region which stretches from the Florida Panhandle and southwest Georgia to the Florida Parishes of Louisiana (USGS 2003). Topographic relief for the installation is depicted on the USGS Slidell topographic quadrangle. The terrain of Camp Villere is relatively flat, with elevation ranging from approximately 15 feet mean sea level along the drainages to 25 feet mean sea level in the northwest corner of the installation.

Soils

Soil types on Camp Villere were determined by using the USDA Soil Survey of Fort Louisiana (USDA 2004). The primary soil association is Myatt-Stough-Prentiss complex which is characterized by level to 3 percent slopes and fine sandy loams that are poor to moderately well drained, and have low fertility. Overall, eight soils have been mapped for Camp Villere and are primarily sandy loams with a clay subsoil (**Table 9**).

Table 9. Soils at Camp Villere

Symbol	Series
BrA	Brimstone-Guyton silt loams
GuA	Guyton silt loam, occasionally flooded
LaA	Latonia fine sandy loam
MtA	Myatt fine sandy loam
MyA	Myatt fine sandy loam, frequently flooded
ObA	Ouachita and Bibb soils, frequently flooded
PrA	Prentiss fine sandy loam, 0-1 percent slopes
StA	Stough fine sandy loam

Source: USDA 2004.

3.6 Water Resources

3.6.1 Camp Beauregard

Surface Water

Camp Beauregard is located within the Ouachita Drainage Basin (LDEQ 2017). The rolling uplands of Camp Beauregard are generally higher and more dissected than the immediately surrounding area in all directions; thus, the installation drains to the east, west, north, and south. Drainages of Camp Beauregard consist primarily of intermittent streams; the only permanent streams on the installation are Flagon Bayou and Clinton Branch. The southern one-half and most of the eastern and western portions of the installation are drained by tributaries to Flagon Bayou, which include Mill Creek and unnamed tributaries of Beaver Creek. Flagon Bayou headwaters drain the uplands of southern Grant Parish and northeastern Rapides Parish. South of the installation, Flagon Bayou flows east, then turns north and flows through the northeastern corner of the installation before turning east again and discharging into Catahoula Lake. The northern portion of Camp Beauregard is drained by Clinton Branch and its tributaries, and the headwaters of unnamed tributaries that flow northeastwardly into the Little River shortly before it discharges into Catahoula Lake. Two small man-made lakes on Camp Beauregard (Twin Lakes) occur on tributaries to Clinton Branch.

Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that each state identify those waters that do not currently support designated uses, and to establish a priority ranking of these waters by taking into account the severity of the pollution and the designated uses of such waters. The 2018 Louisiana Water Quality Inventory: Integrated Report (305(b)/303(d) (LDEQ 2018) lists none of the waterbodies on Camp Beauregard/Esler Field as impaired.

Groundwater

The Carnahan Bayou Aquifer is the major freshwater aquifer beneath Camp Beauregard. This aquifer consists of Miocene sands that dip and thicken southward. Freshwater is at a depth of approximately 800 feet; however, because of an underlying clay unit, wells are not constructed below 675 feet. Groundwater beneath this clay unit is salty. The Carnahan Bayou Aquifer is recharged by rainfall from outcrop areas located in the parishes north of Rapides Parish (LAARNG 2001).

Floodplains

A search of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Service Center indicated that Camp Beauregard/Esler Field is located on Map Panels 2201450155B, 2201450175B, and 2201450075B (FEMA 2019). A review of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) indicates that portions of the installation are classified as Zone A, defined as the 100-year flood zone in which flood elevations and flood hazard factors have not yet been determined. Areas in the 100-year flood zone are primarily located in association with Flagon Bayou and Clinton Branch and the tributaries of these waterbodies.

Waters of the U.S. and Wetlands

Waters of the United States (Section 328.3[2] of the CWA) are those waters used in interstate or foreign commerce, subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, and all interstate waters including interstate wetlands. Waters of the United States are further defined as all other waters such as

intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, natural ponds, or impoundments of waters, tributaries of waters, and territorial seas. Wetlands are those areas inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (USACE 1987).

In 2012, the LAARNG finalized a planning level wetland delineation of Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. The purpose of this planning level effort was to approximate the location and extent of wetlands and waters of the U.S. regulated by the USACE under Section 404 of the CWA. Based on GIS analysis and field surveys, it is estimated that the amount of wetlands within the CBTS and Esler Field range from 1,850.52 acres to 2,524.86 acres. Generally, wetlands cover 13% to 17% of the CBTS and Esler Field based on these estimates. Open water areas encompass 81.56 acres. In addition, a total of 46.11 miles of streams are located within the CBTS and Esler Field, including five perennial streams, 13 intermittent streams, and 27 ephemeral streams. **Figures 4** and **5** show potential wetlands and open water areas and potential waters of the U.S. on Camp Beauregard and Esler Field, respectively.

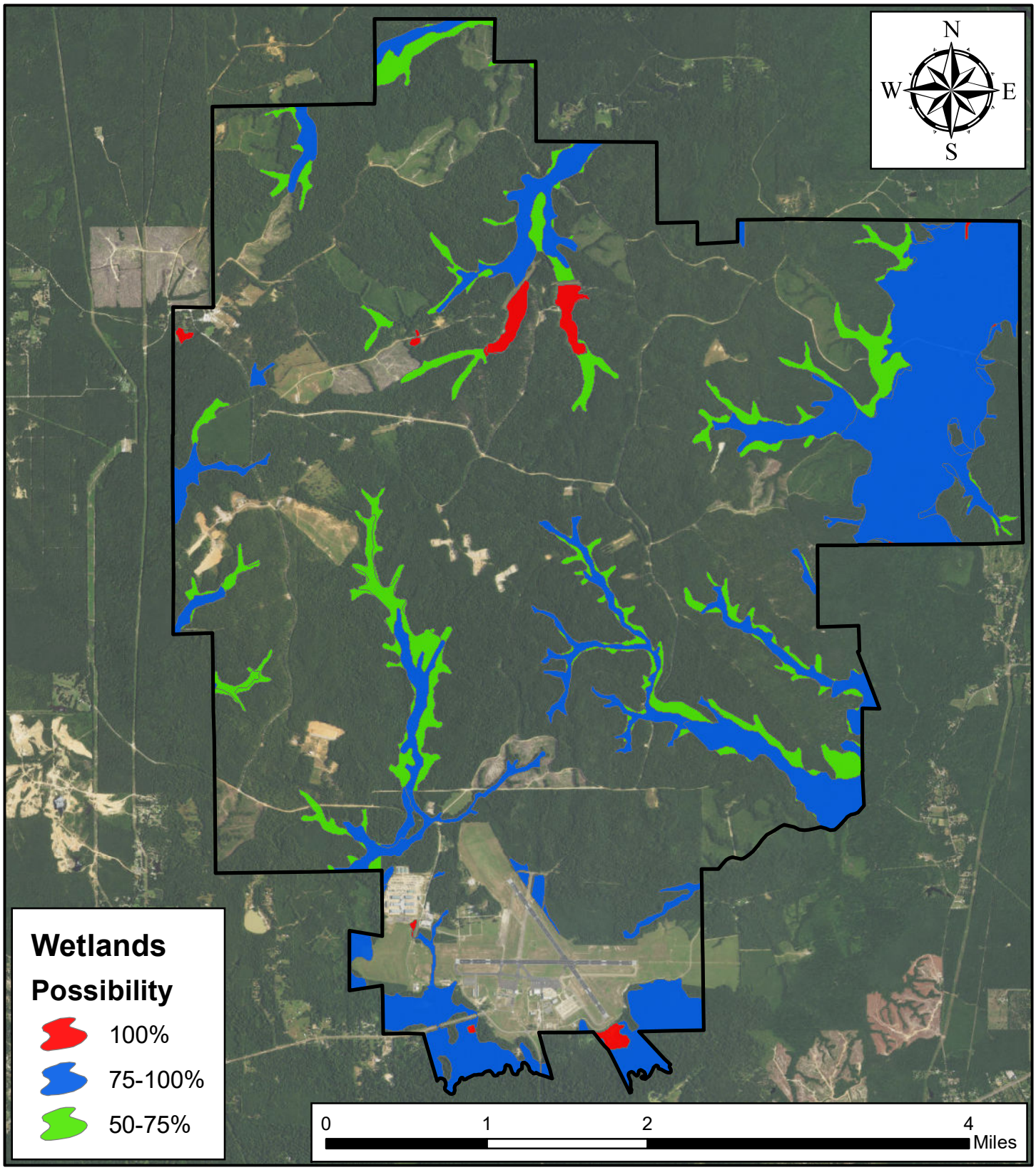
3.6.2 Camp Minden

Surface Water

Camp Minden is located in the Red River Drainage Basin (LDEQ 2017). This hydrologic segment includes most of Webster Parish, southeast Bossier and northwest Claiborne parishes, and portions of Bienville and Red River parishes. The primary streams on Camp Minden are Bayou Dorcheat and Clark Bayou, which create the eastern and western boundaries of the installation, respectively. Bayou Dorcheat originates in southern Arkansas, is impounded within Lake Bistineau just south of Camp Minden, and merges with Red Chute Bayou south of the dam to form Loggy Bayou, which subsequently enters the Red River. Bayou Dorcheat is designated by the LDWF as a Louisiana Natural and Scenic River from the Arkansas state line to its entrance into Lake Bistineau (LDWF 2010). As a result of this designation, channelization, clearing and snagging, channel realignment, reservoir construction, and commercial harvesting or cutting of trees or timber in violation of the provisions of the Louisiana Scenic Rivers Act are strictly prohibited (LDWF 1988).

Bayou Dorcheat is the only surface water body on Camp Minden for which data is contained in the LDEQ database. Surface water across Camp Minden ends up in the Bayou Dorcheat floodplain, which flows south to Lake Bistineau. According to the LDEQ, the designated waterbody uses in the Bayou Dorcheat-Arkansas State Line to Lake Bistineau (Scenic) sub-segment 100501 include primary contact recreation, secondary contact recreation, and propagation of fish and wildlife (LDEQ 2018). The LDEQ's 2018 Water Quality Inventory, Section 305(b) Report indicates that Bayou Dorcheat-Arkansas State Line to Lake Bistineau is currently supporting its designated uses for primary and secondary contact recreation, but not for propagation of fish and wildlife (LDEQ 2018). This subsection of Bayou Dorcheat is listed on Louisiana's 2018 303(d) Impaired List (LDEQ 2018).

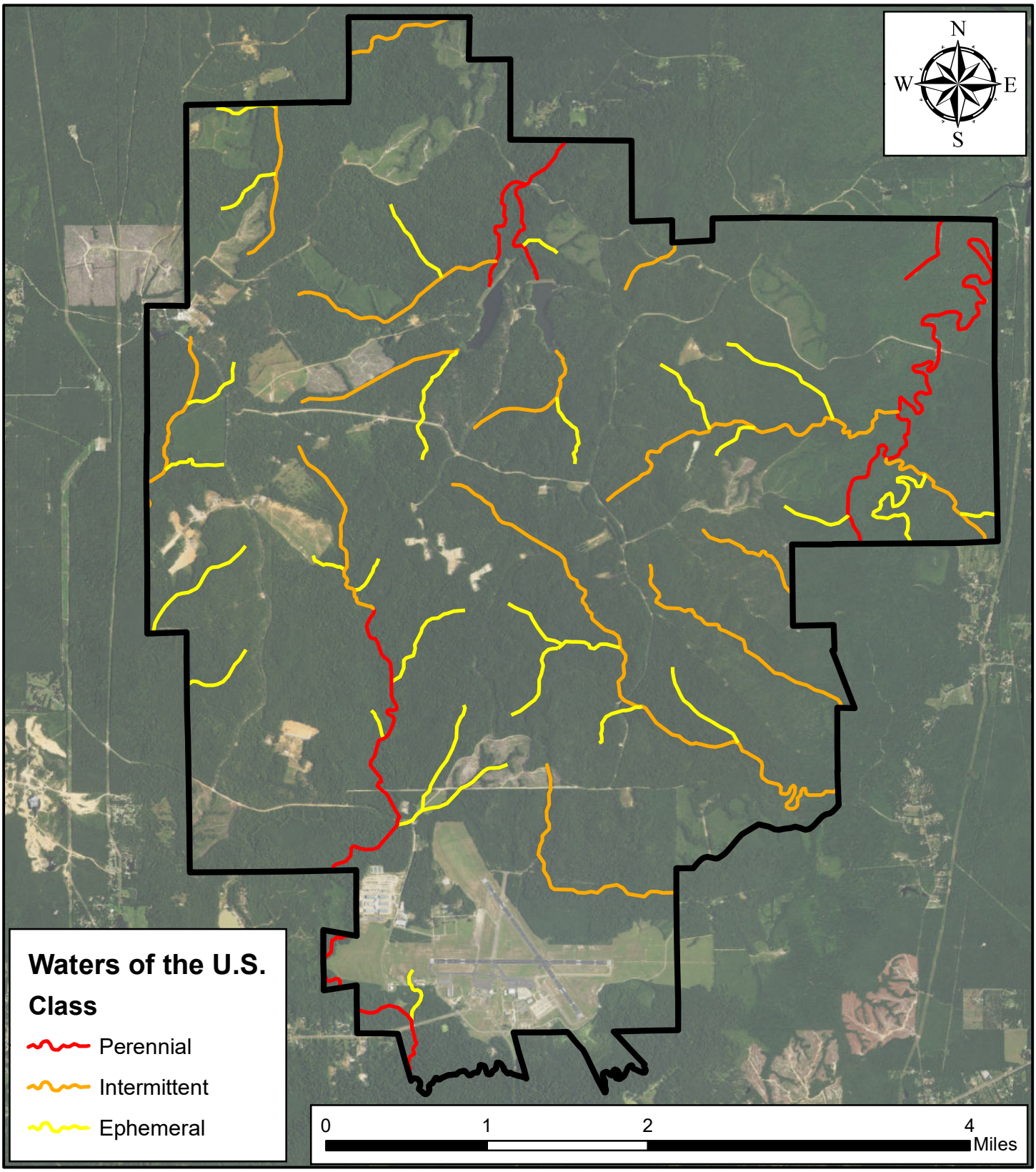
Figure 4. Potential Wetlands and Open Water Areas
on Camp Beauregard and Esler Field



Land Management Group, LLC.

Date: July 31, 2017

Figure 5. Potential Waters of the U.S. on Camp Beauregard and Esler Field



Land Management Group, LLC.	Date: July 31, 2017

Groundwater

The three major sources of groundwater that exist beneath Camp Minden include the Terrace, Sparta and Wilcox aquifers (LAARNG 1998). The uppermost aquifer is located in the Terrace deposits. The Terrace aquifer is divided into the Upper and the Lower Terrace aquifer and is separated by a semi-confining 5 to 15 foot thick clay-rich unit. The Upper Terrace is present in the central portion of the facility. The Lower Terrace aquifer underlies the Upper Terrace and is laterally continuous beneath the entire installation. The groundwater flow pattern within this water table aquifer is strongly influenced by the topography, major streams, ditches, ponds and lakes. Clarke Bayou, Dorcheat Bayou, and Boone Creek all appear to be major discharge areas for this aquifer. The areas in between these watercourses appear to be recharge areas to the shallow aquifer, with most recharge derived from local rainfall. There are two north-to-south groundwater divides in the Terrace aquifer which are defined by the topography. This aquifer is not used as a primary potable water supply.

The Sparta aquifer underlies the Terrace water table aquifer in the eastern half of the facility and has a thickness in the central to eastern portion of Camp Minden ranging from 0 to 45 feet. This aquifer is a major source of water supply east of Camp Minden but is too thin to act as a significant water supply for the installation. Where the Terrace aquifer is underlain by the Sparta aquifer, water from the Lower Terrace aquifer recharges the Sparta aquifer.

The Wilcox aquifer underlies the entire installation. The Wilcox ranges in thickness from 350 to 550 feet. The Wilcox consists of layered, interbedded, non-marine, fine-grained sands, silts, clays, and thin beds of lignite. Massive well sorted sand beds are found within the Wilcox and vary in thickness from 0 to 100 feet with an average thickness of 30 feet. The aquifer has a hydraulic conductivity of about 17 feet per day. The potable water supply for Camp Minden is obtained from this aquifer through the pumpage of nine on-site wells. Water flow is down dip, to the northeast.

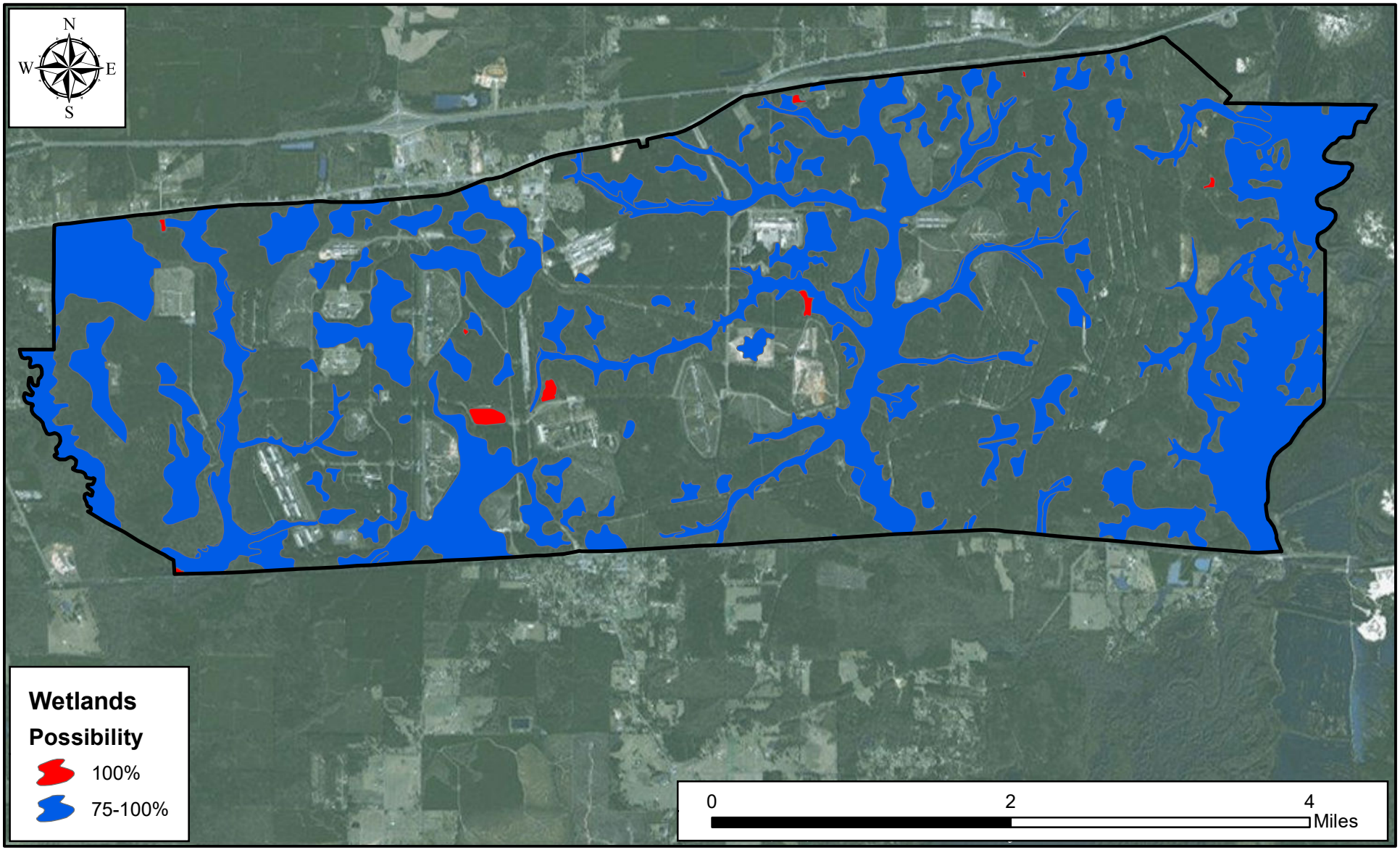
Floodplains

A search of the FEMA Flood Map Service Center indicated that Camp Minden is located on Map Panels 22015C0475D, 22119C0370E, 22119C0380E, 22015C0465D, 22119C0370E, and 22119C0390E (FEMA 2019). A review of the FIRMs indicates that portions of the installation are classified as Zone A. Areas in the 100-year flood zone are located in association with the many streams on the installation.

Waters of the U.S. and Wetlands

The findings of the 2012 planning level survey estimated that the amount of wetlands on Camp Minden range from 3,440.44 acres to 4,587.25 acres. Generally, wetlands cover 23% to 31% of Camp Minden based on these estimates. Open water areas encompass 35.19 acres. In addition, a total of 49.05 miles of streams are located on Camp Minden, including four perennial streams, 15 intermittent streams, and 23 ephemeral streams. **Figures 6** and **7** show potential wetlands and open water areas and potential waters of the U.S. on Camp Minden, respectively.

Figure 6. Potential Wetlands and Open Water Areas on Camp Minden



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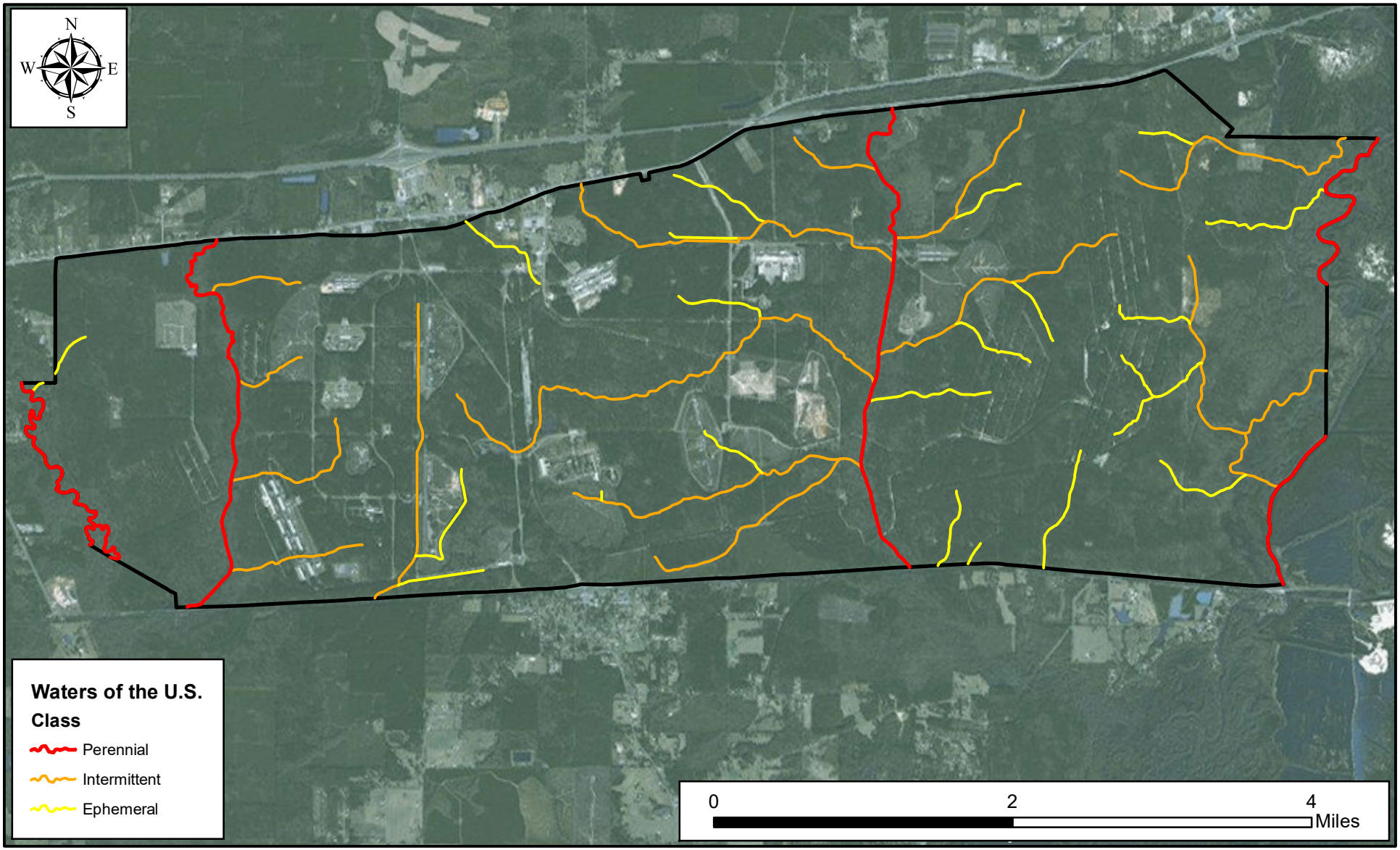
Date: July 31, 2017

Figure 7. Potential Waters of the U.S. on Camp Minden



Land Management Group, LLC.	Date: July 31, 2017

3.6.3 Camp Villere

Surface Water

Camp Villere is located within the Ponchartrain Drainage Basin (LDEQ 2017). The hydrologic unit encompassing Camp Villere drains much of St. Tammany Parish and extreme southwestern Washington Parish to Lake Pontchartrain. The primary natural drain on Camp Villere is intermittent and enters Camp Villere from the north and flows south while being west of and parallel to Engineer Road. It then turns west, near the intersection of Engineer Road and Igloo Road, and flows off of Camp Villere's western boundary. The only permanent stream on Camp Villere is a channelized drain flowing south out of the "igloo" area, leaving the Camp at the southern boundary.

The 2018 Louisiana Water Quality Inventory: Integrated Report (305(b)/303(d) (LDEQ 2018) does not identify any waterbodies on Camp Villere as impaired.

Groundwater

The source of groundwater at Camp Villere is the Southeast Louisiana Aquifer System (LDEQ 2017). This system provides groundwater for all of southeast Louisiana located east of the Mississippi River and north of Lakes Ponchartrain and Maurepas.

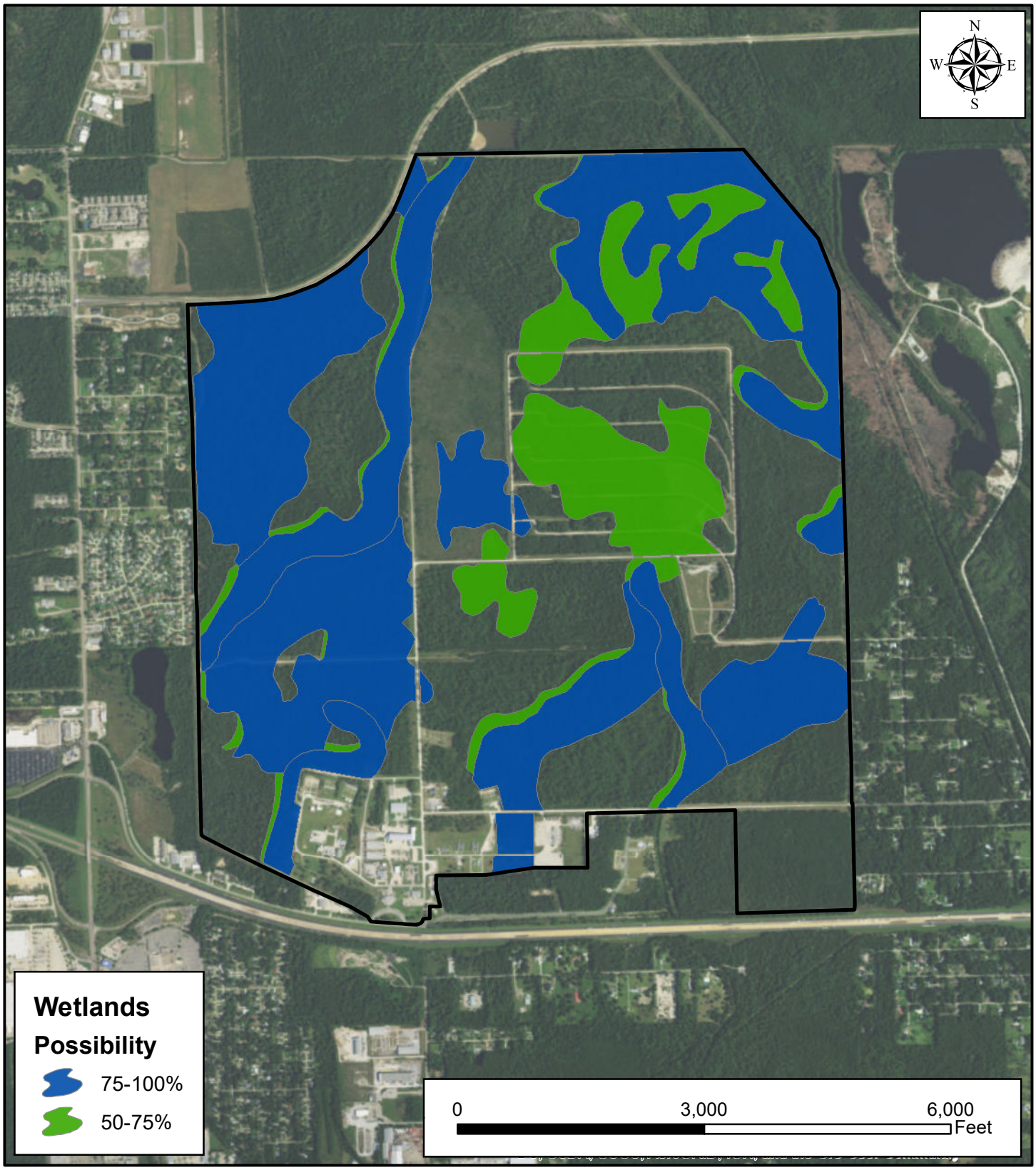
Floodplains

A search of the FEMA Flood Map Service Center indicated that Camp Villere is located on Map Panels 2252050405C and 2252050410D (FEMA 2019). A review of the FIRMs indicates that approximately one-third of the installation is classified as Zone A. The area in the 100-year flood zone is the southeastern portion of the installation.

Waters of the U.S. and Wetlands

The findings of the 2012 planning level survey estimated that the amount of wetlands on Camp Villere range from 562.29 acres to 764.24 acres. Generally, wetlands cover 35% to 48% of Camp Villere based on these estimates. In addition, a total of 2.63 miles of streams are located on Camp Villere, including one perennial stream and two intermittent streams. **Figures 8** and **9** show potential wetlands and potential waters of the U.S. on Camp Villere, respectively.

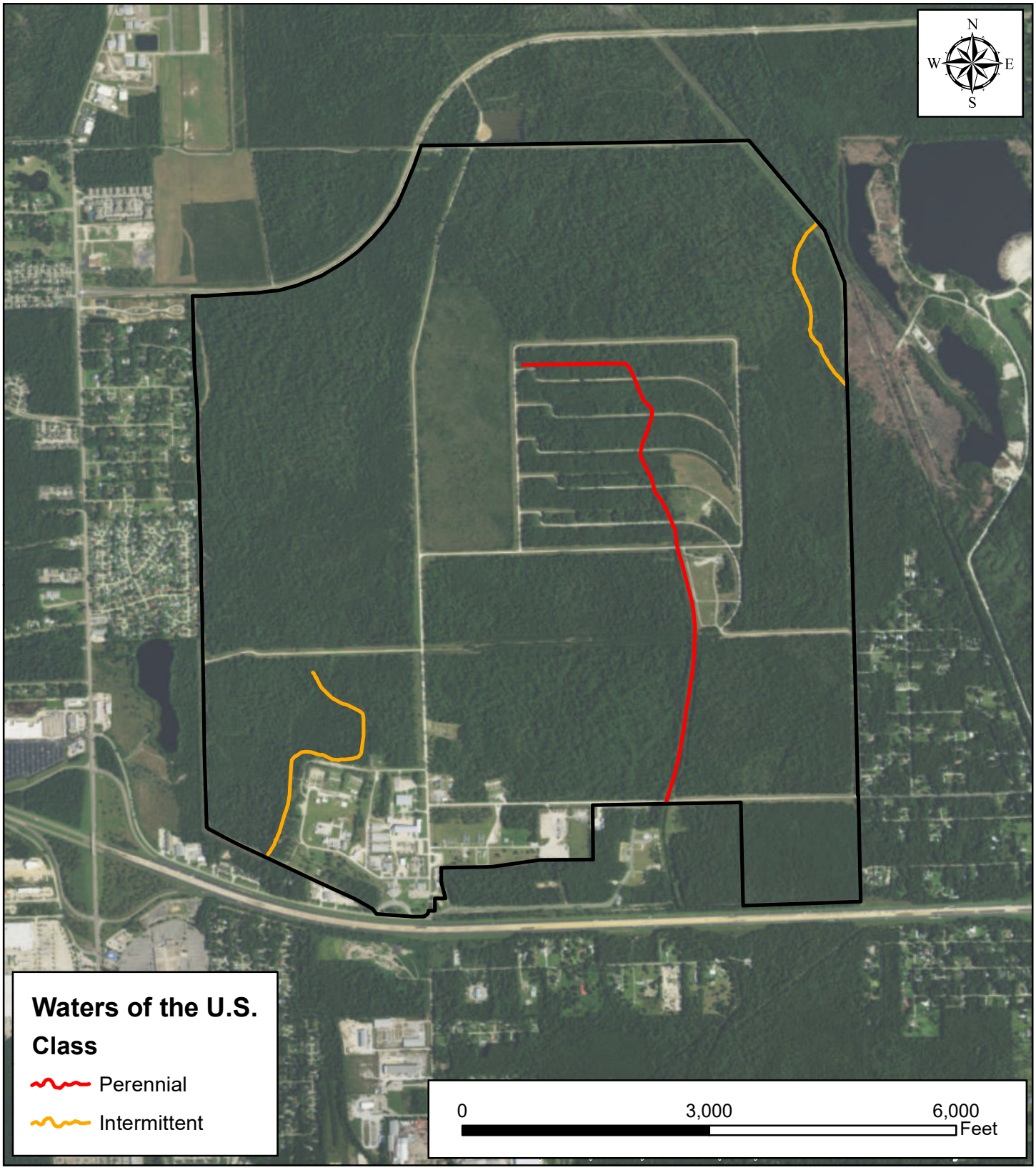
Figure 8. Potential Wetlands on Camp Villere



Land Management Group, LLC.

Date: July 31, 2017

Figure 9. Potential Waters of the U.S. on Camp Villere



Land Management Group, LLC.

Date: July 31, 2017

3.7 Biological Resources

3.7.1 Camp Beauregard

Vegetation

In 2014, the LAARNG completed a project aimed at mapping all natural communities on Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. The focus of the project was to break down installation lands into the vegetation types recognized by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program (LNHP) in its publication *Natural Communities of Louisiana* (LDWF 2009) utilizing the data collected during past floristic surveys, recent aerial photography, and in-depth field reconnaissance. The project concluded that there were a total of eight different natural communities present on Camp Beauregard and Esler Field. These include Mixed Hardwood/Loblolly Forest, Natural Pine, Bottomland Hardwood Forest, Western Upland Longleaf Pine Forest, Hardwood Slope Forest, Small Stream Forest, Open Water, and Disturbed Areas/Open Field and are depicted on **Figure 10**.

Fish and Wildlife

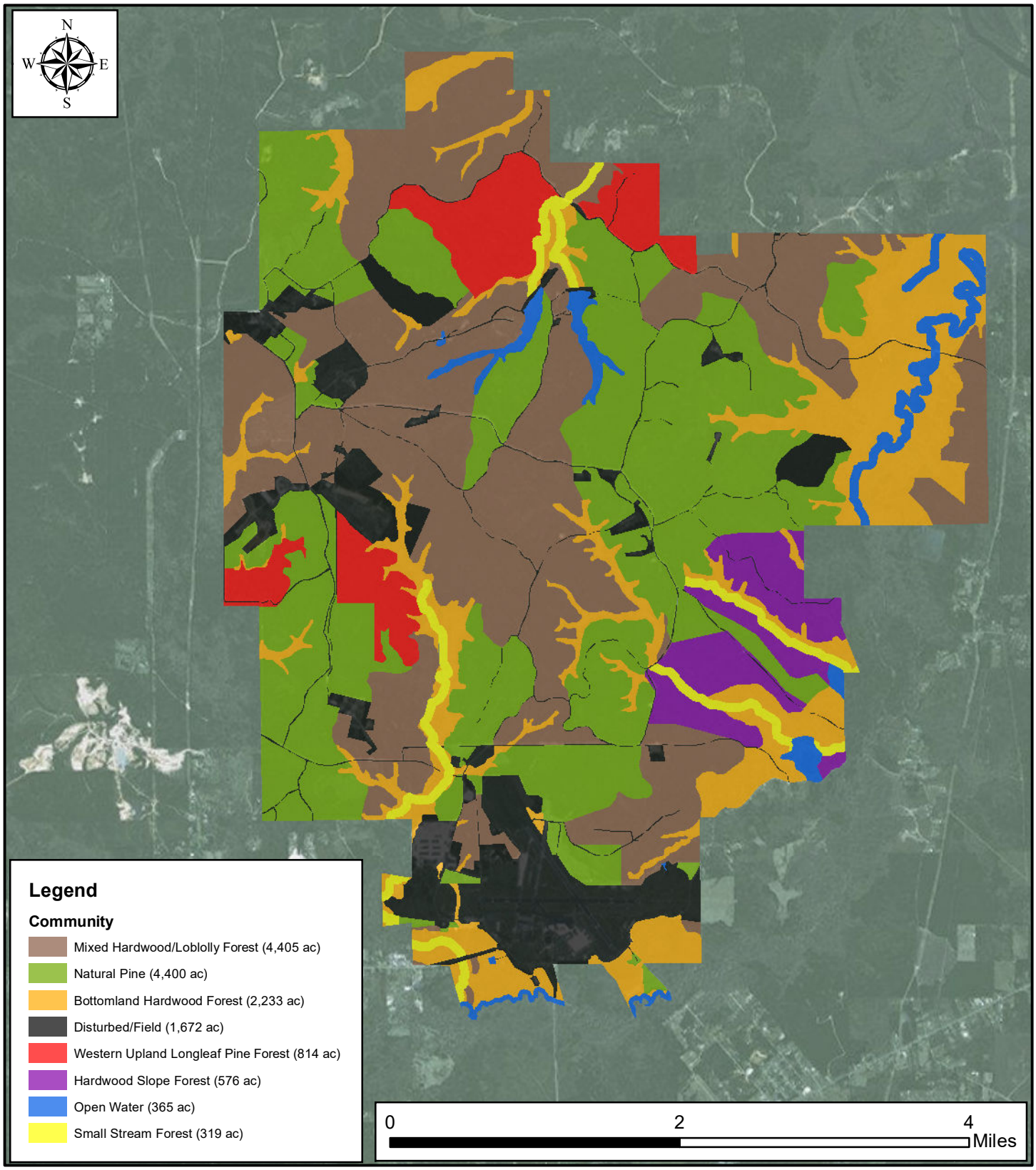
The majority of the CBTS is suitable for fish and wildlife management. There are approximately 365 surface acres of water, to include Flagon Bayou bottoms, recreational lakes, and beaver ponds.

Of the 197 species of amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals considered likely residents or transients at Camp Beauregard, 101 species of birds and 25 species of reptiles or amphibians were recorded during field surveys conducted by TNC from 1993 to 1995 (McInnis et al. 1995).

The CBTS supports significant levels of several prized game animals including white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), and squirrels (*Sciurus* sp.), which are the most sought after game species. Additional game species present in huntable numbers include eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), mourning dove (*Zenadia macroura*), wood duck (*Aix sponsa)* and other waterfowl, and woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) (LDWF 2017). In addition, northern bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*) populations are increasing as a result of ongoing conservation efforts.

The CBTS is designated as a WMA under the limited management of the LDWF. The Statewide Wildlife Management Program is designed to conserve and manage high quality habitats for a variety of wildlife species and to improve public access to these resources. Camp Beauregard WMA has a federal-aid management plan developed by region biologists, and deer are important features of most of these plans. Unlike other military properties, the hunting program is managed by LDWF with approval by Camp Beauregard security. Because Camp Beauregard is an active military reservation, special regulations apply to use and access of the Camp Beauregard WMA. An annual permit is required as is checking in and out of self-clearing stations on a daily basis. Limited camping is allowed by reservation only, and daily military clearance is required for all recreational users. Camp Beauregard's designation as a WMA does not pose any restrictions or limitations to land use by the LAARNG.

Figure 10. Natural Communities at Camp Beauregard and Esler Field



Land Management Group, LLC.

Date: June 16, 2017

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act [16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.] of 1973, as amended, was enacted to provide a program for the preservation of endangered and threatened species and to provide protection for the ecosystems upon which these species depend for their survival. All federal agencies or projects utilizing federal funding are required to implement protection programs for designated species and to use their authorities to further the purposes of the Act. The USFWS is charged with implementing this law and maintaining a list of protected plants and animals and their protection status. The LNHP maintains sighting records of federally protected species and species of state concern.

As of November 2019, the USFWS lists four species which could potentially occur on Camp Beauregard based on habitat requirements.

Table 10. Federally Listed Species of Potential Occurrence on Camp Beauregard

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Potential for Occurrence
Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	E	E	Moderate
Louisiana Pearlshell Mussel	*Margaritifera hembeli*	T	E	Low
Northern long-eared Bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	T		Confirmed
Louisiana Pinesnake	*Pituophis ruthveni*	T		Low

Federal Status Definitions: E – Endangered; T – Threatened
State Status Definitions: E – Endangered, Taking or harassment of these species is a violation of state and federal laws.
Source: USFWS 2019a.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW)

Per requirements outlined in a 1996 Biological Opinion, the LAARNG conducts annual RCW surveys within the Longleaf Pine Demonstration Areas and provides the USFWS with annual survey reports. No active cavity trees or individual specimens have been found during past field surveys. The Longleaf Pine Demonstration Areas are the only areas suitable for RCWs on Camp Beauregard.

Louisiana Pearlshell

There is no documentation to support the known occurrence of the Louisiana pearlshell, a mussel, on Camp Beauregard. All known locations of this species are from Grant, Rapides, and Winn Parish; however, none of the drainages with known populations flow into or out of Camp Beauregard. The LAARNG conducted installation-wide surveys at Camp Beauregard for Louisiana pearlshell in 2002, 2011, and most recently in 2015 in all streams with potentially suitable habitat, and no Louisiana pearlshells were found on Camp Beauregard.

Northern long-eared bat (NLEB)

As a result of ongoing consultation with the USFWS Lafayette Field Office, the LAARNG is in the process of performing multiyear acoustic surveys on Camp Beauregard. The USFWS has recommended that the LAARNG monitor for the NLEB and perform acoustic surveys to record baseline data regarding species presence. The purposes of these surveys is to examine overall bat species composition, relative abundance of individuals and activity with an emphasis on the NLEB, and to identify NLEB foraging and roosting habitats.

Acoustic surveys using AnaBat Detectors were conducted at Camp Beauregard in January, May; and July 2017. A total of 12 different sites were analyzed, resulting in 12,780 calls recorded and analyzed to determine bat presence/absence, relative activity, and species. Anabat calls were identified to species from recordings collected. A total of 351 NLEB calls were recorded at all but two of the 12 sites.

Because of the documented occurrence of NLEB on Camp Beauregard, the CFMO-EM has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Surveys, Monitoring, and Conservation of NLEB on LAARNG properties. This document can be found in **Appendix F** of the revised INRMP.

Louisiana Pine Snake

Based on 2016 analysis of occurrence records of parishes with multiple observations since 1993, four naturally occurring, potentially extant, Louisiana pines snake populations occur in four parishes (Bienville, Natchitoches, Sabine, and Vernon) in Louisiana. An additional reintroduction feasibility-study population has been established in Grant Parish. A single observation of a Louisiana pine snake occurred in Rapides Parish in 2001. Those five populations in Louisiana are primarily concentrated on public lands (DoD lands at Fort Polk and Peason Ridge and the Kisatchie National Forest) and privately-owned timberlands. (USFWS 2018b).

There are no known occurrences of Louisiana pine snake on Camp Beauregard; however, there is a potential for this species to occur based on a 2014 predictive model (Wagner et al. 2014). **Figure 11** shows the results of this model for the lands of Camp Beauregard and Esler Field. As the figure indicates, a large portion of Camp Beauregard and Esler Field is identified as suitable habitat for the Louisiana pine snake.

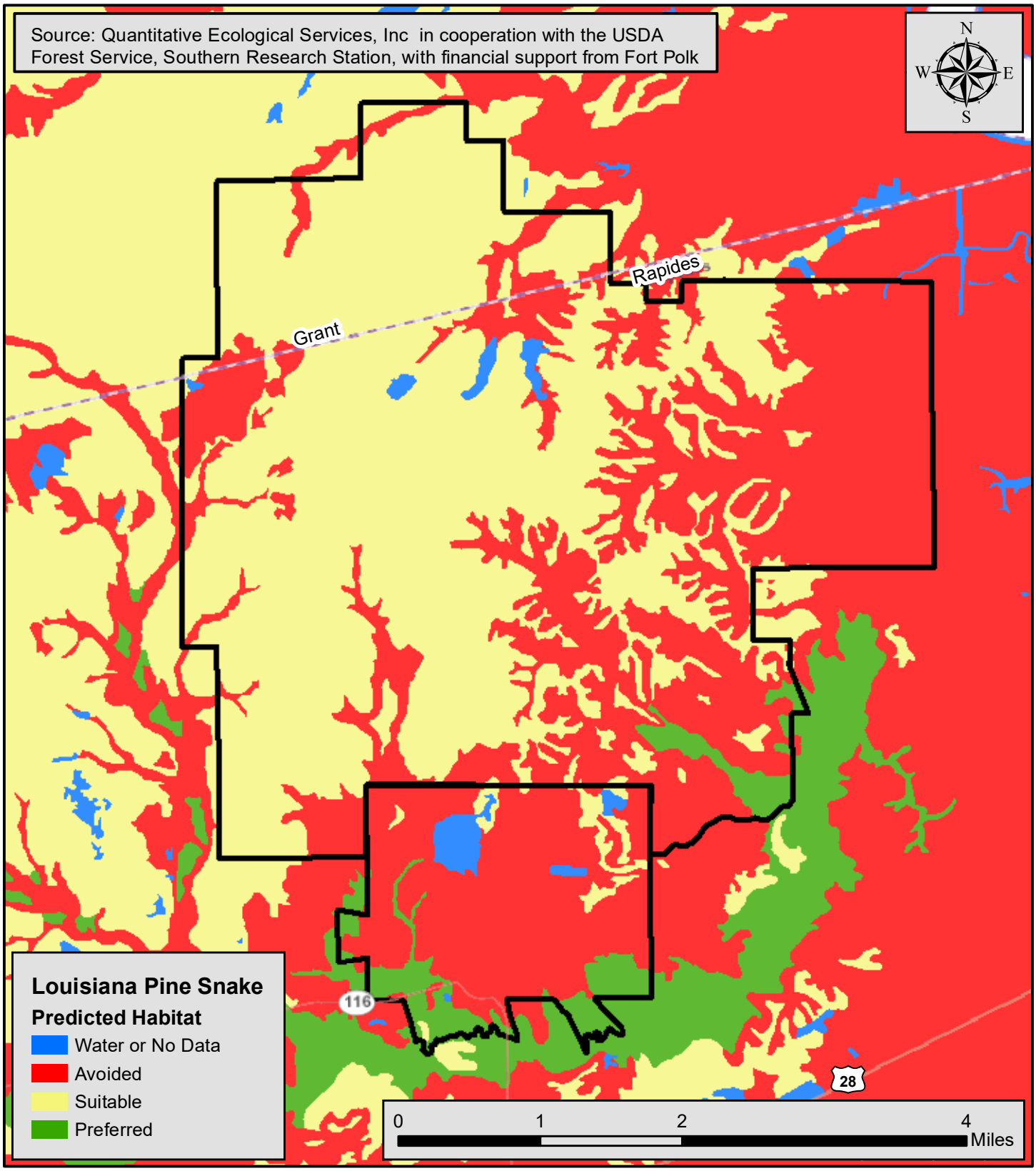
Designated Critical Habitat

There is currently no USFWS designated critical habitat on Camp Beauregard.

State Rare Species

The extent of these species on Camp Beauregard is unknown. The last state species surveys conducted on Camp Beauregard were by TNC in 1994-1995. At that time, Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis)*, worm-eating warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*), and Louisiana slimy salamander (*Plethodon kisatchie*) were identified. Although not identified, TNC concluded that there was a high probability that Louisiana pine snake could occur at Camp Beauregard because the species is known to occur in the vicinity and suitable habitat is available.

Figure 11. Habitat Model Results for Louisiana Pine Snake at Camp Beauregard/Esler Field



Land Management Group, LLC.

Date: June 13, 2019

3.7.2 Camp Minden

Vegetation

Based on the mapping effort in 2014, there were a total of nine different natural communities present on Camp Minden. These include Natural Pine, Mixed Hardwood/Loblolly Forest, Bottomland Hardwood Forest, Bald Cypress Swamp, Hardwood Slope Forest, Small Stream Forest, Wet Hardwood Flatwoods, Open Water, and Disturbed Areas/Open Field and are depicted on **Figure 12**.

Fish and Wildlife

The majority of Camp Minden is suitable for fish and wildlife management. There are 36 miles of perennial and intermittent streams, and excavated ponds account for 35 acres. There are no naturally occurring lakes or ponds; however, the seasonally flooded forest associated with the Dorcheat bottomlands can retain water for extended periods and provides excellent fish and wildlife habitat.

A wide variety of wildlife species inhabit Camp Minden, and they are dispersed throughout the various habitats on the installation. It is estimated that 51 species of mammals and 74 species of reptiles and amphibians are known to inhabit the areas in and around the facility. Approximately 80 percent of the 411 species of birds in the State of Louisiana are recorded as having been seen at or near Camp Minden (TNC 1995). This includes prize game species such as white-tailed deer, northern bobwhite quail, wild turkey, squirrels, eastern cottontail, mourning dove, wood duck and other waterfowl, and woodcock. In addition, a variety of fish species have been identified in Bayou Dorcheat, Clarke Bayou, Boone Creek, and Caney Branch, and some of the borrow pits on the facility have been stocked with largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*).

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

As of November 2019, the USFWS lists two species which could potentially occur on Camp Minden based on habitat requirements.

Table 11. Federally Listed Species of Potential Occurrence on Camp Minden

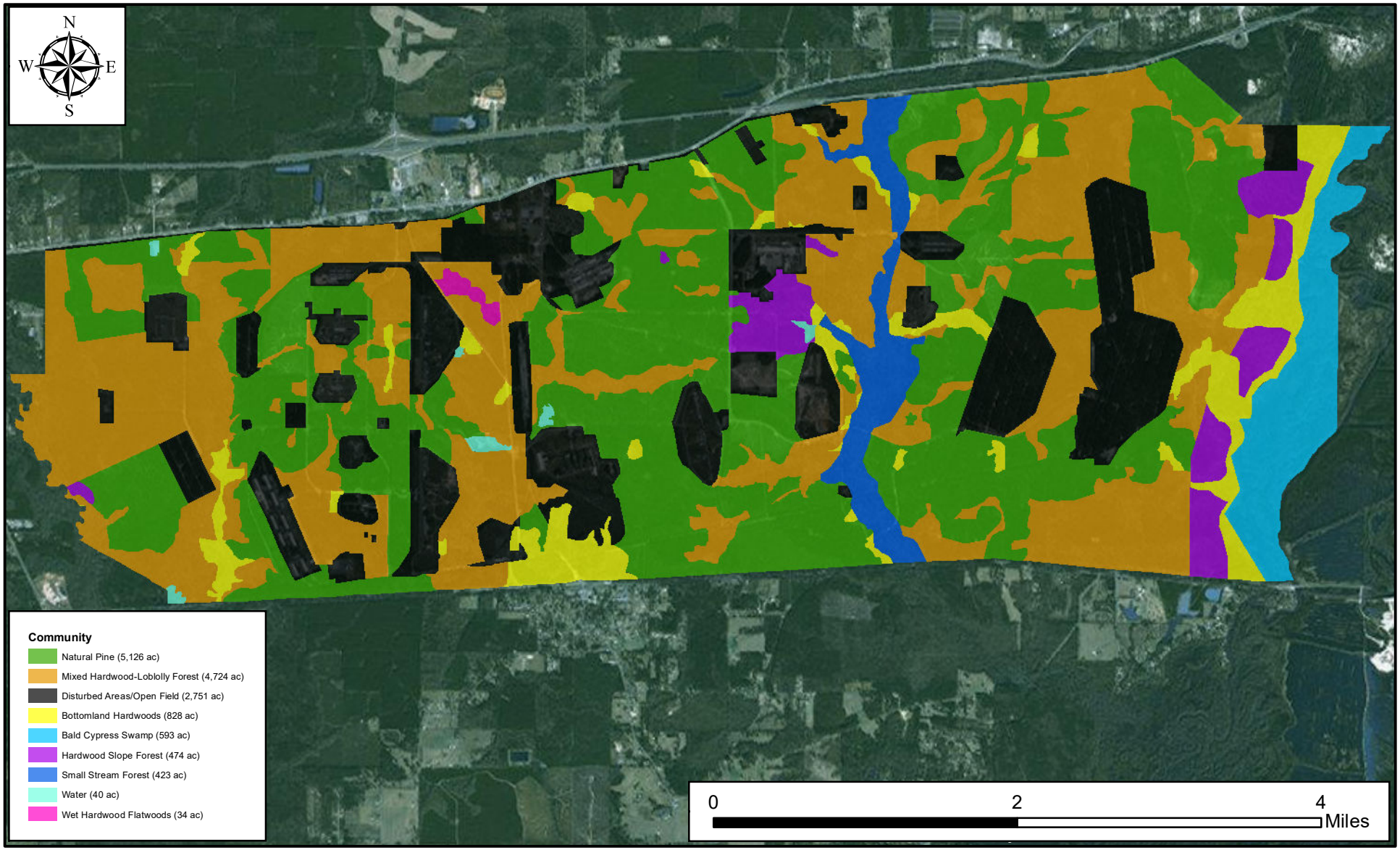
Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Potential for Occurrence
Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	E	E	Low
Northern long-eared Bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	T		Confirmed

Federal Status Definitions: E – Endangered; T – Threatened
State Status Definitions: E – Endangered, Taking or harassment of these species is a violation of state and federal laws.
Source: USFWS 2019a.

RCW

No documentation exists for the historical occurrence of RCWs on Camp Minden, and there are no active RCW cluster sites on Camp Minden. The LAARNG conducted installation-wide surveys in 2002, 2011, and 2015, and no active RCW colonies or individuals were observed on Camp Minden. The majority of the pine stands on the installation are either too heavily stocked, too young, or contain too great a hardwood component in the midstory to provide potential nesting habitat.

Figure 12. Natural Communities at Camp Minden



Land Management Group, LLC.

Date: June 21, 2017

Currently, the only potential nesting habitat is restricted to the thinned and burned stands of the Flatwoods Demonstration Area. No active RCW colonies are known within the immediate vicinity of Camp Minden.

NLEB

Acoustic surveys were conducted at Camp Minden in June and July 2017. A total of 12 different sites were analyzed, resulting in 8,204 calls recorded and analyzed to determine bat presence/absence, relative activity, and species. A total of 37 NLEB calls were recorded at seven sites.

Because of the documented occurrence of NLEB on Camp Minden, the CFMO-EM has developed an SOP for Surveys, Monitoring, and Conservation of NLEB on LAARNG properties. This document can be found in **Appendix F** of the revised INRMP.

Designated Critical Habitat

There is currently no USFWS designated critical habitat on Camp Minden.

State Rare Species

The extent of these species on Camp Minden is unknown. The last state species surveys conducted on Camp Minden were by TNC in 1995. At that time, northern burmannia (*Burmannia biflora*) was the only state rare species identified.

3.7.3 Camp Villere

Vegetation

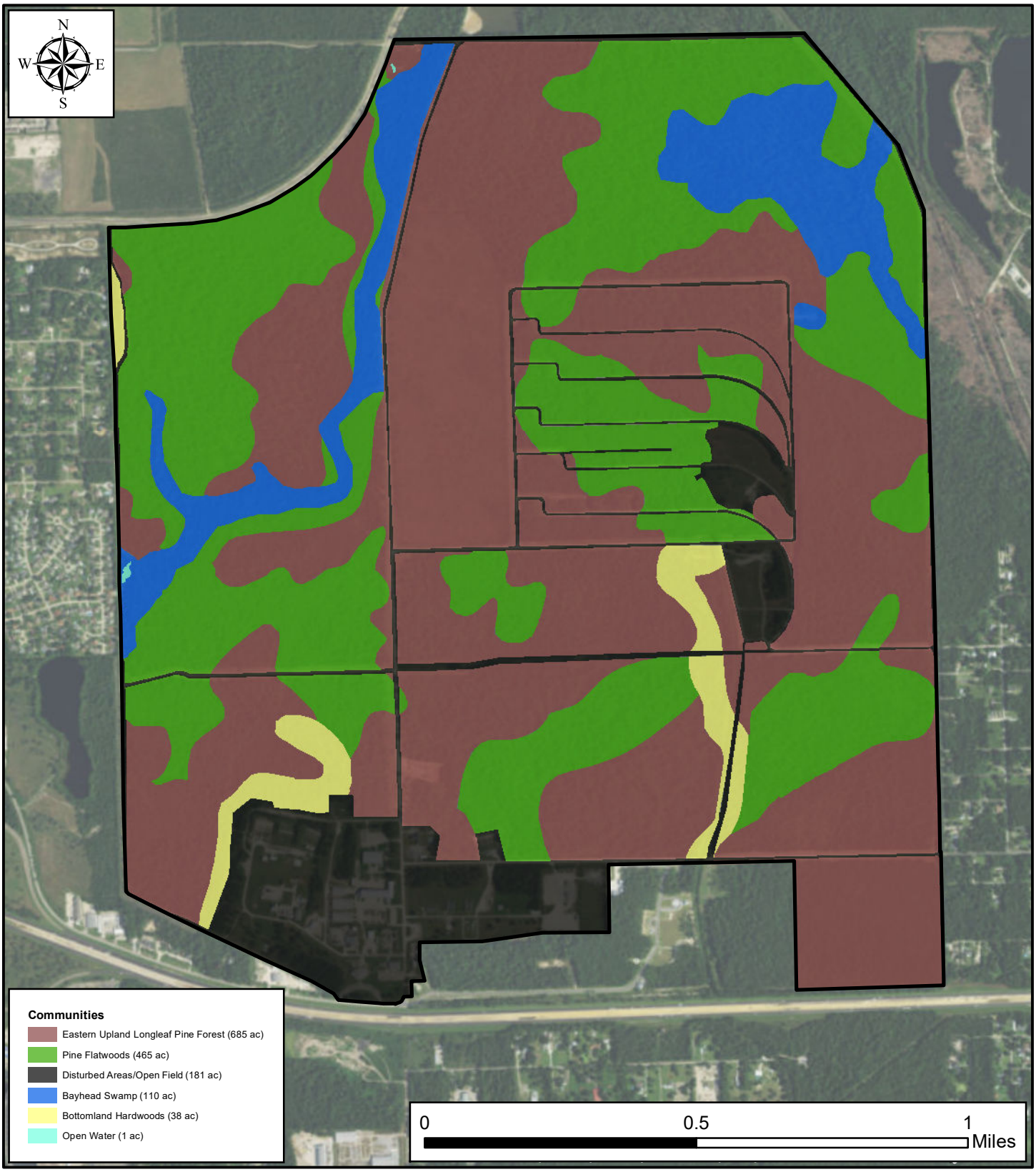
Based on the mapping effort in 2014, there were a total of six different natural communities present on Camp Minden. These include Eastern Upland Longleaf Pine Forest, Pine Flatwoods, Bayhead Swamp, Bottomland Hardwood Forest, Open Water, and Disturbed Areas/Open Field and are depicted on **Figure 13**.

Fish and Wildlife

The majority of Camp Villere is suitable for fish and wildlife management. There are 3 miles of perennial and intermittent streams, and open water accounts for 1 acre. There are no naturally occurring lakes or ponds; however, the seasonally flooded forest associated with the Bayhead Swamps and Bottomland Hardwoods may retain water for extended periods and provides excellent fish and wildlife habitat.

A wide variety of wildlife species inhabit Camp Villere, and they are dispersed throughout the various natural communities on the installation. It is estimated that at least 139 species of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds are known to inhabit the areas in and around the installation.

Figure 13. Natural Communities at Camp Villere



Land Management Group, LLC.

Date: June 22, 2017

Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species

As of November 2019, the USFWS lists four species which could potentially occur on Camp Villere based on habitat requirements.

Table 12. Federally Listed Species of Potential Occurrence on Camp Villere

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Potential for Occurrence
Red-cockaded woodpecker	*Picoides borealis*	E	E	Low
Gopher tortoise	*Gopherus polyphemus*	T	T	Low
Louisiana quillwort	*Isoetes louisianensis*	E		Low
Dusky gopher frog	*Rana sevosa*	E, CH		Low

Federal Status Definitions: E – Endangered; T – Threatened; CH – Critical Habitat has been designated
State Status Definitions: E – Taking or harassment of these species is a violation of state and federal laws.
Threatened = Taking or harassment of these species is a violation of state and federal laws.
Source: USFWS 2019a.

To date, no federally listed threatened or endangered species have been found on Camp Villere. The last installation-wide surveys for all of the above listed species were conducted in 2015.

Designated Critical Habitat

There is currently no USFWS designated critical habitat on Camp Villere.

State Rare Species

The extent of these species on Camp Villere is unknown. The last state species surveys conducted on Camp Villere were by TNC from 1994 to 1995. At that time, pine woods snake (*Rhadinaea flavilata*), flax-leaf false-foxglove (*Agalinis linifolia*), bird-bill spikegrass (*Chasmanthium ornithorhynchum*), Leconte's thistle (*Cirsium lecontei*), myrtle holly (*Ilex myrtifolia*), golden crest (*Lophiola aurea*), staghorn clubmosss (*Lycopodiella cernua var. cernua*), Chapman beakrush (*Rhynchospora chapmanii*), night-flowering wild-petunia (*Ruellia noctiflora*), parrot pitcherplant (*Sarracenia psittacina*), and coastal false-asphodel (*Tofieldia racemosa*) were identified on the installation.

3.8 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources are historic properties as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), cultural items as defined by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), archaeological resources as defined by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), sacred sites as defined by Executive Order 13007 to which access is afforded under the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and collections and associated records as defined by 36 CFR 79. NEPA requires consideration of "important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our natural heritage." Consideration of cultural resources under NEPA includes the necessity to independently comply with the applicable procedures and requirements of other federal and state laws, regulations, Executive Orders, presidential memoranda, and National Guard guidance.

The principal federal law addressing cultural resources is the NHPA of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C Section 470), and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800). The regulations, commonly referred to as the Section 106 process, describe the procedures for identifying and evaluating historic properties; assessing the effects of federal actions on historic properties; and consulting

to avoid, reduce, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects. As part of the Section 106 process, agencies are required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The term "historic properties" refers to cultural resources that meet specific criteria for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); historic properties need not be formally listed on the NRHP. Section 106 does not require the preservation of historic properties, but ensures that the decisions of federal agencies concerning the treatment of these places result from meaningful considerations of cultural and historic values and of the options available to protect the properties. The Proposed Action is an undertaking as defined by 36 CFR 800.3 and is required to comply with the requirements of Section 106.

Archeological resources on federal lands are protected under the ARPA, Public Law 96-95. Native American human remains, burials, and associated burial goods on federal lands or federally controlled lands are protected under Section 3 (c) of the NAGPRA, Public Law 101-601, and its implementing regulations (43 CFR Part 10). These regulations also require Federal officials to take reasonable steps to determine whether a planned activity may result in the excavation of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony from Federal lands (43 CFR Part 10.3(c)(1)).

DoDI 4710.02 (*DoD Interactions with Federally Recognized Tribes*) provides guidance for interacting and working with federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native governments or tribes. This Instruction implements *Annotated DoD American Indian and Alaska Native Policy* (27 October 1999), which governs compliance with EO 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) and Presidential Memoranda for *Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies on Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments* (29 April 1994). The DoD policy outlines DoD trust obligations, communication procedures with tribes on a government-to-government basis, consultation protocols, and actions to recognize and respect the significance that tribes ascribe to certain natural resources and properties of traditional cultural or religious importance. The policy requires consultation with federally recognized tribes for proposed activities that could significantly affect tribal resources or interests.

In addition to federal and state regulatory laws and policies, an Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) was developed by the LAARNG that forms the basis for cultural resources management on all LAARNG lands, including Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. An ICRMP is required by DoDI 4715.3, *Environmental Conservation Program*, and fulfills the requirements as stipulated within Army Regulation 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement.* The LAARNG's ICRMP establishes explicit responsibilities, SOPs, and long-range goals for managing cultural resources in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, while ensuring the safety, efficiency, and attainment of federal and state missions. SOP Number 5 of the ICRMP establishes procedures to be followed in case of inadvertent discovery of cultural resources.

3.8.1 Camp Beauregard Cultural Resource Summary

Camp Beauregard encompasses 13,361 acres, of which approximately 12,927 acres have been surveyed for archaeological resources. A total of 514 archaeological sites have been located, of

which 1 is eligible for listing on the NRHP and 77 need further evaluation to make a determination of eligibility for listing in the NRHP.

Of the 626 buildings and structures on Camp Beauregard, 84 are currently 50 years old or older (constructed prior to 1967). A total of 71 buildings and structures have been evaluated. 55 buildings and structures at Camp Beauregard were identified as potentially eligible as contributing to a historic district while 16 are ineligible. None of the buildings are potentially eligible for individual listing on the NRHP from an architectural perspective.

Camp Beauregard contains one cemetery.

3.8.2 Camp Minden Cultural Resource Summary

Camp Minden encompasses 14,993 acres, of which approximately 13,275 acres have been surveyed for archaeological resources. A total of 150 archaeological sites have been located. Of these sites, 7 are considered eligible for listing in the NRHP, 30 have not been fully evaluated for NRHP eligibility listing and are therefore considered to have undetermined eligibility, 106 are considered not eligible for listing in the NRHP, 5 are protected under state law as cemeteries, and 2 are classified as "conditionally ineligible".

Of the 736 buildings and structures on Camp Minden, 414 are currently 50 years old or older (constructed prior to 1967). A total of 533 buildings and structures have been evaluated. 418 have been determined to be eligible as part of a possible National Register Historic District at Camp Minden. Of these, 5 buildings are determined to be eligible individually as well. These include Buildings 00100 (Camp Minden Post Headquarters), 00102 (Wildlife and Fisheries Building), 00114 (Readiness Center), 00118 (YCP Classroom), and A-120 (YCP Activity Building/Exchange).

Camp Minden contains nine cemeteries: Allentown Cemetery, Vanornsdale Cemetery, Jim Davis Cemetery, Richardson Cemetery, Keene Cemetery, Knottingham Cemetery, Raines Cemetery Crowe Cemetery, and Walker Cemetery. When the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant was created in the 1940's, plantations in both Bossier and Webster Parish were purchased and consolidated. When the Government took control of these lands, they also assumed the role of providing perpetual care to the cemeteries associated with these plantations. These cemeteries are fenced and maintained and the wooden markers that once stood at the graves have been replaced by concrete markers.

3.8.3 Camp Villere Cultural Resource Summary

Camp Villere encompasses 1,480 acres, all of which have been surveyed for archaeological resources. A total of 9 archaeological sites have been located, of which 2 need further evaluation to make a determination of eligibility for listing in the NRHP.

Of the 121 buildings and structures at Camp Villere, 24 are currently 50 years old or older (constructed prior to 1967). A total of 3 buildings and structures have been evaluated. All 3 have been determined to be not eligible.

Camp Villere contains no cemeteries.

3.8.4 Native American Resources

There are eight federally recognized Native American tribes with ancestral ties to the lands of Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere; these tribes are Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Caddo Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, and Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana.

The NRHP recognizes that properties of traditional religious and cultural importance are eligible for listing. At present, there are known resources of traditional, cultural, or religious significance at both Camps Beauregard and Camp Minden that might be part of a larger cultural landscape. None are known to exist at Camp Villere.

At Camp Beauregard, limited test excavations were conducted at one site in 1998. The excavations yielded a total of 395 flakes, 2 preforms, and 6 flaked cobbles. The Tribes recommended to the LAARNG that this site be recognized as eligible for the NRHP. Subsequently, this site was made a Sacred Site under the provisions of Executive Order 13007. This ensures the LAARNG will accommodate American Indians' access to and use of the site, and it ensures steps will be taken to avoid adversely affecting the site's physical integrity. Three additional sites have been chosen for Phase II investigation.

In addition, the LAARNG has set aside a portion of the cantonment area at Camp Beauregard for "the secure and permanent re-interment of American Indian human remains". This area is known as The American Indian Keepsafe Heritage Cemetery. The agreement between the LAARNG and the tribes with whom it is affiliated stipulates that the tribes bear the responsibility for the following: a) determining eligibility for placement or re-interment in the cemetery; b) providing reasonable notice in advance of any re-interments or ceremonies that will be conducted there; c) providing all provisions and physical support for re-interments and ceremonies; and d) designing and placing all monuments and markers at the cemetery.

4.0 Environmental Consequences

This section identifies the potential effects (direct, indirect, and cumulative), of the Proposed Action on each of the resource areas presented in **Section 3** and compares and contrasts potential effects to the No Action Alternative. Effects can be direct, indirect, or cumulative. Direct effects occur at the same place and time as the actions that cause them, while indirect effects may be geographically removed or delayed in time. A cumulative impact is an effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions.

This section also identifies the BMPs and mitigation measures that would reduce the level of identified effects. The LAARNG considers BMPs integral to implementation and are not considered separate from the Proposed Action. Mitigation measures are identified that, when implemented, would reduce the level of identified effects to acceptable, less-than-significant levels.

4.1 Land Use

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact on land use:

- Alternative would conflict with, divide, or substantially change existing installation land use or land cover.
- Alternative would conflict with, or cause changes to, existing land use or zoning of land adjacent to the installation.
- Alternative would limit the capability of the LAARNG to carry out its assigned mission to provide adequate training facilities at the installation.

4.1.1 Effects of the Proposed Action

Implementation of the Proposed Action would be expected to have beneficial impacts on land use at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere through programmatic monitoring and BMPs described in the revised INRMP. The Proposed Action would not conflict with, divide, or substantially change existing land use. Additionally, the Proposed Action would not affect land use or zoning of land adjacent to the installations, nor would it impede the training facilities.

The revised INRMP strives to enhance and maintain biological diversity at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere and outlines a number of objectives and projects to meet these objectives (see **Tables 1-3**). The majority of the objectives and projects entail monitoring and surveying. Because none of the objectives and projects prescribe specific land use modifications, no short- or long-term significant adverse impacts to land use are anticipated.

4.1.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would not alter existing land use; therefore, no short-or long-term impacts would be anticipated. Under the No Action Alternative, the INRMP would not be revised to reflect current operations at the installations, and would thus be out of compliance with the SAIA.

4.1.3 Mitigation Measures

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

4.2 Air Quality

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to air quality:

- Alternative would cause an exceedance of the NAAQS and/or require a conformity analysis.
- Alternative would significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions or airborne fugitive dust.
- Alternative would increase health risks for nearby sensitive receptors.

4.2.1 Effects of the Proposed Action

The USEPA has established NAAQS for seven pollutants. Camp Beauregard is located in Rapides and Grant Parish, Camp Minden is located in Bossier and Webster Parishes, and Camp Villere is located in St. Tammany Parish. All of these parishes are currently in attainment. A formal conformity determination is not required. No new emission sources will be required under the Proposed Action. Support vehicles and handheld equipment would be well below applicable thresholds. As such, air quality is not anticipated to be adversely impacted by actions described in the revised INRMP. Additionally, the Proposed Action is not expected to significantly increase greenhouse gas emissions or airport fugitive dust, nor is it anticipated to increase health risks for nearby sensitive receptors, on either a short- or long-term basis.

4.2.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, conditions would remain unchanged and no short- or long-term air quality impacts would occur.

4.2.3 Mitigation Measures

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

4.3 Noise

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to noise:

- Alternative would substantially increase noise resulting from traffic or heavy machinery.
- Alternative would result in significant disruptions to nearby sensitive receptors.

4.3.1 Effects of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is not expected to substantially increased noise resulting from traffic or heavy machinery, nor is it anticipated to result in significant disruptions to nearby sensitive receptors. Direct noise impacts are not anticipated to occur as a result of implementation of the

revised INRMP. Night operations and aircraft are not part of the Proposed Action, and implementation of the revised INRMP would not result in impacts to residences, churches, schools, hospitals, or libraries. Therefore, no short- or long-term adverse impacts to noise are anticipated to occur as part of the Proposed Action.

4.3.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, conditions would remain unchanged and no short- or long-term noise impacts would occur.

4.3.3 Mitigation Measures

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

4.4 Geology, Topography, and Soils

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in an adverse impact to geology, topography, and soils:

- Alternative would significantly alter subsurface geological or mineral resources.
- Alternative would increase human safety risks to potential geological activity, such as possible subsidence, seismic activity, or high shrink/swell potential.
- Alternative would alter topography such that there would be a substantial risk of erosion.
- Alternative would subject new areas to training activities that would result in substantial changes to topography or soils (i.e., impact area for explosions).

4.4.1 Effects of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action does not include permanent conversion of soils, nor does it proposed any projects that would cause short- or long-term adverse impacts to geology, topography, or soils. The revised INRMP proposes projects that would identify areas of eroded soils, rehabilitate those areas, minimize erosion and sedimentation, and prevent further soil erosion. These include the following:

- Conduct annual installation-wide surveys to identify areas that are in need of rehabilitation in order to reduce the amount of soil movement that is currently occurring and prioritize degraded or eroded areas requiring rehabilitation.
- Update the Camp Beauregard and Camp Minden Soil Erosion Control & Restoration Plan based on surveys and past remedial activities. Develop a Camp Villere Soil Erosion Control & Restoration Plan based on surveys and past remedial activities.
- Repair erosion problems as identified. Areas degraded by military training and/or other land use will be returned to pre-training conditions where at all possible. The rehabilitation effort will use locally native species and will identify and eliminate the underlying cause of the erosion where possible.
- Develop training for soldiers, commanders, and planners in BMPs and their applicability to LAARNG actions to diminish the risk of erosion problems developing from future activities.

Under the Proposed Action, natural resource management projects that have the potential for minor temporary disturbance of soils and groundcover vegetation include timber harvest, site preparation and planting, prescribed burning, erosion control projects, and invasive species removal. Soil and vegetation disturbance have the potential to increase surface water runoff and soil erosion during rainfall events. The use of BMPs to minimize soil erosion is required during all erosion control projects.

Silvicultural activities are designed to restore the pine ecosystem and follow Louisiana BMPs for forestry. Activities such as pine thinning, midstory removal, and invasive plant species eradication enhance the growth of native groundcover, thus providing long-term protection against soil erosion.

Erosion control projects provide long-term protection against soil erosion by stabilizing eroded soils and re-establishing native groundcover. Prescribed burns can increase runoff and sedimentation in the short-term due to the temporary die-back of vegetation; however, plant species on Camps Beauregard and Minden are adapted to a fire-maintained ecosystem and recover rapidly following prescribed burns. Prescribed burning enhances the growth of native groundcover, providing long-term protection against soil erosion. Overall, the continuation of current natural resource management practices under the Proposed Action will have long-term beneficial effects on soil resources.

4.4.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, conditions would remain unchanged and construction-related geology, topography, or soil impacts would not occur.

4.4.3 Mitigation Measures

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

4.5 Water Resources

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to water resources:

- Alternative would increase flooding in the Proposed Action area due to changes in drainage patterns or construction in the 100-year floodplain.
- Alternative would significantly alter the quantity or quality of surface water.
- Alternative would result in a net loss of wetland acreage or substantially degrade existing wetland quality.
- Alternative would significantly alter the quantity or quality of groundwater.

4.5.1 Effects of the Proposed Action

Stormwater runoff can be a significant source of pollutants and sediment in surface waters, especially in areas where groundcover has been disturbed. Water quality also may be adversely impacted by disturbances causing increased sedimentation to wetlands and stream channels. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, such as may exist in training areas or in

semi-paved or compacted parking areas, has a high potential to carry pollutants into wetlands, surface waters, and groundwater. The revised INRMP proposes projects that would protect water resources, including the following:

- Maintain native species vegetative buffers around water sources.
- Establish regular surveys of streams to identify and prioritize degraded or eroded areas requiring rehabilitation as part of installation-wide erosion surveys.
- Educate troops, management staff, and others on the importance of streamside management zones, the limitations to their use, and any regulatory or permitting issues involved with activities within riparian corridors.
- Identify areas surrounding wetlands that require a vegetative buffer or filterstrip (or repair thereof) for protection.
- Educate troops, management staff, and others on the importance of buffers, the limitations to their use, and any regulatory or permitting issues involved with activities in the vicinity of wetlands.

Based on the projects proposed as part of the revised INRMP, the Proposed Action is anticipated to have a long-term beneficial impact on water resources at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere.

As discussed in **Section 3.6**, portions of all three installations are within the floodplain. In accordance with Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 13690, there are no short-term or long-term adverse impacts to floodplains associated with the Proposed Action, as no construction or development will occur with implementation of the revised INRMP.

No foreseeable changes in drainage patterns or construction in the floodplain would result from the Proposed Action, nor would the Proposed Action significantly impact surface water bodies. The Proposed Action includes no specific plans for reduction in wetland acreage, nor does it include alteration of the quantity or quality of groundwater. As such, no short- or long-term adverse impacts to water resources are expected to result from the Proposed Action.

4.5.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Conditions would remain unchanged under the No Action Alternative and no short- or long-term impacts to water resources would occur. .

4.5.3 Mitigation Measures

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

4.6 Biological Resources

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to biological resources:

- Alternative would convert or degrade existing rare habitats not currently managed in a conservation plan.
- Alternative would convert or degrade a substantial amount of existing habitat.
- Alternative would result in substantial mortality of wildlife.
- Alternative would adversely affect populations of federally or state threatened or endangered species.

4.6.1 Effects of the Proposed Action

The revised INRMP strives to enhance and maintain biological diversity at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere by doing the following:

- Setting forth management that will maintain and enhance natural resources on the installations that are needed to support the mission of the LAARNG.
- Protecting native species and discouraging non-native, exotic species.
- Protecting rare species.
- Protecting unique or sensitive environments.
- Rehabilitating ecosystems, communities, and species.
- Monitoring ecosystem health.

The revised INRMP acknowledges a variety of wildlife habitats present at the installations, and provides projects specifically for fish and wildlife management. These projects include the following:

- Conduct installation-wide bird and mammal surveys.
- Develop a monitoring program (database) to track overall ecosystem health, including wildlife and bird, vegetation, water quality, wetland, and invasive species monitoring, and other components deemed significant.
- Collect and analyze data from non-game and harvested game animals annually.

As part of the Proposed Action, biological resources will be periodically quantified and evaluated, allowing for further improvements in the future. Implementation of the Proposed Action would be expected to have a long-term beneficial effect on fish and wildlife resources.

To date, the NLEB is the only known federally listed species on Camps Beauregard and Minden; no federally listed species have been found on Camp Villere. Implementation of the Proposed Action would be expected to have a long-term beneficial effect on the NLEB on Camps Beauregard and Minden. The revised INRMP outlines the process for surveying, monitoring, and conserving this species on the installations (see SOP in **Appendix F**). In addition, the revised INRMP also includes specific recommendations for conducting other species inventories (particularly RCW and Louisiana pine snake), and managing threatened and endangered species populations that are associated with the installations.

Under the Proposed Action, protection and improvement of habitat would be expected to result in beneficial effects to threatened and endangered species resources as well as many other species of wildlife. Protection of existing communities would continue, and, if needed, additional management and protection would be developed, including updating the Endangered Species

Management Component, if new threatened or endangered (e.g. tricolor bat, Louisiana pigtoe, alligator snapping turtle, Alabama hickorynut) resources were identified.

Similar to management of the vegetation communities and wildlife, the management strategies and practices for protection of threatened and endangered species presented in the revised INRMP are the result of research, monitoring, and management of the biological resources at the installations, and consultations with local, regional, and Federal natural resources management professionals. The revised INRMP provides the best recommendations of natural resources personnel and cooperating partner agencies. Based on these recommendations for management of threatened and endangered species on the installations, the Proposed Action would be expected to provide long-term beneficial positive impacts to the threatened or endangered species of the installations.

No Section 7 under the Endangered Species Act is required at this time. Section 7 will be conducted on a case by case basis for individual projects in the revised INRMP as necessary.

4.6.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

The NLEB was listed by the USFWS in 2015 and was therefore not included in the 2015 INRMP. The No Action Alternative could potentially result in a long-term, significant adverse impact to this species as the 2015 INRMP does not include an SOP for surveying, monitoring, or conservation. Without this SOP, NLEB habitat on Camps Beauregard and Minden would not be managed properly and this species would be at risk for harm or take as a result of training, construction, and/or natural resource activities.

4.6.3 Mitigation Measures

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

4.7 Cultural Resources

The Proposed Action and No Action Alternative were evaluated against the following significance criteria to determine if they would result in a significant impact to cultural resources:

- Alternative would degrade, or cause neglect of, an archaeological site, NRHP-listed or eligible resource, or cemetery.
- Alternative would degrade, or decrease access to, cultural resources of value to federally recognized Native American tribes.

4.7.1 Effects of the Proposed Action

Any natural resources management activities proposed in the revised INRMP that may impact cultural resources would go through the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation process with the Louisiana SHPO before any undertaking occurred on historic properties eligible or listed on the National Register or those historic properties not yet surveyed. Each activity in the revised INRMP would be in accordance with the ICRMP and would comply with all applicable federal and state cultural resources requirements and would be coordinated through the LAARNG Cultural Resources Manager.

The Proposed Action will not alter current procedures for reviewing natural resource projects and protecting cultural resources. Therefore, no short- or long-term impacts to cultural resources are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Action.

4.7.2 Effects of the No Action Alternative

All projects are currently subject to review by the Louisiana SHPO Officer. No short- or long-term impacts to cultural resources are anticipated as a result of the No Action Alternative.

4.7.3 Mitigation Measures

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

4.8 Mitigation Measures and BMPs

Measures to manage or mitigate effects to below the significance threshold would not be required for the Proposed Action or No Action Alternatives because no significant impacts are anticipated.

This EA is a programmatic assessment of implementing a revised INRMP at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. The INRMP is thus a BMP manual in itself that identifies and describes the various management practices and SOPs that will be utilized in natural resource management by the LAARNG.

The following BMPs are described in the 2020 revised INRMP:

- Biological resources: Conduct various wildlife surveys, continue annual RCW and NLEB surveys, and conduct other threatened/endangered species surveys (every five years) to assess potential presence and species in need of conservation, and determine habitat management once species are identified.

- Water resources protection: Follow installation soil management plans. Revegetate disturbed areas where excessive land use has damaged existing vegetation. Utilize silt fences during construction activities. Monitor ditches for sediment. Monitor and restore wetlands as necessary.

- Vegetation/Woodlands Management: Use of prescribed fires to improve and maintain the native resources within the installations. Follow LAARNG Integrated Pest Management Plan and Invasive Species Management Plan.

- Cultural Resources Protection: Follow requirements outlined by Section 106 and Section 110 of the NHPA to ensure future construction does not interfere with cultural resources.

It should be noted that BMPs are intended to prevent adverse impacts to the environment, while mitigation measures are utilized to reduce the severity of the impact. Although several BMPs are utilized at the installations, no mitigation activities are required.

4.9 Cumulative Effects

4.9.1 Introduction

As defined by CEQ Regulations at 40 CFR Part 1508.7, cumulative impacts are those that "result from the incremental impact of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, without regard to the agency (Federal or non-Federal) or individual who undertakes such other actions." Cumulative impact analysis captures the effects that result from the Proposed Action in combination with the effects of other actions in the Proposed Action's region of influence.

Because of the number of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions on the three installations and their surrounding areas, cumulative effects are the most difficult to analyze. The NEPA requires the analysis of cumulative environmental effects of a Proposed Action on resources that may often be manifested only at the cumulative level, such as traffic congestion, air quality, noise, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic conditions, utility system capacities, and others.

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions in the immediate vicinity of Camp Beauregard include the following:

- Conversion of undeveloped lands around the cantonment area to commercial and residential development due to the expansion of the City of Pineville.
- Construction of a 50-acre Consolidated Maintenance Facility and associated improvements to an existing Army Aviation Support Facility at Esler Field
- Proposed construction of a new Bradley Driver training course.
- Proposed modifications and upgrades to Range 7.
- Proposed construction of a new readiness center to replace Building 801.
- Ongoing use of lands immediately surrounding the CBTS for timber production.

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions in the immediate vicinity of Camp Minden include the following:

- Construction and operation of a RTI on approximately 34 acres (2019).
- Construction of a new gate house and perimeter fence.
- Movement of ENGR training lane to area F.
- Proposed construction of additional barracks, readiness center, and Range Control Building.

- Proposed additional fencing and road improvements.

- Ongoing use of lands immediately surrounding Camp Minden for timber production.

Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions in the immediate vicinity of Camp Villere include the following:

- Conversion of undeveloped lands around Camp Villere to commercial and residential development due to the expansion of the City of Slidell.

- Donation of approximately 75 acres of Camp Villere to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This acreage was utilized for the creation of the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery.

- Repairs and upgrades to Range 4.

- Construction of a new fire department training building.

- Proposed construction of a new ICE range.

4.9.2 Cumulative Effects within the Area

The environment surrounding Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere is changing, although not at a rapid pace. A need for land to accommodate the areas' populations and economic development, including additional industrial uses, businesses, homes, and related services and infrastructure, will likely produce minor environmental effects. This encroachment around LAARNG military installations consists of converting rural land surrounding the installations to private residences and businesses. Although happening at a slow pace, an increase in development has the potential to impact LAARNG properties and its mission, through increased importance of the military lands as wildlife habitat, and potential for conflict with new businesses and residences. One of the primary missions of the LAARNG is to service the emergency needs of the people of the State of Louisiana. Land and facilities are necessary to accommodate training, which enables the LAARNG to service the community effectively (as well as the entire country, in terms of national defense). As such, the growth of the region, of Louisiana, and of the nation as a whole drives the need for this additional training capability; and these factors produce pressures on the environment within the region in which the installations are located.

Within the installations' boundaries, management of environmental resources would be achieved through ongoing implementation of the revised INRMP and ICRMP. Within the larger region beyond the installation, management of growth and resources would be controlled through adherence to applicable local and regional long-range plans. However, despite implementation of these measures, the military and civilian needs would result in some cumulative effects. For example, the region surrounding and including the installations is anticipated to experience an ongoing decline in the natural ecosystem, as well as increased demands on utilities, infrastructure, and services. While the ongoing and future activities at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere would individually produce a negligible contribution to adverse effects on

area infrastructure, traffic congestion, air quality and other resources, the cumulative effect of the aforementioned combined on-and off-post pressures would increase these effects. These effects would occur whether considering the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

At this time there does not appear to be any regionally stimulating type projects or infrastructure development. Absent any major economic stimuli, it is anticipated that the current economic engine for the areas would continue to driving the local economy, e.g., medical facilities, education, in addition to the timber-related industry of the rural areas throughout the region. Cumulatively, this minimal additional development would slightly reduce the quality of the natural ecosystem. However, the cumulative effects would be expected to be insignificant at the regional level.

4.9.3 Effects of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would result in the impacts identified throughout **Section 4**. No adverse impacts to land use, air quality, noise, site topography or geology, soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomics, infrastructure or hazardous and toxic materials/waste anticipated.

Implementation of the Proposed Action is not expected to cumulatively significantly adversely impact any technical area discussed in this EA. Cumulative net positive impacts to land use, soils, water resources, and biological resources would be realized. The Proposed Action would not noticeably contribute to the ongoing regional decline in natural or cultural resources. In terms of air quality and traffic, the Proposed Action would not significantly, cumulatively increase regional impacts; the action primarily involves staff and activities currently present on the installations; a full-time staffing increase is not proposed.

The Proposed Action would carry out a coordinated and integrated program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources at Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere consistent with their use as military training facilities. This program will provide for: conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources; the sustainable multipurpose use of the resources, which shall include hunting, fishing, timber harvesting, and other non-consumptive uses. In general, the goals and objectives of the Proposed Action are designed to create intentional, long-term beneficial cumulative impacts to most resources.

In summary, no significant adverse cumulative impacts to the environment, induced by changes under the Proposed Action, are anticipated. Close coordination between the LAARNG and local planning authorities would serve to mitigate any potential future land use conflicts, and proper planning would ensure future socioeconomic conditions maintain the quality of life that the areas' residents currently enjoy.

4.9.4 Effects of the No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the LAARNG would continue to manage natural resources under the outdated 2015 INRMP. Although this alternative would not result in any significant adverse cumulative effects, the cumulative, net positive impacts as a result of implementing the updating INRMP (Proposed Action) would not be realized.

5.0 Comparison of Alternatives and Conclusions

This EA has evaluated the potential environmental impacts from the Proposed Action and No Action Alternatives as presented in **Section 2** (Proposed Action).

5.1 Comparison of the Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives

Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action is to approve and implement a revised INRMP for Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere, which collectively includes numerous tasks for FY 2020 through FY 2024. The Proposed Action is needed to comply with the Sikes Act, to support the installations' military mission and to fulfill the natural resource management goals at the installations. Army regulations, management plans, and environmental requirements implemented by the LAARNG would ensure activities are in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The Proposed Action would include the use of numerous BMPs, as described in **Section 4**, to avoid, minimize, or prevent significant impacts to environmental and cultural resources. Potential impacts associated with the implementation of the Proposed Action have been described throughout **Sections 4.1** to **4.8** of this EA.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, natural resource management would continue under the outdated 2015 INRMP. This alternative has been analyzed as required by NEPA and its implementing regulations. The 2020 revised INRMP addresses the NLEB and Louisiana pines snake and includes updated survey data. Additionally, the revisions are required by the Sikes Act, as the existing INRMP is over five years old. Not updating the INRMP would result in continued use of an out-of-date INRMP, and would not allow the document to be revised.

While the No Action Alternative would not satisfy the purpose of or need for the Proposed Action, this alternative was retained to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, as required under the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Part 1502.14). The No Action Alternative reflects the status quo and serves as a benchmark against which the effects of the Proposed Action can be evaluated.

A comparison of environmental consequences of both evaluated alternatives is provided in **Table 13:**

Table 13. Alternative Comparison Matrix

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Land Use	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short-term impacts to land use because land use will not be immediately impacted by the Proposed Action. Long-term beneficial impact through programmatic monitoring and BMPs described in the INRMP.

Technical Resource Area	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Air Quality	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action, as current operations emissions would continue.
Noise	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts to noise are anticipated, as the Proposed Action would not result in increased traffic.
Geology, Topography, and Soils	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short-term impacts to geology, topography, or soils were identified, because these attributes would not be immediately impacted by the Proposed Action. Long-term beneficial impacts through programmatic monitoring and BMPs described in INRMP.
Water Resources	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short-term impacts to water resources, as the Proposed Action does not directly affect water resources. Long-term beneficial impacts achieved through the proposed projects and BMPs described in INRMP.
Biological Resources	Potential long-term, significant adverse impact to the northern long-eared bat (species was not included in 2015 INRMP).	No short-term impacts to biological resources. Long-term beneficial impacts through surveys, programmatic monitoring, and BMPs described in INRMP.
Cultural Resources	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts resulting from the Proposed Action.
Socioeconomics (including Environmental Justice and Protection of Children)	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.
Infrastructure	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.
Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.	No short- or long- term impacts attributable to LAARNG action.

5.2 Conclusions

The evaluations and analyses performed within this EA conclude that there would be no significant short- or long-term adverse impacts, either individually or cumulatively, to the local environment or quality of life as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action. No mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. Therefore, it is the conclusion of this EA that a FNSI is appropriate and that an Environmental Impact Statement is unnecessary for implementation of the Proposed Action.

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7.0 List of Preparers

The following people were primarily responsible for preparing this Environmental Assessment.

Name	Organization	Discipline/ Expertise	Experience	Role in Preparing EA
Jerry Bolton	Land Management Group, LLC	Biology/Ecology	33 years NEPA and related studies	NEPA guidance and report review
Stephen Smith	Land Management Group, LLC	Biology/Wildlife Management	24 years NEPA and related studies	Figure preparation, GIS analysis, and report review
Tonya Smith	Land Management Group, LLC	Biology/Wildlife Management	19 years NEPA and related studies	Project management and report preparation
Justin LeBlanc	Land Management Group, LLC	GIS	6 years NEPA and related studies	Report review

8.0 Agencies and Individuals Consulted

Federal Agencies

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Attn: Seth Bordelon
646 Cajundome Boulevard, Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

USACE Vicksburg District
Regulatory Branch
Attn: Jennifer Mallard, Chief
4115 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
CEMVN-OD-S
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

U.S. Forest Service
Attn: District Supervisor
2500 Shreveport Highway
Pineville, Louisiana 71360-2009

USEPA Region 6
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
Office of Planning and Coordination
Attn: John Blevins, Director
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Attn: Kevin Norton, State Conservationist
3737 Government Street, Building C
Alexandria, LA 71303

State Agencies and Local Entities

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Attn: Linda Hardy
P.O. Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301

Louisiana Office of Cultural Development
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
Attn: SHPO
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Pineville Field Office
1995 Shreveport Highway
Pineville, LA 71360

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Minden Field Office
9961 Hwy. 60
Minden, LA 71055

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Hammond Field Office
42371 Phyllis Ann Drive
Hammond, LA 70403

Louisiana Department of Ag and Forestry
Office of Forestry
Attn: Wade Dubea, Assistant Commissioner
5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 6000
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Native American Tribes

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Attn: Mr. Kenneth Carleton, THPO
P.O. Box 6257
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Attn: Alina Shively, Deputy THPO
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71342

Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
Attn: Earl J. Barbry, Jr., THPO
P.O. Box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
Attn: Ian Thompson, THPO
P.O. Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74702

Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Attn: Bryant Celestine
571 State Park Rd. 56
Livingston, TX 77351

Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Attn: Dr. Linda Langley, THPO
P.O. Box 10
Elton, LA 70352

Caddo Nation
Attn: Kim Penrod, Acting THPO
P. O. Box 487
Binger, OK 73009

Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
Attn: Everett Bandy, THPO
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363

Attachment 1

Agency Coordination

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6400 St. Claude Avenue
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

30 August 2017

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Hammond Field Office
42371 Phyllis Ann Drive
Hammond, LA 70403

RE: Solicitation of Views

Dear Sir or Madam,

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Sincerely,

Robert Brandon
NEPA Manager

cc: Tonya Smith, LMG

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6400 St. Claude Avenue
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

30 August 2017

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Minden Field Office
9961 Hwy. 60
Minden, LA 71055

RE: Solicitation of Views

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Robert Brandon
NEPA Manager

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State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6400 St. Claude Avenue
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

30 August 2017

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Pineville Field Office
1995 Shreveport Highway
Pineville, LA 71360

RE: Solicitation of Views

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Sincerely,

Robert Brandon
NEPA Manager

cc: Tonya Smith, LMG

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6400 St. Claude Avenue
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

30 August 2017

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Attn: Kevin Norton, State Conservationist
3737 Government Street, Building C
Alexandria, LA 71303

RE: Solicitation of Views

Dear Mr. Norton,

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Sincerely,

Robert Brandon
NEPA Manager

cc: Tonya Smith, LMG

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6400 St. Claude Avenue
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

30 August 2017

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
Attn: Linda Hardy
P.O. Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301

RE: Solicitation of Views

Dear Ms. Hardy,

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Sincerely,

Robert Brandon
NEPA Manager

cc: Tonya Smith, LMG

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6400 St. Claude Avenue
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

30 August 2017

U.S. Forest Service
Attn: District Supervisor
2500 Shreveport Highway
Pineville, Louisiana 71360-2009

RE: Solicitation of Views

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cc: Tonya Smith, LMG

State of Louisiana

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LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
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6400 St. Claude Avenue
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

30 August 2017

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Attn: Seth Bordelon
646 Cajundome Boulevard, Suite 400
Lafayette, LA 70506

RE: Solicitation of Views

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6400 St. Claude Avenue
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New Orleans, LA 70117

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30 August 2017

USEPA Region 6
Compliance Assurance and Enforcement Division
Office of Planning and Coordination
Attn: John Blevins, Director
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

RE: Solicitation of Views

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New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

30 August 2017

USACE Vicksburg District
Regulatory Branch
Attn: Jennifer Mallard, Chief
4115 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183

RE: Solicitation of Views

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New Orleans, LA 70117

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US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District
CEMVN-OD-S
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

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The LAARNG, pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, is overseeing the preparation of the EA for this project. According to the NEPA, potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action (implementation of the revised INRMP) and the No Action Alternative will be assessed. This letter serves as notification of the Proposed Action to your agency.

Based on preliminary data and evaluations, it is anticipated that there would be no significant adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, to environmental, cultural, or socioeconomic resources as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action. Overall, beneficial impacts are anticipated.

Early in the planning stages of a LAARNG project, views from federal, state, and local agencies, organizations, and individuals are solicited. The special expertise of these groups can assist the LAARNG with the early identification of possible adverse economic, social, or environmental effects or concerns. Your assistance with this regard would be appreciated. It is requested that you review the information in this letter and furnish us with your views and comments within 30 days.

Once complete, a copy of the EA will be released to the public for a 30-day review period. We are asking that you please provide us with as much information as you can prior to public review so that it can be included in the EA. If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to contact me at (504) 278-8253. Please send written comments to me at Jackson Barracks, ATTN: NGLA-CFM-EM, 6400 St. Claude Avenue STOP 903, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70117 or by email at robert.h.brandon2.nfg@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Robert Brandon
NEPA Manager

cc: Tonya Smith, LMG

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6400 St. Claude Avenue
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

30 August 2017

Louisiana Department of Ag and Forestry
Office of Forestry
Attn: Wade Dubea, Assistant Commissioner
5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 6000
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

RE: Solicitation of Views

Dear Mr. Dubea,

The Environmental Management Section of the Louisiana Army National Guard (LAARNG) is in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for implementation of a revised 2018-2022 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) that will provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of the natural resources of Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. The purpose of updating and implementing the INRMP is to meet the requirements of the Sikes Act (Title 16, United States Code 670a et seq.) as amended, which provides the primary legal basis for the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations.

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Once complete, a copy of the EA will be released to the public for a 30-day review period. We are asking that you please provide us with as much information as you can prior to public review so that it can be included in the EA. If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to contact me at (504) 278-8253. Please send written comments to me at Jackson Barracks, ATTN: NGLA-CFM-EM, 6400 St. Claude Avenue STOP 903, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70117 or by email at robert.h.brandon2.nfg@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Robert Brandon
NEPA Manager

cc: Tonya Smith, LMG

-----Original Message-----
From: Linda (Brown) Hardy [mailto:Linda.Hardy@la.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2017 4:14 PM
To: Brandon, Robert H NFG NG LAARNG (US) <robert.h.brandon2.nfg@mail.mil>
Cc: Yasoob Zia <Yasoob.Zia@LA.GOV>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] DEQ SOV 170912/1130 EA for Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

_____

November 6, 2017

Robert Brandon-Louisiana National Guard
Jackson Barracks-ATTN: NGLA-CFM-EM
6400 St. Claude Avenue, STOP 903
New Orleans, LA 70117

robert.h.brandon2.nfg@mail.mil <
Caution-mailto:robert.h.brandon2.nfg@mail.mil >

RE: 170912/1130

EA for Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
Louisiana National Guard Funding
Grant, Rapides, Webster, Bossier, and St. Tammany Parishes

Dear Mr. Brandon:

The Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), Business and Community Outreach Division has received your request for comments on the above referenced project.

After reviewing your request, the Department has no objections based on the information provided in your submittal. However, for your information, the following general comments have been included. Please be advised that if you should encounter a problem during the implementation of this project, you should immediately notify LDEQ's Single-Point-of-contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640.

* Please take any necessary steps to obtain and/or update all necessary approvals and environmental permits regarding this proposed project.
* If your project results in a discharge to waters of the state, submittal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) application may be necessary.
* If the project results in a discharge of wastewater to an existing wastewater treatment system, that wastewater treatment system may need to modify its LPDES permit before accepting the additional wastewater.

* All precautions should be observed to control nonpoint source pollution from construction activities. LDEQ has stormwater general permits for construction areas equal to or greater than one acre. It is recommended that you contact the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219-9371 to determine if your proposed project requires a permit.
* If your project will include a sanitary wastewater treatment facility, a Sewage Sludge and Biosolids Use or Disposal Permit is required. An application or Notice of Intent will be required if the sludge management practice includes preparing biosolids for land application or preparing sewage sludge to be hauled to a landfill. Additional information may be obtained on the LDEQ website atCaution-http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx < Caution-http://www.deq.louisiana.gov/portal/tabid/2296/Default.aspx > or by contacting the LDEQ Water Permits Division at (225) 219- 9371.
* If any of the proposed work is located in wetlands or other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, you should contact the Corps directly regarding permitting issues. If a Corps permit is required, part of the application process may involve a water quality certification from LDEQ.
* All precautions should be observed to protect the groundwater of the region.
* Please be advised that water softeners generate wastewaters that may require special limitations depending on local water quality considerations. Therefore if your water system improvements include water softeners, you are advised to contact the LDEQ Water Permits to determine if special water quality-based limitations will be necessary.
* Any renovation or remodeling must comply with LAC 33:III.Chapter 28, Lead-Based Paint Activities; LAC 33:III.Chapter 27, Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools and State Buildings (includes all training and accreditation); and LAC 33:III.5151, Emission Standard for Asbestos for any renovations or demolitions.
* If any solid or hazardous wastes, or soils and/or groundwater contaminated with hazardous constituents are encountered during the project, notification to LDEQ's Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC) at (225) 219-3640 is required. Additionally, precautions should be taken to protect workers from these hazardous constituents.

Currently, Grant, Rapides, Webster, Bossier, and St. Tammany Parishes are classified as attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards and has no general conformity determination obligations. Please send all future requests to my attention. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (225) 219-3954 or by email at linda.hardy@la.gov <Caution-mailto:linda.hardy@la.gov > .

Sincerely,

Linda M. Hardy
Louisiana Dept. of Environmental Quality
Office of the Secretary
P.O. Box 4301
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4301
Phone: (225) 219-3954
Fax: (225) 219-3971
Email: linda.hardy@la.gov < Caution-mailto:linda.hardy@la.gov >
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4155 CLAY STREET
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183-3435

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

September 15, 2017

Operations Division

SUBJECT: Louisiana Army National Guard, Solicitation of Views on the Conservation and Rehabilitation of the Natural Resources of Camp Beauregard, Minden and Villere, Grant, Rapides, Webster, Bossier and St. Tammany Parishes, Louisiana

Mr. Robert Brandon
NEPA Manager
Jackson Barracks
ATTN: NGLA-CFM-EM
6400 St. Claude Avenue, STOP 903
New Orleans, Louisiana 70117

Dear Mr. Brandon:

We received your correspondence, subject as above, on September 8, 2017. For ease of reference, we have assigned your correspondence identification number MVK-2017-731. Please refer to this number should you write or call us about your request.

If you have any questions about the status of your request, please call this office at (601) 631-7660 or (601) 631-5927.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Mallard

Jennifer A. Mallard
Chief, Regulatory Branch

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR

LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
6400 St. Claude Avenue
Jackson Barracks
New Orleans, LA 70117

GLENN H. CURTIS
MAJOR GENERAL
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

22 November 2019

Rapides Parish Library
Main Library
411 Washington Street
Alexandria, LA 71301

St. Tammany Parish Library
Slidell Branch
555 Robert Blvd.
Slidell, LA 70458

Webster Parish Library
Minden Main Branch
521 East and West Street
Minden, LA 71055

RE: Draft 2020-2024 LAARNG Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere and Final INRMP Implementation EA

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Louisiana Army National Guard (LAARNG) proposes to enhance natural resources management by implementing a revised 2020-2024 INRMP that provides for the conservation and rehabilitation of the natural resources on Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. Previously, each sites had standalone INRMPs. The new INRMP combines all three sites into one single INRMP. The purpose of updating and implementing the revised INRMP is to meet the requirements of the Sikes Act (Title 16, United States Code 670a et seq.) as amended, which provides the primary legal basis for the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations.

The Conservation Management Section of the LAARNG, pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for implementation of the revised 2020-2024 INRMP. This EA evaluates the individual and cumulative effects of the Proposed Action (implementation of the revised INRMP) and the No Action Alternative with respect to the following criteria: location and land use, air quality, noise, soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic environment, infrastructure, and hazardous and toxic materials/wastes.

The evaluation performed within the EA concluded that there would be no significant adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, to environmental, cultural, or socioeconomic resources as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action. Overall, beneficial effects are anticipated.

The EA is being released to the public for a 30-day review period. A Notice of Availability (NOA) indicating that the document will be made available for public review in your library will be

published in *The Advocate* on December 1, 2019 (see attached NOA). We are requesting that you place this document in your library and make it available to the public until January 3, 2020, the end of the review period. If you have any questions regarding this document or need further information, please feel free to contact me at (318) 290-5768. Please send written comments to Mr. Rob Brandon, Jackson Barracks, ATTN: NGLA-CFM-EM, 6400 St. Claude Avenue STOP 903, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70117 or by email at robert.h.brandon2.nfg@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Robert Brandon
NEPA Manager

cc: Tonya Smith, LMG

Attachment 2

Memorandum for Record

MEMO FOR RECORD (MFR)

DATE: 10-September-2019

SUBJECT: NEPA EA Implementation

BACKGROUND: The Environmental Management Section of the Louisiana Army National Guard (LAARNG) is in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for implementation of a revised updated Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) that will provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of the natural resources of Camps Beauregard, Minden, and Villere. The purpose of updating and implementing the INRMP is to meet the requirements of the Sikes Act (Title 16, United States Code 670a et seq .) as amended, which provides the primary legal basis for the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- **THPOs** contacted by email on 31-Aug-2017: Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas - Bryant Celestine, Caddo Nation-Tamara Francis-Fourkiller, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma - Lidsey Bilyeu, Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana- Dr. Linda Langley, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians - Alina Shively, Mississippi Band of Choctaw-Kenneth Carleton, Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana- Earl J. Barbry Jr., Quapaw Tribe of OK - Everett Bandy
- **THPOs** contacted by email on 10-July-2018 in the Native American Conference Read-Ahead
- **THPOs** briefed at the Native American Conference on 22-August-2018

RESPONSES:

Choctaw OK - Lindsey Bilyeu request GIS shapefiles for the project locations / Sent response stating that it was a document and did not have shape files associated. She requested a copy once completed.

Greg Babin
Cultural Resources Manager
Louisiana Army National Guard

Attachment 3

Newspaper Proof of Publication

AFFIDAVIT
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

ACCOUNT NAME: Land Management Group

ACCOUNT # 67768

RUN DATE: 12/1/2019

SIZE: 3x5

Affidavit complete:

By: Katie L Hebert **Title: Multimedia Sales Rep**
(signature)
Katie Hebert

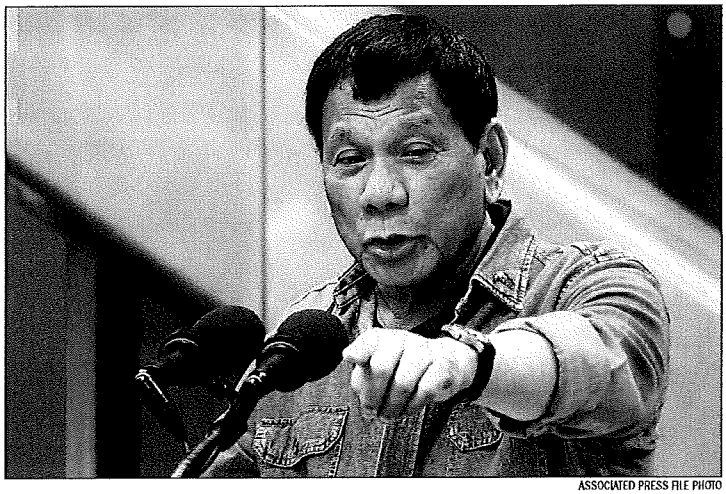
Notary Information:
Affirmed before me, this 9th **day of** December **A.D. 2019**

M. Monic McChristian **Commission Expires: Indefinite**
(signature)
M. Monic McChristian

M. MONIC McCHRISTIAN
NOTARY PUBLIC ID #88293
STATE OF LOUISIANA
MY COMMISION IS FOR LIFE

Troll armies may soon come to an election near you

BY SHASHANK BENGALI and EVAN HALPER
Los Angeles Times (TNS)



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

As public anger mounted last year over delayed plans to shake up the Philippines' outage-plagued telecommunications sector, angry comments and one-star ratings flooded a government-run Facebook page. Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, according to an employee, used an army of Internet trolls to post pro-Duterte comments to counter the messages. Such tactics, popular in the Philippines, could be coming to U.S. elections soon, according to election officials and disinformation scholars.

MANILA, Philippines — As public anger mounted last year over delayed plans to shake up the Philippines' outage-plagued telecommunications sector, angry comments and one-star ratings flooded a government-run Facebook page.

When employees suspected online trolls, President Rodrigo Duterte's digital mastermind offered a solution.

"I'll handle this," said Nic Gabunada, the architect of the social media strategy that powered Duterte's 2016 election victory, according to a government employee who managed the Facebook page.

Pro-Duterte comments soon poured onto the page, with users defending the president's handling of the situation or blaming the problems on the previous administration. Many of the new commenters had only basic profile information on their pages, which featured mostly generic posts with religious or pro-government messages.

"It was Nic," said the employee, who was interviewed on the condition her name not be used for fear of retribution. "The fact that he had a troll army was known by everyone, but not openly talked about."

In the Philippines, candidates and government officials routinely pay vast cyber-troll armies that create multiple fake social media accounts to smear opponents and prop themselves up.

It's all part of the online propaganda wars shaking politics in the country.

And it could soon be coming to the U.S., according to election officials and disinformation scholars who are watching closely. They warn that the Philippine epidemic probably will spread here, given Filipinos' proficiency in English, facility with social media and the lure of money from campaigns looking for a new way to get an edge over the competition.

Already, U.S. operatives in both parties have made early efforts at using trolls for political gain. Rogue progressives stealthily launched fake social media campaigns against Roy Moore, the GOP nominee for Senate in Alabama, during a 2017 special election. Their campaign aimed to confuse voters into thinking Moore supported banning alcohol and that Russian bots were working on his behalf.

The New York Times revealed the plot, along with an earlier, aborted plan developed by a firm run by former Israeli intelligence agents to engage dozens of paid trolls in swaying delegates to Donald Trump during the 2016 GOP convention. The plan was requested by a senior Trump campaign official but was not carried out.

"The presence of a large for-hire market looking at all the disinformation online that you can buy and people are selling is quite disturbing," Camille Francois, the chief innovation officer of Graphika, a firm that helps tech companies and government investigators find and confront online disinformation, said at a Federal Election Commission symposium in September.

"What these troll farms are reporting is a growth of global business. ... What do we do about that?"

Manila, alone, has hundreds of active troll farms. The shadowy networks act as weapons that, for the right price, can build artificial buzz around a product, a celebrity — or a political figure.

Those troll techniques "will be used more and more," said Malou N. Tiquia, chief executive of the Manila political strategy consultancy Publicus Asia. "When Facebook said it won't ban political ads, that was already a signal to everyone that anything goes."

U.S. regulators have barely begun to consider the mounting threat, and Silicon Valley has shown itself lacking the tools and will to effectively confront it. Tech firms are making little headway stamping out the scourge where it has emerged so far, even after Facebook in March removed from its platform 200 pages for "inauthentic" activity and took the rare step of identifying Gabunada's network as the culprit.

The Filipino digital propagandist has denied trafficking in misinformation and did not respond to texts seeking comment about his work for the Duterte administration.

Such moves by Facebook are doing little to slow the trolls.

Filipinos spend so much time online — they average a staggering 10 hours a day, according to industry data — and disinformation has spiraled so quickly that Katie Harbath, Facebook public policy director for global elections, branded it "patient zero in the global disinformation epidemic" during a 2018 talk in Berlin.

"The propaganda looks really organic and it often doesn't trip any of the flags" that alert tech companies, said Jonathan Ong, a professor of global digital media at University of Massachusetts Amherst whose research has taken him inside Filipino troll farms.

"The best strategists know how not to get caught."

Political campaigns contract out their digital efforts to consultants, who in turn pay up to $1,000 per month to college students and recent graduates who are charged with launching multiple fake Facebook pages designed to look like they were created by actual voters or grassroots groups.

"It is so easy to be enlisted in these jobs," Ong said. His recent study on the industry includes an interview with one paid troll who fell into the work when the chief of staff of the political campaign she was working on ordered everyone to start creating fake accounts and posting on them.

Others have fleeting loyalties politically but are attracted to the cash. Consultants running troll farms have been known to switch sides in the middle of an election.

"The alliances are very shifty," Ong said. "Strategists will switch in the middle of a campaign to join who they think will be the winner. They will betray their client. It happened in the last election."

Most often, the operations are run through contractors separate from the actual campaigns so the candidate has no fingerprints on the weapon. And the trolls often don't trigger attention from tech platforms because they know how to avoid detection. The algorithms that tech companies use to detect phony accounts tend to focus on dozens of commenters posting the same message around the same time, or users with a stock photo on their profile page. The trolls don't do these things.

"You can look like legitimate Facebook users to trick the (company's) artificial intelligence," said Ross Tapsell, a researcher at Australian National University who documented the surge of paid troll activity in the Philippine province of Cebu.

Some trolls, he said, get offered a rate of $1 per social media post. In some cases operatives contract the work out to troll farms in far-off places, including Saudi Arabia.

"We have only scratched the surface of what a lot of this involved," he said.

The government employee who last year watched what she believed were trolls swarm to the defense of Duterte on Facebook said her suspicions were confirmed when her boss later talked openly at a meeting about Gabunada's troll operations. She also met colleagues who had visited an office building in metropolitan Manila that housed the troll farm.

She quit soon after.

"It was very scarring," she said. "I don't know if these practices will end. It's very normalized in the Philippines, and advertising professionals are not ashamed that they use these strategies."

Among those who have been in the trenches is Joyce Ramirez, a publicist who ran social media for one of Duterte's rivals, Grace Poe.

Ramirez, who specializes in promoting films and celebrities, at one point controlled an army of 50 social media loyalists who together had 45 million Twitter followers on accounts that didn't use the owners' names. With a few strokes, she said, she could make any entertainment-related topic trend on Twitter in the Philippines. The tweeters were sometimes paid in cash, sometimes in cellphones and other gifts.

Such a network is politically potent, as in the Philippines, "there is a thin line that separates politics from showbiz," Ramirez said.

When a pro-Duterte blogger accused Ramirez of secretly working for another opposition candidate in 2017, she was attacked on social media by a blogger who was echoed by thousands of pro-government users; Ramirez believes they were paid trolls. The blogger was under contract at the time as a social media consultant for the Philippine department of foreign affairs.

"They hammered fake news against me again and again, with 5,000 to 7,000 people writing against me," Ramirez said. "It was all made up."

Ramirez quit politics. Her army of young influencers disbanded, some switching sides to defend Duterte's government, others leaving Twitter after their accounts were deleted or suspended. What the experience taught her, she said, is that Filipinos "thrive greatly in manufactured noise."

"Nothing is ever real," she said. "Whatever you hear in the news is most likely to deflect people from the truth."

December 1, 2019

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOUISIANA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S 2020-2024 REVISED INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Description. Interested parties are hereby notified that the LAARNG has prepared a Final Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding the proposed action described below.

Statutory Authority. This notice is being issued to all interested parties in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500-1508) and the Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR 651).

Proposed Action. The LAARNG proposes to approve and implement a revised INRMP for Camps Beauregard (Rapides and Grant Parishes), Minden (Bossier and Webster Parishes), and Villere (St. Tammany Parish). The revised INRMP provides a comprehensive overview of the installations' natural resources, and establishes goals, objectives, projects, and Best Management Practices for the management of natural resources that are consistent with the military mission. Specific projects are identified to accomplish the objectives of the INRMP for a five-year period. This INRMP is a revision to the existing INRMP adopted in 2015 and is consistent with the military use of the installations and the requirements of the Sikes Act Improvement Act.

Public Review. The EA and the draft FNSI will undergo a 30-day public comment period from December 1, 2019 through January 3, 2020 in accordance with 32 CFR Part 651.14, Environmental Analysis of Army Actions. During this period the public may submit comments on the EA and the draft FNSI. The EA and the draft FNSI can be accessed at the following addresses:

Rapides Parish Library Main Library 411 Washington Street Alexandria, LA 71301 (318) 445-2411	St. Tammany Parish Library Slidell Branch 555 Robert Blvd. Slidell, LA 70458 (985) 646-6470	Webster Parish Library Minden Main Branch 521 East and West Street Minden, LA 71055 (318) 371-3080

Comments. Comments on the EA and the draft FNSI should be submitted during the 30-day comment period via postal mail or e-mail to: Robert Brandon, LAARNG NEPA Manager, Jackson Barracks, ATTN: NGLA-CFM-EM, 6400 St. Claude Ave STOP 903, New Orleans, LA 70117-1456; e-mail: rob.brandon@ngla.gov.

Perkins V State Plan Public Comment

The Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) was signed into law on July 31, 2018 and went into effect July 1, 2019.

The Louisiana Perkins V State Plan represents the work of stakeholders from across Louisiana and continued engagement will be needed to ensure successful outcomes in our communities.

The Louisiana Perkins V state plan can be viewed at https://www.lctcs.edu/perkins-v

Please submit your public comment to PerkinsV@lctcs.edu.

Perkins V Louisiana State Plan Public Comment
Accountability- 11/26/19 through 1/31/2020
Full Plan-12/16/19 through 1/31/2020

Public meeting information:

DATE	SITE	ADDRESS	BUILDING & ROOM	TIME
Jan. 7	La. Delta CC	7500 Millhaven Road Monroe, LA 71203	Conference Room A&B	9-11
Jan. 8	CLTCC	516 Murray Street Alexandria, LA 71301	Multi-Purpose Room	9-11
Jan. 9	LCTCS	265 South Foster Dr. Baton Rouge, LA 70806	SIS Bldg. (grey building) Main Conference #106	9-11
Jan. 16	Delgado	916 Navarre Ave. New Orleans, LA 70124	*Student Life Center Bldg. 23 Lac Maurepas Rm (2nd floor)	9-11
Jan. 21	SOWELA	2000 Merganser St. Lake Charles, LA 70615	Arts & Humanities Bldg. 4, Room 145 (Multi-Purpose Room)	9:30-11:30

Delgado Location Additional Details
Location: Student Life Center Bldg. 23- Located behind the WYES Station
Room: Lac Maurepas Room on the 2nd floor.
Address: Please use 916 Navarre Avenue, New Orleans LA 70124 if navigating to the location
Parking: Park anywhere around Bldg. 23 (Campus police were notified about the meeting)