



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON- FORT HUACHUCA
2837 BOYD AVENUE
FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA 85613-7000

AMIM-HUG-ZA (RN-420-1eee)

10 May 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: POLICY 21-70 - Fort Huachuca Water Conservation

1. Fort Huachuca has an obligation to be a responsible steward of our desert environment by conserving water. Water conservation is mandated by Executive Orders 13423 and 13514, and constitutes part of the Fort's compliance with the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of this policy memorandum is to continue the long-standing water conservation policy for Fort Huachuca and support our community sustainment plan.

2. Landscape Watering Requirements:

a. The average rainfall in the cantonment area (developed area of the post) is about 14 inches per year but can vary from less than 10 inches to over 20 inches. The cantonment area occupies roughly 5,300 acres and largely contains Bermuda grass. Bermuda grass is a relatively drought-tolerant, sod-forming, non-native warm season grass dormant from approximately mid-October through mid-April when the soil temperature is below 65 °F and does not require supplemental water during that time. In the absence of supplemental watering (i.e., irrigation), Bermuda grass is green only during the summer rainy season portion of the warm season that typically starts in early July and extends through August.

3. Privatized Military Family Housing (PMFH) Areas:

a. Per lease agreements, PMFH residents are required to comply with the Mountain Vista Communities' "Resident Guidelines and Community Handbook" which is available at:

<http://www.mountainvistacommunities.com/>

b. This policy incorporates this handbook by reference. Some of the pertinent water conservation provisions in the handbook include:

(a) Attended, hand-held hoses to water trees, shrubs, gardens, and flowers may be used throughout the year at any time. Newly-seeded lawn areas may be watered with hand-held hoses only, except as otherwise allowed in paragraphs below.

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Because of the prevalence of Bermuda grass within the cantonment area, seeding should be done using Bermuda grass with seeding timed to take advantage of summer rains.

(b) The University of Arizona, Cochise County Cooperative Extension has developed guidelines for the watering of Bermuda grass and other turf grasses available at:

<http://waterwise.arizona.edu>.

(c) During April, May, June, September, and October, residential watering is permitted. For Bonnie Blink Area Residents, watering with sprinklers may occur from 1600 hours on Wednesday to 0900 hours on Thursday and from 1600 hours on Sunday to 0900 hours on Monday. For the remainder of Family Housing Areas, watering with sprinklers may occur from 1600 hours on Tuesday to 0900 hours on Wednesday and from 1600 hours on Saturday to 0900 hours on Sunday. Residential watering is prohibited during the months of November through March and during July and August. Residential watering is prohibited anytime of the year between 0900 hours and 1600 hours.

(d) Timers may be used to activate sprinklers only within authorized hours on authorized days. Timers must be shut off when there is sufficient rainfall to meet the lawn's water requirements. Sprinklers may not be operated so as to cause ponding of water or runoff from the yard.

(e) Residents must provide sufficient watering with hand-held hoses to maintain the health of trees and shrubs in their yards, however, care must be taken to prevent water from running on to pavement or into the street. Plant watering guidelines are available at:

<https://waterwise.arizona.edu/low-water-landscaping>

4. All Other Facilities:

a. Most facilities at Fort Huachuca are landscaped with drought tolerant plants that are adapted to the variable rainfall conditions of this region. If shrubs and trees require supplemental watering during drought conditions, this will be done using attended, hand-held hoses only. Bermuda grass in common areas will not be irrigated. Exceptions to this rule may exist for some established turf areas used for recreation or quality-of-life enhancement. These areas must follow the lawn watering requirements identified in paragraph 3.b (b), if in doubt about the status of a turf area, contact the proponent of this policy identified in paragraph 9.

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b. New landscapes and new plantings must be done with plants selected from Fort Huachuca's approved plant list. New turf areas or expansions of existing turf areas must be approved by the Environmental and Natural Resources Division (ENRD) and may not exceed 500 square feet total. New turf areas larger than 500 square feet will use artificial turf. For artificial turf, a work order must be submitted to DPW for review and approval.

5. Plumbing Fixture Requirements:

a. IMCOM has mandated all Army garrisons to implement the criteria contained in the IMCOM Energy and Water Conservation Design Guide for Sustainment, Restoration, and Modernization (SRM) Projects and Military Construction (MILCON). These criteria apply to all new construction and major repair projects except those in PMFH and privatized army lodging (PAL) areas. Design guide criteria will also be followed when replacing plumbing fixtures on post as part of repair and maintenance activities. Lavatory faucets and their accessories will have a maximum flow rate of 0.5 gallons per minute (GPM), and showerheads will have a maximum flow rate of 1.5 GPM. Tank-type toilets will be Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Sense labeled with a maximum effective flush volume of 1.28 gallons per flush (GPF). Flushometer valve-type toilets will use no more than 1.6 GPF. Urinals will be waterless. The following website should be consulted for specific information on Federal water efficiency best management practices:

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/femp/best-management-practices-water-efficiency>

6. Non-Irrigation Exterior Water Use Practices:

a. Decorative water features, such as fish ponds and water fountains, are not authorized unless supplied by harvested rainwater.

b. Fund-raising car washes are not authorized anywhere on post. This prohibition is not just for water conservation but to eliminate non-point sources of pollution to natural drainages in accordance with state law. Examples of non-point sources of pollution are oils, greases, and sediments being released from places like land runoff, precipitation and wind. The effects of non-point source pollution are decreased water quality and the release of pollutants that can have harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.

c. Car washing in family housing areas using a sponge and bucket is permissible. Hoses should only be used during rinsing activities and must be turned off during all other washing activities.

d. The use of power washers for car washing is not authorized anywhere on post. This prohibition is not just for water conservation, but to eliminate non-point sources of pollution to natural drainages in accordance with state law. Power washer use on government vehicles can be used at appropriate oil-water separators to prevent non-point sources of pollution to natural drainages in accordance with state law.

e. Mist cooling systems are prohibited from use at any facility on post.

f. Use of water for cleaning sidewalks, driveways, and other paved surfaces are prohibited.

7. General Water Use Practices:

a. Residents and employees must prevent water they are using from running into the street. No water is to run from unattended hoses. When water is emptied from wading pools or other collection devices, it will be released where it can be used by lawns and vegetation and not drained or permitted to drain into the streets.

b. Maintenance requirements or problems at all facilities, other than PMFH and PAL, that result in water leaks or water being wasted must be reported to the Directorate of Public Works (DPW) immediately by calling the Service Desk at (520) 533-3151. When placing a service order, specify that water is leaking, what it is leaking from (if known), the required repair, and information on the approximate size of the leak, such as steady drip, stream as wide as a pencil, or stream like a fire hose.

8. Enforcement of this Policy

a. Enforcement of this policy is a command responsibility. Commanders are responsible for ensuring that their personnel understand and comply with this policy. Enforcement for noncompliance with paragraphs 2 through 4 of this policy is as follows:

(a) Housing residents will be cited for violations of this policy per their lease agreement.

(b) Administrative areas will be referred for action through the chain of command.

9. Individuals and organizations with water saving suggestions, concerns about water waste at a specific facility or housing unit on the Fort, or with interest in additional information about improving their personal or unit water conservation efforts may contact the ENRD. Additional information on water conservation is available at: <http://waterwise.arizona.edu>

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10. Fort Huachuca has a great water conservation record. Your cooperation and on-the-spot help in educating everyone are necessary to meet our continuing reduction goals.

11. The proponent for this policy is the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental and Natural Resources Division (ENRD), at (520) 533-0206. This policy supersedes Fort Huachuca Irrigation and Water Management dated 06 January 2012.

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JARROD MORELAND
Colonel, MI
Commanding