

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD**

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR THE INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP), AT JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, WASHINGTON

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Army regulations (32 CFR Part 651, the Department of the Army (Army) gives notice that an EA was prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

A Notice of Availability was published in The Tacoma News Tribune and The Olympian in accordance with 32 CFR Part 651.36 and Army Regulation 200-1 (13 December 2007) on **Month dd**. The EA and Draft FNSI were made available for public review on the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Directorate of Public Works website at: <https://home.army.mil/lewis-mcchord/index.php/my-Joint-Base-Lewis-Mcchord/all-services/environmental-division/environmental-impact-analysis>. The public comment period on the EA and Draft FNSI were from Month dd to Month dd, 2018. **No/xxxxxx** public comments were received. The EA and FNSI are available on the Joint Base Lewis-McChord Directorate of Public Works website at: <https://home.army.mil/lewis-mcchord/index.php/my-Joint-Base-Lewis-Mcchord/all-services/environmental-division/environmental-impact-analysis>.

Proposed Action: The proposed action is to adopt a revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) that fully meets the requirements of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a-670b). Per the Sikes Act, the goal of the INRMP is to implement an ecosystem-based conservation program that provides for conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources in a manner consistent with the military mission.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to meet statutory requirements under the Sikes Act, provide management requirements for species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and meet the requirements of the Department of Defense and Department of the Army instructions and regulations.

Existing Conditions: Located in Pierce and Thurston Counties in the western portion of Washington, JBLM encompasses more than 90,000 acres bordering Tacoma, Washington, to the Northwest (approximately 35 miles South of Seattle) and seven miles Northeast of Olympia, Washington. JBLM also includes the Yakima Training Center (YTC), which encompasses approximately 324,000 acres located approximately ten miles Northeast of Yakima, Washington. YTC has its own INRMP and EA.

Alternatives Analyzed: Two alternatives are evaluated in this EA: the Preferred Alternative (adopt and implement a revised INRMP), and the No-Action Alternative (continue implementation of the existing Natural Resources Management Plan).

The Proposed Action is the Preferred Alternative because adopting the updated INRMP would have long-term beneficial impacts on natural resources at JBLM. This alternative would maintain, conserve, and improve the Natural Resources present on JBLM and update effective management practices for these resources. Short-term uses are associated with surveys, invasive species control, or other land-management actions needed to proactively manage natural resources.

Environmental Effects: This environmental assessment focuses on 14 categories for analysis. Of those, air quality, prairie and land management, and wildlife resources are impacted by the proposed INRMP.

Implementation of the No-Action Alternative would continue to have some long-term beneficial impacts to the Natural Resources at JBLM. However, the beneficial impacts to natural resources would be less than the Preferred Alternative since the No-Action Alternative would not update conservation and management practices for natural resources and would not include long-term natural resources goals or objectives. Minor adverse effects would be possible from the lack of a comprehensive Natural Resources Plan to guide long-range planning, resulting in piecemeal development that lacks ecosystem planning.

Long-term beneficial effects are expected with the implementation of the updated INRMP because new management projects are focused on species conservation and recovery. The revised INRMP expands the use of the Army Compatible Use Buffer program and prescribed burning for habitat protection. The proposed INRMP also expands the use of captive propagation, species relocations, and/or reintroductions outside the Installation to support local and regional recovery efforts for ESA-listed species.

Long-term, beneficial effects to military land use are expected from the proposed action because of the implementation of management practices that complement, or otherwise provide mutual benefit, to military training.

Overall, impacts to air quality associated with natural resource management activities would be short-term, localized, and less than significant.

Tribal Coordination: The Army invited the Nisqually Indian Tribe to comment on drafts of the INRMP. No comments were received.

Finding: I have considered the results of the analysis referenced above, comments received, and Army mission requirements. In review of the resource areas potentially impacted by the proposed action, I find that implementing the proposed action will have no significant environmental impacts on the natural or human environment. Based on this documentation, which has incorporated or referenced the best information available, I have taken a hard look at known impacts and determined that the implementation of the proposed action will not significantly affect the environment and therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted.

Date

Nicole M. Lucas
Colonel, US Army
Commanding