Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI)
Consolidated Hazardous Materials Storage, Treatment, and Disposal Facility, Fort Carson, CO

Fort Carson has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) (June 2014) that evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with constructing a consolidated hazardous materials storage, treatment, and disposal facility on Fort Carson.

Purpose and Need

The current hazardous materials control center is either in need of repair and upgrade or relocation to a facility suitable for its intended purpose of dispensing hazardous materials. Relocating the hazardous materials distribution site to the current hazardous waste turn-in site addresses the need to relocate or repair the facility while also consolidating the issue and turn-in functions of hazardous materials and hazardous waste. Consolidation of the issue and turn-in functions has the added benefit of reducing facility maintenance costs, reduced utility costs, and reducing associated transport time between two facilities. Moving the hazardous materials issue site to a consolidated issue and turn-in facility at the current turn-in site also relocates the function away from a drainage ditch adjacent to the current issue site, which is an environmentally sensitive location.

Description of the Proposed Action

The Proposed Action consists of the construction of a consolidated hazardous materials storage, treatment, and disposal facility on Fort Carson, the purpose of which is to streamline the issue of hazardous material and the turn-in of hazardous waste. The Proposed Action consists of new construction at the current hazardous waste turn-in site located along Butts Road. The new construction consists of a building to serve as the new hazardous waste issue facility, two large concrete pads, and associated fencing and lighting for both the new and existing facilities. Utility connections will be extended to new and existing facilities as necessary.

As part of the Proposed Action, Fort Carson will develop the policies and procedures necessary to consolidate hazardous material issue and hazardous waste turn-in within the compound. This will streamline the issue and turn-in of such materials and preclude the current situation where issue of hazardous material and turn-in of hazardous waste are undertaken at separate facilities approximately six miles apart on Fort Carson.

Alternatives Considered

Three alternatives were initially considered during the scoping process for the Environmental Assessment, but only two were carried forward for full analysis. The Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative were carried forward for complete analysis while the third option, based on repair of the current hazardous material issue facility, was found to be fiscally imprudent and therefore not carried forward as an alternative for consideration.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative hazardous material issue and hazardous waste turn-in would continue to operate within the existing established facilities. There would be no

consolidation of facilities and units assigned to Fort Carson would continue to be required to inefficiently shuttle between two separate sites on the installation for the purpose of hazardous material issue and hazardous waste turn-in.

Environmental Consequences
No significant environmental consequences were identified in the Environmental Assessment. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in less than significant adverse impacts to all resources. Under the No Action Alternative, which served as the baseline for this environmental assessment, neither positive nor negative impacts were identified as results from the alternative.

Under the Proposed Action minor benefits were identified for solid and hazardous waste as well as traffic and transportation on Fort Carson. Long-term, localized negligible impacts to vegetation, wildlife, and surface waters were also identified as a likely result of the Proposed Action.

Public Involvement
Pursuant to Title 32 CFR Part 651.14(b), the Army must make an EA and draft FNSI available to the public for review and comment for a minimum of 30 days prior to a final decision. The final EA and draft FNSI were made available for a 30-day public comment period beginning the last day of publication in local newspapers. The documents have been posted on the Fort Carson website for public access and review. Interested parties were invited to review and comment on the documents within 30 days of the respective publication. Commenters were asked to send comments via email, regular mail, and/or telephone. There were no comments received.

Conclusion
The EA on which this FNSI was prepared is pursuant to 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 651 and U.S. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (Title 40, U.S. Code, Parts 1500-1508) for implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Based on the analysis contained in the EA and the Army's intent to follow prescribed regulations, and comply with applicable permits, the Army has determined that the Proposed Action would have no significant direct, indirect or cumulative impact on the human or natural environment.

Therefore, based on review of the EA, I hereby incorporate the entire EA by reference and conclude that the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Accordingly, no Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. With this finding, I approve selection of the Proposed Action.

Roderick Chisholm

JOEL D. HAMILTON
COL, FA
Garrison Commander
Fort Carson, Colorado

Consolidated Hazardous Materials Storage, Treatment, and Disposal Facility Final Environmental Assessment, Fort Carson, CO

June, 2014

Prepared by:
Fort Carson Directorate of Public Works

Environmental Assessment for the Consolidated Hazardous Materials Storage, Treatment, and Disposal Facility at Fort Carson, Colorado
June 2014

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22 Aug 2014
DATE

Contents

1.0 Purpose of and Need for the Proposed Action

1.1 Introduction

The hazardous materials control center (HMCC) and the hazardous waste turn-in facility are critical components of daily operations on Fort Carson. The two facilities support Fort Carson's ongoing mission by providing units with the materials necessary to conduct maintenance and training operations. Additionally, the turn-in facility ensures that utilized hazardous wastes are disposed in an environmentally compliant and sustainable fashion. Currently the two facilities, while connected as a result of the lifecycle of hazardous materials, are geographically separated by nearly six miles.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The current HMCC is either in need of repair and upgrade or relocation to a facility suitable for its intended purpose of dispensing hazardous materials. Relocating the hazardous materials distribution site to the current hazardous waste turn-in site addresses the need to relocate or repair the facility while also consolidating the issue and turn-in functions of hazardous materials and hazardous waste. Consolidation of the issue and turn-in functions has the added benefit of reducing facility maintenance costs, reduced utility costs, and reducing associated transport time between two facilities. Moving the hazardous materials issue site to a consolidated issue and turn-in facility at the current turn-in site also relocates the function away from a drainage ditch adjacent to the current issue site, which is an environmentally sensitive location.

1.3 General Information

As seen in Figure 1, Fort Carson is located in central Colorado at the foot of the Rocky Mountains in El Paso, Fremont, and Pueblo counties. To the north is Colorado Springs, to the east is Interstate-25 and mixed development, to the south are privately-owned ranches, and to the west is State Highway 115. Downtown Colorado Springs and Denver lie approximately 8 miles and 75 miles, respectively, to the north, while the City of Pueblo is located approximately 35 miles south of the Main Post area.

Fort Carson covers approximately 137,000 acres, and extends between 2 and 15 miles east to west and approximately 24 miles north to south. The Main Post area, which consists of developed land and a high density of urban uses, is located in the northern portion of the installation and covers approximately 6,000 acres. The downrange area, which is used for large caliber and small-arms live-fire; individual and collective training; aircraft, wheeled and tracked vehicle maneuver operations; and mission readiness exercises, covers approximately 131,000 acres of unimproved or open lands. Additionally, Butts Army Airfield is located in the northeast quadrant of the downrange area and is used for flight operations as well as maintenance and repair of aircraft.

The region, including Fort Carson, is classified as mid-latitude semi-arid and is characterized by hot summers, cold winters, and relatively light rainfall. July is the warmest month with the average daily maximum temperature of 84.4° Fahrenheit, and

January is the coldest month with an average daily minimum temperature of 14.5° Fahrenheit. Mean annual precipitation at Fort Carson increases as one moves toward the northwest. Colorado Springs averages 17.5 inches of precipitation annually, with about 80 percent falling between April and September. Average annual snowfall in the region is 42.4 inches. Snow and sleet usually occur from September to May with the heaviest snowfall in March and possible trace accumulations as late as June.

1.4 Scope of Environmental Assessment

This site specific environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA in 40 CFR 1500, and 32 CFR Part 651 (Army Regulation 200-2), *Environmental Analysis of Army Actions*, and Army Regulation 200-1, *Environmental Protection and Enhancement.* The EA assesses the known and potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts, both positive and negative, and mitigation measures associated with the Proposed Action and alternatives. This EA also addresses the potential for cumulative impacts. As determined from scoping, this EA analyzes in detail only those resource areas that would be expected to be affected as a result of the implementation of the Proposed Action.

2.0 Description of the Proposed Action

2.1 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action consists of the construction of a consolidated hazardous materials storage, treatment, and disposal facility on Fort Carson in order to streamline the issue of hazardous material and the turn-in of hazardous waste. The Proposed Action consists of new construction at the current hazardous waste turn-in site located along Butts Road (Figure 2). The new construction consists of a building to serve as the new hazardous waste issue facility, two large concrete pads, and associated fence and lighting for the both the new and currently existing facilities. Utility connections will be extended to new and existing facilities as necessary.

As part of the Proposed Action, Fort Carson will develop the policies and procedures necessary to consolidate hazardous material issue and hazardous waste turn-in within the compound. This will streamline the issue and turn-in of such materials and preclude the current situation where issue of hazardous material and turn-in of hazardous waste are undertaken at separate facilities approximately six miles apart on Fort Carson.

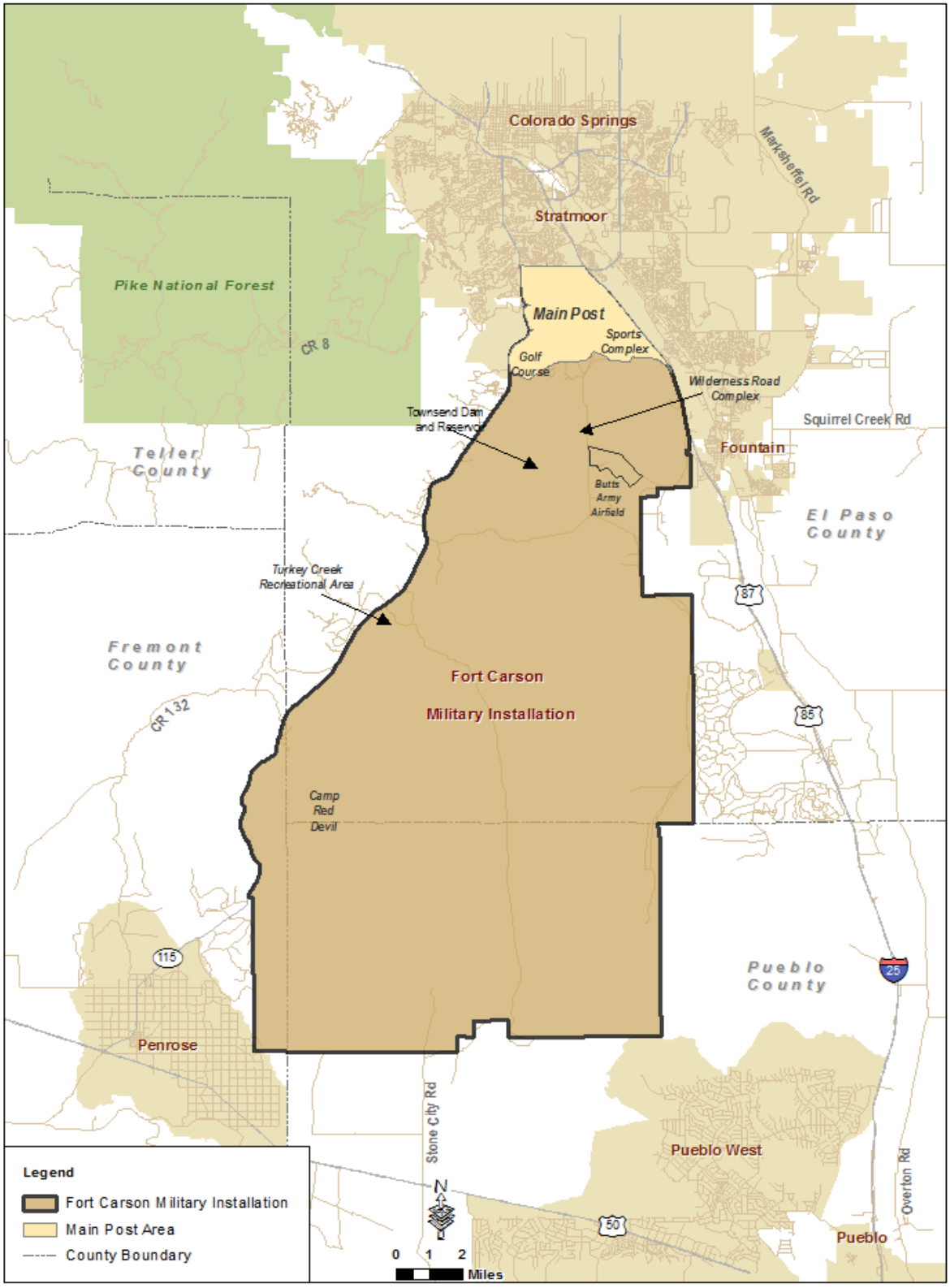

Figure 1: Fort Carson, Colorado

2.2 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative hazardous material issue and hazardous waste turn-in would continue to operate within the currently established facilities. There would be no consolidation of facilities and units assigned to Fort Carson would continue to be required to inefficiently shuttle between two separate sites on the installation for the purpose of hazardous material issue and hazardous waste turn-in.

2.3 Alternatives Considered but Dismissed

Repair of the current HMCC: This option was found to be fiscally imprudent and would maintain the facility near an environmentally sensitive area in the form of an adjacent drainage. Based on early scoping of the alternative, this alternative was dismissed from further consideration by the interdisciplinary team.

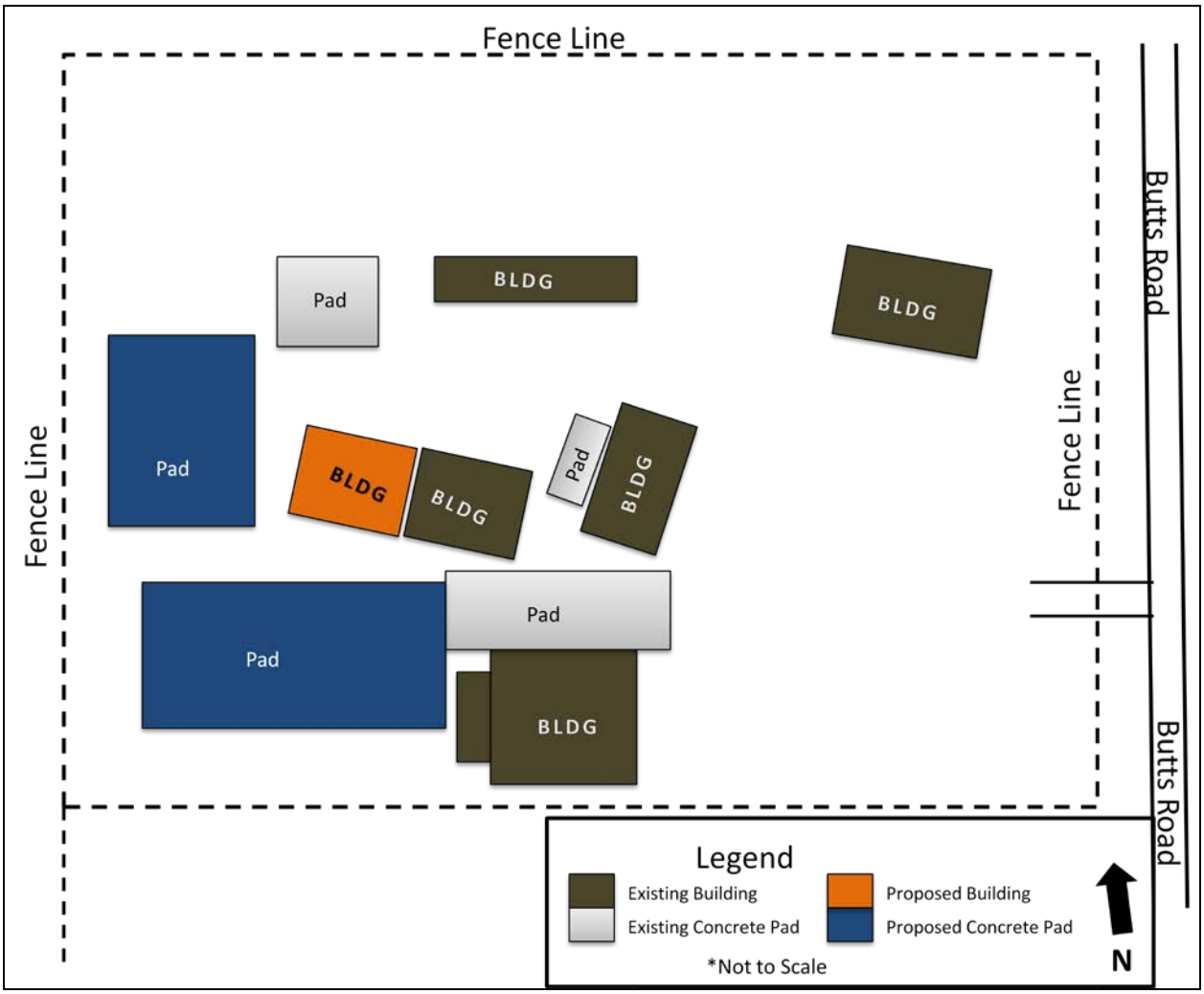

Figure 2: Proposed Consolidated Hazardous Materials Storage, Treatment, and Disposal Facility Site Layout

3.0 Affected Environment

This section discloses potential environmental effects related to each alternative and provides a basis for evaluating these effects in context relative to the effects of other actions. Effects can be direct, indirect, or cumulative. Areas with no discernible concerns or known effects, as identified in the issue elimination process (see Section 3.1, *Issues Not Addressed*), are not included in this analysis. A summary of environmental consequences is provided in Chapter 4.

3.1 Issues Not Addressed

Initial analysis resulted in the elimination of some potential issues as they were determined by the interdisciplinary team to either be irrelevant to the action or fall outside the scope of the analysis of the Proposed Action and alternatives. Brief discussions of the rationale for these decisions are presented directly below.

3.1.1 Air Quality

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would have any measurable effects on air quality resources. There is the potential for short-term and temporary fugitive dust generated at the current hazardous waste disposal site during construction, but existing fugitive dust control measurements would be utilized. Additionally, the site is outside of the El Paso County carbon monoxide maintenance area.

3.1.2 Air Space

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternatives would change existing airspace use on Fort Carson.

3.1.3 Drinking Water & Waste Water

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative will result in any discernible changes related to the drinking water or waste water systems, their capacities, or their utilization on Fort Carson.

3.1.4 Environmental Justice

Executive Order No. 12898, *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations*, issued in February 1994, provides that "*each Federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations*". Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would produce any impacts with regard to minority and/or low-income populations.

3.1.5 Land Use

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would change existing land use. The Proposed Action calls for the development of facilities to support the issue of hazardous materials within a compound currently utilized for hazardous waste processing.

3.1.6. Geology and Soils
Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would result in changes or impacts to geology on Fort Carson. Negligible impacts to soils within the construction footprint of the previously disturbed site are anticipated.

3.1.7 Noise Environment
Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would change the noise environment conditions from that which currently exists at the hazardous waste turn-in facility.

3.1.8 Socio-economic
Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would result in any change to the socio-economic environment as both alternatives will result in the continued purchase, allocation, issue, return, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste.

3.1.9 Cultural Resources
Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would result in impacts to cultural resources as no cultural resources have been identified through formal survey within the perimeter of the current sites of the HMCC or the hazardous waste turn-in facility. Nevertheless, the Fort Carson Inadvertent Discovery SOP would continue to be in effect.

3.2 Environmental Consequences
This section discloses potential environmental effects related to each alternative and provides a basis for evaluating these effects in context relative to the effects of other actions. 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. Council on Environmental Quality guidance states that 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. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place locally or regionally over a period of time.

The analysis of environmental impacts will be focused on the following resource areas:

1. Biological Resources
2. Water Resources
3. Solid & Hazardous Waste
4. Traffic & Transportation

3.2.1 Biological Resources

3.2.1.1 Affected Environment
Biological resources on Fort Carson exist primarily on the training ranges. The site for the Proposed Action is composed primarily of prairie grasslands within a disturbed and moderately developed site.

Vegetation

The *Fort Carson Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan* (INRMP) (Fort Carson, 2013a) contains detailed descriptions of the vegetative communities on Fort Carson and a listing of common and scientific names of plant species known to occur. There are 28 noxious weeds known to occur on Fort Carson. Only one, Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) is considered a List A species in Colorado. There are 19 known List B weed species on Fort Carson. Fort Carson has developed the *Fort Carson and PCMS Invasive Plants Management Plan* (DECAM, 2008a). The plan addresses noxious weed management strategies for Fort Carson and is reviewed and updated annually as necessary.

In 1997, Fort Carson initiated a biological control program as part of a federal initiative to reduce herbicide use by up to 80 percent. The program, using natural enemies (insects and mites) to reduce weed densities, provides a sustainable and environmentally-sound solution to noxious weed issues while preserving the vulnerable plant and animal communities on Fort Carson. The biological control program has been successful at significantly reducing weed populations at several sites and has grown into a partnering initiative with several other federal agencies along the Colorado Front Range. However, effective biological control agents are not available to treat all invasive species on Fort Carson. Therefore, at times, other control methods are used such as physical measures, chemical measures, and preventive measures.

Wetlands

Wetlands on Fort Carson are generally characterized as linear (e.g., streambeds) or small and isolated. Linear wetlands occur along intermittent and perennial stream channels and tributaries. Wetlands can be primarily found near Rock, Little Fountain, Turkey, Little Turkey, Red, Sand, and Wild Horse Creeks. Isolated wetlands usually occur adjacent to an erosion control dam, most of which are 1-2 acres in size. The largest downrange wetland is on the upper reaches of Teller Reservoir encompassing approximately 100 acres. There are also a number of wetland areas scattered throughout the Main Post area, typically in natural or stormwater runoff drainages and in wildlife management areas south of BAAF (Fort Carson, 2013a).

Wildlife

The status of wildlife species listing remains the same as that reported in the 2013-2017 INRMP with the exception of the reintroduction of the black-footed ferret *(Mustela nigripes)* to private lands directly south of Fort Carson. In October, 2013 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement with an adjacent landowner and released approximately fifty endangered black-footed ferrets into a designated reintroduction site. The management of the ferrets at the site under the Safe Harbor Program is supported by a Biological Opinion (USFWS, 2013) issued pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544). Section 10 and the Safe Harbor Program are uniquely designed to enhance recovery and survival of the species, while encouraging the development of recovery sites by providing assurances that neighboring lands can continue to conduct lawful activities under the auspices of the Biological Opinion, which also describes the

USF&WS consultation history on the matter. Fort Carson is in continuing communication with the USF&WS on this matter, but further formal consultation is not required. The Federally-threatened Mexican spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) is the only listed species known to occur at Fort Carson. The Arkansas darter (*Etheostoma cragini*) (candidate) is under consideration for listing but not yet protected under the Endangered Species Act. Colorado state-listed species on Fort Carson include Arkansas darter (threatened), southern redbelly dace (*Phoxinus erythrogaster*) (endangered), and burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) (threatened). The 2009 *Fort Carson Grow the Army FEIS* presents the special status wildlife species that occur (i.e., have been observed) on Fort Carson and the Installation's INRMP also discusses management of these species of concern and other wildlife (Fort Carson 2013a).

3.2.1.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action
Under the No Action Alternative there would be no impacts to vegetation, wetlands, or wildlife. Vegetation on the current hazardous waste turn-in site is subject to moderate levels of disturbance as a result of periodic mowing. The current HMCC site would continue to be located adjacent to an environmentally sensitive drainage area and as such Fort Carson would continue to implement and exercise the best management practices and actions necessary to protect the drainage.

Proposed Action
Desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) and the deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*) along with grassland nesting birds may see short-term negative impacts to local populations in and near the area of the proposed construction site. Disruption to these populations are anticipated to be minimal and localized as the site is currently moderately developed and sees moderate levels of human activity. A small amount of habitat will be disturbed during construction of the proposed consolidated facility; vegetation on the site will continue to be periodically mowed. As a result of the pre-existing disturbance within the footprint of the proposed site there are no Migratory Bird Treaty Act concerns, nevertheless if any construction or disturbance causing activities take place outside the established fence line MBTA issues must be addressed. There are no wetlands on the site of the Proposed Action.

3.2.2 Water Resources

3.2.2.1 Affected Environment
Fort Carson policy is to eliminate or minimize the degradation of all water resources on Fort Carson and ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state and local water quality standards (Fort Carson Regulation 200-1). Water resources are managed in coordination with the U.S. Geological Survey, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and many other external agencies. Fort Carson's Water Resources Management Program includes watershed/sedimentation monitoring and management and project reviews to address erosion and sediment control issues. In addition, the *Stormwater Management Plan* (SWMP) (Fort Carson, 2013b) is designed

to reduce the discharge of pollutants from Fort Carson to drainage ways in order to protect water quality and to satisfy Colorado's water quality standards.

Surface Water

The primarily undeveloped southern and western portions of Fort Carson drain to the Arkansas River to the south. The highly developed and urbanized portion of Fort Carson (the Main Post area) consists of four tributaries within the Fountain Creek watershed that provide local surface drainage: B Ditch, Clover Ditch, Central Unnamed Ditch, and Rock Creek. The main document that currently guides surface water and watershed management on Fort Carson is the Fort Carson Stormwater Management Plan (Fort Carson, 2013b). This SWMP is designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from Fort Carson to the maximum extent practicable and to protect water quality. The constituent of concern in Fort Carson's portion of the Fountain Creek watershed is *E. coli* bacteria.

The Fort Carson Stormwater Program's main objective is to protect surface waters from pollution. Stormwater runoff can carry physical, chemical, and biological pollutants to sewer systems or directly to a pond, creek, river, or wetland. Therefore, construction and post-construction stormwater controls are assessed on a watershed scale during project planning phases. These controls are implemented via the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction General Permit for Large and Small Construction Activities, and Fort Carson's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s).

Groundwater

Groundwater at Fort Carson exists in both alluvial and bedrock aquifers. The alluvial aquifers are formed from unconsolidated deposits of stream alluvium, colluvium, and residuum that are moderately permeable, lying above the Pierre Shale which is more impermeable. The alluvial aquifers can provide well yields from 10 to more than 100 gallons per minute (gpm) (Leonard, 1984). In much of the Arkansas River Basin, hydraulic heads are lower in the deep bedrock aquifers than those in the shallow formations, which indicate that deep bedrock aquifers are not in hydrological connection with the shallow formations. Precipitation and stream flow infiltration recharge the bedrock aquifers (Leonard, 1984). In general, the quality of groundwater on Fort Carson is good with the exception of localized areas of elevated nitrates, high dissolved solids, and sulfates exceeding secondary drinking water standards. Nitrates have recently been detected in the groundwater at multiple locations greater than the regulatory standard of 10 milligrams per liter.

Floodplains

Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, requires federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. To accomplish this objective, the Army is required to take actions to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare, and to restore and

preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains for certain federal actions. The acquisition, management, and disposal of federal lands and facilities are specific qualifying federal actions addressed within the EO. Subsequently, the EO requires the application of accepted flood-proofing and other flood protection measures for new construction of structures or facilities within a floodplain. Agencies are required to achieve flood protection, wherever practicable, through elevation of structures above the base flood level rather than filling in land.

3.2.2.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action
Under the No Action Alternative there would be no discernible impacts to either surface water or groundwater. Best management practices would continue to be implemented at both facilities in order to address stormwater runoff.

Proposed Action
Impervious surface on the site of the Proposed Action would increase slightly resulting in a less than significant increase in stormwater runoff from the site. The proposed site lies to the south of the highly developed Main Post area of Fort Carson. While there is moderate development in the vicinity of the proposed site of the Consolidate Hazardous Materials Storage, Treatment, and Disposal facility the overall level of development, to include that encompassed in the Proposed Action, would not result in producing any stormwater related concerns. Nevertheless, best management practices with regard to stormwater management would be erected and maintained as appropriate on the site. There are no anticipated groundwater impacts as a result of the Proposed Action.

3.2.3 Solid & Hazardous Waste

3.2.3.1 Affected Environment
Hazardous and toxic materials used at Fort Carson include gasoline, batteries, paint, diesel fuel, oil and lubricants, explosives, JP-8 jet fuel, pyrotechnic devices used in military training operations, radiological materials at medical facilities, radioactive materials, pesticides, and toxic or hazardous chemicals used in industrial operations such as painting, repair, and maintenance of vehicle and aircraft.

Fort Carson has a comprehensive program to address the management of hazardous waste, hazardous materials, and toxic substances. The program includes the proper handling and disposal of hazardous waste, as well as appropriate procurement, use, storage, and abatement (if necessary) of toxic substances. Several plans are in place to assist with the management of hazardous materials and waste including a Pollution Prevention (P2) Plan (also known as the Waste Minimization Plan), Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Management Plan, Facility Response Plan, Hazardous Waste Management Plan (HWMP), and the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan (SPCCP).

3.2.3.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action
Under the No Action Alternative hazardous materials and hazardous waste would continue to be managed from two separate facilities located approximately six miles apart on Fort Carson. While there would be no environmental impacts as a result of the No Action Alternative, no benefits as a result of the consolidation of the two operations would be realized.

Proposed Action
The issue, turn-in, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste would be consolidated in a single compound as a result of the Proposed Action. It is anticipated that consolidation of these functions at a single co-located facility will result in long-term, but not significant, benefits as a result of improved oversight and management of hazardous materials and hazardous waste beyond that of the No Action Alternative.

3.2.4 Traffic & Transportation

3.2.4.1 Affected Environment
A Comprehensive Post-wide Transportation Study (CPTS) was conducted for Fort Carson in 2005, primarily in response to the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) review authorized by the U.S. Congress. The CPTS was updated in 2008 (DPW, 2008) due to additional growth and infrastructure requirements based on Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment and followed by an additional update in May, 2012. While the new study is not available for publication at this time, the preliminary results of the CPTS discussed below are valid and sufficient for the purpose of analyzing the Proposed Action.

Historically traffic congestion leading into Fort Carson was a common problem at gates 3, 4, and 20. Improvements have been made to gates 3 and 20, while a plan, proposed as part of the Post-wide Transportation Study, is in place to increase the volume of traffic that can be processed through gate 4 during peak hours. Nevertheless, there continue to exist identified traffic congestion issues at gates 3, 4, and 20 during peak traffic hours. Increasing traffic throughput at each of the three gates has been proposed and plans to implement the proposals are in development.

Following increases in Fort Carson's population as a result of BRAC and Grow the Army stationing actions, internal traffic congestion within the post became problematic. A number of actions were taken to mitigate the negative impacts of increased internal traffic including the opening of gates 6 and 19, the construction of Essayons Road, and roadway capacity and intersection improvements at a number of locations throughout the post. Currently, a project is underway to alleviate internal traffic congestion leading to and from the Wilderness Road Complex and Butts Army Airfield, which includes constructing a vehicular overpass, increasing the number of traffic lanes and realigning the affected roadways leading to those facilities.

3.2.4.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action
Under the No Action Alternative it is anticipated that there would be no discernible impacts to traffic and transportation.

Proposed Action
The Proposed Action will likely result in both short-term and long-term benefits. Short-term benefits are likely to result in a small reduction in traffic following consolidation of the two facilities at the single co-located site on Butts Road thereby alleviating a small amount of the internal traffic on Fort Carson. Long-term positive benefits from a reduction in overall required traffic between the two current sites is anticipated as a result of the Proposed Alternative.

4.0 Summary of Effects and Conclusions

This Environmental Assessment documents and evaluates the potential environmental effects of the No Action Alternatives and implementation of the Proposed Action at Fort Carson, CO. After identifying those environmental aspects not relevant to the alternatives prepared for this analysis, the bulk of Section 3.0 focused on the resource areas of concern which included: biological resources, water resources, solid and hazardous waste, and traffic and transportation.

4.1 Cumulative Impacts
Low levels of development along Butts Road, to include the Proposed Action, are anticipated to result in long-term minor impacts to wildlife, vegetation, and surface waters. The increased development footprint will likely result in short-term disruption of local wildlife populations during construction followed by the loss of small patches of habitat within the cumulative construction footprints. Increased stormwater as a result of increased impervious surface within the footprint of the Proposed Action is anticipated. The low-density and dispersed nature of development along Butts Road prevents these cumulative impacts from being anything other than minor.

4.2 Findings
Under the No Action Alternative, which served as the baseline for this environmental assessment, neither positive nor negative impacts were identified as result from the alternative.

Under the Proposed Action minor benefits were identified for solid and hazardous waste as well as traffic and transportation on Fort Carson. Long-term, localized negligible impacts to vegetation, wildlife, and surface waters were also identified as a likely result of the Proposed Action.

4.3 Conclusions
Implementing the Proposed Action for the construction and operation of a Consolidated Hazardous Waste Storage, Treatment, and Disposal Facility would have no significant short-term, long-term, or cumulative impacts on the human environment; therefore an environmental impact statement is not required. This EA supports the issuance of a Finding of No Significant Impact.

5.0 Persons Contacted

Lana Altepeter, Air Program Manager, DPW, Fort Carson
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Sara Eastin, Stormwater Program Consultant, DPW, Fort Carson
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Bradley Johnson- NEPA Coordinator, DPW, Fort Carson
Dave Kelley, RCRA Program Manager, DPW, Fort Carson
James Kulbeth – Noxious Weeds Program Manager and CWA Section 404 Coordinator, DPW, Fort Carson
Jeffrey Linn – Conservation Branch Chief, DPW, Fort Carson
Pam Miller- Cultural Resources Manager, DPW, Fort Carson
Harold Noonan – Wastewater Program Manager, DPW, Fort Carson
Rick Orphan – Traffic Engineering Tech, DPW, Ft Carson
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Roger Peyton – Wildlife Biologist, DPW, Fort Carson
Martin Rasmussen, Facilities Branch Chief, DPW, Fort Carson
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Wayne Thomas – NEPA and Cultural Management Branch Chief, DPW, Fort Carson
Joe Wyka- Engineering Division Chief, DPW, Fort Carson

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APPENDIX A: PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

No comments were received.