State Wildlife Action Plan
&
Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan Workshop

Workshop Summary

May 9-10, 2006
Atlanta, Georgia

Executive Summary

On May 9 – 10, 2006, the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment) (DUSD(IE)) and the Department of Defense Legacy Program, with support from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (formerly the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) sponsored a State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) and Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) Workshop. The workshop was hosted at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. There were 45 participants from a variety of organizations including, but not limited to DUSD(IE), the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission, US Fish and Wildlife Agency and other interested Federal agencies (*Appendix A*). The purpose of this workshop was to bring together natural resource managers from military installations, state wildlife agency personnel and US Fish and Wildlife Service personnel to integrate SWAPs and INRMPs by identifying common problem areas and common goals of the region. The hope was that through this workshop, regional pilot projects, goals and partnerships could be established that would assist in the way in which natural resources are managed in the Southeast.

The first day of the workshop began with introductory remarks by Bruce Beard of DUSD(IE), Alex Beehler of DUSD (Environment, Safety and Occupational Heath (ESOH)) and Secretary Bill Ross of the NC Department of Environment & Natural Resources. The three gentlemen described the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) that was created in summer 2005, and the effects and possibilities that this workshop could have on that partnership and vice versa. Following these remarks, presentations were given by Dave

Chadwick (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies), Peter Boice (DoD Conservation Program) Scott Van Horn (NC Wildlife Resource Commission), Pete Campbell (US FWS), and John Townsend (Camp Lejeune) describing their respective organizations and approaches to cooperative regional planning (*Appendices B- E*).

The remainder of the day was spent in breakout groups attempting to answer some fundamental questions relating to integration of the SWAPs and INRMPS (*Appendix F and Table 2.1*).

During a working dinner, participants were encouraged to sit with members from their respective regions and consider possible pilot projects that could be discussed further the following day and later implemented. Groups generally broke into groups by state, and crafted a variety of project ideas (*Appendix G).*

From the list generated at dinner the evening before, on the second day, participants identified four projects and divided into their respective groups. Breakout group questions were provided to guide the discussion and focus the groups on some key issues (*Appendix H*). Each group was tasked to determine the next steps needed to ensure the implementation of the project. After the pilot project report-outs, the workshop concluded with the entire group identifying next steps for the group as a whole. Summaries of the pilot project and next steps appear below.

Pilot Projects*

(1) ***Invasive Species*** (South Carolina & expanding)

- Identify areas/potential sites for habitat conversion to clear invasive species while not hindering native species
- Group likely to expand as necessary

(2) ***Species at Risk*** (NC/Coastal (TBD after initial survey))

- Assess and determine the most important Species at Risk for NC
- Group likely to expand into South Carolina as necessary

(3) ***FL Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)/ INRMP Articulation Project***

- Discuss integration of State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies and INRMPs
- Facilitate INRMP reviews/process under the requirements of the Sikes Act
- Conduct annual meetings in the Eglin AFB region, NAS Jacksonville region and Avon Park region

(4) ***The Georgia Project***

- Identify lands of mutual interest and discuss ways to protect partners' respective missions
- Potential focus on threatened and endangered species, as well as species at risk (e.g., gopher tortoise)
- Follow-up meeting planned for June

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* Some action items identified in this Summary have already been completed. For up to date information, please visit: https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/NCR/inrmp.html?fm-natres

Workshop Next Steps*

- Construct a space on DENIX for information posting
- Send thank you letters from Mr. Beehler and Sec. Ross to the supervisors of the attendees
- Follow-up meeting for the large group in 12-18 months

* Some action items identified in this Summary have already been completed. For up to date information, please visit: https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/NCR/inrmp.html?fm-natres

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Introduction

The Department of Defense is responsible for creating programs and implementing management strategies to conserve and protect biological resources on its lands. DoD develops and implements Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) at its installations to ensure military operations and natural resources are integrated and consistent with stewardship and legal requirements while ensuring no net loss to the military mission.

Similarly, state wildlife agencies are responsible for managing and conserving all resident fish and wildlife species. As part of that responsibility, and as a requirement of the federal State Wildlife Grants program, every state has recently completed a State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), known technically as a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. The SWAPs outline the actions that are needed to conserve wildlife and vital natural areas before they become too rare and costly to protect. The completion of the SWAPs was a momentous step forward in the management of protection of wildlife in the United States.

During INRMP development, installations are required to consult with the state wildlife agency for the state in which the installation resides, as well as with the US Fish and Wildlife Service when determining their course of action. Similarly, the state wildlife agencies are required to consult with federal agencies and other plans (e.g. US Forest Service Land Management Plans) when creating the state wildlife action plans. However, the degree to which each organization involves the other varies greatly. By bringing together the key stakeholders in the Southeast region, partnerships and projects can be crafted to integrate SWAPs and INRMPs.

The Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) has experienced success in terms of gathering the region as a whole and working together to forge a partnership and craft regional projects. For this

reason, the four southeast states (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida) were chosen to participate in the pilot SWAP/INRMP Workshop. As anticipated, participants recognized other states and partners (e.g. Alabama, National Marine Fisheries Service, etc.) that will need to be included in various capacities in future meetings- especially at the local and state levels. However, this workshop helped to forge initial partnerships that will serve as the basis for future collaboration.

In January 2006, the Department of Defense (DoD), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) signed a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU indicates that the three parties have entered into a cooperative program of INRMP development and implementation with mutually agreed upon fish and wildlife conservation objectives to satisfy the goals of the Sikes Act. This workshop directly supports the goals and objectives set forth by the MOU.

By working together, the Department of Defense, the state wildlife agencies and other relevant agencies are in a position to prioritize collaboratively how conservation dollars are spent, encourage implementation of projects that are mutually beneficial, promote information and data sharing, and assist with the review and updating of SWAPs, INRMPs and other planning efforts.

Day One -- May 9, 2006

The workshop opened with introductory remarks by Bruce Beard of Office of the Deputy Under Secretary Defense (Installations and Environment) (DUSD(IE). He described the purpose of the workshop – to bring together groups of people that are working *near* each other, but not necessarily *with* each other - and gave some general information regarding the structure of the workshop. Alex Beehler of the Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety, Occupational Health) (DUSD (ESOH)) spoke next, providing a very broad overview of INRMPs, and the way in which Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) and State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) could be integrated to better manage the land surrounding installations. Mr. Beehler described the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Department of Defense (DoD), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), in which all parties agreed to work collaboratively to produce the most comprehensive plans possible. The last set of opening remarks were from Secretary Bill Ross of the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Secretary Ross discussed the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS) and how this workshop contributes to that larger effort. The primary goal of SERPPAS is to identify regional sustainability issues which cross federal, state and local geographic and civil borders. He reiterated that any projects that developed as a result from this workshop are likely to influence and strengthen the larger partnership efforts of the entire Southeast.

The morning continued with Dave Chadwick from AFWA presenting an overview of State Wildlife Action Plans (*Appendix B*). As of October 2005, all states had prepared a Wildlife Action Plan (available online at www.teaming.com), that details the state actions necessary to prevent wildlife from extinction. The plans include ideas for specific conservation projects as well as suggestions on ways to educate the public about effective conservation practices. Mr. Chadwick

emphasized the need for collaboration and partnership with military installations, since wildlife issues continue beyond the fence line. He closed by encouraging the participants to become familiar with and learn from each other.

Peter Boice of DUSD (I&E) spoke next, providing an overview of INRMPs (*Appendix C*). He described the Sikes Act, which requires installations to create INRMPs, and also delineates the required elements that must be contained in the INRMP. The INRMP planning teams are obligated, by law, to involve USFWS and the appropriate state wildlife agency to ensure proper consideration of fish and wildlife. However, the degrees to which the US FWS and the States are consulted has varied. For example, the agencies sometimes have only reviewed INRMPs, and have not been intimately involved in the creation and revision process. Mr. Boice reiterated the hope that this workshop would promote increased communications and forge partnerships which extend into the future. Finally, Mr. Boice informed the group of additional INRMP tools that are available to further describe INRMP development, implementation and best practices.

Scott Van Horn provided a brief overview of how the state of North Carolina has partnered with the military in numerous projects to provide for conservation and preservation, and then introduced Pete Campbell of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and John Townson of Camp Lejeune.

Pete Campbell spoke about the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership (*Appendix D*). Created in 2000, the Partnership seeks to keep the development and implementation of conservation strategies within North Carolina consistent with the compatible land use objectives of the partners. The Partnership consists of seven organizations and members belong to a variety of working groups focusing on specific projects and conservation efforts. Additionally, the Partnership as a whole reaches out to other existing partnerships and collaborative groups in the area that are also focusing on the

Sandhills. Working together, over 12,000 acres of land for habitat protection/training and public use have been acquired. Additionally, 49,000 acres of private lands have been enrolled in Safe Harbor to provide habitat for 56 red-cockaded woodpecker clusters. Mr. Campbell concluded by stressing the success of this Partnership and its ability to make a difference in North Carolina through collaborative planning.

The final presentation was delivered by John Townson from US Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (*Appendix E*). In 2001, the Onslow Bight Conservation Forum was formed with participation by over ten organizations reaching into nine counties. In the past five years, the Forum has developed a charter, defined their mission and established regular meetings. Goals of the Forum include encouraging public/private partnerships among participating agencies and private land owners, promoting conservation, restoration, health and sustainable use of the landscape and enhancing coordination among the participants. Over 2,500 acres of land near key training ranges has been preserved, and the Forum continues to look for opportunities for preservation and conservation.

Once presentations concluded, Kim Fleming reviewed the break out session instructions and questions for Day One (*Appendix F*). The remainder of the day was spent in groups discussing some of the fundamental questions and considerations associated with integrating different plans (Table 2-1).

TABLE 2-1

Considerations When Integrating SWAPs and INRMPs

Breakout Questions Presented to Groups	*Ideas/Answers Generated During Break Out Session*

I. Benefits of integrating INRMPs and State Wildlife Action Plans processes	• Allows for common goals, needs, and resources
	  ▪ Improves overall efficiency
	  ▪ Specifically, more efficient utilization of public funds
	• Pooling of resources advances public participation activities
	  ▪ Improves public support
	  ▪ Provides the public with a common message
	• Eliminating duplicate efforts improves efficiency
	  ▪ Opens resources for priority projects
	  ▪ Standardizing data collection advances data sharing
	• SWAPs can give INRMPs a landscape perspective
	• Assists in the prioritization of the INRMP process
	• Gives big picture contexts to INRMPs
	  ▪ Makes less myopic
	  ▪ Highlights consistency of actions
	• Bridges multiple agencies
	  ▪ Improves motivation and understanding of needs of the partners
	• Illustrates how military instillations fit into the state's bigger picture
	• Maximizes the strengths of all stakeholders
	• Allows local implementation of the large scale state plans
	• Provides consistency in conservation management
	• Advances buffer land efforts
	• Reduces islands of biodiversity
	• Leads to more effective ecosystem management

II. Existing communication barriers between states, installations and DoD	• General lack of understanding of state and DoD topics
	  ▪ The military mission
	  ▪ Funding process
	  ▪ Data language and methodology
	• Time constraints, excess workload, and understanding the needs of all actors creates barriers
	• Service branches differ
	  ▪ Communication style
	  ▪ Organizational approach of natural resources
	• DoD unaware of SWAPs
	• Ignorance of joint land use studies (JLUS) by county commissioners
	• Bases' interest in security puts constraints on communications

	▪ DoD restricting public use ▪ INRMPs not available on websites • Stove-piping money and people • States not seeing the value in all the bases, only the “big” ones • Universal issues ▪ Lack of understanding of sovereign immunity ▪ Overload of information stalls communication ▪ Difficulty in getting the right people to the table ▪ Personnel come from different points on the geographic and professional spectrum • Internal issues ▪ Insufficient staff to deal with NR issues ▪ Agency can have communication breakdowns ▪ Internal priorities take precedence without consideration of external needs • External issues ▪ Lack of interaction with publicly owned lands ▪ Unapproachable regulatory perception of installations ▪ Political issues associated with lands
III. Possible means to overcome communication barriers between states, installations and DoD	• Ensure leadership support and participation • Identify needs and resources to address roles of each party to ensure effective meetings • Promote professional networking to improve communication and create projects ▪ Bolster internal relationships within local staff, state, federal, and DoD ▪ Highlight positive partnerships to establish impetus and motivation for continued partnering • Modify rules and policies to ease communication • Formalize the communication systems ▪ Sign Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) ▪ Create workgroups ▪ Increase the use of listservs • Standardize service and base requirements for INRMP development process ▪ Management ▪ Funding • Create organizational processes guidelines & methods of communicating • Establish performance standards ▪ Build personnel performance standard into the system • Meet on a regular basis, and monitor meeting fruitfulness ▪ Annual FWS, state and DoD reviews

	• Find common topics that share and support NR for the partners • Brief state agency and FWS through range tours • Invite states to participate more

IV. Proposed methods to integrate DoD species at risk into State Wildlife Action Plans and vice versa	• Determine current obligations by all participants
	• Combine partnerships and encourage the sharing of information through outreach efforts
	  ▪ Become familiar with each other's plans
	  ▪ Compare stakeholder lists and ensure lists being used are common to both state and federal
	  ▪ Recognize mutual goals
	  ▪ Create joint grant proposals
	• Add state G-1 and G-2 species at the five year review
	• Include the state species in INRMPs, as a pre-emptive measure to avoid them entering the Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species list
	  ▪ Identify high priority species
	  ▪ Identify appropriate poster species for the audience
	  ▪ Develop monitoring efforts
	• Develop Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) for multiple species and habitat scales(e.g.: Quail initiative)
	• Increase cross-training between states, DoD and FWS
	• Establish level of understanding through MOUs
	• Maintain communication for annual reviews of the two plans

V. Ways that DoD could assist states in State Wildlife Action Plans implementation and vice versa	• Initiate educational outreach and in-reach for both sides
	• Encourage INRMPs project that support the SWAPs and vice versa
	• Get projects into INRMPs and secure funding
	• Collaborate state and DoD efforts on buffer land purchasing (adjacent and T&E species)
	• Maximize use of DoD resources
	  ▪ Use DoD to serve as donor site for species transplanting
	  ▪ Provide volunteers
	  ▪ Use Public Affairs Office (PAO) to distribute information
	  ▪ Host meetings
	  ▪ Assist in regional work for species, even off DoD lands using MOUs, cooperative agreements, etc
	  ▪ Share equipment (heavy moving, burning, etc.)
	  ▪ Share technical expertise
	• Implement the plans and cross-walk them both
	• Integrate SWAPs into INRMPs

	• Help DoD strategize spending so that they can maximize Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) funding
	• Leverage resources and partnerships to ensure smart spending
	• Recognize strengths and weaknesses of either party and collaborate to maximize strengths
	• Identify lands/areas for possible preservation/conservation
	• Create partnership between States and DoD to strengthen public trust
	• Share information
	  ▪ Post SWAPs (States)
	  ▪ Post INRMPs (DoD)
	  ▪ Geographic info
	  ▪ Species status data
	  ▪ Regional species data
	  ▪ Coordinate work-plans

VI. Possible management plans (i.e. USFS Forest Land Management Plans, etc.) that could be integrated into INRMPs/SWAPs	• USFWS species recovery plans • Local wetlands mitigation plans • NGO organization plans • Migratory Bird Plans • National Wildlife Plans • Identify stakeholders and use the plans with those stakeholders (eg: partners in flight) • Look for successful examples • Local Power- recognizing the power, control or lack thereof of the local government • Partners for Wildlife • The Nature Conservancy (TNC) • National Association of Counties (NACo)/ The Conservation Fund (TCF) Training • Land Use Comprehensive Plans (local level) • Safe Harbor • Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) • Regional initiatives and watershed plans • Refuge plans • Species recovery plans • Gap analysis for plans • Bringing in new partners and resources • Zoning plans • State and federal agency land plans • Joint Venture Plans

After a short break, the entire group assembled for dinner and discussion. Participants were encouraged to sit with others that they might be interested in working with in the future. During the meal, Dave Chadwick spent a few minutes describing the projects that have materialized from some of the regional planning workshops that he has attended. He encouraged the groups to think broadly and to brainstorm as many ideas as possible- ranging from data sharing to the creation of brand new projects that would tackle new concerns (*Appendix G*).

Day Two -- May 10, 2006

Day two began with some brief instructions for the day's assignments by Kim Fleming. The participants considered which projects they would like to pursue, based on the ideas generated the evening before. After discussion, four pilot projects were identified and guiding questions were provided to the groups, though they were encouraged to think of all possible questions that had to be answered – from potential partners to funding sources (*Appendix H*).

The four pilot project created were:*

(1) ***Invasive Species*** (South Carolina & expanding)

This group will take a closer look at Clear Zone Habitat Conversion. They intend to coordinate communication between interested parties to consider test projects that can replace invasive species, while not hindering native species/BASH. The group views this as a win-win situation for wildlife conversion as well as for the military. Additional states may be added as necessary.

(2) ***Species at Risk*** (North Carolina (additional states may be added after initial survey))

This group will assess and determine the most important Species at Risk (and associated habitats) along the North Carolina coast. Through partnerships with US FWS, DoD, USDA and others, this group hopes to preclude listing of the identified species. After an initial survey, this group will likely expand into South Carolina and encompass the southeast coast.

* Some action items identified in this Summary have already been completed. For up to date information, please visit: https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/NCR/inrmp.html?fm-natres

(3) ***Florida Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies/ INRMP Articulation Project***

The focus of this group is on developing ways in which to better facilitate INRMP reviews/process under the requirements of the Sikes Act. The group also intends to discuss the integration of Florida's Wildlife Action Plan with installation INRMPs. Finally, the group would like to institute annual meetings in three regions (Eglin AFB, NAS Jacksonville and Avon Park) to coordinate all planning efforts.

(4) ***The Georgia Project***

This group's initial focus is to identify lands of mutual interest and discuss ways in which to protect them in order to meet everyone's mission needs. Areas to be focused on are the habitat of gopher tortoise and other threatened and endangered species, as well as species at risk that are of interest to the entire group.

After each group reported on their specific project ideas and goals, the group as a whole was asked to consider the next steps for the entire group. The following considerations and potential next steps[*]:

- Construct a space on DENIX for information posting
- Send thank you letters from Mr. Beehler and Secretary Ross to the supervisors of the attendees
- Coordinate similar workshops in other locations (smaller, more species driven)
- Follow-up meeting for the large group in 12-18 months
  - Present success stories from original 4 pilot project ideas
  - Present success stories/project ideas derived from smaller workshops
  - Coordinate in conjunction with another conference (e.g. Range Conference, NWFWA Workshop)

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- Other partners that should be included in next meeting:
  - Avon Park Air Force Range
  - Fort Jackson
  - State of Alabama
  - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
  - The Nature Conservancy/ Trust for Public Lands/ other NGOs
  - Other Federal agencies as appropriate

After the discussion of follow-up actions and next steps, Bruce Beard provided some closing remarks and thanked all the attendees for their active participation.

Appendix A
Participant List

Appendix A: Participant List

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email
David Allen	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission	252-448-1546	Allend@coastalnet.com
Jon Ambrose, PhD.	Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division	770-761-3035	Jon_Ambrose@dnr.state.ga.us
Jason Ayers	US FWS- SC	843-727-4707 x 219	jason_ayers@fws.gov
Bruce Beard	Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)	703-604-0521	bruce.beard@osd.mil
Tim Beaty	Fort Stewart (Army)	912-767-7261 912-210-6784	tim.beaty@us.army.mil
Peter Boice	Office of the Secretary of Defense	703-604-0524	Peter.Boice@osd.mil
Hugh Boyter	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	850-922-8862 x17330	hugh.boyter@myfwc.com
Chris Burkett	US FWS- Washington Office	703-358-2338	chris_burkett@fws.gov
Pete Campbell	US FWS- NC	910-695-3323	pete_campbell@fws.gov
Dave Chadwick	IAFWA	202-624-5429	chadwick@iafwa.org
Kathy Chapman	US FWS- GA	912-265-9336 ext. 24	kathy_chapman@fws.gov
Steve Covell	Air National Guard- Readiness	301-836-8327	stephen.covell@ang.af.mil
Hal Balbach	US Army Engineer Research and Development Center	217-373-6785	hal.e.balbach@usace.army.mil
Bob Decker	Army Headquarters	703-601-1959	robert.decker@hqda.army.mil
Billy Drawdy	NAVFAC South (Navy)	843-820-5593	william.drawdy@navy.mil
Ed Eudaly	US FWS- SC	843-727-4707 ext. 227	ed_eudaly@fws.gov
Kim Fleming	Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)/ Booz Allen Hamilton	703-412-7615	fleming_kimberly@bah.com
Mark Gibson	NAS Pensacola/ NAS Whiting Field (Navy)	850-452-3663	mark.w.gibson@navy.mil
Susan Gibson	Southern Regional Environmental Office (Army)	404-524-5061	susan.gibson@sreo.army.mil
Lew Gorman	US FWS- Washington Office	703-358-1911	Lewis_Gorman@fws.gov
Jimi Gragg	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	352-732-1225 x120	james.gragg@myfwc.com
Bruce Hagedorn	Eglin AFB (Air Force)	850-882-8421	hagedorn@eglin.af.mil
John Hammond	US FWS- NC	919-856-4520 x 28	john_hammond@fws.gov
Bryan Henderson	Seymour Johnson AFB/Dare County Bombing Range (Air Force)	919-722-7440	bryan.henderson@seymourjohnson.af.mil
Laura Henze	US FWS- Washington Office	703-358-2398	Laura_Henze@fws.gov
Barbara Howe	CNRSE (Command Navy Region South East)	904-542-5352	barbara.howe@navy.mil
Kate Hutson	Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installations and Environment)/ Booz Allen Hamilton	703-412-7532	hutson_kate@bah.com
Ulgonda Kirkpatrick	Camp Blanding (Army National Guard)	904-682-2441	ulgonda.kirkpatrick@us.army.mil
Dennis Krusac	USDA Forest Service	404-437-4338	dkrusac@fs.fed.us

Appendix A: Participant List

Name	Organization	Phone Number	Email
Frank Lands	Installation Management Agency (Army)	404-464-1645	frank.lands@forscom.army.mil
John Milio	US FWS- FL	904.232.2580 x 112	john_milio@fws.gov
Terry Myers	Fort Bragg (Army)	910-396-2510	terry.myers1@us.army.mil
Jim Ozier	Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division	478-994-1438	jim_ozier@dnr.state.ga.us
Steve Parris	US FWS- GA	706-544-6999	steve_parris@fws.gov
Lynn Quattro	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources	803-734-9094	QuattroL@dnr.sc.gov
Jenn Rinehart	South Carolina Department of Natural Resources	803-734-3746	RinehartJ@dnr.sc.gov
Mark Salvato	US FWS- FL	772-778-9486	mark_salvato@fws.gov
Tom Sinclair	US FWS	404-679-7324	thomas_sinclair@fws.gov
Bill Spicer	Navy Headquarters	202-433-4986	william.a.spicer@navy.mil
Robin Sutherland	Patrick AFB (Air Force)	321-494-2905	Robin.Sutherland@patrick.af.mil
Pete Swiderek	Fort Benning (Army)	706-544- 7077	swiderekp@benning.army.mil
Bill Tate	US FWS- FL	850-883-1189	bill_tate@fws.gov
John Townson	Camp Lejeune (US Marine Corps)	910-451-9384	john.townson@usmc.mil
Scott Van Horn	North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission	919-528-9886	scott.vanhorn@ncwildlife.org

Appendix B
Dave Chadwick’s Presentation

Wildlife Action Plans:
A Resource for Conservation Partners

May 2006

Action Plans for Every State

The Nation's Core Program for Preventing Wildlife from Becoming Endangered in Every State.

State Wildlife Grants

How It Works:

- Allocated by formula to every state
  → Population + Area
- Non-federal match
  25% for planning
  50% for implementation
- Annual appropriations

Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program

How It Works:

- Allocated by formula to every state
  → Population + Area
- 25% Non-federal match
- Conservation, Education, Recreation, Law Enforcement, Research
- Dedicated funding

Wildlife Action Plans

Working together to conserve wildlife and natural areas for future generations

Wildlife Action Plans

Minimum Legal Requirement

The Opportunity

Outline how state plans to use SWG funding

Engage Partners in a Strategic Vision for Wildlife Conservation

Eight Required Elements

1. **Wildlife** distribution and abundance, focused on species of greatest need
2. **Habitat** location and condition
3. **Problems** and research needs
4. **Conservation Actions** and priorities

Eight Required Elements

5. Monitoring and Evaluation
6. Plans to **Review and Revise**
7. **Coordination** with other agencies, planning efforts
8. Broad **public participation**

Wildlife Action Plans

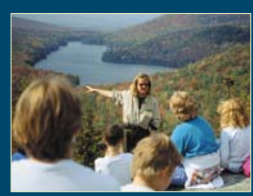
Historic

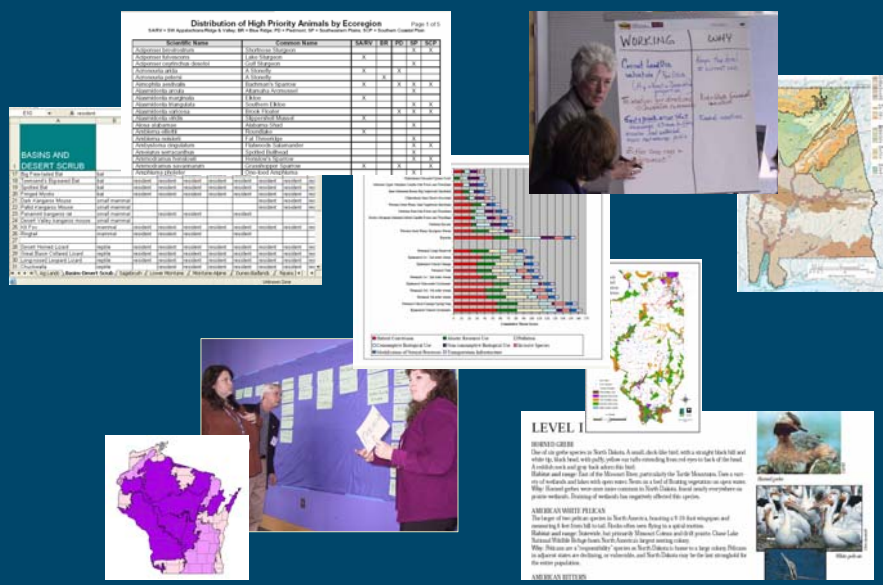
and

Structured

but

Flexible





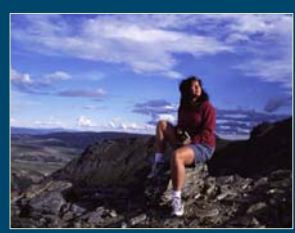
Keeping It Off the Shelf

- More Funding
- Operational Planning and Integration
- Coordination with Partner Agencies
- Policy and Regulatory Changes

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE

a natural investment

Wildlife For Future Generations



Appendix C
Peter Boice's Presentation

Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) and the Sikes Act Improvement Act

L. Peter Boice
DoD Conservation Team Leader

Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997

- Enacted November 18, 1997
  - Product of three-plus years of discussion
  - Agreed to by DoD, USFWS, IAFWA
- Authorizes DoD to carry out a program for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations

Need for Amendments

- Broaden scope of DoD's natural resources program
- Integrate program with operations & training
- Embrace tenets of conservation biology
- Invite public review
- Strengthen funding for conservation

Key Elements

- SECDEF directed to carry out natural resources program...

  -- Previous program discretionary, self-imposed, and dictated by internal policy

  -- Previous program focused on fish and game conservation

  ...unless installation not home to significant natural resources

Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- Military Departments required to prepare and implement INRMPs for relevant installations
  - -- Broader in scope than cooperative plans
  - -- "Must fund" requirements
- INRMPs prepared in cooperation with DoI/FWS and State fish and wildlife agencies
  - -- Anticipated a truly collaborative

Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- INRMP shall reflect "mutual agreement" of the parties
  - -- Goal: agreement on entire plan
  - -- Requirement: agreement on elements of plan within scope of USFWS and State's legal authority
- Sikes Act neither enlarges nor diminishes parties' legal authorities

Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- Required elements of plan:
  - -- Natural resources management
  - -- Sustained multi-purpose use
  - -- Habitat enhancement
  - -- Integration of activities
  - -- Public access and sustainable public use
  - -- Specific goals and objectives
- Plus requirements from DoDI

Key Elements

[CONTINUED]

- Program and INRMP must:
  - -- Be consistent with the use of installations to ensure military preparedness; and
  - -- Ensure no net loss in capability of installations to support military mission

Procedural Requirements

- Provide opportunity for public comment on INRMP
- Cooperative development
- 5-year reviews
- SECDEF annual Report to Congress

Cooperative Development: Partnering with USFWS and States

- Involvement and review includes:
  - Evaluating impacts on fish and wildlife
  - Ensuring consideration of fish and wildlife resources in installation planning activities
  - Identifying opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife while accomplishing other mission objectives
  - Providing technical assistance to ensure proper consideration of fish and wildlife

Bottom Line

- Congress expects that:
  - -- Plans will be developed cooperatively;
  - -- Plans will be implemented; and
  - -- Public will have access to installations to enjoy natural resources...
  - -- But military preparedness CANNOT be compromised

Other SAIA Features

- Ensures sufficient numbers of professionally trained natural resource managers
- Authorizes fee collection for hunting and fishing permits
- Authorizes cooperative agreements
- Authorizes conservation law enforcement
- 1998 amendment: Disabled Sportsmen's Access

Endangered Species Act and INRMPs

- ESA requires consultation on actions that "may affect"
- USFWS believes consultation required even for beneficial effects
- USFWS may encourage installations to introduce species or enhance habitat but:
  - No net loss of military lands
  - No species introduction w/o command approval

Critical Habitat Designation and INRMPs

- Section 318 of FY 2004 National Defense Authorization Act
- Precludes designation of critical habitat on military lands if ……
  - INRMP provides a benefit to the species for which critical habitat is being designated

Migratory Bird Treaty Act and INRMPs

- Section 315 of FY 2003 National Defense Authorization Act
- Provides exemption from MBTA for military readiness activities:
  - Will be covered by USFWS Final Rule
  - Confer on significant adverse effects on populations of concern
  - INRMPs must address migratory birds
- EO 13188 MOU will govern other activities

Encroachment and INRMPs

- 10 USC 2684a
- DoD may enter into cooperative agreements to acquire real estate interests:
  - With States, other Federal agencies and conservation organizations
  - To preserve habitat that prevents incompatible land use

Related INRMP Tools

- DoD Implementing Guidance
- Handbook: DoD Resources for INRMP Implementation
- Report: Best Practices for INRMP Implementation
- Course: Best Practices for Developing, Reviewing and Revising INRMPs
- INRMP Template
- Conservation Metrics
- Handbook: Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands

Some DoD Priorities

- Emphasize regional or ecosystem-based projects
- Avoid future species listings
- Identify priority conservation areas
- Establish conservation easements
- Manage invasive species

Questions?

Peter.Boice@osd.mil

http://www.osd.denix.mil ⇨ DoD Conservation Program

http://www.dodlegacy.org

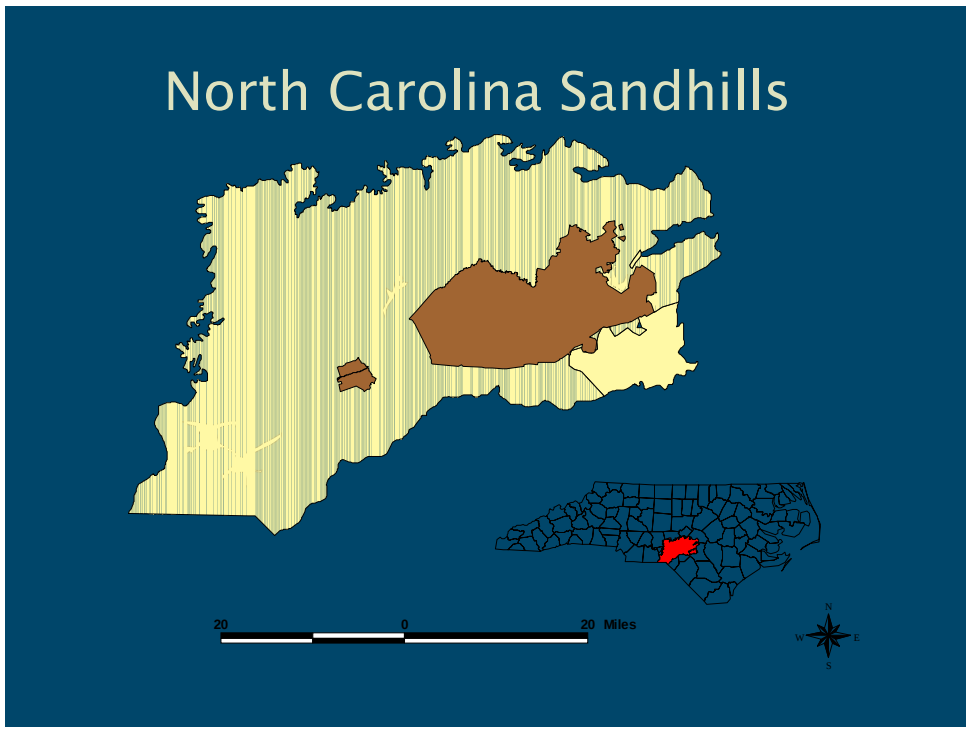
http://www.serdp.org

Appendix D
Pete Campbell's Presentation

The North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership:

Designing and Implementing a Regional Landscape-Based Conservation Plan

- **Background**
- **Process**
- **Accomplishments**


North Carolina Sandhills
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20 Miles
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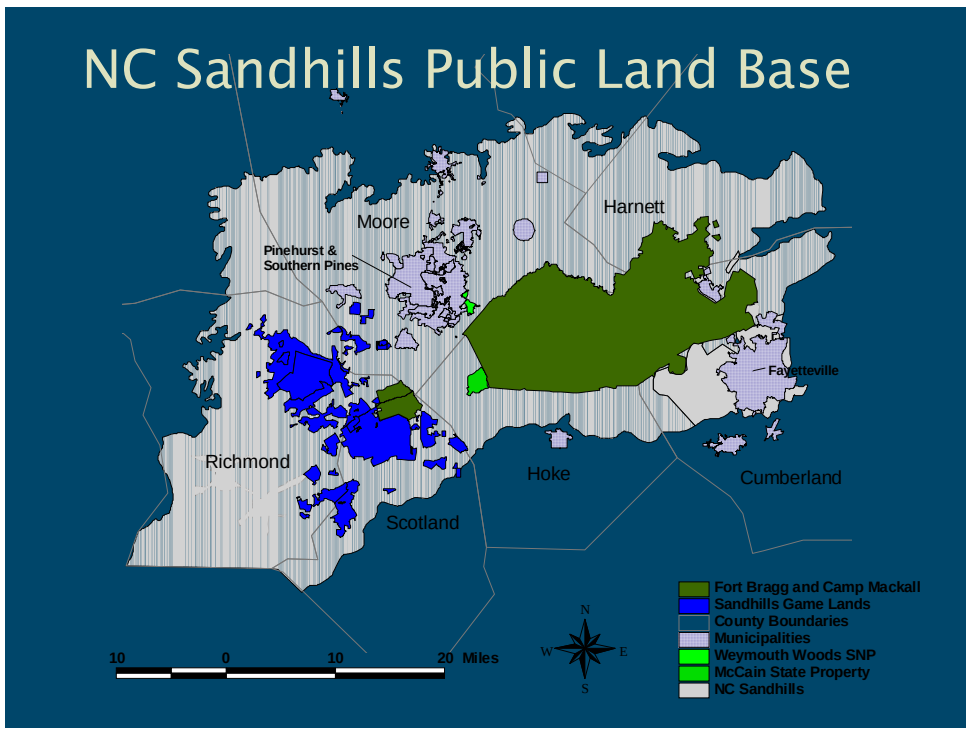
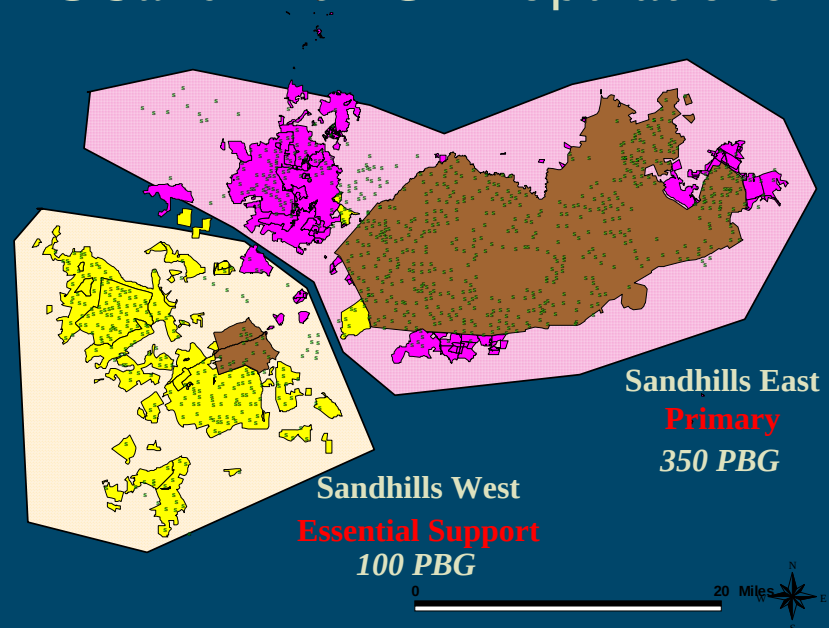

NC Sandhills Public Land Base
Moore
Harnett
Pinehurst &
Southern Pines
Fayetteville
Richmond
Hoke
Cumberland
Scotland
10
0
10
20 Miles
N
W
E
S
Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall
Sandhills Game Lands
County Boundaries
Municipalities
Weymouth Woods SNP
McCain State Property
NC Sandhills

NC Sandhills RCW Populations



Mission of the NCSCP

"Coordinate the development and implementation of conservation strategies for the red-cockaded woodpecker, other native biota, longleaf pine and other ecosystems in the Sandhills of North Carolina compatible with the land use objectives of the partners."

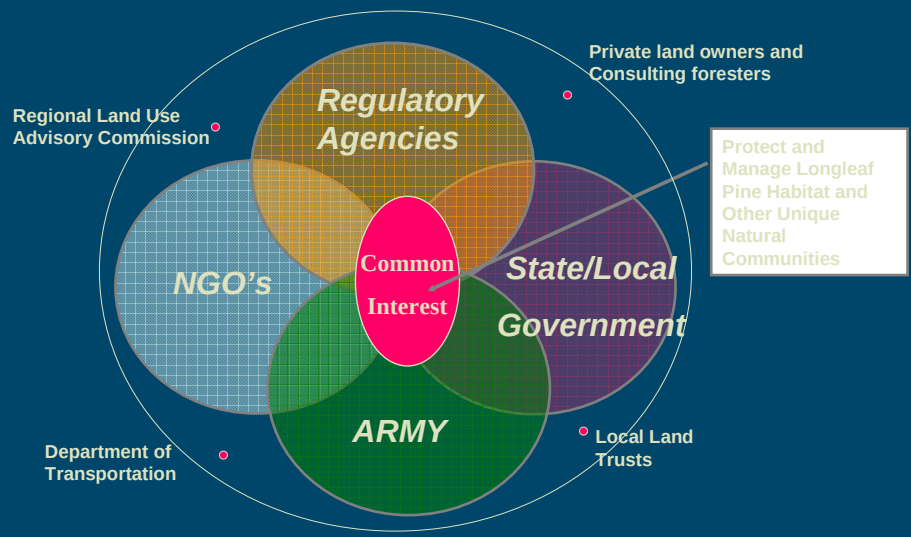
September 2000

North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership Primary Stakeholders

Examples of Other Stakeholders

- State Agencies
  - NC Natural Heritage Program
  - NC Division of Forest Resources
  - NC Dept. of Transportation
- Counties and Local Governments
  - Regional Land Use Advisory Commission
    - County
    - Municipal

Compatibility Among Partners is the "Key" to Success



Conservation Center of the Sandhills

- *US Fish and Wildlife Service*
- *The Nature Conservancy*
- *Sandhills Area Land Trust*
- *Army Environmental Center*

NCSCP Goals

- Identify and protect key components of the longleaf pine landscape
- Leverage limited financial resources
- Provide opportunities for collaborative management of both public and private lands
- Promote sustainable land use practices on private lands
- Integrate conservation goals into regional land use planning venues

Conservation Planning Process

- Develop a landscape-level reserve design for the NC Sandhills
- Implement a specific recovery strategy for NC Sandhills RCW population.
- Establish protective buffers adjacent to important conservation lands
  - Prevent encroachment
  - Stabilize core of RCW populations
- Create wildlife habitat corridors connecting existing conservation lands

Conservation Planning Process

- Sustain extensive regional database and high level GIS capability to support planning and implementation
- Plan regionally and implement locally
  - Support of Counties, municipalities and the public
- Comprehensive Strategy addresses:
  - **LAND PROTECTION**
  - **LAND MANAGEMENT**
  - Land use
  - Communication

Conservation Protection Strategy

- Buffer public and other conservation lands and create wildlife habitat corridors between conservation lands by:
  - Purchasing key parcels from willing sellers based on priorities derived from reserve design
  - Securing conservation easements from donors or willing sellers
  - Entering into cooperative management agreements with private landowners
  - Safe Harbor

NCSCP Accomplishments

- **Land Protection**
  - **Acquired** over 12,000 Acres of land for habitat protection/training/public use
  - brought 23 additional RCW clusters under protection
  - protected southern boundary and other important training areas on Fort Bragg
  - 49,000 acres of private land enrolled in Safe Harbor providing habitat for 56 RCW clusters

Restoring the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem
A Long-Term Commitment

Resource Management Working Group Goals

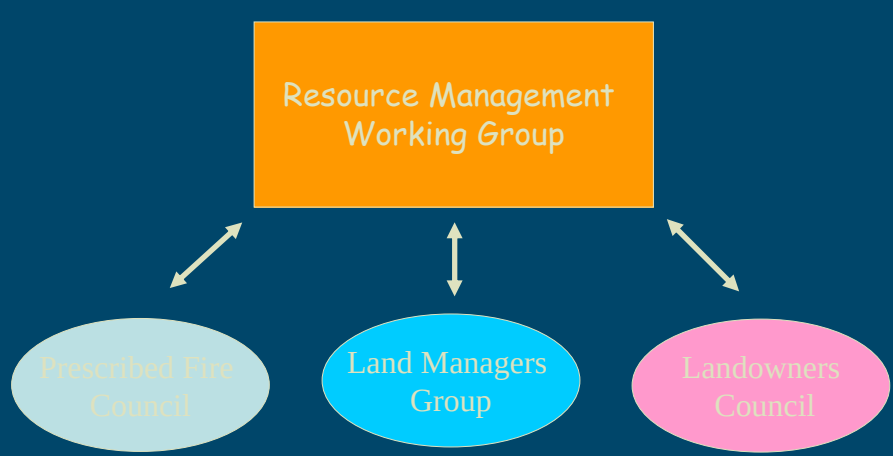
- Optimize land management across public lands and privately held conservation lands to implement ecosystem management.
- Facilitate good stewardship on private lands (including industrial lands) to promote ecosystem management.
- Evaluate adaptive management approach to ecosystem management at the landscape level.

Optimize land management across public lands and privately held conservation lands to implement ecosystem management.

- ✓ oversee creation of fire management council
- ✓ create MOU between FWS, DFR, DPR, WRC, TNC, DOD, NRCS, NC Ag, City of Fayetteville (PWC), & SALT
- ✓ compile a list of existing management funding sources and discuss additional funding strategies.
- ✓ facilitate quarterly meetings for land managers to discuss and compare philosophies of management activities.

Land Management Strategies

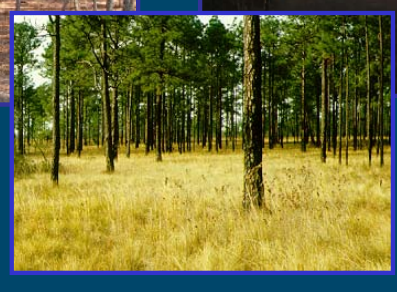
- Landscape Approach
- Long-term Management Agreements among stakeholder groups
- Goal is to manage across ownerships at the landscape level



Managing the Longleaf Pine Forest with Fire

fire-suppressed habitat

prescribed fire



open midstory

Forest Management on Public and NGO Conservation Lands

- Midstory hardwood removal
- Planting longleaf pine seedlings
- RCW Cavity installation
- Prescribed Fire – the primary land mgmt. tool
  - Fort Bragg burns ~ 65,000 acres/year
  - NCWRC Sandhills Game Land burns ~ 15,000 acres/year
  - Weymouth Woods SNP burns ~ 300 acres/year
  - TNC burns ~ 3000 acres/year

Management on Private Lands

- Safe Harbor: 91 Agreements; 48,127 acres; protects habitat supporting 56 active RCW sites
- Over $200,000 obligated for on-the-ground management under FWS and NRCS Habitat Improvement Agreements
  - Prescribed burns
  - Hardwood removal in existing longleaf pine stands
  - Planting longleaf pine seedlings
  - RCW Cavity installation

NCSCP Actions Benefit the Public

- ~2,800 acres added to Sandhills Game Land plus additional 2,468 acres enrolled in the WRC Game Land program
- First Cumberland County State Park
- New lands available for outdoor recreation and education
  - Hiking, hunting, fishing, biking etc.
- All American Trail providing public access to conservation lands

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."
Aldo Leopold

Appendix E
John Townsend’s Presentation

North Carolina Onslow Bight Conservation Forum

Cooperative Regional Conservation to Enhance Biodiversity and Restore Ecosystems

John Townson- Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

Onslow Bight Location

Onslow Bight Landscape

Pocosins

Wet Savannahs

Long Leaf Pine and Wiregrass

What prompted the formation of Onslow Bight Conservation Forum in 2001?

- Camp Lejeune's Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
- Headquarters Marine Corps concern about encroachment
- State of NC support for Camp Lejeune
- Opportunity to conserve 2500 acres near key training ranges

Onslow Bight Participants

- NC Dept. Env. & Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- North Carolina Coastal Federation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- Natural Res.Cons. Service
- Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune
- Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point
- Endangered Species Coalition
- NC Wildlife Resource Commission
- NC Coastal Land Trust
- NC Dept of Transportation
- Ducks Unlimited

Onslow Bight Mission

…to develop and implement a strategy for the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity and ecosystem sustainability throughout the Onslow Bight Landscape <u>compatible with the land use objectives of the partners.</u>

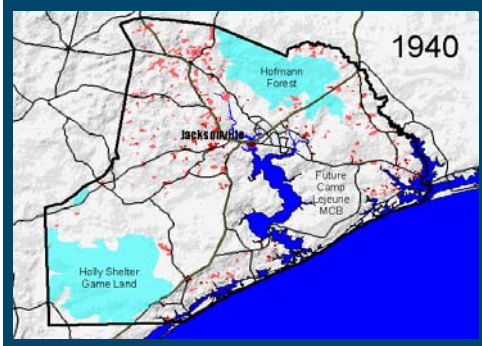
Onslow Bight Goals

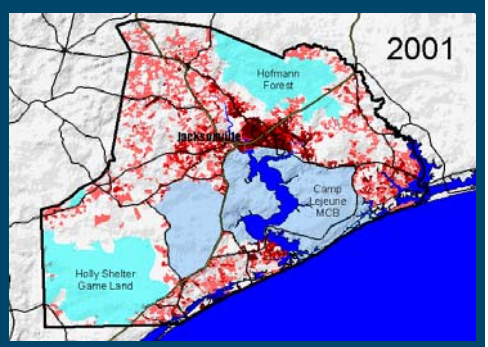
- to encourage public/private partnerships among participating agencies private landowners
- to promote the conservation, restoration, health and sustainable use of the landscape
- to enhance coordination among participants

Onslow Bight Goals, cont.

- to encourage an on-going regional dialogue among participants about sustainable land management and native biodiversity
- <u>to ensure the sustainability of the military mission in the Onslow Bight Landscape by preserving land uses suitable to military training</u>

Urbanization and Camp Lejeune



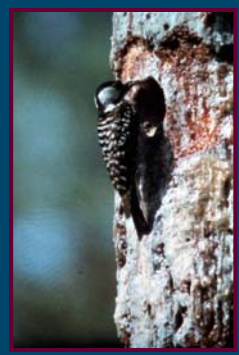


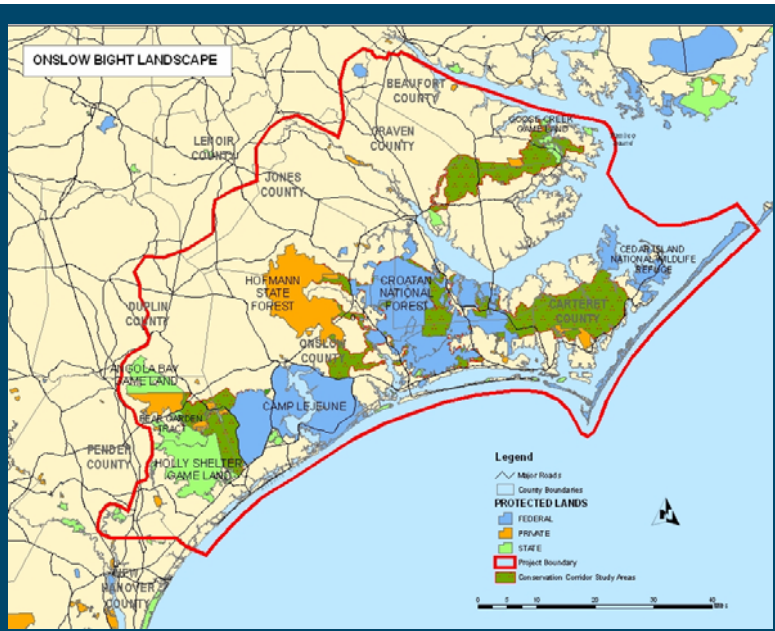
Main Goals for Camp Lejeune

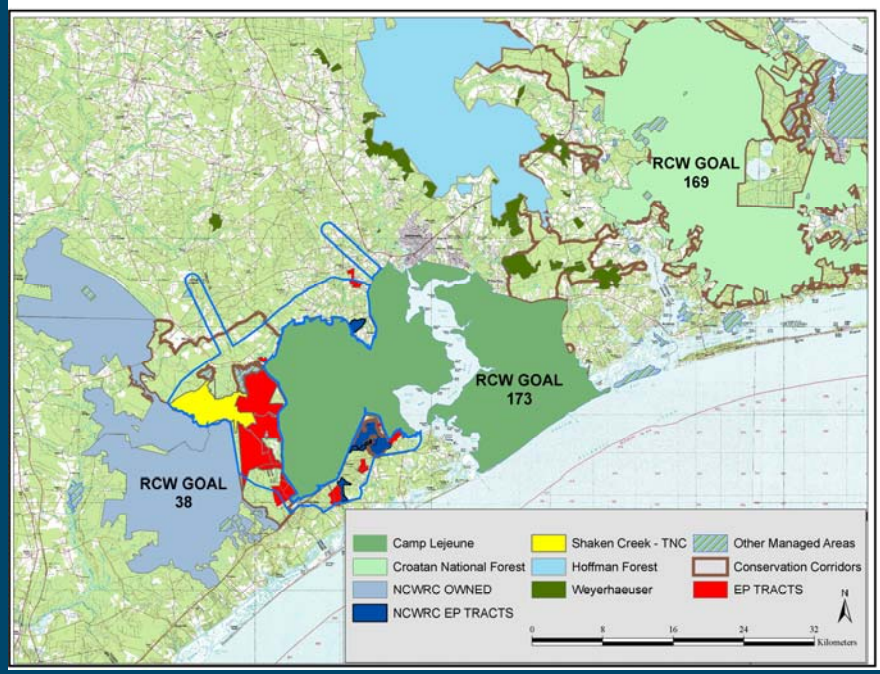
- Ensure compatible land use in the vicinity of key training ranges
- Minimize future environmental restrictions on military mission

Onslow Bight Conservation Targets

- Rare Species
- Longleaf Pine & Pocosin Ecosystems
- Upland Hardwood Forests
- Floodplain Forests
- Wetlands & Shorelines
- Barrier Islands & Estuaries






RCW GOAL
169
RCW GOAL
173
RCW GOAL
38
Camp Lejeune
Croatan National Forest
NCWRC OWNED
NCWRC EP TRACTS
Shaken Creek - TNC
Hoffman Forest
Weyerhaeuser
Other Managed Areas
Conservation Corridors
EP TRACTS
N
0
8
16
24
32
Kilometers

Appendix F
Breakout Questions- Day One

Breakout Group Instructions-
Day One

In your groups, consider the following questions and discuss various answers/approaches. Be prepared to choose your top 2-3 answers per question to share with the entire group. Write these answers (one per sheet) on the half-sheets of paper provided.

- List 3 or more benefits to integrating INRMPs and State Wildlife Action Plans processes/information
- Identify communication barriers between states, installations and DoD
- Can these barriers be overcome? And if so, how (on a local level and national level)?
- How can we integrate DoD species at risk into State Wildlife Action Plans and vice versa? How can we effectively share that information?
- Identify ways that DoD could assist states in State Wildlife Action Plans implementation (posting information used to create these docs on FTP sites? etc?) and vice versa.
- What other management plans (i.e. USFS Forest Land Management Plans, etc.) could be integrated into INRMPs/State Wildlife Action Plans

Appendix G
Potential Pilot Ideas- Day One

Potential Pilot Ideas- Day 1

- GA Invasive Species Project
- Biodiversity Project
- Sandhills Project in western side of Fort Benning
    - DOT mitigation bank
    - Gopher Tortoise, federal listed plant -- acquisition
    - Mitigation area for Gopher Tortoise
        - Stall listing
        - Tie into ACUB
        - Maybe include eastern GA
- NE FL Peninsula Strategic Conservation Initiative -- utilize partnership already in place to serve as jumping off point
- Species at Risk Project
    - Land Managers in Eastern NC to develop top 5 Species at Risk list
    - Develop one list from all agencies/interested parties
    - Widen scope of current SAR Legacy Project
- Corridors How to Guide Project
- Marine Mammals (Near shore and Off Shore species/Right Whales) Project
- Gulf Sturgeon Project
- Near Shore Territorial Waters Project
- GA Action Plan Project -- funding to support projects
- Onslow Bight Conservation Forum Support Project
- State Wildlife Grant Money Pilot Projects
    - Avon Park -- species in regards to BRAC
    - Could serve as model for more long term projects
- RCW Recovery Burden Project
    - Camp Lejeune
    - Reduction by working with state, FWS, etc
    - Same for Fort Benning
    - Spread share burden of conservation (not wise to wholly depend on DoD for $ for conservation lands)
- Funding Source Project
    - Tap all funding sources
    - Stitch together project based on this
    - Non-federal inclusion/matching is critical
- How can State Wildlife Agencies/ Action Plans help identify Strategic priorities? Opportunities? Consistent funding?
- Invasive Species/BASH Project
    - Replacement of invasive species with native species
    - Without causing a BASH problem
- Buffer Issues Project -- work with Fort Jackson
- Bottom land Hardwoods / Grey Bats Project
- Public Managed Lands Project -- If don't buffer and manage them there is going to be problems (forests and farms as well)

- Developer Project
    - Problem with developers purchasing land in response to BRAC gainers and increased population and increase $ influx into area
    - Project would look into this and what needs to occur to address this issue
- Department of Commerce Project
    - Division of community assistance
    - This is an unusual partner
    - Consider non-typical partners
- Deed Disclosure Project
- Partnership Template Project
    - Develop template on how to form a partnership
    - Use Gulf Plain Ecosystem as a model

Appendix H
Breakout Questions- Day Two

Breakout Group Instructions-
Day Two

You are now in groups of your own choosing based on the pilot project ideas presented last night at dinner. First, identify a recorder for the group. Then discuss the logical “next steps” to move your pilot project forward: What is the main goal, who will be involved, where will your project take place, etc.? Keep in mind the overarching ideas discussed yesterday, as well as the following additional questions:

- What other organizations could contribute and partner with this proposed plan?
- What tools/techniques/information is needed to enhance these partnerships?
- What possible sources of funding are available for your project?