

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND REQUIREMENT FOR THE INRMP

Camp Pendleton has developed and published this Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) to meet the requirements established by the Sikes Act Improvement Act (SAIA) and the implementing directives of the Department of Defense (DoD), the Secretary of the Navy, and the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC). This INRMP is intended to ensure that natural resource management at Marine Corps Base (MCB) Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Camp Pendleton is implemented to provide sustained support for the military mission. To ensure frequent and continued use of land for military training, now and in the future, natural resource utilization must be (1) sustainable, (2) in accordance with laws and regulations, and (3) optimally integrated with existing Base plans and mission requirements, as mandated by both DoD and Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC) guidance. This INRMP is intended to integrate natural resource conservation and management efforts in support of land use and military mission requirements and responsibilities at MCB and MCAS Camp Pendleton (hereafter referred to collectively as Camp Pendleton, or the Base, unless otherwise specified).

This INRMP reflects Camp Pendleton's approach to natural resources management actions and summarizes baseline information and agreements through which compliance with regulatory and planning processes, such as those required by the SAIA, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Clean Water Act (CWA) is accomplished. This INRMP also fulfills other responsibilities with regard to Department of Defense Instructions (DoDI) and Directives (DoDD), as well as Department of Navy (DoN) Navy and Marine Corps policies for natural resource planning, conservation, management, and rehabilitation in support of the Base's military training mission.

Camp Pendleton's INRMP provides technical guidance to persons planning and/or preparing installation approvals, management actions, orders, instructions, guidelines, Standard Operating Procedures, and other plans, for integrating natural resource management efforts into the Base's planning and decision making processes. It is not intended, however, for use by military personnel operating in the field. Field operations and activities are directed to adhere to guidelines, plans, orders, or other approvals that have been developed using this INRMP and have already had environmental compliance review and, where applicable, regulatory approvals and/or permitting (e.g., Base Order [BO] P3500.1_, *Base Range and Training Regulations*). This INRMP does not dictate land use decisions, but rather provides important information to support sound land use and natural resource management decisions.

National Historic Preservation Act requirements are not addressed in this INRMP. Cultural resource management issues (archaeological and historical) are addressed separately within Camp Pendleton's *Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan* (ICRMP). Subsequent revisions to this INRMP are expected to contain updated summaries of the ICRMP.

1.1.1 Regulatory Requirements and Legal Authority

The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a *et seq.*), as it existed prior to the SAIA, authorized the Department of Defense and its component services to enter into partnerships with the Department of the Interior (DOI) (United States Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]), state fish and wildlife agencies, and private entities. These partnerships were to result in cooperative agreements or plans that were “mutually agreed upon” by the military agency and other partners. Though these cooperative plans *allowed* for the development of natural resources programs on military installations, they were *not* mandatory under the Sikes Act. The SAIA now makes the development and implementation of INRMPs mandatory, to provide for sound management of natural resources on military lands.

The SAIA requires the Secretaries of the military departments to prepare and implement INRMPs for each military installation unless exempted due to the absence of significant natural resources. Each INRMP shall include all elements of natural resources management applicable to the installation, including compliance with the Terms and Conditions of relevant Biological Opinions (e.g., USFWS Biological Opinion [BO] #1-6-95-F-02, *MCB Camp Pendleton Riparian and Estuarine Programmatic Conservation Plan*).

Development and implementation of this INRMP will fulfill the statutory requirements under the Sikes Act Improvement Act, Public Law 105-85, Div. B Title XXIX, November 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 2017-2019, 2020-2033. Though several other laws (e.g., Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, etc.) require military installations to protect sensitive biological resources, the SAIA is viewed as an “umbrella” law with regard to management of natural resources on military lands. Thus, this INRMP helps ensure that Camp Pendleton complies with other federal and state laws, most notably laws associated with environmental documentation, endangered species, water quality, and management of wildlife, in general.

1.1.2 Guidance and Required Elements

The SAIA, Marine Corps Order P5090.2A (*Environmental Compliance and Protection Manual*), and the *Handbook for Preparing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans for Marine Corps Installations* (the “*Handbook*,” HQMC 2000) were used to guide the preparation of this INRMP. As defined by the SAIA, natural resource management programs on military lands should be consistent with the use of those lands to ensure the preparedness of the Armed Forces and should provide for: (1) the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources; (2) the sustainable multipurpose use of the resources, which include hunting, fishing, trapping, and nonconsumptive uses; and (3) public access to military installations to facilitate the use of these resources, subject to safety requirements and military security.

The SAIA further states that, “Consistent with the use of military installations to ensure the preparedness of the Armed Forces, each [INRMP]... shall, to the extent appropriate and applicable, provide for:

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

Implementation of this INRMP will be measured by the timely accomplishment of High Priority Planned Actions. High Priority Planned Actions are those actions that Camp Pendleton commits to implementing within the duration of this plan that will help ensure achievement of Camp Pendleton’s natural resource management goals and objectives as well as SAIA requirements. Other Planned Actions, which are also presented in this INRMP and which will be implemented as funding and resources permit, represent desired, but not essential, actions that will further support the military mission and enhance integrated natural resource management on Base. To ensure no net loss in the capability of Camp Pendleton’s lands to fulfill military operational requirements, implementation of all Planned Actions will be conducted in an adaptive manner, adjusting management priorities and methodologies to accommodate changing natural resource and mission requirements. The DoD and Camp Pendleton’s military and civilian management and land users recognize that degradation of the land marginalizes its usefulness for realistic training, thereby degrading combat readiness.

1.1.3 Natural Resource Management Drivers

Camp Pendleton, like all military installations, has needs or drivers that must be satisfied for the installation’s mission to continue without disruption. Common with other federal agencies are legal or regulatory drivers, such as the federal ESA and CWA that require compliance to ensure continuance of the military mission. Unique to Camp Pendleton are a myriad of installation specific drivers that are defined by the Base’s mission, land uses to support the mission, geographic location, and natural resources affected by the mission. Identification of the *primary* drivers at Camp Pendleton provided the basis for establishment of natural resource management goals and objectives and the goals of this INRMP.

As the Marine Corps' premiere training facility on the West Coast, the overarching natural resource management driver is to ensure land, airspace, and sea space remain available for the continuance of training. Such assurance requires beach access for amphibious landings; open space for personnel and wheeled and tracked vehicles maneuvers; firing ranges and dedicated impact areas for the receipt of ordnance; airspace which can accommodate hazardous live fire training, close terrain flying, take-offs and landings, heavy lift operations, etc.; and flexibility to alter resource utilization to accommodate changing mission objectives.

A number of Camp Pendleton's *primary* natural resource management drivers to ensure long term sustainability of the Base's military mission include the need to:

- Maintain sufficient undeveloped lands and varied vegetation for training as well as sensitive species;
- Monitor mission encroachment, both internally and externally;
- Manage all real property assets, real estate agreements, and military and nonmilitary activities, to ensure all land use activities are compatible with the mission and the needs of sensitive natural resources;
- Minimize wildfire frequency on Camp Pendleton to ensure human safety, protect property (on and off Base), and minimize land degradation and/or habitat type conversions;
- Prevent, where feasible, degradation of the land and associated sensitive resources to ensure realistic training and military readiness;
- Ensure compliance with the federal ESA, and other applicable federal natural resource regulations such as the CWA, Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Migratory Bird Treaty Act, through avoidance and minimization of impacts to sensitive species and their habitats on Base; and
- Maintain a level of involvement in regional ecosystem initiatives to monitor and track the sustainability of natural resources of regional significance, relative to the Base's natural resource assets, and ensure Camp Pendleton does not become the region's *de facto* "ecological island" and the last bastion of many endangered and threatened species.

Appendix A provides a detailed list of applicable regulatory and natural resource management drivers.

1.1.4 INRMP Development and Coordination

A core working group within the Environmental Security office, consisting of professional planners, natural resource specialists and biologists, took the lead effort in coordinating development of Camp Pendleton's INRMP. This working group obtained focused input and guidance from individuals representing critical interests of Camp Pendleton and has ensured this INRMP reflects involvement of a cross section of land users and land managers at Camp Pendleton.

The following organizations and departments were key in developing, reviewing, revising and/or approving Camp Pendleton's INRMP, at various stages throughout the process:

Assistant Chief of Staff (AC/S) Environmental Security, AC/S Operations and Training, AC/S Marine Corps Community Services, Facilities Maintenance, Public Works Department, Installation Security and Safety, MCAS Camp Pendleton, Western Area Counsel Office (WACO), and Western Regional Environmental Coordinator (WREC) Office. A list of the Base's internal stakeholders is provided in Appendix B.

The development of the INRMP is an ongoing process that does not end with the production of this document. Camp Pendleton's INRMP will be reviewed and updated every five years, as required under the SAIA. However, Camp Pendleton is committed to a more frequent document review process that involves periodic evaluations and monitors process, results, and implementation through established milestones and timelines for specific projects and programs. Continued involvement of stakeholders is an important part of the ongoing INRMP development and revision process.

1.1.4.1 PUBLIC COMMENT

The SAIA mandates, "each military department shall provide an opportunity for the submission of public comments on [the INRMP and on] changes to cooperative plans..." Previously, preparation of management plans did not require public involvement. Through amendments to the Sikes Act, members of the public, advocacy groups, and interested citizens have been afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the INRMP during its preparation. The public comment period on this INRMP is from 18 May 2001 to 2 July 2001. Copies of the INRMP will be placed in libraries in San Clemente, Oceanside, and Fallbrook and will be available on the Camp Pendleton web site. Notifications of the availability of the INRMP and the public review and comment period will be made by letter and notifications published in local newspapers. Appendix C will document public comments received and Camp Pendleton's response to those comments.

1.1.4.2 RESOURCE AGENCY COORDINATION

Section 2904 of the SAIA states that the INRMP shall reflect the "mutual agreement" of the USFWS, the state fish and wildlife agency, and the DoD "concerning conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources." The requirement for mutual agreement is further clarified by the distinction that "nothing in this title enlarges or diminishes the responsibility and authority of any State for the protection and management of fish and resident wildlife."

Camp Pendleton's INRMP was developed in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. Such cooperation ensured, and is reflected in, the mutual agreement that this INRMP complies with the requirements of the Sikes Act Improvement Act (1997) and Sikes Act (1949 and 1960, as amended). This INRMP reiterates the Base's compliance with the Endangered Species Act (1973, as amended), as established through the various Biological Opinions issued by the USFWS for Camp Pendleton over the last several years, to include the Riparian and Estuarine/Beach

Ecosystems (BO #1-6-95-F-02, October 1995) and the pending Upland Habitats Biological Opinion (expected by the end of Fiscal Year [FY] 2001).

The mutual agreement process with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game consisted of a series of “planning/coordination sessions” and document review over the period 22 January 2001 to 31 July 2001. Included in discussions were the requirements of the SAIA, comments and ideas on potential areas of mutual support of Camp Pendleton natural resource management and conservation programs and agency management and conservation efforts, opportunities for conducting joint projects (especially for non-listed species), and areas in which to explore cooperative agreements (e.g., funding and personnel).

1.1.5 Evaluation and Updates of the INRMP

As natural resource management is a dynamic process, Camp Pendleton’s INRMP will be evaluated and revised as necessary throughout its implementation. Upon completion of this plan, periodic reviews and updates will be conducted to (1) accommodate changes in the military mission and natural resource management objectives, (2) incorporate agreements with regulatory agencies, and (3) ensure the continued usefulness of this plan.

On a quarterly basis, natural resource management goals and objectives, High Priority Planned Actions, and Other Planned Actions will be reviewed with the appropriate managers to document progress, identify additional actions required or desired, and revise implementation schedules and priorities. New projects, data, understanding of natural processes and species, and lessons learned from completed and ongoing projects and practices will be incorporated as appropriate during these INRMP reviews.

Annually, the INRMP will be reviewed to evaluate the efficiency and integration of programs and the effectiveness of communication linkages. Every five years, the entire plan will be revised and updated for publication.

Implementation of the INRMP will be assessed formally through the Environmental Compliance Evaluation (ECE) Program, which involves Headquarters Marine Corps onsite evaluations every three years, an annual review and validation of the Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) that follows up formally on the Headquarters Marine Corps ECE deficiencies, an annual Self-Audit Program, and periodic self-evaluations.

1.2 ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Department of Defense articulates the biodiversity conservation policy and ethic embraced by all military departments in the following quote:

“The goal [of ecosystem management] is to maintain and improve the sustainability and native biological diversity of terrestrial and aquatic, including marine, ecosystems while supporting human needs, including the DoD mission.” (U.S. DoD 1994).

With more than 25 million acres of land under DoD management today, a comprehensive ecosystem management policy and philosophy ensures that many of the most important biological resources present on its many installation lands today, will be present for future generations of Americans, including DoD personnel and their families.

1.2.1 DoD Policy and Programs

The Department of Defense has adopted Ecosystem Management as a tool for conserving natural resources. In the memorandum of 8 August 1994 concerning Implementation of Ecosystem Management in the DoD, the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environmental Security) established the following DoD Ecosystem Management policy:

- Ecosystem Management is the basis for future management of DoD lands and waters. It will blend multiple-use needs and provide a consistent framework for managing DoD installations, ensuring the integrity of ecosystems.
- Ecosystem Management is a goal-driven approach to environmental management at a scale compatible with natural processes, recognizes social and economic viability within functioning ecosystems, and is realized through effective partnerships among private and government agencies.
- Ecosystem Management is a process that considers the environment as a complex system functioning as a whole, not as a collection of parts, and recognizes that people and their social and economic needs are integral parts of the whole.

The goal of ecosystem management is to preserve, improve, and enhance ecosystem integrity. Over the long term, this approach will maintain and improve the sustainability and biological diversity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems while supporting sustainable economies and communities.

In applying the principles and guidelines for DoD ecosystem management, military installations will:

- Develop a vision of ecosystem health. Existing natural resource, social, and economic conditions should be factored into the vision;
- Develop coordinated approaches to work toward ecosystem health. Since ecosystems rarely coincide with ownership and political boundaries, cooperation across ownership is an important component of ecosystem based management;
- Maintain and improve the sustainability and native biological diversity of ecosystems;
- Support sustainable human activities. People and their social, economic, and security needs are an integral part of ecological systems, and management of ecosystems depends upon sensitivity to these issues;

- Use benchmarks to monitor and evaluate outcomes and establish milestones to ensure accountability.

The DoD ecosystem management guidelines mirror the principles set forth within California's Coordinated Regional Strategy To Conserve Biological Diversity, a 1991 Memorandum of Understanding. The DoD continues to shift its focus from protection of individual species to management of ecosystems. This approach requires land managers to form partnerships for information exchange, pool resources for conducting mitigation and studying natural resources, and collaborate to develop a shared vision for ecosystems.

1.2.2 Camp Pendleton's Ecosystem Management Philosophy

Camp Pendleton's overall approach to managing natural resources reflects the principles of ecosystem management, consistent with DoD and Marine Corps policy. Camp Pendleton's natural resource management approach seeks to balance the twin goals of maximizing land use for military readiness and maintaining native habitats. The overriding focus of Camp Pendleton's natural resource management is to develop, promote, and refine a comprehensive, ecosystem based management program for resource conservation. Such an ecosystem based approach is intended to facilitate maximum support of the Base's military training mission and infrastructure, while simultaneously promoting both the sustainability of native species and habitat diversity and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

With 18 federally listed threatened or endangered species known to exist on or use the Base and numerous additional sensitive plant and animal species, Camp Pendleton recognizes the need for an ecosystem approach to natural resource management, as traditional species-by-species (and project-by-project) management is inefficient and impedes mission accomplishment. An ecosystem approach is more efficient and balances the needs of all ecosystem components (including mission, biological, economic, and human elements), provides comprehensive compliance with the Endangered Species Act, and integrates both DoD and DoI guidelines.

Camp Pendleton's strategy for natural resource conservation and management includes habitat enhancement (e.g., exotics control, erosion control) and the avoidance and minimization of adverse impacts through implementation of programmatic instructions (published rules and guidelines for land users on Base).

Essential to ecosystem management is knowledge of the abundance, diversity, and status of resources both on and off Camp Pendleton. Development and maintenance of such inventories is aided by the use of Geographic Information System (GIS), Global Positioning System (GPS), and remote sensing technology, combined with periodic monitoring and surveys. The routine collection of data and the application of state-of-the-art technology maximizes the quality and quantity of information available to land managers, enabling adaptive management through the evaluation of potential impacts, biological trends, and efficacy of management initiatives. Updated information and "lessons learned" may then be incorporated into management protocols and programmatic instructions for users of the Base.

This ability to evaluate land use compatibility and to adaptively manage resource utilization minimizes the dedication of Camp Pendleton lands for single species conservation, while maximizing land area available for training.

Camp Pendleton's ecosystem management complements local and regional conservation efforts to conserve multiple habitats and species. Throughout the year, Camp Pendleton personnel meet with Marines, civilians, and community groups to discuss the Base's resources and conservation programs in an effort to promote ecosystem management principles. These meetings facilitate exchanges of approach and data sharing and support increased conservation awareness throughout the region and specifically with adjacent landowners. It is the Base's intent to proactively manage activities, infrastructure development, and natural resources in a manner that both complements regional plans and initiatives and is consistent with the need to ensure training flexibility. Camp Pendleton discourages unbalanced dependence of the region on the Base's inventory of natural resources. In essence, Camp Pendleton must be a link in the region's "matrix of biodiversity" and not an "island of biodiversity" within the region.

1.2.3 Regional Contribution and Environmental Stewardship

Camp Pendleton has an abundance of natural resources. With more than 17 miles of largely undeveloped coastline and approximately 125,000 acres of land, 21 recognized plant communities, including coastal sage scrub, oak woodlands, chaparral, grasslands, coastal dunes, salt marshes, and riparian woodlands, Camp Pendleton lands provide habitat for numerous native species, including 18 federally listed threatened or endangered species.

The Marine Corps views the management of natural resources on Camp Pendleton as one of its primary responsibilities to ensure the long term landscape diversity required to support the military training mission and regional biodiversity. Both Camp Pendleton and Headquarters Marine Corps continually invest significant resources (staff, time, and funds) to provide focused and high quality programs to manage the spectrum of environmental resources within its boundaries and regionally. Camp Pendleton has received numerous awards and has been recognized nationally for its role in applying DoD's ecosystem management principles. In addition to receiving recognition of excellence in pollution prevention, recycling, hazardous waste management, and other programs, Camp Pendleton's natural resources programs have been the subject of awards and citations between 1995 and 1998 from various sources including the Secretary of the Navy, Secretary of Defense, and the State of California. In 1996, the Base was recognized as having the best natural resource conservation program in the DoD.

Camp Pendleton has developed a wide variety of management initiatives, several in collaboration with regional groups and other federal agencies, to manage the Base's natural resources. These initiatives include an Exotic Species Control Program, an Erosion Control Program, a Fire Management Program, an Environmental Education/Awareness Program, and a Long Term Ecological Trend Monitoring Program. In addition, the Camp Pendleton supports numerous partnerships with other federal, state, local, and private resource groups to

promote such programs as the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation, and Exotic Plant Species Control Program.

Along with Camp Pendleton's efforts to practice responsible stewardship of its lands and natural resources, the Base maintains an interest in regional planning. Regional conservation planning, such as the Multiple Habitat Conservation Planning/North County Wildlife Forum, seeks to restrict regional development to certain areas by setting aside other lands in a network of open space wildlife preserves. Camp Pendleton is concerned that, as regional development continues to encroach on natural habitats throughout southern California, Camp Pendleton lands will become increasingly important to sensitive species conservation in the region. Camp Pendleton wants to ensure that its training lands do not become viewed as regional preserves within which training activities would then be prohibited. The Base does not want its land management efforts to protect open spaces on Camp Pendleton to be viewed by others as the "solution" for regional land use needs due to the perceived minimal economic and political cost of using land on the Base (Creswell 1993). Camp Pendleton is working to ensure that its land use planning efforts and regional planning efforts are complementary and meet regional habitat needs so that Camp Pendleton's lands can continue to be used in support of the Base's mission.

1.2.4 Regional Conservation Planning

Over the past decade, southern California has become a focal point for regional planning efforts to ensure the continued survival of sensitive plant and wildlife species and representations of their associated habitats. These efforts have been facilitated by the Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Act of 1991 passed by the State of California. The NCCP process was developed to encourage the conservation of natural communities before species within those communities are threatened with extinction. The NCCP program goals are to provide long term protection for natural communities on a regional basis while allowing continued urban development and growth. It is designed to be a voluntary, collaborative effort, primarily involving landowners, local government, and state and federal agencies.

Listings of numerous animal and plant species in the region under the federal and state Endangered Species Acts have provided an impetus for regional planning. The traditional species-by-species recovery plan response has proved awkward in practice, and has not been very effective in restoring population levels or protecting habitats that support multiple sensitive species. The NCCP approach represents an ecosystem view. In the case of the Santa Margarita River watershed, ecological integrity is only one of the driving forces. Significant water supply, water quality, and flood control issues that go beyond any single jurisdiction are also instigating a cooperative venture. Behind all of the issues is the explosive urbanization that is continuing to occur in south coastal California (San Diego, Riverside, and Orange Counties).

Three subregional plans are being developed in San Diego County under the NCCP program umbrella, although several sub-area plans are in the works or have been completed recently. The subregional plans approved or pending completion include: the Multiple Species

Conservation Plan or MSCP (San Diego County) approved in 1995, the Multiple Habitats Conservation Plan or MHCP (includes seven incorporated cities in north county) (pending completion) and the County of San Diego Multiple Habitats Conservation and Open Space Plan (MHCOSP) (pending completion). The regions to the north and east of Camp Pendleton are also participating in the NCCP program with the development of three NCCP subregional plans in Orange County, including the Southern (not yet approved), Northern (approved), and Central-Coastal NCCPs (approved) and the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (pending completion).

Ecosystem management, landscape ecology, multi-species planning and biodiversity planning are terms commonly used in these regional planning efforts. These terms refer to methods of addressing the biological and hydrologic requirements of healthy ecosystems at natural scales using natural boundaries, rather than at political scales using ownership boundaries. As a result federal, state, and local agencies and citizen groups, developers, and universities are included in the various conservation planning group memberships. The direction for management of DoD lands and waters is also based on this concept (U.S. DoD 1994, later amplified by DoDI 4715.3, Environmental Conservation Program). As a result Camp Pendleton participates in or monitors the above regional efforts.

Valuable regional biological resources remain on Camp Pendleton due to the mission requirement for large contiguous undeveloped areas for training. A wide variety, as well as significant quantity and quality, of regionally important habitat types that support many locally rare, state sensitive, and federally listed species of plants and animals occur on Base. Additionally, Camp Pendleton lands provide valuable regional habitat linkages from the Santa Ana Mountains of the Cleveland National Forest to the southern California coast line, and linkages necessary to connect habitats of southern Orange County with those remaining open space lands identified in the MHCP in northern San Diego County.

Unfortunately, important biological resources (e.g., vernal pools, coastal sage scrub/California gnatcatcher [*Polioptila californica californica*] habitat, and wildlife corridors) have not fared as well elsewhere throughout the southern California ecoregion, particularly in coastal environments. Many species and their associated habitats are declining; some to the point of being listed as threatened or endangered, primarily due to rapidly increased regional urbanization. Remaining native vegetation and open spaces in the region have become so increasingly fragmented that they provide little in the way of useable habitat for native, sensitive plant and wildlife species.

In response to this ever increasing threat to native species, city, county, state, and federal governments, including the general public, are placing emphases on the biological resources on military lands such as Camp Pendleton. These agencies, and the general public, have come to realize the valuable contribution that Camp Pendleton's ongoing management efforts, and its suite of natural resources, have become to the regional conservation picture. However, Camp Pendleton cannot be placed in the position of carrying the sole responsibility for species and habitat conservation across southern California, and San Diego County, in particular.

Camp Pendleton, along with other jurisdictions, including the County of San Diego, Northern Sub-Area Plan (as part of the MSCP), and the seven cities developing the MHCP, form the core of the region's remaining open space lands in coastal southern California. Camp Pendleton acknowledges that, with its 125,000 acres of primarily undeveloped training lands, natural resources of mutual concern to the Base and other federal, state, and local agencies and jurisdictions is best managed through region wide, mutually supportive management efforts. While the Marine Corps supports the NCCP program's aims and efforts, conservation of all natural resources, particularly sensitive biological resources at Camp Pendleton, are being planned separately from other regional conservation planning and management efforts out of concern for *operational flexibility* and to avoid the creation of preserves on DoD lands that are specifically set aside for use in military training. The Marine Corps believes that most military activities have, and will continue to be, generally compatible with the conservation of sensitive biological resources.

In considering participation in regional ecosystem conservation initiatives to resolving land use conflicts, the Marine Corps considers the following principles (Brabham 1995):

- The overriding mission of DoD is the protection of the national security of the United States, and military activities on departmental lands are vital to fulfillment of that mission.
- Military lands cannot be used for the mitigation of impacts of non-department actions occurring off the installation that affect the environment.
- Military lands cannot be set aside as perpetual environmental preserves.
- While conservation is, and shall be, practiced on our installations, we maintain the flexibility to adapt our defense mission to political and technological developments.
- The DoD's first priority shall be to integrate the management of natural and cultural resources with the military mission within the ecosystem supporting the installation.
- Such agreements, and their projects, will not detract from the DoD national security mission, now or in the future.

Camp Pendleton continues its efforts to practice responsible stewardship of its lands and natural resources, while maintaining an interest in regional conservation and management planning. Camp Pendleton is mindful of the regional conservation planning process that is ongoing, and has expressed concern to local agencies and jurisdictions about the effect regional development continues to have on natural habitats, not only off-Base, but on Base as well because Camp Pendleton lands then become viewed as disproportionately important to sensitive species conservation at the regional scale. The Base wants to ensure that its training lands are viewed primarily in terms of their intended land use, that of military training, and that natural resource management efforts are designed to be in support of that military mission. To that end, Camp Pendleton is working to ensure that its land use planning efforts, and those of the region, are complementary, and together meet the region's species and

habitat needs so that Camp Pendleton’s open spaces can continue to be used in support of the Base’s mission.

1.3 CAMP PENDLETON REGIONAL SETTING, LOCATION, AND MISSION

Camp Pendleton is, and will continue to be, affected by the geographic and socioeconomic setting of the region in which it is located. Land use and growth plans promulgated by political jurisdictions within the region likewise have potentially significant influence on the Base’s planning, environmental compliance, and future for biodiversity.

1.3.1 Regional Setting and Location

Camp Pendleton occupies approximately 125,000 acres of largely undeveloped land, with approximately 17 miles of coastline, in northwestern San Diego County of southern California (Figure 1-1). Camp Pendleton is situated between two major metropolitan areas: Los Angeles, 82 miles to the north, and San Diego, 38 miles to the south. Nearby communities include Oceanside to the south, Fallbrook to the east, and San Clemente to the northwest. Camp Pendleton shares portions (approximately 8 miles) of its northern border with the San Mateo Wilderness Area of the Cleveland National Forest and its eastern border with the Fallbrook Naval Weapons Station. Aside from the Wilderness Area and the Naval Weapons Station (which are both largely undeveloped land), surrounding land use includes urban development, rural residential development, and agricultural farming and ranching.

1.3.2 Military Mission

The mission of Camp Pendleton is “to operate an amphibious training Base that promotes the combat readiness of operating forces by providing facilities, services, and support responsive to the needs of Marines, Sailors, and their families” (MCB Camp Pendleton 2002). Camp Pendleton is the Marine Corps’ premier amphibious training Base and its only west coast amphibious assault training center. The Base has been conducting air, sea, and ground assault training since World War II, providing a unique combination of natural and military resources for the training of Marines and other Department of Defense personnel. For almost 60 years, Camp Pendleton has served as one of the nation’s most important training bases and has contributed substantially to the success of our national security forces in conflicts and missions worldwide.

Camp Pendleton is arguably one of the busiest DoD installations in the United States. Approximately 40-45,000 training events are scheduled at Camp Pendleton each year. These events range from small unit training to Regimental and Marine Expeditionary Brigade (MEB) exercises. Nearly 60,000 Service members train at Camp Pendleton every year. The Base provides training facilities for many active duty and reserve Marine, Navy, Army, Air Force, and National Guard units, as well as other national, state, and local agencies.

The Base is the home to the First Marine Expeditionary Force (IMEF), the First Marine Division (1st MARDIV), First Force Service Support Group (1st FSSG), Marine Aircraft Group-39 (an element of the Third Marine Aircraft Wing), and many tenant units, including the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity (MCTSSA), Assault Craft Unit 5 (a U.S. Navy command), Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, Naval Dental Clinic Camp Pendleton, the Field Hospital Operations and Training Command (a U.S. Navy command), an Army Reserve Center and the Weapons and Field Training Battalion (an element of Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego). Forces of the IMEF are continuously deployed worldwide to meet national security objectives as directed by the National Command Authority.

To accomplish the national security mission, Marines and other Department of Defense personnel must be trained in all requirements for responding to national security threats. Training activities include, but are not limited to: amphibious landings, use of tracked vehicles, infantry and vehicle maneuvers, artillery and small arms firing, aerial weapons delivery, engineer support operations, logistics support, field combat service support, communications, airlift support for troops and weapons, equipment maintenance, and field medical treatment. Camp Pendleton units train with some of the most modern and sophisticated weapon systems and equipment available. Such technology is constantly evolving to stay ahead of weapon system advancements by threat forces. Continual training to maintain personnel/unit proficiency is a critical component of combat power and is the primary mission of the Base.

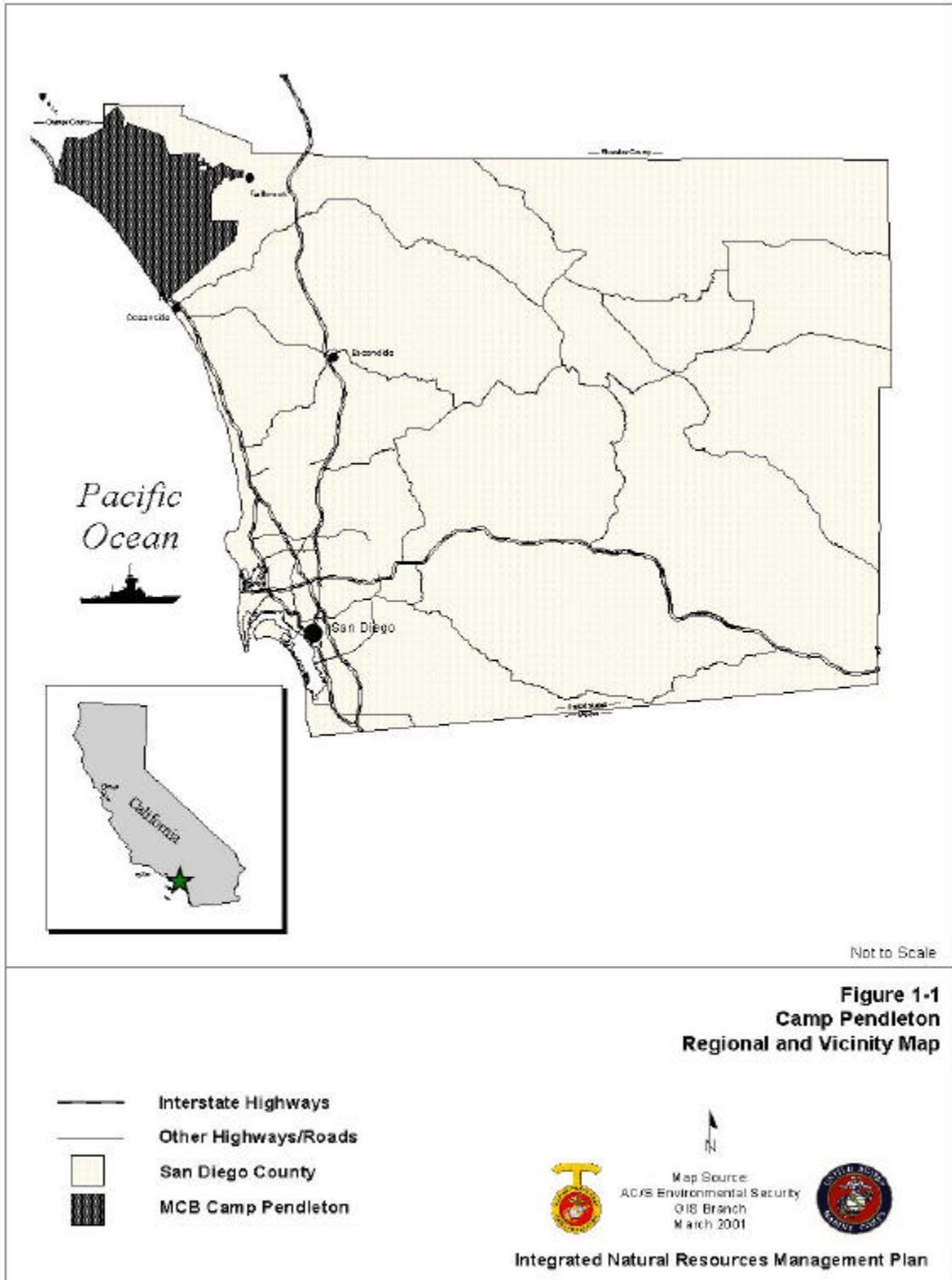
Training on Base is supported by a wide range of Marine Corps and Department of Defense service support activities, including: an airfield and aviation landing areas, ammunition storage areas, radar and communication facilities, supply warehouses, motor vehicle storage and maintenance facilities, recreational activities, bachelor and family housing facilities, medical and dental services, military security, child and family care services, and fire fighting.

1.4 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

To ensure Camp Pendleton's military training mission and environmental conservation mission are compatible and mutually supportive, multiple Base organizations have a role or responsibility in managing and supporting Camp Pendleton's natural resources. Camp Pendleton's ongoing stewardship is accomplished by the organizations discussed below. Further description of organizations on Camp Pendleton can be obtained from the MCB Camp Pendleton *Organization and Functions Manual* (BO 5400.14H).

1.4.1 AC/S Environmental Security

The Assistant Chief of Staff, Environmental Security (AC/S ES) provides the lead and overall coordination of environmental compliance and natural resource management through a staff that provides procedural and technical advice on both military and nonmilitary NEPA documents, facility planning, construction plans, maintenance and daily facilities activities,



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military operations, and other proposed actions that may affect natural and cultural resources. Fieldwork, surveys, and inventories are accomplished through AC/S ES managed contracts and cooperative agreements. AC/S ES also provides specific information on the flora and fauna present on Camp Pendleton and proactively maintains up-to-date resource data for activity and project planning, thereby minimizing resource data collection delays. However, the AC/S ES does not have the available staff to conduct all fieldwork activities. The AC/S ES serves as the lead for planning and addressing natural resource compliance issues such as wetland and endangered species regulatory requirements. The AC/S ES also provides technical natural and cultural resource management support to installation action proponents regarding resource compliance requirements and Best Management Practices (BMPs) involved with their actions. Conservation education training to military and civilian personnel is a constant focus of the AC/S ES to raise awareness and improve community relations with the goal of preventing resource damage.

The AC/S ES is composed of the Natural Resources Department, Environmental Compliance Department, and the Information Systems Branch. The Natural Resources Department provides strategic planning for and daily implementation of Natural resource management. The Environmental Compliance Department provides strategic planning for and daily implementation of environmental protection and compliance regulations basewide on Camp Pendleton.

The mission of the Assistant Chief of Staff of Environmental Security is:

“To provide environmental services to the Base so that operations and training are conducted in compliance with environmental requirements and land use availability is safeguarded.”

1.4.1.1 NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Natural resource management is implemented by the Natural Resources Department, which consists of two Divisions: (1) Resource Management and (2) Environmental Planning. Budgetary planning and allocation for the Department is provided by the AC/S ES Program Manager and Budget Office with input from the various resource branches’ technical personnel.

The mission of the Natural Resources Department is:

“To develop, manage and oversee implementation of the programs that protect and assure the ability of Base natural and cultural resources to support and sustain mission requirements and compliance with applicable environmental regulations.”

Resource Management Division

The programs managed by the Resource Management Division can be summarized as those that manage and monitor the natural environment of Camp Pendleton to benefit the military

and civilian personnel and foster a high state of combat readiness. This is achieved through a variety of programs: Land Management, which includes elements of fire management, erosion control, and wetlands; Wildlife Management, which has a strong emphasis on endangered species management; Cultural Resource Management; and the Camp Pendleton's Hunting and Fishing Program.

The Resource Management Division Manager supervises four branches: (1) Wildlife Management Branch, staffed with Wildlife Biologists and Biological Technicians; (2) Land Management Branch, staffed with Natural Resource Specialists; (3) Resources Enforcement Branch, staffed with a Game Warden/Conservation Supervisor and active duty Marines, and (4) Archaeological Resources Branch, staffed with an Archaeologist and cultural resources technician.

Wildlife Management Branch

The Wildlife Management Branch manages all ESA Section 7 consultations with the USFWS for federally listed threatened and endangered species. This branch also monitors and reports on species related compliance issues, including mitigation management and implementation, and manages rare and endangered wildlife species population programs (exclusive of vernal pool fauna, see Land Management Branch). The Wildlife Management Branch designs and implements population and habitat monitoring and improvement plans/programs for federally listed species and for game and nongame species. The Branch implements the Riparian, Estuarine, and Beach Conservation program, including all Terms and Conditions addressed within the USFWS Biological Opinion (#1-6-95-F-02), and establishes seasonal restrictions and harvest quotas for game and nongame species and stocking programs. In addition, Wildlife Management designs, implements, and manages exotic wildlife species control programs.

Land Management Branch

The Land Management Branch administers Camp Pendleton's Clean Water Act, Sections 404, 401, and 10 permitting processes, including acting as the Base lead in coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and State of California Regional Water Quality Control Board 401/402 certification and compliance process. The Land Management Branch (1) manages rare and endangered plant populations; (2) conducts ESA Section 7 consultations with the USFWS for listed plant and fairy shrimp species; (3) designs and implements population and habitat monitoring and improvement plans and programs for federally listed and non-listed plant species; (4) administers the Long-Term Ecological Trend Monitoring Program for plant communities and habitats; (5) administers, implements, and manages the Erosion Control, and Land Restoration, and Exotic Plant Control programs; (6) manages isolated ephemeral wetland habitats (including vernal pools) in the uplands; (7) administers and manages the basewide vegetation monitoring and mapping efforts; and (8) oversees the sheep grazing, agriculture (row crops), and seed collection outleases. The Land Management Branch Head acts as the Natural Resource Fire Advisor, assisting Camp Pendleton's Fire Department in administering the Fire Management Plan. This includes monitoring pre-fire

planning and control/prescribed burns; vegetation management; and conducting post-fire resource evaluation, analysis, and monitoring.

Resource Enforcement and Compliance Branch (Game Wardens)

The Resource Enforcement and Compliance Branch (RECB) maintains a staff of professionally trained Game Wardens to administer the hunting, fishing, hiking, and dispersed (undeveloped) camping recreation programs on Base, including enforcing federal, state, and DoD fishing and hunting regulations; conducting follow-up investigations of reported violations; inspecting for valid campfire permits; and issuing and tracking citations. Game Wardens conduct routine patrols to ensure compliance with regulations, including enforcing range and training, environmental, hunting and fishing and permitting agreements. This branch also manages the animal control program, implements fish stocking and game enhancement programs, conducts on-Base hunter training and education programs, and oversees the federal Marine Mammal Stranding Program. Game Wardens manage and install wildlife guzzlers, issue hunting and fishing licenses, and manage funds collected from the hunting and fishing licenses. Game Wardens are responsible for developing, implementing, and updating the Camp Pendleton Recreation Plan.

Archaeological (Cultural) Resources Branch

The Archaeological Resources Branch of the Resources Management Division administers all programs related to the conservation of archaeological and paleontological resources on Base. This Branch (1) conducts consultations under the National Historic Preservation Act and Archaeological Resources Protection Act with the State Historic Preservation Office and Advisory Council for Historic Preservation; (2) monitors and reports on compliance with consultation/mitigation requirements; (3) develops and implements programmatic Memorandum of Understanding with State Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation; (4) conducts Native American consultations under Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act; (5) develops and implements ongoing Base programs to survey, inventory, and monitor archaeological resources/sites; (6) manages Base curation program for cultural resources; and (7) conducts site specific management of Base archaeological sites listed or eligible for listing under the National Register of Historic Places.

Resource Planning Division

The Environmental Planning Division Manager supervises three branches, each staffed by a multi-disciplinary team: (1) Strategic Environmental Planning Branch, (2) Project Oversight Branch, and (3) NEPA Branch.

Strategic Environmental Planning Branch

The Strategic Environmental Planning Branch provides technical advice to both military and nonmilitary land users regarding long range facility and construction planning, maintenance activities, military training operations, and other proposed actions that may affect natural and/or cultural resources. This branch of the AC/S ES serves as the lead for coordination and integration of on-Base land use and natural resources planning with local and regional off-Base planning concepts, initiatives, and programs. The Strategic Environmental Planning Branch has also been assigned the responsibility to coordinate reviews and updates of the INRMP (see Chapter 7).

Project Oversight Branch

The Project Oversight Branch facilitates project planning, environmental review, mitigation development, operation and maintenance planning, and project implementation for long term military and nonmilitary construction projects as well as training action and new equipment fielding. The Project Oversight Branch provides technical environmental project planning guidance to Base personnel regarding natural and cultural resource management and oversight of compliance issues/requirements. Some of the work effort conducted by the Project Oversight Branch is accomplished through AC/S ES managed contracts and cooperative agreements with Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southwest Division (NAVFACENGCOM, SWDIV) or other selected contractors, as deemed appropriate by ES management.

NEPA Branch

The NEPA Branch provides procedural, and technical advice on both military and nonmilitary NEPA documentation for facility planning, construction plans, maintenance activities, military training operations, and other proposed actions that may affect natural and/or cultural resources. Primary responsibilities of this branch include developing and reviewing environmental and planning submittals, facilitating a coordinated project approach for application of the NEPA planning process, and determining the level of NEPA review required by a given activity, project, or action.

1.4.1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

The Environmental Compliance Department provides strategic planning for, and daily implementation of, environmental protection and compliance regulations on Camp Pendleton. Environmental compliance plans and programs developed within this department have important direct and indirect implications for land users, as well as natural resource and land managers. Through use of BMPs, engineering controls, and administrative procedures, regulations are implemented to protect and sustain land resources for military training and support purposes. Compliance programs include water pollution, toxic pollution prevention,

air pollution prevention, underground storage tank (UST) management, installation restoration programs, noise abatement, and pesticide management.

The Environmental Compliance Department Manager supervises three divisions: (1) Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) Division, (2) Inspection and Compliance Division, and (3) Environmental Engineering Division.

Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) Division

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Division manages: hazardous substance storage tanks, solid waste facilities, hazardous waste/materials, spill response planning programs and projects basewide, and the characterization and cleanup of RCRA contaminated sites. This division is responsible for the: permitting, design, installation, and management of all hazardous substance storage tanks and solid waste facilities; development and implementation of Base Orders; acquisition and maintenance of all necessary permits from federal, state, or local agencies; administration and coordination of technical reviews, funding requests, and regulatory coordination efforts; and management of Camp Pendleton waste minimization and pollution control programs and projects.

Inspection and Compliance Division

The Inspection and Compliance Division's responsibilities include managing the Multimedia Environmental Compliance Program, Environmental Compliance Evaluation Program, and Comprehensive Environmental Training and Education Program (CETEP). Inspection and Compliance staff applies: (1) determines which legal and regulatory requirements for environmental compliance are applicable to operations at Camp Pendleton; (2) determines and develops viable alternatives for meeting applicable regulatory requirements that are cost effective and minimize and/or avoid environmental liabilities; (3) develops written policies, negotiating positions, procedures, guidance, contract specifications, quality assurance inspections, training course curriculum, and project funding information, as needed, to execute the alternative determined to be the best course of action; (4) determines the optimal course of action for implementing the finalized written policy, procedure, guidance, curriculum, or project; (5) oversees the implementation of the policy, procedure, guidance, quality assurance surveillance plan, contract, or project and ensures original requirements as identified are met; (6) conducts periodic quality assurance reviews of cognizant programs and identifies potential systemic problems; and (7) identifies and implements necessary and appropriate improvements to compliance programs.

Under the guidance of the AC/S ES, the Inspection and Compliance Division coordinates the Camp Pendleton ECE, as directed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps; prepares environmental and inspection compliance reports and schedules and delivers these to the Base Inspector; advises units of environmental requirements; and sets standards, procedures, and BMPs relating to all aspects of the Commanding General's (CG's) full range of compliance programs. Further, Inspection and Compliance coordinates, monitors, and maintains staff cognizance of environmental inspections, evaluations, and audits by higher or

external headquarters, non-DoD agencies, and environmental regulatory agencies. The Inspection and Compliance Division makes recommendations and identifies measures and actions to correct environmental compliance deficiencies and maintains and submits environmental compliance data to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Environmental Training Branch

The Environmental Training Branch coordinates all environmental education and training programs at Camp Pendleton and conducts periodic training needs assessments. Environmental Training prepares and presents all education and training materials, conducts the senior commanders symposiums, and delivers the S3 and S4 training programs. Environmental Training tracks all environmental training programs being conducted on Base and ensures all training materials and course content meet or exceed Camp Pendleton standards, as established by Marine Corps Headquarters and Camp Pendleton's CG.

Environmental Engineering Division

The Environmental Engineering Division manages environmental projects to support Air Quality, Water Quality, and Installation Restoration (IR) Programs. This Division develops long and short term program requirements, fiscal, technical reviews, compliance reviews, and regulatory negotiations. The Environmental Engineering Division oversees compliance with the IR program in accordance with the Federal Facilities Agreement and environmental regulations.

1.4.1.3 INFORMATION SYSTEMS (IS) BRANCH

The Information Systems (IS) Branch is staffed by professional geographer/planners, computer specialists, and a librarian and serves as a repository and integrator for Camp Pendleton's environmental and natural resource data. The IS Branch oversees the daily maintenance and operations of the Environmental Security computers, information systems, and automated data processing equipment.

This Branch provides resource managers and Base users with a key information integration and management tool: Geographic Information Systems. The information systems within this branch are based in ArcInfo format (software) and contain a majority of the installation's natural resources and other environmental information databases. The AC/S ES IS Branch operates PC-based and Work Station-based GIS in the form of ArcInfo software. The equipment currently in use includes two 486-50 ALR machines, a large-format CalComp digitizer, Nova Jet E-sized color plotter, and a tape back-up. A Sun Work Station was recently added to the hardware array. With the installation of Work Station ArcInfo on these machines, more complex vector and raster analyses can be conducted. Existing GIS data maintained by the IS Branch are in a "vector" or line format, and include topography, geology, soils, vegetation, watershed boundaries, endangered species locations and habitats, fire history, and some aspects of current land use (much of the infrastructure data, such as

roads, facilities, training area designations, ranges, etc., are generated by AC/S Facilities or AC/S Operations and Training). It is IS Branch policy to create, update, maintain, manage, and analyze all GIS data to ensure that information is made available quickly and readily in both electronic (digital) and/or hard copy format for use by military supervisors, planners, biologists, and contractors to aid in decision making processes basewide.

To improve the storage, maintenance, and accessibility of natural resource management information in general, the IS Branch has also been developing a Technical Integrated Information Center. This Center is designed to provide virtual library resources for the archiving and retrieval of environmental and natural resource data and documents.

1.4.2 Marine Corps Community Services

Camp Pendleton's Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Department is composed of four operating divisions: Services, Food and Hospitality, Semper Fit, and Personal Services Divisions. Each of these divisions operates approximately 20 facilities from the beaches, Lake O'Neill, and fitness gyms to various stores, clubs, and services. Supporting the operating divisions are five support divisions: Human Resources, Marketing, Management Operations, Analysis and Control, Finance, and Logistics. The Logistics Division acts as the point of contact for all facility related issues, including renovation, construction, maintenance, and long range facilities planning. This division is also the conduit for NEPA documentation and any other environmental issues. The MCCS manages all Base Special Events, such as the annual rodeo, music concerts, etc. and the Outdoor Recreation program, to include beaches (with lifeguards), a marina, the Lake O'Neill recreation area (developed camping sites), horseback riding, and stables. Only Special Events and Outdoor Recreation operations of MCCS are discussed further in this document.

MCCS staff oversees many outdoor recreational activities basewide. They are responsible for coordinating, developing, and managing recreational opportunities for both military and nonmilitary land users at selected/designated areas including Lake O'Neil (camping), Del Mar Beach (day use and overnight recreational vehicle [RV] camping and sailing), and horseback riding.

1.4.3 AC/S Facilities

The AC/S Facilities is responsible for providing, maintaining, and managing quality facilities and services to meet the needs of changing requirements of Marines, sailors and their families. This includes ensuring suitable and adequate housing for military families assigned to Camp Pendleton, and the coordination with tenant commands, Base service agencies, occupants, and off-Base organizations related to services provided by Base Housing. The AC/S Facilities is also responsible for planning, implementing, controlling, maintaining, and repairing real property assets; water quality and quantity management planning; facilities planning, engineering services, and acquisition support services at Camp Pendleton; and pest control, military construction, and utility distribution. The AC/S Facilities consists of Family

Housing, Bachelor Housing, Facilities Resource Management, Office of Water Resources, Public Works Department, Facilities Maintenance Division, and the Real Estate Office.

1.4.3.1 OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES

The Office of Water Resources (OWR) provides water resource management planning to ensure the availability of adequate, suitable, and safe water supplies to support all aspects of the mission of the Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton. Responsibilities of OWR include: (1) ensure a common vision for coordinated water resource management actions basewide; (2) formulate and coordinate implementation of both strategic and incremental plans for protection of water resources; (3) plan water supply development and conservation actions, watershed planning, and floodplain protection; (4) act as the Base liaison with federal, state, and local conservation and public health officials regarding water resource management and protection; (5) provide technical support for litigation actions; (6) operate recharge, storage, and diversion works facilities; (7) collect, maintain and analyze, and provide water resource data to Base and off-Base entities; and (8) coordinate reviews of off-Base community projects to ensure sustained quality and quantity of Base water resources.

1.4.3.2 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Public Works Department (PWD) of the AC/S Facilities provides facilities planning, engineering services, and acquisition support services at Camp Pendleton. The Public Works Officer (PWO) is also assigned the duties of Officer in Charge of Construction (OICC) and Resident Officer in Charge of Construction (ROICC) under the operational control of the Commander, NAVFACENGCOM, SWDIV.

The PWD is responsible for Camp Pendleton's master planning, including the Base development plan, Military Construction (MILCON) project and training facilities design, facilities site approvals, and supporting project level environmental studies. The PWD is also responsible for establishing and maintaining the Base's GIS data policy and standards.

1.4.3.3 FACILITIES MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

The Facilities Maintenance Department (FMD) is responsible for planning, implementing (policy), controlling, maintaining, and repairing real property assets, such as structures, roads, walks, paved areas and grounds, utility systems, landfills (including environmental guidance), and recycling facilities. Facilities Maintenance Department is also responsible for pest control, managing the energy conservation program, performing preventative maintenance and continuous inspections, and developing long range maintenance schedules. FMD also provides MCAS Camp Pendleton with daily maintenance and repair support services, including emergency maintenance and minor repairs to facilities.

1.4.3.4 REAL ESTATE OFFICE

The Real Estate office coordinates and validates issuance of real estate licenses for use of Camp Pendleton lands and resources, including review and validation of proof-of-insurance. The Real Estate office provides formal preliminary approval for use of Base facilities by leaseholder applicants.

1.4.4 AC/S Operations and Training

The AC/S Operation and Training (O&T) serves as the coordinating agency for all military and nonmilitary organizations desiring to use training facilities, ranges, training areas, airspace, and seaspace at Camp Pendleton. AC/S O&T serves as the approving authority for real estate licenses granted for use of Camp Pendleton lands for training purposes. AC/S O&T ensures all organizations and agencies requiring real estate licenses possess valid licenses prior to granting final approval for the use of facilities, ranges, or training areas.

1.4.4.1 RANGE OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Range Operations Division is comprised of four main branches: Range Operations, Range Control, Automated Support, and Range Maintenance. Range Operations is responsible for supporting a safe and realistic, 3-dimensional training environment through efficient range and training facility scheduling, timely resolution of live fire conflicts, maneuver training, air and sea space conflicts, coordination and inspection of training activities at ranges and maneuver training areas, and range and training facilities maintenance. This includes conducting range inspections during and/or following use by units operating in the field.

1.4.4.2 OPERATIONS DIVISION

The primary responsibilities of the Operations Division are to manage, coordinate, and supervise support requirements for Camp Pendleton's Command Center, including Base organizations' training programs, operations, and field exercises such as nuclear, biological, and chemical (NBC) facilities and formal schools, and coordinate all nonmilitary use of Camp Pendleton training lands, as directed by Base Order 5720.16A (Policies and Procedures for Non-Military Use of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton).

1.4.4.3 TRAINING RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Training Resources Management Division is responsible for ensuring MCB Camp Pendleton's training resources requirements are planned in a coherent, integrated manner. Specific functions include: (1) creates plans and policies for the development of MCB Camp Pendleton's training resources; (2) monitors and provides technical and operational advice pertaining to all aspects of military construction, facilities special projects, and major

rehabilitation training resources related projects, from conception to completion; (3) assesses training resources requirements of the Fleet Marine Forces, formal schools, tenant commands, the USMC Reserves, and other Marine Corps users; (4) monitors the introduction of new weapons, training devices, ordnance, and equipment into the Fleet Marine Forces and formal schools, and ensures Marine Corps Base's training resources plans and policies provide for their use in training; (5) ensures training resources designs are compatible with current Marine Corps conditions, tasks, and standards; (6) ensures new work, improvements, or rehabilitation is not performed on training resources without first being approved by the AC/S O&T, and coordinated with the AC/S Facilities (Public Works Office), with the exception of cyclic maintenance; (7) manages the Range Working Group Program; (8) provides training device technical support and expertise; (9) monitors and provides technical advice to the department on all matters relating to environmental compliance.

1.4.5 Community Plans and Liaison Office

The Community Plans and Liaison Office (CPLO) is a special staff office working under the management/supervision of the Chief of Staff for MCB Camp Pendleton. The CPLO supports the successful accomplishment of all mission activities aboard the Base, however, this office most often works on issues related to Camp Pendleton's land use management and planning functions.

The CPLO is directly responsible for oversight and management of potential encroachment threats from off-Base sources and assists the Base staff, at all levels and within all departments, in strategic land use planning issues and environmental protection programs to maximize effectiveness of the Base's training mission. The CPLO also monitors off-Base real estate development activities, including both current and anticipated future land use activities, and works with local communities by encouraging such developments to remain compatible with the Marine Corps' military mission. CPLO serves as the primary point of contact with regional public officials at federal, state, and local community levels. CPLO oversees and coordinates Base staff review and evaluation of all non-DoD organization/agencies proposed facilities or project requests requiring long term use of Base lands and other resources and serves as the Base representative with civilian organizations and other nonmilitary agencies to resolve local and regional issues of mutual concern.

1.4.6 AC/S Installation Security and Safety

The AC/S for Installation Security and Safety (AC/S ISS) supervises five departments, two of which are described below: Provost Marshal's Office and Fire Department.

1.4.6.1 PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE

The Provost Marshal's Office (PMO) is responsible for law enforcement and physical security activities for Camp Pendleton and functions as a special staff officer to the

Commanding General. The Provost Marshal enforces military laws, orders, and regulations aboard Camp Pendleton for all persons subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

1.4.6.2 FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department is responsible for basewide fire protection programs. The Fire Chief provides technical advice to the Command on all matters pertaining to fire protection and management. The Fire Chief has the authority to act, as necessary, to protect life and property from fire. Specific functions include: (1) conducting education, inspection, training and orientation programs; (2) providing pre-fire planning and post-fire investigative activities; (3) providing mutual aid to local and regional agencies and jurisdictions; (4) maintaining fire protection and management records; (5) establishing fuel- and firebreaks; (6) coordinating and conducting prescribed burns; and (7) enforcing the Fire Danger Rating System.

1.4.7 Western Regional Environmental Coordinator

The “Officer in Charge”, Western Regional Environmental Coordinator’s office, works directly for the Commanding General, MCB Camp Pendleton in his capacity as Chairman of the West Coast Regional Review Board. Primary functions of the WREC include: coordination of environmental issues of regional interest to the DoD and other services; education of appropriate federal and state personnel on Marine Corps requirements and perspectives; and coordination of intra-Marine Corps environmental information exchange, training, and efforts to achieve consistency in environmental programs across California, Arizona, Hawaii, Nevada, and Guam.

1.4.8 Marine Corps Air Station, Camp Pendleton

The Marine Corps Air Station, Camp Pendleton serves as an important part of the MCB air-ground training complex. MCAS Camp Pendleton is located on about 425 acres just north of the 22 Area on Camp Pendleton (Figure 1-2) and is under command of the Commander Marine Corps Air Bases Western Area (COMCABWEST), located at MCAS, Miramar.

The mission of the Air Station is:

“To maintain and operate the world's premier air station in support of flight operations to prepare Marines for combat while protecting and enhancing the environment and providing the highest quality facilities and services.”

The Air Station maintains and operates facilities to support flight operations for components of the Third Marine Air Wing (3d MAW) and the Fourth Marine Air Wing (4th MAW), a Marine Reserve Aircraft Wing, with the primary tenants being Marine Air Group 39 (MAG-39), Marine Air Group 47 (MAG-47). The Air Station is home to eight helicopter squadrons which fly the UH-1N Huey, the AH-1W Cobra, the CH-46E Sea Knight, and a

detachment of CH-53E Sea Stallions. There are 180 aircraft and 3,675 tenant personnel based at the Air Station. The operational tempo is extremely high; MCAS Camp Pendleton is the busiest helicopter airstrip in the Marine Corps with over 148,000 flight operations annually on its single runway. MCAS Camp Pendleton has grown substantially during the last three years due to the Base Realignment and Closure process, with 3 new squadrons, 47 new aircraft, and over 600 additional personnel. The plant value of the Air Station has increased by 43% to approximately \$340,000,000. With these improvements, the Air Station is now the most modern in the Marine Corps.

As a separate command, the Air Station maintains its own environmental management, NEPA, and environmental compliance support staff, including fiscal responsibilities, obligations, and budgets. However, actions that affect natural resources of MCB Camp Pendleton are staffed for concurrence with the AC/S ES. Generally, MCB Camp Pendleton will lead regulator consultation when its resources are impacted. The Mission of the MCAS Camp Pendleton Environmental Department is to provide guidance and services to ensure environmental compliance and resource stewardship in support of our customers' pursuit of the highest levels of mission readiness.

MCAS Camp Pendleton also has its own GIS Section that serves as a repository and integrator for the Air Station's environmental data. The MCAS GIS Section operates a GIS server, PC-based GIS on a dual processor machine, a large-format ColCorp digitizer, a large format design jet plotter, a tape back-up, and PIII and PIV PCs. The GIS Section is currently developing data layers in a vector format, to include topography, geology, soils, vegetation, threatened and endangered species location and habitat and environmental contaminants. This information will be available for use by planners and decision makers aboard the Air Station. The GIS Section creates and maintains GIS data for use in electronic and hard-copy formats.

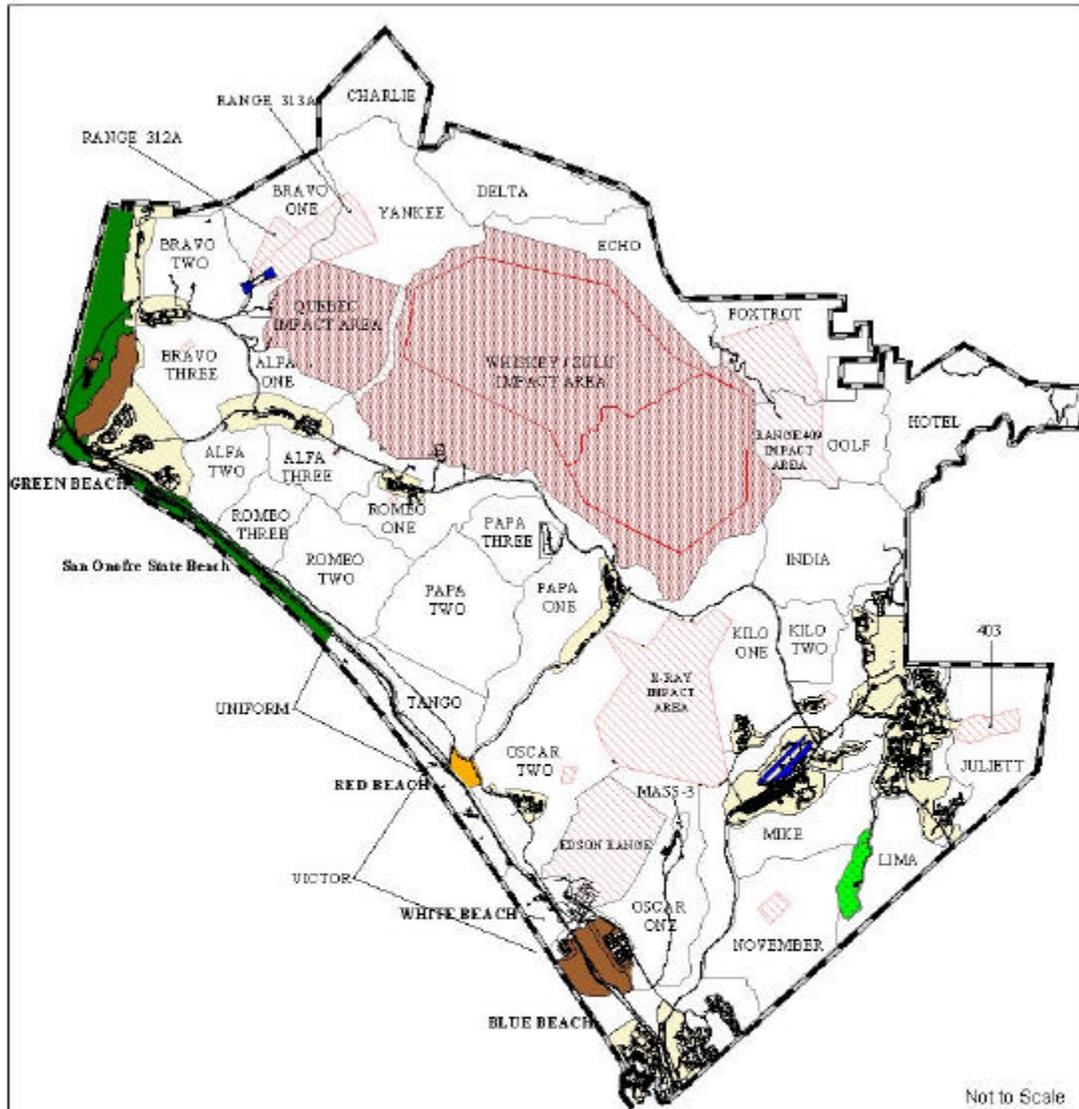
1.5 NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND INRMP GOALS

Goals are general expressions of desired future conditions that represent the long-range aim of management. Natural resource management goals have been established at various levels of command and are incorporated into the programs at Camp Pendleton. Goals that are specific to natural resource management, public access, and recreation programs are presented with the descriptions of those programs in Chapters 4 and 5.

1.5.1 Marine Corps Natural Resource Goals

Marine Corps natural resources management goals, as established in Marine Corps Order (MCO) P5090.2A (Environmental Compliance and Protection Manual), are as follows:

- *Preserve the Marine Corps mission access to air, land, and sea resources;*
- *Strengthen national security by strengthening conservation aspects of environmental security; and*



- Camp Pendleton Boundary
- Training Area Boundaries
- Paved Roads & Parking Areas
- Marine Corps Air Station
- Central Impact Area (Dud Producing)
- Live Fire (Non-Dud Producing) Impact Area
- Cantonment Areas
- Golf Course
- Historical Site (Estancia de las Flores)
- Row Crop Agriculture
- San Onofre State Park & Beach
- Helicopter Outlying Landing Field (HOLF)

Figure 1-2
Camp Pendleton Land Use



Map Source:
ACIS Environmental Security
GIS Branch
March 2001



Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

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- *Preserve the opportunity for a high quality of life for present and future generations of Americans.*

1.5.2 Camp Pendleton Natural Resource Management Goals

Identification of natural resources management goals was necessary to develop a natural resources management course of action. These goals determine management regimes and help set priorities. They are the standards by which the practicality and desirability of management actions are measured. Natural resource management goals fall within three broad categories (HQMC 2000): (1) goals that support mission requirements, (2) goals that ensure compliance with natural resources management and protection laws, and (3) goals for participation in regional ecosystem initiatives.

Natural resource management goals specifically adopted by Camp Pendleton are as follows:

- Manage Camp Pendleton's natural resources in a manner that accommodates ongoing and evolving military mission requirements, and conserves and protects those resources in accordance with compliance requirements and stewardship principles.
- Encourage regional plans and incentives, which address conservation of native biodiversity, ecosystem sustainability, and watershed management issues, to help ensure and protect the long term viability of both Camp Pendleton's military mission and its natural resources.
- Provide for multiple land uses that are compatible with the conservation of natural resources and training requirements.

1.5.3 INRMP Goals

The purpose of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan is to document and assist, as required, in the development, integration, and coordination of natural resource management on Camp Pendleton. Goals established for the INRMP are as follows:

- Provide baseline information and conditions that supports daily decision making and compliance with regulatory and planning processes, such as those required by NEPA, ESA, and CWA.
- Identify, document, and facilitate the organizational capacity, support, and linkages necessary for successful implementation and administration of the INRMP and management of Camp Pendleton's natural resources.
- Integrate the various natural resources management programs to reduce overlap and redundancy and help Camp Pendleton manage natural resources more effectively so

as to ensure that Camp Pendleton lands remain available and in good condition to support our military mission.

- Show the interrelationships between current and proposed individual components of natural resources management (e.g., vegetation, wetland, fish and wildlife, hunting and fishing), mission requirements, and other land use activities.
- Establish specific natural resource program management goals, objectives, and actions that will be implemented during the duration of the plan and time frames for proposed actions.
- Identify lower priority projects that may be done if required resources become available.
- Establish a process for the periodic review, update and reporting of program goals, objectives, and projects within the INRMP.

1.6 RELATIONSHIP OF THE INRMP TO EXISTING PLANS

The INRMP is not intended to replace existing Base Orders, policy, range and training operations guidance, or military management plans. Rather, the purpose of the INRMP is to document and assist, as required, in the development, integration, and coordination of natural resource management programs with other Base plans and programs. Where natural resource programs are currently not documented through formal planning efforts, the INRMP may serve as the means to formally establish such programs. Moreover, this INRMP is intended to facilitate the integration of existing natural resource management actions (plans and programs) with the primary military mission of Camp Pendleton: military training and support.

1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE INRMP

Chapter 1 presents background and introductory information, defines Camp Pendleton's mission, legal requirements and mandates, its authority to prepare the INRMP, DoD's and Camp Pendleton's philosophy on ecosystem management and the military history and mission of Camp Pendleton.

Chapter 2 provides Camp Pendleton's natural resource baseline information, describes the physical, biological, and regulatory setting in which the Base currently operates.

Chapter 3 describes existing Camp Pendleton land uses, both military and nonmilitary, and includes a discussion of historic Base and land uses in surrounding communities.

Chapters 4 and 5 provide program descriptions, goals and objectives, planned actions, and timelines for natural resources management, public access, and natural resource related recreation.

Chapter 6 provides information on involvement and participation in regional issues and activities, including ecosystem planning, watershed management, species recovery, regulatory partnering, and research activities.

Chapter 7 describes the integration, implementation, and activities land users and natural resource and land managers are conducting (or planning).

Throughout the INRMP, program goals, objectives, and planned actions are identified that have been established to help achieve Camp Pendleton's natural resource management goals and fulfill needs established by drivers. Projects and planned actions are separated into High Priority Planned Actions and Other Planned Actions. High Priority Planned Actions are those projects and actions that Camp Pendleton has committed to accomplishing and/or are required by laws, regulations, or other agreement. The commitment of funding for High Priority Planned Actions are driven by regulations or agreements and is not a commitment of Camp Pendleton to obligate funds prior to Congressional authorization. Other Planned Actions are those projects and actions that Camp Pendleton desires to accomplish, but due to restrictions and limitations on fiscal and personnel resources cannot commit to undertaking at this time. During quarterly and annual reviews, Other Planned Actions will be reviewed to see if sufficient resources are available to allow them to be conducted.

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