

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**FOR ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
ANNUAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON THE BUFFALO  
GAP NATIONAL GRASSLANDS, NEBRASKA NATIONAL  
FOREST**

## **GOLDEN COYOTE 2012-2016**



**SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

**FINAL**

**JANUARY 2012**

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**FOREST**

**GOLDEN COYOTE 2012-2016**



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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

AR	Army Regulation
AT	Annual Training
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BGNG	Buffalo Gap National Grasslands
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DRMO	Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FOB	Forward Operating Base
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
ISCP	Installation Spill Contingency Plan
LP	Liquid Propane (gas)
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFS	National Forest System (lands)
NGB	National Guard Bureau
NGR	National Guard Regulation
NNF	Nebraska National Forest
NOI	Notice of Intent
PET&S	Proposed Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive (wildlife and plant species)
SDARNG	South Dakota Army National Guard
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
USC	United States Code (law)
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service

## **South Dakota Army National Guard Invites Public Comment**

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) invites public comment and review of the final environmental assessment (EA) for the Annual Training Activities on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Nebraska National Forest 2012-2016. The EA addresses use of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands area for annual SDARNG Training.

The EA is available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days beginning **Date** until **Date**.

The preferred alternative will allow the SDARNG to use the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands as the location for annual wartime essential training exercises. The EA discusses the environmental impacts of the preferred alternative as well as other alternatives.

Anyone wishing to review a copy of the EA may do so during normal business hours at the Rapid City Public Library or at the SDARNG Environmental Office located at 2823 West Main Street, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Comments should be addressed to: SDARNG Environmental Office, ATTN: Robert D. Grams, Environmental Program, 2823 West Main Street, Rapid City, SD 57702-8186, (605) 737-6265.

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Signature Page

I agree with and/or approve the following final Environmental Assessment for Army National Guard Annual Training Activities on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Nebraska National Forest Golden Coyote 2012-2016.

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**National Guard Bureau (Agree and Approve)**

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**The Adjutant General, South Dakota National Guard (Agree and Approve)**

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**Training Site Manager, South Dakota Army National Guard (Agree and Approve)**

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**Plans Operations and Training Officer, South Dakota Army National Guard (Agree and Approve)**

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**Environmental Office Manager, South Dakota Army National Guard (Agree and Approve)**



## **Executive Summary**

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) proposes to use the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Nebraska National Forest for training purposes during 2012-2016. This Environmental Assessment addresses bivouac and tactical training activities at approximately 9 sites in the geographic area of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota over the next five-year period. Training is necessary to maintain the proficiency level of military units to ensure compliance with the National Guard mission in the event of a State of Federal emergency.

This Environmental Assessment evaluates the individual and cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative with respect to a variety of criteria established by the Army National Guard, including Geographic Setting and Land Use, Air Quality, Noise, Geology and Soils, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, Infrastructure, and Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes.

The evaluation performed as the work product of this Environmental Assessment concludes that there will be no significant adverse impact, either individually or cumulatively, to the local environment or quality of life as the result of the Proposed Action.

## **SECTION 1.0: PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) has conducted wartime mission essential training as part of the GOLDEN COYOTE Annual Training Exercise on the Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park in western South Dakota since the 1960s. They will continue to utilize these training grounds for GOLDEN COYOTE activities but have developed the need for training areas to allow soldiers the opportunity to train on land that replicates the terrain they may fight in such as Afghanistan. Buffalo Gap National Grassland on the Nebraska National Forest is primarily flatland prairie grasses with many areas within having moonscape rough terrain similar to the mountains of Afghanistan. This terrain also offers logistic transporter units training opportunities for longer distance hauls that is not possible in Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park lands.

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) proposes to conduct wartime mission essential training as part of the GOLDEN COYOTE Annual Training Exercise in the Nebraska National Forest. The main project area is located in Section 19, Township 2 South, Range 10 East, Black Hills Meridian, and is within the Fall River Ranger District, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands (BGNG), Nebraska National Forest (NNF), South Dakota. The area is located in southern Pennington County and northern Custer County, South Dakota.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC § 4321 to 4370e), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR 651), and the June 2006 NGB NEPA Handbook.

### **1.2 Purpose and Need**

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is proposing to conduct wartime mission training in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of South Dakota during June of the years 2012-2016. The purpose of this collective annual training (AT) exercise, known as GOLDEN COYOTE, is to meet the Army military readiness objectives. This training is required to fulfill the Federal mission of providing combat ready units to the National Defense effort and ensuring the safety and security of the civilian community. The Army National Guard has used the National Forest lands for military training exercises since the 1960s, under a series of national agreements. The SDARNG still utilizes the Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park under a current 5 year EA. Reasoning for beginning a relationship with Buffalo Gap National Grasslands (BGNG, Nebraska USFS) is to allow soldiers the opportunity to train on land that replicates the terrain they may fight in such as Afghanistan. BGNG is primarily flatland prairie grasses with many areas within having moonscape rough terrain similar to the mountains of Afghanistan. This terrain also offers logistic transporter units training opportunities for longer distance hauls that is not possible in Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park lands. GOLDEN COYOTE activities would take place on both the Nebraska National Forest and Black

Hills National Forest. This EA deals only with the Nebraska National Forest areas as the BHNH and Custer State Park are covered in a separate EA.

Current authorization for such use of national forest system land is as follows: (1) Master Agreement between the Department of Defense and Department of Agriculture, effective September 30, 1988, signed by the respective Secretaries, which cites the Organic Administration Act of 1897 as statutory authority. (2) Memorandum of Agreement between the South Dakota National Guard and the Nebraska National Forest, effective April 22, 1985. Copies of these documents may be located in Appendix C of this document.

### **1.3 Scope of the Document**

On May 26, 2010 a meeting was held in Chadron, Nebraska between members of the SDARNG and the NNF to discuss the terms of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance needed for this project. This Environmental Assessment is the end result of that meeting. This document will analyze the affected environment and environmental consequences of nine areas proposed for use on the Nebraska National Forest in terms of the proposed action, the no action alternative and three additional alternatives. Resources to be evaluated in this document include location, land use, air quality, noise, geology and soils, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, environmental justice, infrastructure and hazardous waste and toxic materials. Based upon the effects of the alternatives, the responsible official, COL Michael Bennett, COL NGB Chief Environmental Division will decide if the request for land use by the SDARNG for GOLDEN COYOTE 2012-2016 to conduct training on US Forest Service (USFS) land may take place

### **SECTION 2.0: DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION (Alternative A)**

All units deploying to Iraq or Afghanistan areas of operation and those responding in support of domestic operation will normally be assigned to a Forward Operating Base (FOB). The SDARNG will establish 9 separate areas totaling 500 acres on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, Nebraska National Forest (NNF), located in T2S, R10E Section 19, 6 miles south of State Highway 44 off 160th Avenue in Pennington County; South Dakota and a Convoy Staging Area in T2S, R12E, Section 9 and T3S, R12E, Section 8 off Creston Road during June of 2012-2016 to conduct tactical training and bivouac activities. Seven of these sites will be established as FOBs. These sites are identified in Table 1. Maps of these sites are available in Appendix B of this document.

A forward operating base (FOB) is any secured forward military position, commonly a military base that is used to support tactical operations. A FOB may or may not contain an airfield, hospital, or other facilities. The base may be used for an extended period of time, or in the case of GOLDEN COYOTE, a short period of time as during an Annual Training Period. FOBs are traditionally supported by main operating bases, which in the case of the GOLDEN COYOTE Exercise; Camp Rapid is the main operating base, providing backup support to exercise participants. A FOB also improves reaction time and increases time on task, or projects, or training events in the Area of Operations; In this Case, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands to forces/units operating from it.

A FOB can be tailored to fit the units that will inhabit it. They may be large, encompassing many acres of land to accommodate all facilities that would encompass a small city; airfield, hospital, logistics facilities, water, sewage treatment or small, encompassing 100-200 acres, as in the case of proposed sites for the GOLDEN COYOTE Exercise that will accommodate a 200-300 man FOB for temporary bivouacking during an Annual Training period. GOLDEN COYOTE FOBs provide all the facilities needed to sustain troops in the field for Annual Training, including accommodation and communications. Proposed FOB sites are located away from civilian activity, in remote areas so as to enhance training events and to minimize disruption to civilians who may be in the area.

The ongoing Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) has triggered the conventional U.S. Army to reexamine the sustainment and operational platforms required to support ongoing stability operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan. The forward operating base is a non-doctrinal conventional answer for staging these to defeat insurgents; however, the FOB concept has been in use for years by the Special Operations Command. Special Forces establish FOBs to maintain battalion-level command, control, and sustainment operations. Historically, the conventional Army executed "firebases" and "base camps" to sustain the force. What is the difference? Firebases and base camps were central locations where separate units--combat, combat support, and combat service support--worked together for a common mission. A forward operating base is a self-managed secure location in which battalion-sized elements can stage, sustain, and conduct operations. The key is "self-managed." One commander is overall responsible for sustainment, garrison, and tactical operations. During the GWOT, conventional forces have created FOBs to accomplish relevant offensive and support operations. Battalion commanders have typically been responsible for establishing and maintaining their respective FOBs. To sustain the force, non-MTOE detachments have been task organized subordinate to the tactical battalion commander.

Another purpose of establishing multiple FOB's during the GOLDEN COYOTE Exercise is to provide training opportunities for newly created Regional Support Groups (RSG's) and Sustainment Brigades which are often tasked with providing command and control of multiple FOB's in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The establishment and management of Forward Operating Bases is a doctrinal cornerstone on how the military conducts operations both at home and abroad. To date there are 42 FOB's in Iraq, 85 FOB's in Afghanistan and 8 FOB's on the U.S. / Mexico border. Doctrinal references are numerous and include FM 90-26 chap. 7, FM 101-5-1.

Under this alternative, the SDARNG would conduct bivouac (military encampment areas set up with tents, kitchens, showers, portapots, etc. with the perimeters surrounded with fighting positions) and tactical training (training which simulates "real life" military situations for the purpose of increasing the trainee's capacity to perform specific military functions and tasks.) at 9 locations within the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands in June of 2012-2016. Based on the outcome of this NEPA process the U.S. Forest Service would issue a special use permit to the SDARNG to conduct these training activities on these properties which are under their control. Figures 1 and 2 identify the section of the state where GOLDEN COYOTE exercises would occur.

GOLDEN COYOTE participants would conduct military tactical training activities to include:

- patrolling (by foot or vehicle)

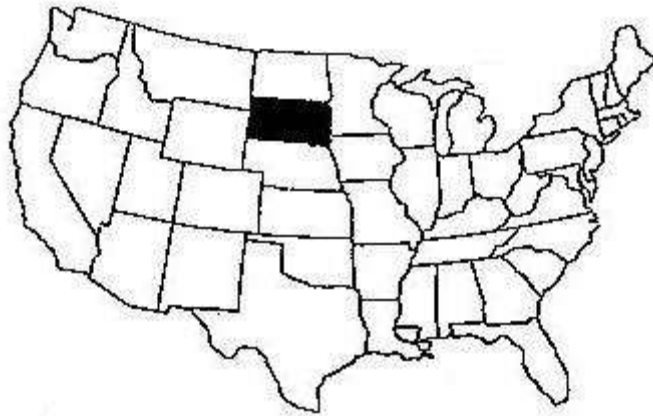
- “lanes training” (technique for training smaller units on one or more soldier, leader and collective tasks using specific terrain and facilities. The goal is to assure that units become tactically and technically proficient and confident to meet or exceed established standards set by the parent military organization.)
- simulated chemical operations (activities in which personnel don protective gear under a simulated chemically contaminated environment)
- tank ditch development (a ditch or trench over which tanks and other types of tactical vehicles cannot cross. These ditches are usually rectangular, approximately 1.5 meters deep, 3.3 meters wide, with the walls cut out at right angles.)
- signal (communications) operations
- medical support
- field fueling (establishment of a temporary location utilized to refuel military vehicular traffic consisting of tank pods on wheeled vehicles or fuel bags burrowed into the ground)
- vehicle maintenance
- aircraft (helicopter) support
- water handling (distribution and storage)

GOLDEN COYOTE participants would also conduct bivouac activities to include:

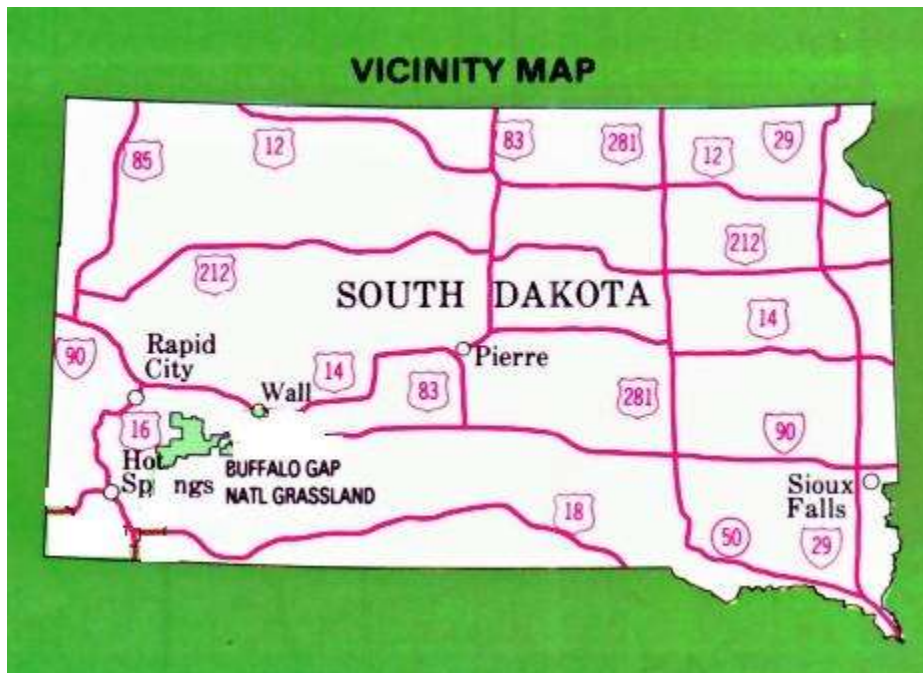
- activities associated with military encampments such as establishing perimeters and fighting positions (areas around the perimeter of a military encampment which are used for defending the encampment from approach by enemies. These can include foxholes, ditches and other obstacles used to defend the site.)
- installation of field kitchens (including water and grease traps and water reclamation methods), chemical toilets (portapots), field showers (including water drainage and reclamation areas)
- tenting, camouflage netting, etc.

Table 1 provides a summary of the training areas to be utilized during GOLDEN COYOTE. Information relative to site designation, intended uses and estimated number of personnel and vehicles at each site is provided. Definitions of the various training activities may be found in the glossary of this document.

All proposed National Guard activities would be consistent with the Updated Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (2009).



**Figure 1: Relationship of South Dakota to Contiguous States**



**Figure 2: Vicinity Map of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands (shaded area) (USFS, 2010)**

**TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF BIVOUAC/TRAINING SITES FOR GOLDEN COYOTE**

TRAINING AREAS	INTENDED USES	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
Red Shirt 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 003	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
French Creek Convoy Lanes	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12
Creston Convoy Lane	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12

**Explanation of “Intended Uses” abbreviations:** FOB=Forward Operating Base; B=Bivouac; FP=Fuel Point (fuel transfer); HQ=Headquarters; LSA=Logistics Support Area; LT-Lanes Training; LZ=Landing Zone (helicopters); ME=Medical; S=Signal (communications; TOC=Tactical Operations Center.

**Explanation of “Vehicles”:** Personnel transports (Humvee, pickup, government civilian vehicle, medical ambulance, etc.), construction vehicles/equipment (dozers, graders, scrapers, loaders, backhoes, fuel/water/dump/maintenance trucks, etc.), and tracked personnel transports.

**SECTION 3.0: ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

**3.1 Alternative Development (Screening Criteria)**

Based on the analysis documented in this environmental assessment the SDARNG must decide if GOLDEN COYOTE activities are going to take place on the Nebraska National Forest in the years 2012-2016 and where the exercises will take place.

A number of screening criteria has been developed for the purpose of establishing suitable locations for holding the SDARNG’s annual training exercise. These screening criteria, all of which must be met for a location to be utilized, are listed and discussed below:

- a. **Size** -- The training area for annual training (AT) must be of a size which will hold the collective exercises that incorporate up to 3000 troops comprised of engineer and support units. A modern transformation Brigade can have between 2500 and 5000 personnel depending on equipment and mission. Chapter 8, FM 55-30 references occupying space in the field.
- b. **Remoteness** -- Training areas away from densely populated areas (communities, campgrounds, recreation areas, tourist attractions and other areas where numbers of people congregate).
- c. **Cost-Effectiveness** -- This is important at this time in view of the trend to down-size the military and to train more efficiently and economically, while maintaining a requirement to train to established army standards.
- d. **Travel Distance** -- Travel time takes away from effective training so travel to and from the training area should be minimized for GOLDEN COYOTE (GC) participating units.
- e. **Military Mission-Essential Training** -- GOLDEN COYOTE participant training should be focused on accomplishment of mission-essential tasks. Whenever possible, these tasks should be executed in a tactical environment, allowing for flexibility in situations of civilian/military interaction. Training activities (in particular, construction projects) should be compatible with the available military assets (units) for the exercise.
- f. **Use Agreement** -- Training areas on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) property must be consistent with agreements between the USFS and the SDARNG designating areas of the Nebraska National Forest (NNF) on which the Guard may be operating and conducting training. Training areas off the NNF should be in the same geographic area as USFS training areas.

### **3.2 Alternatives to the Proposed Action**

In addition to the proposed action, the following alternatives were also evaluated:

**Alternative B--** Training elsewhere in South Dakota

**Alternative C--** Training out-of-state

**Alternative D--** Bivouac outside the NNF training site --Train in NNF

#### **3.2a Alternative B (Training Elsewhere in the State)**

Although annual training for the bulk of SDARNG units has historically occurred in the Black Hills National Forest of western South Dakota, this alternative would propose that SDARNG units conduct annual training elsewhere in South Dakota. Each unit would conduct separate annual training activities at small, local training areas or public and private agencies would be contacted in an effort to secure properties under their control within which GOLDEN COYOTE wartime scenario missions could be executed.



### **3.2b Alternative C (Training Out-of-State)**

Under this alternative, SDARNG units would travel to locations out-of-state to accomplish their annual training. Annual training for some SDARNG units (field artillery, transportation, combat engineer and support elements, for example) is routinely accomplished at established training sites in a number of states in the upper Midwest. These units utilize Army National Guard training areas in Minnesota (Camp Ripley), North Dakota (Camp Grafton) and Wyoming (Camp Guernsey), as well as Active Army installations in Colorado (Fort Carson), Kansas (Ft. Riley) and Wisconsin (Fort McCoy). Out-of-state training for select units continues to be a realistic and viable alternative due to the lack of adequate training areas in the state for certain types of military missions. However, the military training activities discussed in this document can be accomplished in the state at locations that meet screening criteria requirements.

### **3.2c Alternative D (Bivouac off the NNF, Train on the NNF)**

Under this alternative, the National Guard would bivouac and conduct tactical training exercises off the NNF and commute daily to project sites within and adjacent to the NNF. The U.S. Forest Service would not issue the necessary special use permit for the SDARNG to bivouac on the Nebraska National Forest during GOLDEN COYOTE 2012-2016 but would issue a special use permit to conduct tactical training on the NNF. Priorities for project accomplishment could potentially shift from the Forest Service to other public and non-profit private entities, especially in situations where those entities would allow GOLDEN COYOTE participants to bivouac and tactically train at their locations.

### **3.3 No Action Alternative (Alternative E)**

The alternative of no action is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedural regulations for use as a baseline for comparing the effects of the other alternatives (40 CFR 1502.14 (d)).

Under the no action alternative, the SDARNG would continue training on the Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park. It would NOT train on the Nebraska National Forest.

### **3.4 Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Detailed Study**

#### **3.4a Alternative B (Training Elsewhere in South Dakota)**

Alternative B was considered but eliminated because properties meeting the screening criteria have not been identified elsewhere in the state to date. In 1995 GOLDEN COYOTE was held in the southeastern part of the state utilizing the “operations other than war” scenario (a training scenario in which interactions between military and civilian populations are expected and integrated into the operations plans of the exercise). However, the state parks and Boy Scout camps utilized during that exercise would not be suited to the normal wartime scenario under which the screening criteria would have to be met. Small, local training areas would present the same problems and many units do not have local training areas that meet their mission needs.

### **3.4b Alternative C (Training Out-of-State)**

Whereas out-of-state training for select units continues to be a realistic alternative (mainly because South Dakota lacks adequate training areas for certain types of military missions), annual training in other states by the majority of SDARNG units would not be cost or time effective when areas are available within the state for their training.

### **3.4c Alternative D (Bivouac off the NNF, Train on the NNF)**

Alternative D was considered but eliminated due to a lack of bivouac and tactical training space for the large number of troops involved in GOLDEN COYOTE activities. Mission-essential training would be jeopardized if bivouac and tactical training areas are not located within a reasonable commuting distance of potential project locations.

### **3.5 Summary of Considered Alternatives:**

After applying the screening criteria listed above, all alternatives with the exception of Alternatives A and E were eliminated from further consideration. Alternative E, the no action alternative, would remain under consideration, however, it would impair the National Guard's ability to meet its required training objectives and put the SDARNG out of compliance with NGR (AR) 350-1, chapter 2-2.d which states that "all personnel will participate in at least 15 days of AT...each year ...". The no action alternative shall be evaluated in terms of potential environmental impacts so as to provide a baseline for comparing the effects of Alternative A, hereinafter referred to as the preferred alternative.

## **SECTION 4.0: AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

### **4.1 Location Description**

Encompassing more than 591,000 acres in southwest South Dakota, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands is the region's largest national grassland. It is composed primarily of mixed grass prairies intermingled with eroding badlands. The Buffalo Gap National Grassland contains a surprising diversity of plants and animals. But, the predominant vegetative group is, of course, grasses. The rolling hills of grass are interrupted by outcroppings of sandstone and other sedimentary rock which underlay the area. Habitats found on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland include mixed grass prairie, woody draws, juniper breaks, wetlands, rivers and ponds, and badlands formations. The proposed action will take place on nine designated sites comprising approximately 500 total acres. These sites are comprised of mixed grass prairie with some juniper breaks on the Red Shirt sites. Woody draws, wetland areas and highly erodible badlands formations will not be utilized in this proposed action.

#### **4.1a Climate**

Affected Environment: Western South Dakota experiences a continental climate. This type of climate is characterized by cold winters (polar air masses) and hot summers (air masses from the Gulf of Mexico and Southwestern U.S.).

Weather records reveal that the average annual precipitation on the Buffalo Gap National grasslands is approximately 13-18 inches, 76% of which falls as rain during the growing season (April through September). Prevailing winds originate out of the north-northwest and annually average 11 miles per hour. The mean annual temperature is 45.5 degrees Fahrenheit, with July being the warmest month averaging 73 degrees, and January being the coldest with a mean temperature of about 23 degrees. Extremes stretch between -25 degrees and 107 degrees.

**Environmental Consequences:** Climatic conditions will not be affected by the no action or preferred alternatives.

## **4.2 Land Use**

**Affected Environment:** Area property is controlled by a number of public and private entities. Federal grasslands within the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands are the responsibility of the Forest Service. The National Park Service manages Badlands National Park, located adjacent to Forest Service property. The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is also located adjacent to BGNG land to the south. Thousands of acres of land adjacent to and within the National Grassland boundaries are within the jurisdiction of small public settlements/communities or under private ownership, utilized for commercial, residential, and agricultural purposes.

The Forest Service regulates use of the national grassland system lands in accordance with the Updated Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands. The Nebraska National Forest operates under a mandated multiple use system. The public utilizes the area for a wide variety of uses including, but not limited to, nature studies, recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, etc.) and livestock grazing.

**Environmental Consequences:** Adverse impacts to land use may arise under the no action alternative. If various projects are not undertaken by the National Guard, the possibility exists for erosion and habitat damage in the areas proposed for work. All projects proposed would benefit land use of the area, so not completing any one project could result in an adverse impact to land use.

No adverse impacts would be anticipated under the preferred alternative. GOLDEN COYOTE would be completed before the peak recreation period in July and August. Bivouac and tactical training areas are selected to avoid recreation conflicts. In addition, adjustments could be made in grazing to avoid conflicts in land use. Thirty years of experience has resulted in few conflicts and those that have occurred have been minor. Past conflicts have been incorporated into current rules to minimize the possibility of them recurring.

## **4.3 Air Quality**

**Affected Environment:** According to Brad Schultz, Senior Scientist, South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), air quality in the state is generally considered to be excellent and is in attainment for all National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Table 2 provides information relative to the maximum allowable concentrations of the six air pollutants listed above. Article 34:10 of the South Dakota Administrative Rules, established by DENR's Board of Minerals and Environment, covers the air quality standards for the state.

**Environmental Consequences:** There would be no impact to air quality under the no action alternative.

Under the preferred alternative, vehicle exhaust emissions from military vehicles/equipment would contribute to short-term, localized degradation of existing air quality (primarily particulates, nitrogen dioxide, and carbon monoxide).

Fugitive dust resulting from traffic on unpaved surfaces, construction project activities and development of fighting positions and field fortifications would also cause a deterioration of air quality, but would be temporary and localized. Fugitive dust would be controlled by watering and using slower traffic speeds. Concerns expressed by civilians about fugitive emissions would be handled on a site-specific and case-by-case basis. Excavated and/or stockpiled soils at construction sites would also be properly managed in order to minimize soil losses which could contribute to degradation of air quality. All activities affecting air quality will be consistent with the Air Quality State Implementation Plan.

Training with smoke obscurants (smoke canisters) would produce minor, localized effects on air quality (primarily particulates and hydrocarbons). Locations and weather conditions would be considered and reviewed with prior coordination with USFS, local landowners and local/county law enforcement before using smoke. The wind direction and intensity would be monitored before and during use to avoid conflicts with civilians.

Effects on air quality over training areas will be so slight as to be difficult to quantitatively measure. The area of the proposed action is in attainment, therefore General Conformity is not an issue, and no Record of Non-Applicability (RONA) is needed.

**TABLE 2: AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS**

<b>AMBIENT AIR STANDARDS</b>	<b>MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE CONCENTRATIONS</b>
Particulate Matter	<p><b>PRIMARY &amp; SECONDARY</b></p> <p>150.0 Micrograms per cubic meter of air, maximum 24-hour average concentration with no more than one expected exceedance per year.</p> <p>50.0 Micrograms per cubic meter of air, maximum expected annual arithmetic mean.</p>
Sulfur Dioxide	<p><b>PRIMARY</b></p> <p>0.03 Parts per million (80 micrograms per cubic meter of air), maximum annual arithmetic mean concentration.</p> <p>0.14 Parts per million (365 micrograms per cubic meter of air), maximum 24-hour average concentration not to be exceeded more than once per year.</p> <p><b>SECONDARY</b></p> <p>0.5 Parts per million (1,300 micrograms per cubic meter of air), maximum 3-hour average concentration not to be exceeded more than once per year.</p>

Carbon Monoxide	<b>PRIMARY</b>  9.0 Parts per million (10 milligrams per cubic meter of air), maximum 8-hour average concentration not to be exceeded more than once per year.  35.0 Parts per million (40 milligrams per cubic meter of air), maximum 1-hour average concentration not to be exceeded more than once per year.
Ozone	<b>PRIMARY &amp; SECONDARY</b>  0.12 Parts per million (235 micrograms per cubic meter of air), maximum 1-hour average concentration with no more than one expected exceedance per year.
Nitrogen Dioxide	<b>PRIMARY &amp; SECONDARY</b>  0.053 Parts per million (100 micrograms per cubic meter of air), maximum annual arithmetic mean concentration.
Lead	<b>PRIMARY &amp; SECONDARY</b>  1.5 Micrograms per cubic meter of air, maximum arithmetic mean averaged over a calendar quarter.

(SD-FMO-EV 1995)

#### 4.4 Noise

Affected Environment: In general, noise levels in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands are relatively low. Noise characteristically increases along transportation routes, and in public and private recreation areas, as well as in other developed sites (commercial and residential properties) in the area where concentrations of people can be found.

Environmental Consequences: Under the no action alternative, existing noise levels would not be impacted and new noise sources would not be created.

No significant impacts are anticipated through the preferred alternative. National Guard units bivouacking in the BGNG, at some distance from primary roads and settlements, will generate noise. On the average, these noise levels would be comparable to those created in the numerous public and private campgrounds throughout the area. In instances where bivouac sites may be established adjacent to private landholdings or grazing allotments buffer zones of at least 150 yards would be maintained. An exception may be helicopter traffic approaching and leaving approved landing zones (LZ) near bivouac locations. Helicopter traffic would usually occur during daylight hours; however, emergency flights may possibly occur during night hours. Demolitions and weapons fire in bivouac and tactical training sites would increase noise levels substantially from those of the surrounding prairie. These temporary disturbances would usually be less than thirty minutes in duration and, when possible, at remote locations in the proposed bivouac/tactical training areas.

## 4.5 Geology and Soils

### 4.5a Geology, Physiography and Topography

The area proposed for use under the preferred alternative is made up of rolling hills of grass which are interrupted by outcroppings of sandstone and other sedimentary rock which underlay the area. It is characterized by deep soils and highly erodible clay "badlands" areas.

**Environmental Consequences:** There would be no adverse impacts to the integrity of geological formations or topographic features under the no action or preferred alternatives.

### 4.5b Soils

**Affected Environment:** Area soils were formed from parent materials found in the area (for example, sandstone, limestone and shale). Nearly all are derived from sedimentary deposits. Many different soil groups, or series, are represented within and adjacent to the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. Ten soils or soil series predominate on the sites proposed for use in GOLDEN COYOTE. These series represent soils that vary in depth from approximately 20 inches to greater than seven feet and all are considered well drained soil types.

In general ten soils or soil series dominate the bivouac/tactical training areas associated with the preferred alternative. These are the Arvada Loam, Nunn Loam, Fairburn Clay Loam, Colby-Norka Silt, Emigrant Loam, Swanboy Clay, Pierre Clay, Norka-Weta, Norka Silt Loam and Santana Loam.

Arvada Loam soils were formed in material weathered from clayey shale. The areas where these soils occur are old alluvial fans. Surface layer texture is primarily loam. Subsurface textures have high clay loam content. These soils are considered well drained and deep going over 80 inches to the next restrictive layer.

Nunn Loam soils were formed in material deposited in the area by wind and water. The areas where these soils occur are generally terraces. Surface layer texture is primarily loam. Subsurface textures have high clay loam content. These soils are considered well drained and deep going over 80 inches to the next restrictive layer.

Fairburn Clay Loam soils were formed in material weathered from siltstone, sandstone and shale. The areas where these soils occur are shoulders of hills. Surface layer texture is primarily clay loam with subsurface textures also having high clay loam content. These soils are considered well drained but shallow going only 10 to 20 inches to the next restrictive layer.

Colby-Norka Silt soils are soils of the hilltops and hill shoulders on the rolling prairies of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. They were formed from calcareous wind blown materials. Surface layer texture is primarily silt loam with subsurface textures also having high silt loam content. These soils are considered well drained and deep going over 80 inches to the next restrictive layer.

Emigrant Loam soils are clay residuum and/or alluvium derived from sandstone or shale. These soils are associated with summits and backslopes of prairie hills. Surface layer texture is primarily loam with subsurface textures having clay loam content. These soils are considered well drained but shallow going only 20 to 40 inches to bedrock.

Swanboy Clay soils are formed of clayey alluvium and exist on old alluvial fans. Both surface and subsurface textures are high clay content making them susceptible to compaction under wet conditions. Compaction reduces the effectiveness of air and water exchanges in soils, thereby impacting vegetation growth. These soils are also considered well drained and deep going over 80 inches to the next restrictive layer.

Pierre Clay soils are derived from clay derived shale and occur on backslopes of small hills in the area of the proposed action. Like the Swanboy Clay soils, both surface and subsurface textures are high clay content making them susceptible to compaction under wet conditions. These soils are also considered well drained but shallow going only 20 to 40 inches to bedrock.

Norka-Weta soils are derived from silty and clayey alluvium as a result of lying on old alluvial fans. Surface layer texture is primarily silt loam with subsurface textures having silty clay loam to clay content. These soils are considered well drained and deep going over 80 inches to the next restrictive layer.

Norka Silt Loam soils are similar to the Norka-Weta soil series except that this soil has less clay content in the subsurface texture and would be less susceptible to compaction.

Santana Loam soils are derived of materials transported and deposited in the area primarily by wind. Surface layer texture is primarily loam with subsurface textures having clay loam content making these subsurface layers more susceptible to compaction. These soils are considered well drained and deep going over 80 inches to the next restrictive layer.

**Environmental Consequences:** Under the no action alternative soils would not be impacted.

With the preferred alternative two soil impacts, compaction and surface disturbance are anticipated. Compacted soils result from vehicle and equipment travel through an area. As a mitigation measure, annual training participants would be requested to use only established roads whenever possible and off-road training activities would cease or be delayed if precipitation was enough to cause excessive soil damage (compaction and rutting). This determination would be made by National Guard Liaison Officers and the District Ranger. Based on past bivouac site use, compacted soils have impacted approximately four percent of any given area. Disturbed soils resulting from the development of perimeter defense positions make up approximately one percent of any area. Thirty years of experience with National Guard activities occurring Forest Service managed lands have revealed that soil compaction and site disturbance (potential erosion sources) associated with these military actions are within established Forest Service tolerance limits.

The National Guard would be responsible for reclaiming all compacted and disturbed areas caused by bivouac and tactical training activities. Reclamation will include the leveling of disturbed areas as nearly as possible to pre-existing ground contours. Seeding would be done to

help prevent erosion; the Forest Service would be responsible for furnishing seed mixture lists and the National Guard would purchase and provide the seed.

## **4.6 Water Resources**

### **4.6a Surface Water**

Affected Environment: The Buffalo Gap National Grasslands lie within the Cheyenne River drainage system. The French Creek drainage drains the two French Creek sites. The Cheyenne River drains the Red Shirt sites, Maude sites and the Crestin Convoy sites. Several intermittent streams cross several of the proposed sites, however, they only flow during precipitation events. There is no permanent surface water on any of the 9 sites proposed for use under the preferred alternative. There are several areas in the Maude sites where water does temporarily sit after precipitation events. Vegetation and soil structure in these areas are not hydric in nature indicating very short term inundation. There is a small earthen stock dam on the east side of County Road 19, immediately across the road from the south debriefing site on the French Creek Convoy Lanes. This is not located on land proposed for use in the preferred alternative, but should be avoided by the troops utilizing the adjacent area across the road.

Environmental Consequences: Under the no action alternative, surface water will not be adversely impacted.

The preferred alternative would not significantly impact surface water systems. Vehicle and equipment refueling operations would be prohibited within three hundred (300) feet of a stream or body of water. Minor vegetation and surface soil disturbances would be expected from tactical exercises and training activities near surface waters. These disturbances would be kept to a minimum and, if deemed necessary, silt screens would be placed immediately downhill from training locations to prevent silt migration off of the site.

National Guard activities except for SD DENR permitted water purification would be excluded from creeks, as well as an established one hundred fifty (150) foot buffer strip on each side of the stream centers, unless specific actions like stream crossings would be approved in advance by the Forest Service and/or the State of South Dakota.

### **4.6b Wetlands and Floodplains**

Affected Environment: As mentioned, several drainage systems exist in or near the sites proposed for GOLDEN COYOTE. Associated with these drainages are wet meadows, springs, seeps and streams. Wetlands exist where hydric characteristics (soils, ground water and vegetation) are evident. Floodplains, typically associated with more developed surface water systems, are periodically flooded by storm events and snowmelt episodes. They commonly contain riparian areas that are critically important for many plant and animal species. The wetlands and floodplains function much like giant filters, catching and retaining displaced soil particles and other natural and man-made contaminants.



**Environmental Consequences:** Under the no action alternative, there would be no adverse impacts to wetlands and floodplains.

There would also be no adverse impacts to wetlands and floodplains under the preferred alternative. Wet meadows and/or floodplains are found near several proposed sites. Military actions would be excluded from these areas due to the hydric characteristics and plant and animal species associated with them.

#### **4.6c Ground Water**

**Affected Environment:** In most of the coverage area, surface and subsurface soil layers consist of aquifer materials (sand and gravel) and non-aquifer materials (clay and shale). Water levels vary from near land surface in areas near streams to several feet below land surface in areas at some distance from water bodies. For this document, the term “aquifer” means any subsurface material that contains enough water to supply adequate water to wells.

**Environmental Consequences:** Under the no action alternative, ground water would not be adversely impacted.

Ground water would not be significantly impacted by the implementation of the preferred alternative. Secondary containment would be used, as necessary, in vehicle and equipment maintenance and refueling operations. Surface spills in other areas would be promptly remediated as directed in the SDARNG Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan (June, 2010). Contaminated soils resulting from these limited surface spills would be disposed of in accordance with federal and state (SDCL 74:03:01) regulations to ensure that there are no significant impacts to ground water.

#### **4.6d Waste Water**

**Affected Environment:** Waste water is the end product of many different processes. In residential settings, waste water is generated through meal preparation and cleaning/washing activities. Commercial applications include laundromat and car wash operations, which are capable of producing large quantities of waste water. Communities provide waste water disposal as one of their basic services. Disposal of waste water is accomplished through a series of delivery systems, terminating at local waste treatment facilities. In rural areas of western South Dakota, waste water is disposed of through the utilization of septic tanks and drain fields or holding tanks that require periodic pumping.

**Environmental Consequences:** Waste water would not be generated under the no action alternative and, thus, would not cause any adverse environmental impacts.

Under the preferred alternative, waste water would be generated by latrines, field showers, kitchens, and the water purification operations. This waste water would not contain toxic or harmful elements.

In bivouac, tactical training and project sites portable chemical toilets would be utilized. These latrines would be in compliance with applicable South Dakota regulations. Field showers and

kitchens would be used in bivouac areas. Graywater that is generated by these showers and kitchens would be captured in shallow pit sumps. The graywater (waste water generated by water-using fixtures and appliances which do not discharge garbage or urinary/fecal wastes) would slowly percolate through the surrounding soils. The DENR has approved this practice with the provision that "... the disposal areas must be covered with soil upon completion of the training exercises. In addition, the sites shall be monitored on a daily basis to prevent the creation of unsanitary conditions and to ensure runoff does not leave the area and reach surface water."

#### **4.6e Drinking Water**

Affected Environment: Communities in western South Dakota draw their drinking water from ground water sources (deep wells drawing water from aquifers) and/or surface water systems. In a number of rural areas, residents transport drinking water from the nearest city or town and store the liquid in a holding tank (cistern).

Environmental Consequences: Under the no action alternative no municipal or private supplies of drinking water would be impacted.

There is no reason to think that the preferred alternative would impact municipal or private drinking water supplies in an adverse way as all drinking water for participants of GOLDEN COYOTE activities (except for those bivouacked at Camp Rapid) will be provided water through the National Guard's water purification process. The water purification operation would be conducted at water purification sites previously identified and permitted through the South Dakota DENR. Holding tanks ("bladders") would be assembled for temporary potable water and waste water storage. Tanker trucks would transport potable water supplies to military unit locations for drinking, cooking and bathing.

#### **4.6f Spill Plans**

Affected Environment: The SDARNG has developed an Installation Spill Contingency Plan (ISCP) which addresses spill prevention methods, spill response actions, spill containment methods and reporting responsibilities in the event of hazardous material/waste releases. An emergency spill response card for vehicle log books has also been adapted for SDARNG unit use. These guidance documents have been distributed to all GOLDEN COYOTE (GC) participating units. The ISCP and emergency spill response guide would also be made available to out-of-state units prior to the start of annual training exercises.

Environmental Consequences: There would be no adverse impacts to the environment from hazardous material/waste spills under the no action alternative.

Releases of hazardous materials/wastes which could occur under the preferred alternative may adversely impact the environment. However, by following the SDARNG ISCP for spill responses, any spill that occurs would be effectively controlled, minimizing impacts to the environment. These spills would be remediated in a timely manner. The level of remediation would be determined by DENR, the primary state regulatory agency. The DENR and all

applicable regulatory agencies would be promptly notified of releases in excess of reportable quantity levels.

## **4.7 Biological Resources**

### **4.7a Vegetation**

Affected Environment: The Buffalo Gap National Grasslands contains a diverse collection of plant communities. This area is characterized by rolling hills, large, relatively flat prairies, all interspersed with badlands type formations. Grasses are the dominant vegetation species. Trees and shrubs are found almost exclusively in intermittent stream drainages. Common grasses and forbs include Crested Wheatgrass, Needle and Thread Grass, Leadplant, Brome, Prickly Pair Cactus, Soapweed Yucca, Cudweed Sagewort, Scarlet, Globemallow and Yellow Sweetclover. Trees and shrubs are rare but include Juniper, Green Ash and Western Snowberry.

The Buffalo Gap National Grasslands also contains habitat for a variety of plant species identified on the USFS NNF list of sensitive species. At the present time the list contains nine plants which might exist in the BGNG. The list includes, among others the Visser's Buckwheat, Barr's Milkvetch, Lesser Panicked Sedge, Slender Bristlegrass, Yellow Widelip Orchid and Blowout Penstemon. The complete list can be found in Appendix D.

Environmental Consequences: Vegetation will not be impacted under the no action alternative.

Under the preferred alternative vegetation disturbances are anticipated. Grasses and forbs in the vicinity of bivouac sites would be impacted by foot and vehicle traffic during GOLDEN COYOTE. Restrictions may be placed on woody plant species being utilized for camouflaging tents, vehicles and equipment because of their rarity on the proposed project area.

In some instances, bivouac sites have been positioned on the BGNG to take advantage of surface disturbances that occur during occupation by Army National Guard units. In these instances the Forest Service promotes these types of disturbances as an economical site preparation method to encourage propagation and growth of native plant species. Other disturbed areas will be scarified and reseeded with seed mixtures recommended by the USFS. Selection of seed species will be based on ease of establishment, ability to stabilize soils, forage value, site suitability, and noxious weed control. Thirty years of experience with similar activities has shown most effects on vegetation to be indistinguishable, and all effects to be totally eliminated after six months.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service State office in Pierre, South Dakota was contacted about federally listed plant species occurring in areas proposed for utilization during GOLDEN COYOTE. The reply letter, dated September 7, 2010, is located in Appendix C and in it the USFWS indicate that they have no objections to this project in regards to federally listed plant and animal species.

Sensitive plant species surveys were conducted on properties discussed in this document during the spring and summer of 2010 by biologists from Accipiter Biological Consultants of Portal

Arizona. No sensitive plant species were located on the areas involved with the preferred alternative.

#### 4.7b Wildlife

Affected Environment: The vast open prairies and rolling, grass covered hills, deciduous drainages and grassy meadows of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands are home to a deceptive variety of wildlife resources. Species common to the area include the Pronghorn, Black-tailed Prairie Dog, Upland Sandpipers and a wide variety of small mammals and songbirds.

The BGNG also sustains a number of proposed endangered, threatened and endangered and sensitive (PET&S) wildlife species. Threatened, endangered, and proposed species that may be present in the action area are provided in Table 3. Sensitive species that may be present in the action area are provided in Table 4. To reduce the number of analyses, any species listed in the tables that meet one or more of the following criteria (screens) were eliminated from further analyses.

**Screen 1 (S1)** – (Importance of Area) Presence of the species or suitable habitat is doubtful or has not been documented

**Screen 2 (S2)** – (Threats) The species or potential habitat for the species may occur, but it’s highly unlikely that land uses and allocations authorized by the Forest Service would affect the species and/or its habitat either on NFS lands or downstream.

**TABLE 3: FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND PROPOSED SPECIES LOCATED ON NFS LANDS IN THE PROJECT AREA**

	Custer County	Pennington County	Suspected to be in affected area?	Suitable habitat present?	Eliminated from evaluation? (screens)
<b>BIRDS</b>					
Whooping Crane	E	E	No	No	S1
Least Tern		E	No	No	S1
<b>MAMMALS</b>					
Black-footed Ferret	E	XN	No	No	S1

E - Endangered

XN – Proposed/experimental population

**TABLE 4: FEDERALLY LISTED SENSITIVE SPECIES LOCATED ON NFS LANDS  
IN THE PROJECT AREA**

	Nebraska National Forest Grasslands*	Suspected to be in affected area?	Suitable habitat present?	Eliminated from evaluation? (screens)
<b>STATUS: SENSITIVE</b>				
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
Black-tailed Prairie Dog	K	Yes	Yes	S2
Fringed-tailed Myotis	K	No	No	S1
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	K	No	No	S1
Swift Fox	K	No	Yes	S1
<b>BIRDS</b>				
Northern Goshawk	K	No	No	S1
Grasshopper Sparrow	K	Yes	Yes	Evaluated
Short-eared Owl	K	No	Yes	S1
Western Burrowing Owl	K	No	No	S1
American Bittern	K	No	No	S1
Ferruginous Hawk	K	No	Yes	S2
Chestnut-collared Longspur	K	No	Yes	S1
McCown's Longspur	K	No	Yes	S1
Greater Sage Grouse	K	No	No	S1
Mountain Plover	K	No	Yes	S1
Black Tern	K	No	No	S1
Northern Harrier	K	No	Yes	S2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	K	No	No	S1
Trumpeter Swan	K	No	No	S1
American Peregrine Falcon	K	No	No	S1
Bald Eagle	K	No	Yes	S2
Loggerhead Shrike	K	No	No	S1
Lewis's Woodpecker	K	No	No	S1
Long-billed Curlew	K	Yes	Yes	Evaluated
Brewer's Sparrow	K	No	No	S1
Greater Prairie-Chicken	K	No	Yes	S1
<b>AMPHIBIAN</b>				
Plains Leopard Frog	L	No	Yes	S2
Northern Leopard Frog	K	No	Yes	S2
<b>FISH</b>				
Sturgeon Chub	K	No	No	S1
Pearl Dace	L	No	No	S1
Plains Minnow	K	No	No	S1
Northern Red-bellied Dace	N	No	No	S1
Finescale Dace	L	No	No	S1
Flathead Chub	K	No	No	S1

	Nebraska National Forest Grasslands*	Suspected to be in affected area?	Suitable habitat present?	Eliminated from evaluation? (screens)
<b>MOLLUSCS</b>				
Cooper's Mountainsnail	L	No	No	S1
<b>INSECTS</b>				
Regal Fritillary Butterfly	K	Yes	Yes	Evaluated
Ottoe Skipper	L	No	No	S1

K - Species currently documented to occur on National Forest System (NFS) lands

N - Species not known or suspected to occur on NFS lands, however it may occur in planning area vicinity. Evaluate whether indirect effects from Forest Service management actions may occur

L - Species or habitat is suspected to occur on NFS lands, but unconfirmed

A breeding bird survey (BBS) has been conducted in the area of the proposed alternative from 1998 – 2008. There are two stops on the survey that are on the project area. One in the northeast corner one in the southeast corner of the project area. The following table is a list of the bird species that were detected on or near the project area and the number that were counted.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number</b>
Western Meadowlark	228
Lark Bunting	51
Mourning Dove	41
Upland Sandpiper	15
Horned Lark	12
Brewer's Blackbird	11
Grasshopper Sparrow	9
Brown-headed Cowbird	4
Killdeer	4
Long-billed Curlew	2
Eastern Kingbird	1
Great Blue Heron	1
Loggerhead Shrike	1
Nighthawk	1
Red-winged Blackbird	1
Swainson's Hawk	1

Four species in Table 4 need further analysis because of their status as sensitive species. These are the Grasshopper Sparrow, Long-billed Curlew, Regal Fritillary Butterfly and Black-tailed Prairie Dog.

Grasshopper Sparrows are summer residents across the project area. Fall migration usually occurs from mid-August through early September, although individuals may be in South Dakota until about October 26. Nine birds were detected during the BBS surveys conducted from 1998

through 2008. A male Grasshopper Sparrow was found in site Maude 001 during the summer 2010 surveys associated with this analysis.

Long-billed Curlews are summer residents across the project area. Two birds were detected in the project area during the BBS surveys conducted from 1998 through 2008. No individuals of this species were found during the summer 2010 surveys associated with this analysis.

The Regal Fritillary Butterfly inhabits wet meadows and tall grass prairie, in addition to undisturbed prairies in western South Dakota. Males emerge in late June, followed by females who lay eggs near violets (*Viola spp.*) during late August through early September. Generally in about three weeks, upon hatching, larvae crawl to the ground where they soon enter hibernation after sheltering themselves with leaves and duff. In spring, larvae feed on emergent violet leaves. Nuttall's Violet occurs throughout the project area, with densities varying according to topography and associated range sites. Populations are very sparse on thin upland range sites on the tops of hills and ridges, increasing in density on the clayey hillsides, and thinning again on flatter sites. No individuals of the Regal Fritillary Butterfly were found during the summer 2010 surveys associated with this analysis.

The Black-tailed Prairie Dog is a permanent resident across the project area and occurs in large congregations in prairie dog "towns". There is a sizeable prairie dog town in the lower areas within the boundaries of sites Red Shirt 001 and 004. While it has not been documented in this particular town, the bubonic plague is known from prairie dog towns in the general area and could provide a troop safety concern.

A single Loggerhead Shrike was found during the 10 years of BBSs on the site. This bird was most likely a transient bird as the preferred habitat for this species does not exist on the area covered by this analysis.

The Buffalo Gap National Grassland is home to over 300 black-footed ferrets, the most endangered mammal in North America. It is also home to the swift fox, a candidate for the federal endangered species list. These species are not known to occur in the area proposed for use in this action.

**Environmental Consequences:** Under the no action alternative, wildlife would not be adversely impacted.

Under the preferred alternative, increased activity and noise generated from training exercises and resource development projects may cause both direct (effects caused by the action and that occur at the same time and place) and indirect (effects caused by an action but resulting later in time or farther away in place, yet are still reasonably foreseeable) adverse effects on wildlife in the area. A Biological Evaluation of potentially effected sensitive species was conducted by resource managers from the USFS. This document provides the following information regarding potential effects on sensitive species by the preferred alternative.

The direct effects of this project may include the killing or displacing of animals during any of the activities that will occur while the site is occupied by the National Guard. This will include

but is not limited to collisions with vehicles, nests being destroyed by vehicles or people walking, displacement of animals by occupation of the site and noise.

Indirect effects include habitat destruction caused by the occupation of the site which may indirectly affect animals that have traditionally used the area. This can be caused by any ground disturbing activities (construction of roads or tents or any facilities). The simple act of having a concentration of people, vehicles etc. moving around on the site will trample vegetation. Some will recover quickly after the site is abandoned. Others will take more time, depending on the degree of disturbance.

The biological determination for the Grasshopper Sparrow with the no action alternative is *No impact*.

The biological determination for the Grasshopper Sparrow with the preferred alternative is *may adversely impact individuals, but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of species viability range wide*. A few sparrows could be killed by activities associated with the National Guard camp and habitat could be affected in the short term. This is a small area and short time period in which the site will be occupied. This activity will not effect the overall survival of the species or the survival of the species in the immediate area in the long term.

The determination for Long-billed Curlews under the no action alternative is *no impact*.

The biological determination for the Long-billed Curlew with the preferred alternative is *may adversely impact individuals, but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of species viability range wide*. Curlews could be killed by activities associated with the National Guard camp and habitat could be affected in the short term. There is not a resident population in the area. This is a small area and short time period in which the site will be occupied. This activity will not effect the overall survival of the species or the survival of the species in the immediate area in the long term.

Quite a large number of migratory birds as defined in Executive Order 13186 and under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are likely to occur within these training areas. A number of species do utilize the grassland and its short and infrequent trees and shrubs for foraging, perching and, in some cases, for nesting.

The determination for migratory birds covered under Executive Order 13186 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act under the no action alternative is *no impact*.

The biological determination for migratory birds covered under Executive Order 13186 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act with the preferred alternative is *may adversely impact individuals, but not likely to result in a loss of viability in the planning area, nor cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of species viability range wide*. Migratory birds could be killed by activities associated with the National Guard camp and habitat could be affected in the short term. This is a small area and short time period in which the site will be occupied. This activity will not effect the overall survival of any of the species or the survival of any of the species in the immediate area in the long term.



The determination for Regal Fritillary under the no action alternative is *no impact*.

The biological determination for the Regal Fritillary with the preferred alternative is *may adversely impact individuals, but not likely to result in a loss of viability in planning area, nor cause a trend to federal listing or a loss of species viability range wide*. No long term butterfly studies have been conducted and it is not known if there is a resident population of Regal Fritillary Butterflies in the project area. The concentration of violets that occurs in the area is of special concern. Regal Fritillary adults and larvae could be killed by activities associated with the National Guard camp and habitat could be affected in the short term. This is a small area and short time period in which the site will be occupied. Overall it is doubtful that this project will have impacts on the species viability as a whole but the concentration of violets in this area is unique and any attempt to avoid the violets could lessen the immediate impact. It is not known what the effect of driving of vehicles and concentrated use will have on the violets.

The violets in the proposed areas tend to occur in greater concentrations on the slopes of hillsides and to a lesser degree on the flatter areas. The areas of greater slope are not conducive to the activities proposed by the SDARNG and those activities will take place on the more level areas, thereby avoiding the heavier concentrations of violets on the proposed sites.

The Black-tailed Prairie Dog is very common in the general area proposed for use under the preferred alternative. This species is a species of management concern for the USFS because prairie dog towns attract a wide variety of other wildlife species including, among others, the swift fox (a candidate for federal endangered species listing) and the Black-footed Ferret (the most endangered mammal in North America). However, prairie dogs can expand their range dramatically so the USFS manages the size and locations of colonies on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. Neither the Black-footed Ferret nor the Swift Fox are known from this particular prairie dog town according to the USFS resource managers.

The prairie dog colony located on the Red Shirt sites occurs in the low valley area. This area will be avoided by the SDARNG for safety reasons and because better areas for bivouac sites exist within the proposed area allowing the SDARNG to stay at least ¼ mile from the prairie dog town. Reasons for avoidance include troop safety (possible injuries from stepping in the holes and possibilities of plague in the colony) and possible damage to equipment from fall through if they cross and collapse the underground tunnels of the prairie dogs.

#### **4.8 Cultural Resources**

Affected Environment: Cultural resources are a record of human presence, often providing the sole indication of former inhabitants and ways of life. Cultural Resources are defined as historic properties as defined by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), cultural items as defined by the Native American Graves and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), archaeological resources as defined by Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), sacred sites as defined in EO 13007 to which access is afforded under American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) and collections and associated records as defined in 36 CFR 79.

For at least the past 10,000 years the area of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands has been home to a variety of human cultures. Paleoindians (8000-10000 years ago) hunted a now extinct species of bison and made sophisticated stone tools to kill, butcher and process their food. Later, tribes of Plains Indians also relied on bison for survival. Their cultures dominated the area until the late 1800's when settlers, looking for a better life were inspired by several Homestead Acts which encouraged settlement by offering inducements of free or inexpensive land. Each group left evidence of their presence. These artifacts, be they stone tools thousands of years old or remnants of the settlement period, are considered to be valuable cultural resources and are protected by federal laws including the 1906 Antiquities Act, the Archeological Resources Protection Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. Prehistoric (Native American Indian) and historic (European settlement) sites are documented and protected from degradation as they are discovered. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Pierre, South Dakota is the public agency responsible for tracking and recording known cultural resources in the state. The NNF requested SHPO review and comment on actions that might affect cultural resources in a letter of November 30, 2010. A copy of this letter and the SHPOs determination letter appear in Appendix C. The SHPO is also contacted prior to the start of proposed National Guard construction and field training activities.

The BGNG was inhabited millions of years ago by a strange collection of both marine and terrestrial wildlife which are known today only from their fossilized remains. The eroded clay "badlands" of the area contain fossil records from the Oligocene epoch (26-38 million years ago) and the Cretaceous Period (144-66 million years ago). These fossils are relatively rare and those found are extremely valuable to scientists in a variety of fields. As a non-renewable resource, fossils are managed for preservation and it is illegal to collect them from public land including the BGNG.

Department of Defense (DOD) Instruction 4710.02, DOD Interactions with Federally-Recognized Tribes (September 14, 2006) and the DOD Policy Document for the American Department of Defense (DOD) Policy Document for the American Indian and Alaska Native Policy (October 27, 1998) requires that consultation with Federally-Recognized Native American Tribes occur on a government to government basis. It also requires that Federal agencies determine whether a proposed action may significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights, or Indian lands. Fifteen tribes have been found to have historical or cultural interests in the area of this proposed project. This list was determined by consultation with the South Dakota SHPO in Pierre and through consultation with Quality Services who conducted the cultural resource inventory for the project area. A complete list of these tribes appears in Section 9 of this document.

**Environmental Consequences:** Cultural resources would not be adversely impacted under the no action alternative.

Cultural resources of the state would not be adversely impacted by GOLDEN COYOTE activities. Level III cultural resources inventory were conducted by Quality Services, Inc. (QSI) for the South Dakota Army National Guard's GOLDEN COYOTE 2012-2016 Buffalo Gap National Grasslands Training Areas project. Training locations consist of distinct areas identified in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands: Creston Road Convoy Lanes, Creston Road Convoy staging and debriefing areas, French Creek Forward Operating Base (FOB) 001, French

Creek Convoy Lanes, French Creek Convoy staging and debriefing areas, Maude FOB 001, Maude FOB 002, Red Shirt FOB 001, Red Shirt FOB 002, Red Shirt FOB 003, and Red Shirt FOB 004.

These training areas are located in Custer and Pennington Counties and the cultural resources inventory of these areas amounted to 800 acres of pedestrian survey. The Creston Road and Maude training areas are approximately 12 miles southeast of Farmingdale, South Dakota on Highway 44 then southwest on Pennington County Road 456/Creston Road. The French Creek areas are approximately 22 miles southeast of Hermosa. The Red Shirt training areas are approximately 20 miles southeast of Hermosa off Highway 40.

Two previously recorded sites could not be relocated during this inventory project and may have been destroyed. Their recorded locations will be avoided by National Guard activities.

Nine new cultural resources were discovered during the investigation. The Forest considers five sites (39CU4005, 39CU4006, 39CU4008, 39CU4009, and 39CU4013) to be eligible to the NRHP based on their possible sacred nature. The South Dakota SHPO (Page C-24) agreed with the Forest. Also, sites 39CU4005, 39CU4006, 39CU4008, 39CU4009, and 39CU4013 should be considered eligible for the NRHP until evaluation of the area as a historic district may be conducted.

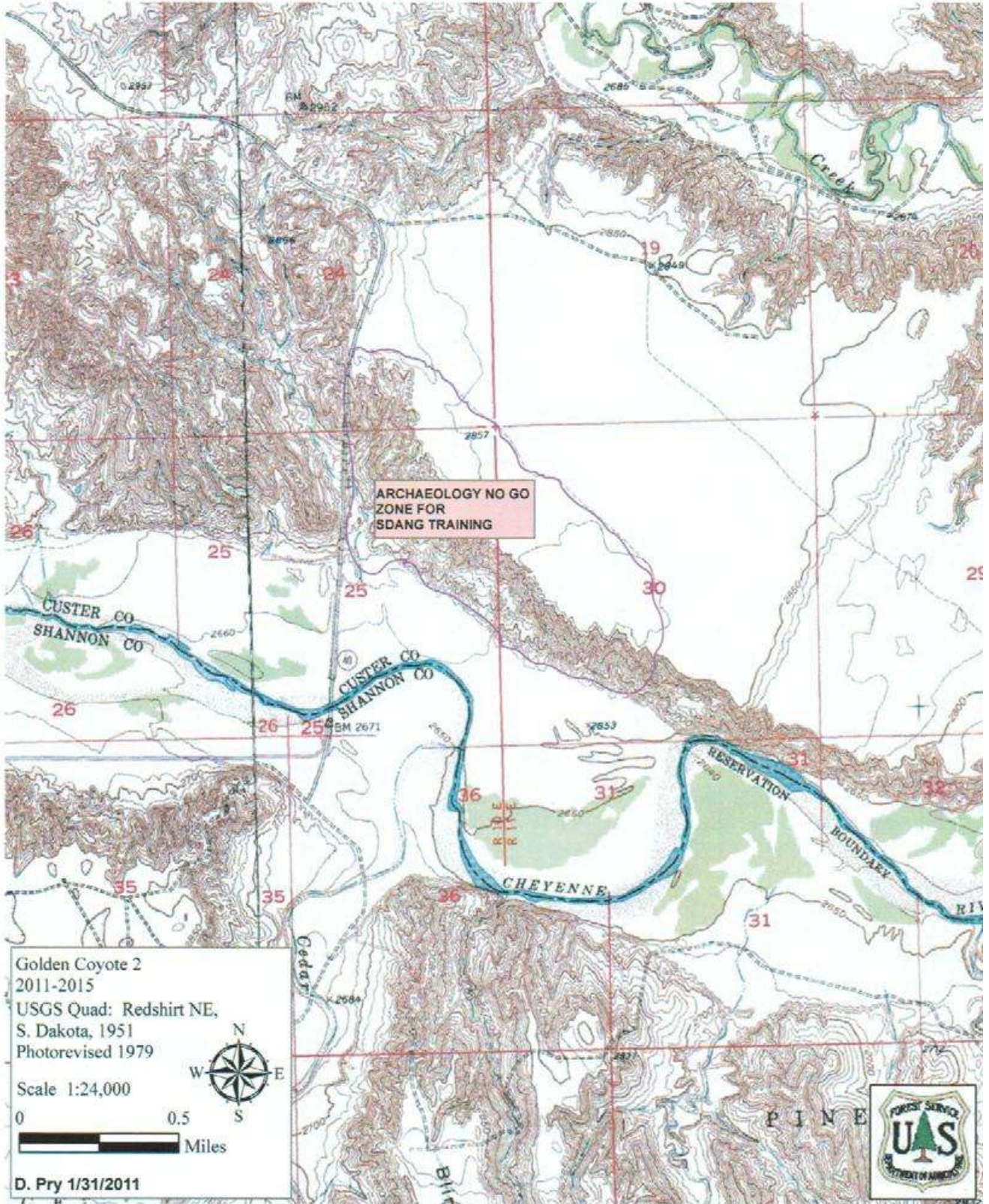
As a result of these investigations and previous finds in the area proposed for this project mitigation measures were put in place by the SD SHPO and NNF to avoid damaging these sites. These measures are outlined in the letters found in Appendix C and include avoiding all eligible and unevaluated sites and the establishment of an archeological NO GO zone on the Red Shirt areas. This area is designated on the map on the following page. The two track road which bisects this area has been agreed upon by the SDARNG, NNF and SD SHPO as the boundary between the project area and the NO GO zone. With these mitigations the SHPO, in its letter of December 9, 2010, has made a determination that there will be NO ADVERSE AFFECT to the cultural resources of the area as a result of this project. This letter may be found in Appendix C of this document.

Coordination has been conducted and is ongoing with Native American tribes with cultural or historic affiliations in the Buffalo Gap National Grassland area as specified in the DOD Policy Document. All fifteen Native American tribes with cultural affiliations in the area have been contacted by mail (see listing in Section 9). Letters sent to the tribal contacts are included in Appendix C. Coordination with Native American Tribes with cultural or historic affiliations will be made to at every step along the way to ensure that proposed AT would not have the potential to significantly affect protected tribal resources, tribal rights, or Indian lands. Tribes will have the opportunity to comment on the draft copy of this document as well as the final copy.

If, during annual training operations, items of archaeological, historical, or paleontological interest are reported or discovered, known or unknown deposits of such items are disturbed, the SDARNG will immediately cease operations in the area and protect the site with a guard. The commander will then notify the National Guard Liaison Officer and will not resume operations in the areas until written approval is issued by the National Guard Liaison Officer. The National

Guard Liaison Officer will have coordinated this release to proceed with operations, through U.S. Forest Service Nebraska National Forest Archeologist Sharilee Counce, the South Dakota Army National Guard Senior Environmental Specialist Colonel Robert D. Grams (retired), the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Quality Services, Inc. (QSI).

A project determination of no historic properties affected is recommended if the above recommendations are followed.



**Figure 3: Archeological NO GO Zone**

## **4.9 Socioeconomics**

Affected Environment: The SDARNG plays an important role in the economies of area communities. Annually, over \$26 million enters communities in the area through wages, construction, operational and miscellaneous expenses. Participating out-of-state military units also inject sizable amounts of money into the local economies during their stays in the area. In addition, community service projects that local SDARNG units perform, help communities redirect dollars, originally budgeted for those projects, to finance other local spending priorities.

Environmental Consequences: Area communities would be adversely impacted under the no action alternative because SDARNG unit members would not receive pay for the two-week annual training period and goods and services would not be required.

Under the preferred alternative, federal dollars directly associated with GOLDEN COYOTE would significantly impact local economies. Some of the increased expenditures would be in the areas of vehicle fuels, locally purchased repair parts and construction materials, and locally purchased personal items. Overall, GOLDEN COYOTE would positively impact local economies in the areas where the National Guard would be stationed and training.

## **4.10 Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898)/Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks (Executive Order 13045)**

Affected Environment: The proposed bivouac and tactical training sites for GOLDEN COYOTE are uninhabited areas. They are remote, not only to towns and concentrations of people, but also, in most cases, to major roads. The Red Shirt and French Creek sites are just north and west respectively from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The small village of Red Shirt on the reservation is about three miles south of the Red Shirt areas proposed for GOLDEN COYOTE. All of the National Grassland areas are available for use by people of all ages, races and income levels.

Environmental Consequences: There would be no adverse impacts on minority or low income populations or children as a result of either the no action alternative or the preferred alternative. All sites impacting a specific segment of the population would be eliminated from use or mitigated for potential conflicts or impacts. Under the preferred alternative, the small town of Red shirt on the reservation may benefit because participating out-of-state military units inject sizable amounts of money into the local economies during their stays in the area.

## **4.11 Infrastructure**

### **4.11a Energy Resources**

Affected Environment: The energy resources of the area including the BGNG include electricity, motor fuels and natural/LP gas. Area residents operate their vehicles/equipment and heat, cool and supply hot water to their homes and businesses with whatever type of energy is reliable and available. The SDARNG mainly utilizes diesel fuel to operate its vehicles,

generators (in producing electricity at bivouac locations) and tent space heaters. Gasoline is also needed for specific applications but is a very minor energy resource for the military operation.

**Environmental Consequences:** Under the no action alternative, local utilities and fuel dealers would be adversely impacted because the two-week training event would not take place.

As the preferred alternative, GOLDEN COYOTE would primarily increase energy consumption through the operation of vehicles and construction equipment. Generator and space heater fuels, consumed at bivouac and training sites, would also experience increased demands. These proposed increases in energy consumption would not adversely impact local municipalities or fuel vendors, but would most likely have a positive impact on local economies.

#### **4.11b Traffic and Road Use**

**Affected Environment:** A system of two lane paved roads and small gravel and dirt roads currently exist on the BGNG. Traffic on the paved roads include people traveling from home to work or to urban areas for shopping through the National Grasslands and tourists and locals utilizing the BGNG for recreation or work. The highest usage of these roads is generally in July and August at the peak of the tourist season. The gravel and dirt roads are primarily utilized for recreational pursuits and as access to grazing allotments, hunting and remote residential areas.

**Environmental Consequences:** There would be no adverse impacts on local traffic or roads as a result of the no action alternative.

The preferred alternative considered in this environmental assessment may impact highway and roads use on the BGNG. Most of the National Guard traffic would occur in the area on two lane roads which are designed for heavy traffic. The total amount of traffic on paved highways and roads would be no greater than that which occurs in July and August, during the height of the tourist season. When troops move from bivouac sites to project sites and back, traffic may be greater than normal on some graveled or dirt roads, but only for brief periods.

#### **4.11c Fire Hazards**

**Affected Environment:** The fire conditions throughout the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands area can change on a daily basis due to current weather conditions and the type and quantity of fuel loading on the grassland.

**Environmental Consequences:** Under the no action alternative, the fire hazard would not be adversely impacted.

Under the preferred alternative, mitigation has proven effective in controlling fire hazard in accordance with the Rules of Occupation in Appendix A. The National Guard has installed spark arresters on required equipment. In general, vehicles are equipped with fire extinguishers and all fueling points would have fire extinguishers. Should a fire occur, all training would cease until the fire had been extinguished. The District Ranger would be notified immediately of any

fires and close coordination of activities would be conducted with respect to the fire danger as prescribed by the Forest Service and the state forestry office. Campfires would not be permitted.

#### **4.11d Impacts On Other Grassland Users**

Affected Environment: The BGNG operates under a mandated multiple use system. The public utilizes it for a wide variety of uses including, but not limited to, nature studies, recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, etc.) and livestock grazing.

Environmental Consequences: Other grasslands users could be positively impacted by the no action alternative. The grassland areas (roads, trails, and natural areas) would not be as crowded, since military operations would not be occurring.

Under the preferred alternative, the Forest Service would review proposed bivouac and tactical training sites for potential conflicts with other users. Sites would be eliminated from utilization by the National Guard if conflicts were apparent. Other mitigation measures, such as reduced vehicle speeds on grassland roads and time limits for detaining civilians at road construction sites, are addressed in the Rules of Occupation, Appendix A. Other grassland users would not be significantly impacted under this alternative.

#### **4.12 Hazardous and Toxic Materials/Wastes**

##### **4.12a Spill Plans**

Affected Environment: The SDARNG has developed an Installation Spill Contingency Plan (ISCP) which addresses spill prevention methods, spill response actions, spill containment methods and reporting responsibilities in the event of hazardous material/waste releases. An emergency spill response card for vehicle log books has also been adapted for SDARNG unit use. These guidance documents have been distributed to all GOLDEN COYOTE (GC) participating units. The ISCP and emergency spill response guide would also be made available to out-of-state units prior to the start of annual training exercises.

Environmental Consequences: There would be no adverse impacts to the environment from hazardous material/waste spills under the no action alternative.

Releases of hazardous materials/wastes which could occur under the preferred alternative may adversely impact the environment. However, by following the SDARNG ISCP for spill responses, any spill that occurs would be effectively controlled, minimizing impacts to the environment. These spills would be remediated in a timely manner. The level of remediation would be determined by DENR, the primary state regulatory agency. The DENR and all applicable regulatory agencies would be promptly notified of releases in excess of reportable quantity levels.



## **4.12b Waste Disposal**

### **4.12b.1 Solid Waste**

Affected Environment: Solid waste generation is part of the human experience. The majority of city and rural residents in the area contract with private waste disposal companies or have access to municipal sanitation services. These waste handlers commonly include a recycling service with each of their programs. Non-recyclable solid waste is transported to the Rapid City Regional Landfill for disposal. Solid waste generation at the training areas is minimal at this time and is mainly due to unauthorized littering by civilians.

Environmental Consequences: Solid waste generated under the no action alternative would be minimal. The natural environment would not be impacted.

GOLDEN COYOTE activities would generate more solid waste than is normally experienced in the training areas and project sites. However, all solid waste (paper, cardboard, food, cigarette butts, plastic, etc.) that is generated, would be placed in plastic garbage bags and/or covered dumpsters, collected at designated drop-off points by SDARNG Training Center personnel and hauled from the training areas and project sites for disposal at the nearest state permitted sanitary landfill. Through proper management, control and disposal of solid waste, there could be only minor impacts to the environment in the areas outlined in this document.

### **4.12b.2 Hazardous Waste**

Affected Environment: Hazardous wastes are not currently generated at the unoccupied training areas. The SDARNG has developed the SDARNG Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan (June 2010) which outlines the proper procedures for handling, transporting, and disposing of hazardous waste. This plan, as well as all federal, state and local regulations, are used to ensure that the waste is properly managed.

Environmental Consequences: Hazardous wastes would not be generated under the no action alternative and, thus, no adverse impacts to the environment would occur.

Hazardous wastes generated under the preferred alternative would be more than what is normally generated in the training areas, but would still remain minimal, and would be limited to spent lithium and mercury batteries, used chemical training kits, and protective mask filters. There could also be some waste generated through unit maintenance activities, where used parts cleaning fluid and waste fuel may be produced, as well as used oil, which is a hazardous (recyclable) material.

All units would handle and dispose of wastes in accordance with federal, state and local regulations. The SDARNG Hazardous Waste Management Plan, mentioned above, would be used as a guidance document for all handling, transporting and disposing of hazardous waste. All units would maintain their own hazardous wastes and would ensure proper disposal, including using hazardous waste manifests upon returning to their home stations. South Dakota units would ensure proper disposal by manifesting all hazardous waste through the Defense

Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO), located at Ellsworth Air Force Base, who would contract the disposal with an EPA-licensed out-of-state disposal facility. All South Dakota units would ensure that hazardous waste was transported to the DRMO by transporters who have a current EPA Transporter Identification Number. By complying with all applicable laws and following the SDARNG Hazardous Waste Management Plan, there would be no major adverse environmental impacts incurred from normal hazardous waste generation.

## **SECTION 5.0: MITIGATIONS**

Mitigation measures are those measures implemented to reduce the potential adverse effects of proposed actions. In no case have any significant impacts been identified to the baseline conditions in the Nebraska National Forest Training Area from implementation of the proposed action. Therefore, no mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. Minor or minor short-term impacts have been identified along with various measures or best management practices specifically listed or referenced for each training area to minimize the identified effects. These best management practices are detailed below.

### **5.1 Soils**

1. All holes resulting from training (i.e. foxholes, demolitions, ditches, etc.) will be filled in by the training unit. Topsoil will be stockpiled separate from subsoil and replaced when these holes are filled. All sandbags, plastic and other containers will be emptied into the hole and the sandbags, plastic and other materials removed from the site and disposed of in a state permitted sanitary landfill.
2. Training activities will cease or be delayed if precipitation is enough to cause soil damage (compaction and rutting). This determination will be made by the USFS in consultation with the LNO.
3. The reclamation of all disturbed and compacted ground will be the responsibility of the National Guard. Reclamation shall include the leveling of disturbed areas as nearly as possible to existing ground contours and seeding of disturbed sites with Nebraska National approved seed mixes. The extent of reclamation will depend greatly upon weather conditions and operational activities of the National Guard.

### **5.2 Vegetation**

1. Any down or dead limbs, logs or debris may be utilized if not a part of a sensitive wildlife habitat area, part of expected salvage operations by a timber contractor or within 300 feet of a road closure gate. Snags (dead standing trees) shall not be felled for any reason.
2. Live timber will be protected from damage. Seedlings that are damaged by training activities will be cut flush with the ground and scattered. In some bivouac areas personnel may have to clear some cut slash or dead fall prior to occupation. At the cessation of training activities,

these piles must be spread out to cover the areas and be made to lie within eighteen inches of the ground to aid in slash deterioration.

3. Riparian zones, vegetation areas adjacent to bodies of water, will not be disturbed by military vehicles and equipment. The specific shape (width and length) or riparian areas may vary, based on topography or other natural conditions, or based upon the advice of the Forest District resource specialists. However, it is generally understood that the riparian boundaries are at least one hundred fifty (150) feet in both directions from the edge of the spring/stream or drainage areas. Sensitive wetland areas will be flagged by the USFS to avoid damage by military equipment. Downed wood and debris should be left within the riparian zones unless determined to be a hazard.
4. Roads adjacent to riparian areas, wetlands and floodplains will not be treated with graywater.
5. If removal of trees is required for the safety of the aviators at helicopter landing zones, the unit will coordinate the mission with the LNO for approval by the USFS. The area will be rehabilitated as prescribed by the USFS.
6. Other specific areas to avoid within bivouac sites will be marked on the ground by the Forest Service.
7. All seed for reclamation shall be furnished by the National Guard. Disturbed areas shall be seeded with mixtures determined by the USFS.
8. Sites known to have infestations of noxious weeds will be avoided. Such sites will be marked on the ground by the Forest Service. In lieu of specific marking and avoidance, vehicles coming from the field will be cleaned to a level adequate for deployment at any location. This standard of cleaning is known as the "10-20 standard". Vehicle washing will be instituted for vehicles coming from outside the BGNG prior to deployment for annual training. Vehicle washing will also be instituted for vehicles operating within or near training sites known to have infestations of noxious weeds.

### **5.3 Wildlife/Livestock**

1. Under no circumstances will personnel fire at, harass, haze, pursue, chase or collect wildlife/livestock during training exercises.
2. If Proposed Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive (PET&S) animal species/habitat are found on the NNF, they will be reported immediately to Forest Service biologists for evaluation to avoid adverse impacts.
3. Helicopters will avoid flying over feedlots and other concentrations of livestock. (This includes flying over any farmstead where livestock may be confined in outdoor pens and/or buildings).

4. Raptor nesting sites, when found, will be evaluated by the appropriate resource specialists relative to the property jurisdiction to determine if special requirements are needed to protect the nesting areas.
5. Proposed activity areas will avoid known Prairie Dog towns. A buffer of at least ¼ mile will be maintained around Prairie Dog towns.
6. Known or suspected Ferruginous Hawk nesting sites will be avoided. At a minimum; a one half mile “No New Disturbance Zone” will be established around nesting sites. Within this area, potentially disturbing activities will be restricted to minimize disturbing nesting pairs or recently fledged young. In the event Ferruginous Hawk nesting areas are discovered after a proposed activity area is occupied, steps will be taken to vacate the areas without disturbing the nest sites.
7. Large, standing snags (dead or dying trees) and cliff faces on the various bivouac sites should be avoided.
8. A 150 foot buffer area will be maintained around all ponds, streams and drainages. Access to watering ponds by wildlife will not be cut off by troop activities.
9. Other specific areas to avoid within bivouac sites will be marked on the ground by the USFS.

#### **5.4 Cultural Resources**

1. The SDARNG will ensure cultural resource clearance for all bivouac and training sites on the NNF. The USFS will ensure cultural resource clearance for all Forest Service projects.
2. As a result of cultural investigations and previous finds in the area proposed for this project mitigation measures were put in place by the SD SHPO and NNF to avoid damaging these sites. These measures include avoiding all eligible and unevaluated sites and the establishment of an archeological NO GO zone on the Red Shirt areas. This area is designated on the map on page 28 of this document. The two track road which bisects this area has been agreed upon by the SDARNG, NNF and SD SHPO as the boundary between the project area and the NO GO zone.
3. If, during annual training operations, items of archaeological, historical, or paleontological interest are reported or discovered, know or unknown deposits of such items are disturbed, the SDARNG will immediately cease operations in the area and protect the site with a guard. The commander will then notify the National Guard Liaison Officer and will not resume operations in the areas until written approval is issued by the National Guard Liaison Officer. The National Guard Liaison Officer will have coordinated this release to proceed with operations, through the Nebraska National Forest ranger district archeologists or other appropriate personnel.
4. Collecting of any fossils or cultural artifacts is not allowed under any circumstances.

## **5.5 Water Quality**

### **1. Surface Water:**

- a. Unless required for emergency fire suppression events no water will be taken from wells, stock dams, lakes or streams that have not been approved by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the USFS and /or the National Guard Liaison Officer.
- b. No refueling operation will be conducted within three hundred feet of a stream or body of water.
- c. Water purification units will utilize grassy areas as set up points, when possible. No discharge of water from the purification units will be permitted into bodies of water without prior authority from DENR.

### **2. Groundwater**

- a. Surface spills will be promptly remediated to prevent contamination of ground water.

### **3. Drinking Water**

- a. Water purification units (ROWPU) will generate potable water for military units.

### **4. Wastewater**

- a. Latrines: latrines, in the form of portapots, will be used in bivouac/project sites in conformance with South Dakota regulations (ARSD 74:53:01).
- b. Field Showers: The wastewater will be allowed to drain on to adjacent soils. Discharge shall be in conformance with South Dakota regulations (ARSD 74:53:01).
- c. Kitchens: Kitchen grease and graywater will be disposed of in conformance with South Dakota regulations (ARSD 74:53:01).
- d. Wastewater used for dust control will be only liquids and contain no waste products such as paper products or non-biodegradable products or backflush from ROWPU.

## **5.6 Air Quality**

1. All units will attempt to control dust at the bivouac/training/mission sites by watering and using slower traffic speeds.
2. EPA requires nontactical type military motor vehicles to be equipped with emission control devices manufactured the year the vehicles were built.
3. NBC (Nuclear/Biological/Chemical) Smoke Training

- a. All requests for smoke training will be addressed to SDNG Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ).
- b. SDNG Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) will coordinate with the LNO, county law enforcement and the District Ranger prior to the utilization of smoke. The District Ranger will approve the time, day and locations to be used for smoke training on the NNF.
- c. Weather conditions will be considered, reviewed and wind direction and intensity will be monitored each time smoke is to be used to avoid any conflict with other grassland users.
- d. Smoke will NOT be used prior to receiving approval from the LNO. Requests for approval to use smoke shall be made on a daily basis.
- e. The use of non-retrievable toxic materials will not be allowed.

## **5.7 Noise**

1. Air traffic patterns will be adjusted to avoid any residential, campground and /or other concentrated public use areas.
2. The use of blanks, training grenades, etc. within 150 yards (450 feet) of private residences/farmsteads, campgrounds, picnic areas and other noise sensitive areas will be prohibited.

## **SECTION 6.0: CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

Per the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1508.7), "Cumulative impact" is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

"Effects" include:

- (a) Direct effects, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.
- (b) Indirect effects, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

Effects and impacts as used in these regulations are synonymous. Effects includes ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative. Effects may also include those resulting from actions which may have

both beneficial and detrimental effects, even if on balance the agency believes that the effect will be beneficial.

The proposed bivouac and tactical training sites for GOLDEN COYOTE are uninhabited areas. They are remote, not only to towns and concentrations of people, but also, in most cases, to major roads. None are along utility corridors. The Nebraska National Forest operates under a mandated multiple use system. The public utilizes the area for a wide variety of uses including, but not limited to, nature studies, recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, etc.) and livestock grazing. There are no other uses for these lands planned in the foreseeable future other than the proposed action and the NNF proposed these areas because there would be no cumulative effects as a result of the SDARNG use of these particular areas because the SDARNG is utilizing the areas at a different time than other users and adverse effects of this action are seen by the NNF as minimal.

The adverse cumulative impacts of minor and temporary changes from the existing conditions in the resource categories of air quality, noise, soil compaction, water quality, wildlife, environmental justice, drinking water, wastewater, fire, energy supplies, and hazardous waste are not significant. The approximate two-week duration of annual training governed by the Rules of Occupation and regulatory restrictions by other agencies, the State of South Dakota and the NNF preclude long-term or significant impacts.

The largest adverse cumulative impact resulting from annual bivouac and training is the increase in vehicular traffic on NNF roadways. The increase in vehicle traffic is comparable to traffic that occurs in the area during the peak tourist season or special events such as hunting seasons. The training is conducted before the onset of peak tourist season in July and the hunting seasons in the fall to avoid cumulative impacts on traffic patterns. During AT, the most noticeable times when vehicle traffic is increased is during troop movements from bivouac sites to training sites which is once or twice daily. In deference to past concerns, increased efforts at publicizing the onset, time, duration and potential encounters with uniformed military personnel have been made that include daily local radio and television coverage of planned activities, increased roadway postings to notify publics of military training in the vicinity and media coverage of training in progress. These increased efforts at public notification have resulted in significantly less inquiries regarding AT activities and the presence of troops in the training areas. Local economic activity is enhanced through SDARNG's historic training activities.

The SDARNG generally completes several community service projects through NGB's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program within the training areas. The goal of the IRT program is to identify projects that enable SDARNG units to train in their Military Occupational Specialties while helping the local community or government agencies. The USFS and SDARNG collaboratively identify projects that fulfill training requirements while aiding the USFS with forest management. These projects are separate from this action and NEPA compliance is handled by the USFS for these projects. Examples of past IRT and training projects include vertical construction at airports, road construction or decommissioning, and land restoration activities.

## SECTION 7.0: COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND CONCLUSIONS

### 7.1 Comparison of the Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives

A summary comparison matrix table is presented to show the differences between the preferred alternative (only alternative meeting the screening criteria) and the no action alternative. A legend guides the reader to symbols used in the summary matrix.

**TABLE 5. COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVE AND CONCLUSIONS SUMMARY MATRIX FOR ANNUAL TRAINING 2012-2016.**

Resource Area	Preferred Alternative	No Action Alternative
Land Use	O	O
Air Quality	-	O
Noise	-	O
Geology and Soils	--	O
Water Resources	-	O
Biological Resources	--	O
Cultural Resources	O	O
Socioeconomics	+	---
Environmental Justice	O	O
Infrastructure	-	O
Hazardous Materials and Waste	-	O
Threatened and Endangered Species	O	O

#### Key

O No Effect

- Minor Short-term Impact Annual training only

-- Minor Impact Less than 6 month duration

---Long Term Impact Greater than 6 month duration

+ Beneficial Impact Project life or economic

### 7.2 Conclusion

This environmental assessment has identified bivouac and tactical training sites, located in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota, that are being proposed for utilization during GOLDEN COYOTE in June of 2012-2016. As a result of intensive planning, information dissemination and input and field investigations, a decision has been made to select the alternative which best satisfies the particular mission requirements (screening criteria) for GOLDEN COYOTE. Of the five presented (the preferred alternative, no action, training in-state at other locations, training out-of-state and bivouac off the NNF and commuting to projects) the preferred alternative meets or exceeds these mission requirements. The remaining alternatives were screened out by the screening criteria identified in Section 3.1 of this document.



The activities associated with GOLDEN COYOTE would not significantly impact the environment. In fact, mitigation measures have been established to minimize adverse impacts. Mitigation would provide protection for soils, vegetation, wildlife, cultural resources, water and air quality and noise. All mitigation measures are addressed in the Rules of Occupation, Appendix A of this document.

This draft environmental assessment (EA) will be subjected to several levels of internal (SDARNG and National Guard Bureau) and external (state and federal agencies) review in the coming weeks. Upon completion of these professional agency review periods, a revised draft document will be submitted for a thirty-day public comment period. Upon completion of this public review, a determination of whether to prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or a Notice of Intent (NOI) for an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be made. If an EIS is not prepared, the public comments will be addressed and mitigations incorporated into appropriate plans, funding requests and policies. If an EIS is required, this document will serve as the basis for scoping.

## SECTION 8.0: REFERENCES

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## **SECTION 9.0: GLOSSARY**

**AQUIFER:** An underground geological formation containing usable amounts of ground water which can supply wells and springs.

**BEDROCK:** The solid rock that underlies the soil and other material or that is exposed at the surface.

**BIVOUAC SITES:** Military encampment areas set up with tents, kitchens, showers, portapots, etc. with the perimeters surrounded with fighting positions.

**CALCAREOUS:** A soil or rock containing enough calcium carbonate to bubble visibly when treated with cold, dilute hydrochloric acid.

**CLAY LOAM SOIL:** As a soil textural class, a soil having mineral particles of less than .002 millimeters in diameter making up from 27-40% of its structure.

**COLLECTIVE ANNUAL TRAINING:** Annual training exercises which (in South Dakota) incorporates up to 3000 troops comprised of engineer units and other support units (maintenance, water production/storage/distribution, communications, medical, aviation, etc.) interacting to support each others military missions.

**COMPACTION:** The packing of soil together into a firmer, denser mass, generally caused by the pressure of great weight.

**CONTAMINANTS:** Any physical, chemical, biological or radiological substances that have an adverse affect on air, water or soil.

**CRITICAL HABITAT:** Habitat of threatened or endangered species deemed critical or necessary to the survival of the species.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The physical evidence of our Nation's heritage. Included are: archaeological sites, historic buildings, structures, and districts, as well as localities with social significance to the human community.

**EROSION:** The wearing away of land surface by wind and water.

**FIGHTING POSITIONS:** Areas around the perimeter of a military encampment which are used for defending the encampment from approach by enemies. These can include foxholes, ditches and other obstacles used to defend the site.

**FLOODPLAIN:** Nearly flat plain along the course of a stream that is naturally subject to flooding.

**FUEL POINTS:** A temporary location utilized to refuel military vehicular traffic consisting of tank pods on wheeled vehicles or fuel bags burrowed into the ground.

**FUGITIVE DUST:** Particles light enough to be suspended in air which is not caught in a capture or filtering system. For this document, this refers to particles put in the air by moving vehicles and air movement over disturbed soils at construction sites.

**GEOLOGY:** Science which deals with the physical history of the earth, the rocks of which it is composed and physical changes in the earth.

**GEOMORPHIC FEATURES:** Pertaining to the features of the surface of the earth.

**GOLDEN COYOTE:** The two-week (summer) collective annual training and wartime mission training exercise of the South Dakota Army National Guard.

**GRAYWATER:** Term given to wastewater composed of wastewater from sinks, kitchens, and showers.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:** Substances or materials that are determined to pose an unreasonable risk to health, safety or property when transported in commerce.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE:** Waste, which when improperly treated, stored, transported or disposed of poses a substantial hazard to human health or the environment.

**HYDRIC:** Pertaining to or adapted to a moist or wet environment.

**LANE TRAINING:** Technique for training smaller units on one or more soldier, leader and collective tasks using specific terrain and facilities. The goal is to assure that units become tactically and technically proficient and confident to meet or exceed established standards set by the parent military organization.

**LEVEL III CULTURAL SURVEY:** An intensive inventory survey of the heritage resources of a given area. The purpose of these surveys is to identify and evaluate the significance of archaeological or historic resources that may be affected by a given undertaking.

**LSA (LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AREA):** Military encampment area consisting of tents, military vans, showers, portapots, kitchen, and a large vehicular parking area. The LSA is an area where military units receive logistical support to maintain operational readiness.

**MIGRATION:** The act of periodically passing from one region to another.

**MISSION-ESSENTIAL TRAINING:** Collective tasks which must be successfully performed if an organization is to accomplish its wartime mission(s).

**MITIGATION:** Measures taken to reduce adverse impacts on the environment.

**NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (NAAQS):** Standards which apply to outside air throughout the country which were established according to the Clean Air Act to protect health and welfare.

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA):** An act to declare a National policy which will encourage productive harmony between people and the environment, to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

**NOXIOUS WEED:** A plant species which becomes a pest.

**PARENT MATERIALS:** The original materials from which soil is broken down.

**PARTICULATES OR PARTICULATE MATTER:** Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes or smog found in air.

**PATROLLING:** Personnel orienting through unfamiliar territory on foot using maps, compasses and knowledge of simulated enemy situations.

**PHYSIOGRAPHY:** The systematic description of the physical geography of an area.

**PLANT COMMUNITY:** A vegetative complex unique in its combination of plants which occurs in particular locations under particular conditions.

**POLLUTANT:** A substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.

**POTABLE WATER:** Water which is suitable for drinking.

**RECLAMATION:** The act of bringing back or restoring to a previous state.

**REMEDICATION:** A long-term action that reduces or eliminates a threat to the environment.

**RIPARIAN AREA:** Areas adjacent to rivers and streams that have a high density, diversity and productivity of plant and animal species relative to nearby uplands. For the purposes of this document, they include all areas within a horizontal distance of 100 feet on either side of the middle of each water body.

**RULES OF OCCUPATION:** The list of regulations regarding the environmental parameters of an activity.

**SCARIFY:** To loosen the soil to assist in cultivation.

**SCREENING CRITERIA:** A series of established factors used to select alternatives in a given situation.

**SECONDARY CONTAINMENT:** A second stage of containment to keep contaminants from reaching the ground or groundwater.

**SEDIMENTARY ROCK:** Rock made up of particles deposited from suspension in water.

**SENSITIVE SPECIES:** Species designated by the Regional Forester of the Forest Service or the South Dakota Natural Heritage Database as species of concern. While these species may not be threatened or endangered at this time, because of man or nature they may become so in the near future.

**SIMULATED CHEMICAL OPERATIONS:** Activities in which personnel don protective gear under a simulated chemically contaminated environment.

**SPECIAL USE PERMIT:** A permit granted by the U.S. Forest Service to individuals or organizations to utilize National Forest lands and resources for purposes specified in the permit.

**SPECIES:** A reproductively isolated group of interbreeding populations of organisms.

**TACTICAL ENVIRONMENT:** An environment which allows for "real life" military training opportunities.

**TOC (TACTICAL OPERATION CENTER):** A point location (normally a tent) with the command and control resources to manage subordinate military units. The TOC is located within the bivouac area.

**TACTICAL TRAINING:** Training which simulates "real life" military situations for the purpose of increasing the trainee's capacity to perform specific military functions and tasks.

**TANK DITCH:** A ditch or trench over which tanks and other types of tactical vehicles cannot cross. These ditches are usually rectangular, approximately 1.5 meters deep, 3.3 meters wide, with the walls cut out at right angles.

**TOPOGRAPHY:** The relief features or surface configuration of an area.

**WATER PURIFICATION PROCESS:** The process by which drinking water is produced. The process commonly includes water collection, treatment, temporary storage and distribution.

**WETLANDS:** Areas that are regularly saturated by surface or ground water and, thus, are characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Examples include swamps, bogs, fens, marshes and estuaries.

**WILDLIFE HABITAT:** The set of living communities in which a wildlife population lives.

**WOODY PLANT:** A plant with wood comprising most of the stem and branches. Trees, shrubs and some vines are considered woody plants.

## **SECTION 10.0: LIST OF PREPARERS**

Mr. Thomas M. Hays, 28 years public agency natural and cultural resource management experience, NEPA documentation, Clean Water Act (404) regulatory actions and environmental baseline surveys. 12 additional years as Senior Environmental Scientist for Accipiter Biological Consultants. Bachelor of Science in Biology and History, minor Chemistry, 1975 Black Hills State University. M.S. 1997, Environmental Science, Duke University.

## **SECTION 11.0: AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED**

South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) - Directorate staff.

SDARNG - Plans, Operations and Training Office staff.

SDARNG - 109th Regional Support Group staff.

SDARNG - Facilities Management Office-Environmental Branch staff.

SDARNG - Environmental Quality Control Committee (EQCC) members.

National Guard Bureau - Directorate staff.

Department of Education and Cultural Affairs, Cultural Heritage Center, Pierre.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Division of Environmental Regulation, Pierre.

DENR, Air and Surface Water Program, Pierre.

DENR, Point Source Control Program, Pierre.

DENR, Water Rights Division, Pierre.

Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Wildlife Division, Natural Heritage Database, Pierre.

Department of Army, Corps of Engineers, Omaha District - Pierre Regulatory Office, Pierre.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Section, Pierre.

Quality Services, Rapid City.

Accipiter Biological Consultants, Portal, AZ.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service, Huron.

USDA, Forest Service, Supervisors Office staff, Chadron, Nebraska.



USDA, Forest Service, Hot Springs District Resource Specialists, Hot Springs.

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Crow Creek Tribal Council, Fort Thompson, SD; Mr. Lester Thompson, Jr.

Three Affiliated Tribes Business Council, New Town, ND; Mr. Marcus D. Wells, Jr.

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Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council, Rosebud, SD; Mr. Rodney Bordeaux

Yankton Sioux Tribal Council, Marty; Mr. Robert Cournoyer

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Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Fort Yates, ND; Mr. Ron His Horse is Thunder

Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, Belcourt, ND; Mr. Brady Grant

Lower Sioux Indian Community, Morton MN; Ms. Pam Halaverson

Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Lame Deer, MT; Mr. Conrad Fisher

Northern Arapaho Tribe, Ethete, WY; Ms. Joanne White

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)**

### **ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ANNUAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES GOLDEN COYOTE 2012-2016**

#### **A. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives**

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) conducts annual mission essential training, collective tasks which must be successfully performed if an organization is to accomplish its wartime mission(s). The purpose of these Annual Training exercises is to meet the military readiness objectives of the US Army. This training is required to fulfill the SDARNG's Federal mission of providing combat ready units to the National Defense effort in times of national emergency while, at the same time, ensuring the safety and security of the civilian community during peacetime. These objectives can be satisfied through the establishment of specific training activities at designated locations following a common set of plans and procedures as defined in Publication TC 25-8. An analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the preferred alternative and viable alternatives are documented in an environmental assessment entitled "Environmental Assessment for Army National Guard Annual Training Activities on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Nebraska National Forest: GOLDEN COYOTE 2012-2016", dated December 2011. This Environmental Assessment analyzes the environmental and social affects of the proposed action and viable alternatives. It has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC § 4321 to 4370e), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (CEQ Regulations, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), Environmental Analysis of Army Actions (32 CFR 651), and the June 2006 NGB NEPA Handbook.

Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is the SDARNG's Preferred Alternative. SDARNG is proposing to conduct mission essential training for approximately 3000 soldiers collectively referred to as "GOLDEN COYOTE," in the state during June 2012-2016. The Proposed Action discusses the following:

(1). Annual Training exercises are to be conducted at 9 locations comprising approximately 500 acres on Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Nebraska National Forest of western South Dakota in June 2012-2016. These activities will primarily occur within properties managed by the U.S. Forest Service (Nebraska National Forest). Based on the outcome of this NEPA process the U.S. Forest Service would issue a special use permit to the SDARNG to conduct these training activities on these properties which are under their control.

(2). Military tactical training activities are to be included in GOLDEN COYOTE. Such activities include patrolling, "lanes training", bridging, tank ditch development, tracked vehicle training, communication training, vehicle maintenance, aircraft support, water production and handling, as well as SDARNG activities associated with military encampments such as establishing perimeters and fighting positions as defined in Publication TC 25-8.

(3). Areas to be occupied during GOLDEN COYOTE 2012-2016 are discussed in detail in the Environmental Assessment.

Alternatives Considered. Four alternatives to the preferred alternative were considered in this environmental assessment:

(1). Under the no action alternative, the SDARNG would continue training on the Black Hills National Forest and Custer State Park. It would NOT train on the Nebraska National Forest.

(2). The second alternative involved eliminating the collective annual training (GOLDEN COYOTE) exercise and each unit would conduct separate annual training exercises at small, local training areas across the state or at other sites in the state. This alternative was considered but eliminated because properties meeting the screening criteria have not been identified elsewhere in the state to date. In 1995 GOLDEN COYOTE was held in the southeastern part of the state utilizing the “operations other than war” scenario (a training scenario in which interactions between military and civilian populations are expected and integrated into the operations plans of the exercise). However, the state parks and Boy Scout camps utilized during that exercise would not be suited to the normal wartime scenario under which the screening criteria would have to be met. Small, local training areas would present the same problems and many units do not have local training areas that meet their mission needs.

(3). The third alternative involved conducting annual training activities out-of-state. Out-of-state training for select units is a realistic alternative (mainly because South Dakota lacks adequate training areas for certain types of military missions), but annual training by the majority of SDARNG units would not be cost or time-effective.

(4). The fourth alternative involved SDARNG units bivouacking off of the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands (BGNG) Nebraska National Forest (NNF) and commuting to the BGNG to accomplish projects. This alternative was eliminated due to a lack of bivouac and tactical training space for the large number of troops involved in GOLDEN COYOTE activities, located within a reasonable commuting distance of potential project locations.

The preferred alternative, described above, is the most desirable alternative because it best meets the SDARNG’s screening criteria for establishing suitable locations for the SDARNG’s annual training exercises. These screening criteria are listed on page 5 of the Environmental Assessment document.

## **B. Environmental Analysis**

Environmental impacts on Land Use, Earth Resources, Air Quality, Noise, Water Resources, Cultural Resources, Biological Resources, Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste Spill Plans, Socioeconomic Resources, Energy and Cumulative Impacts are discussed in section four of the environmental assessment. Conducting annual training at 9 locations in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota starting in June of 2012 until June of 2016 will not significantly impact the environment. In no case have any significant impacts been identified to the baseline conditions in the Nebraska National

Forest Training Area from implementation of the proposed action. Therefore, no mitigation measures will be necessary to reduce any adverse environmental impacts to below significant levels. Minor or minor short-term impacts have been identified along with various measures or best management practices specifically listed or referenced for each training area to minimize the identified effects. These best management practices are detailed in Section 5.0 of the Environmental Assessment document. The Nebraska National Forest has agreed with these measures and that they will minimize negative impacts to the social and natural environment on these lands managed by them in a letter dated April 21, 2011 which may be located in Appendix C of the document.

### **C. Regulations**

There are no indications to suggest that the implementation of this proposal will violate Federal, State or local environmental laws or regulations.

### **D. Public Review and Comment**

Copies of the draft FNSI and Final Environmental Assessment will be available for review for 30 days following publication of the public notice. The draft FNSI and Final Environmental Assessment will be available at the Rapid City Public Library, the administrative office of the SDARNG in Rapid City, as well as at the U.S. Forest Service office in Hot Springs.

Comments on this environmental assessment should be addressed to: Robert D. Grams, Environmental Senior Scientist, South Dakota Army National Guard, 2823 West Main Street, Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186. Mr. Gram's office telephone number is (605) 737--6265. Written, substantive comments received at the above address within thirty (30) days of this published notice will be addressed.

### **E. Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI)**

After careful review of the environmental assessment, I have concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action would not generate significant controversy or have a significant impact on the quality of the natural or human environment. Per 32 CFR Part 651, the Final EA and draft FNSI will be made available for a 30 day public review and comment period. Once any public comments have been addressed and if a determination is made that the Proposed Action will have no significant impact, the FNSI will be signed and the action will be implemented. This analysis fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared, and the National Guard Bureau is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

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Date

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Michael Bennett  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
Chief, Environmental  
Programs Division

## **Rules of Occupation**

1. All bivouac and training sites will be regulated in accordance with the documents agreed upon by the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the South Dakota Army National Guard. Those documents include Master Agreement between Department of Defense and Department of Agriculture, concerning the use of National Forest System Lands for military activity, and the Supplemental Agreement between the South Dakota National Guard and the Nebraska National Forest (NNF), concerning the use of National Forest System Lands for military training. These documents shall serve as a checklist for all military personnel using these areas.
2. There is one administratively combined Forest Service District within the Nebraska National Forest, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands with total responsibility and authority given to the District Ranger. The main headquarters for the entire Nebraska National Forest is Chadron, Nebraska. Contact with USFS personnel will only be made and/or coordinated through officially designated National Guard Liaison Officers (LNO) assigned to each training area by SDNG Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ). Each project on USFS lands will have an individual appointed by the USFS, acting as the project inspector. Full cooperation with these officials is expected.
3. Individuals experiencing environmental incidents (noise/dust/complaints, POL spills, property damage, harassment of wildlife, etc.) will complete the SDARNG ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT REPORT FORM and forward a copy through the National Guard Liaison Officer to Headquarters, ATTN: SDNG-FMO-EV (South Dakota Facilities Management Office-Environmental Branch). The Forest Service Liaison Officer shall be notified immediately should any of these incidents occur on USFS lands. Promptness is required. Environmental Incident Report Forms are available from the DCSLOG (Logistics), your battalion headquarters, the LNO's, and/or SD NG-FMO-EV (605-737-6670). Responses to environmental incidents will be handled promptly and courteously.
4. Clearing of each bivouac/mission site will be the responsibility of each Base Cluster Commander, in coordination with the LNO. A rear detachment of two or three unit members will accompany the LNO in the inspection of the area and will accomplish any needed police. Arrangements to clear each area will be made so the site is cleared immediately after it will no longer be utilized. (Note: ALL EMPTY AMMO CASINGS AND RESIDUE SHALL BE POLICED AND REMOVED FROM ALL SITES).
5. Areas to be addressed by topic:
  - A. Air Quality
    1. All units will attempt to control dust at the bivouac/training/mission sites by watering and using slower traffic speeds.
    2. EPA requires nontactical type military motor vehicles to be equipped with emission control devices manufactured the year the vehicles were built.

### 3. NBC (Nuclear/Biological/Chemical) Smoke Training

- a. All requests for smoke training will be addressed to SDNG Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ).
- b. SDNG Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ) will coordinate with the LNO, county law enforcement and the District Ranger prior to the utilization of smoke. The District Ranger will approve the time, day and locations to be used for smoke training on the NNF.
- c. Weather conditions will be considered, reviewed and wind direction and intensity will be monitored each time smoke is to be used to avoid any conflict with other grassland users.
- d. Smoke will NOT be used prior to receiving approval from the LNO. Requests for approval to use smoke shall be made on a daily basis.
- e. The use of non-retrievable toxic materials will not be allowed.

### B. Noise

1. Air traffic patterns will be adjusted to avoid any residential, campground and /or other concentrated public use areas.
2. The use of blanks, training grenades, etc. within 150 yards (450 feet) of private residences/farmsteads, campgrounds, picnic areas and other noise sensitive areas will be prohibited.

### C. Soils

1. All holes resulting from training (i.e. foxholes, demolitions, ditches, etc.) will be filled in by the training unit. Topsoil will be stockpiled separate from subsoil and replaced when these holes are filled. All sandbags, plastic and other containers will be emptied into the hole and the sandbags, plastic and other materials removed from the site and disposed of in a state permitted sanitary landfill.
2. Training activities will cease or be delayed if precipitation is enough to cause soil damage (compaction and rutting). This determination will be made by the USFS in consultation with the LNO.
3. The reclamation of all disturbed and compacted ground will be the responsibility of the National Guard. Reclamation shall include the leveling of disturbed areas as nearly as possible to existing ground contours and seeding of disturbed sites with Nebraska National approved seed mixes. The extent of reclamation will depend greatly upon weather conditions and operational activities of the National Guard.

#### D. Vegetation

1. Any down or dead limbs, logs or debris may be utilized if not a part of a sensitive wildlife habitat area, part of expected salvage operations by a timber contractor or within 300 feet of a road closure gate. Snags (dead standing trees) shall not be felled for any reason.
2. Live timber will be protected from damage. Seedlings that are damaged by training activities will be cut flush with the ground and scattered. In some bivouac areas personnel may have to clear some cut slash or dead fall prior to occupation. At the cessation of training activities, these piles must be spread out to cover the areas and be made to lie within eighteen inches of the ground to aid in slash deterioration.
3. Riparian zones, vegetation areas adjacent to bodies of water, will not be disturbed by military vehicles and equipment. The specific shape (width and length) of riparian areas may vary, based on topography or other natural conditions, or based upon the advice of the Forest District resource specialists. However, it is generally understood that the riparian boundaries are at least one hundred fifty (150) feet in both directions from the edge of the spring/stream or drainage areas. Sensitive wetland areas will be flagged by the USFS to avoid damage by military equipment. Downed wood and debris should be left within the riparian zones unless determined to be a hazard.
4. Roads adjacent to riparian areas, wetlands and floodplains will not be treated with graywater.
5. If removal of trees is required for the safety of the aviators at helicopter landing zones, the unit will coordinate the mission with the LNO for approval by the USFS. The area will be rehabilitated as prescribed by the USFS.
6. Other specific areas to avoid within bivouac sites will be marked on the ground by the Forest Service.
7. All seed for reclamation shall be furnished by the National Guard. Disturbed areas shall be seeded with mixtures determined by the USFS.
8. Sites known to have infestations of noxious weeds will be avoided. Such sites will be marked on the ground by the Forest Service. In lieu of specific marking and avoidance, vehicles coming from the field will be cleaned to a level adequate for deployment at any location. This standard of cleaning is known as the "10-20 standard". Vehicle washing will be instituted for vehicles coming from outside the BGNG prior to deployment for annual training. Vehicle washing will also be instituted for vehicles operating within or near training sites known to have infestations of noxious weeds.

#### E. Wildlife/Livestock

1. Under no circumstances will personnel fire at, harass, haze, pursue, chase or collect wildlife/livestock during training exercises.

2. If Proposed Endangered, Threatened, and Sensitive (PET&S) animal species/habitat are found on the NNF, they will be reported immediately to Forest Service biologists for evaluation to avoid adverse impacts.
3. Helicopters will avoid flying over feedlots and other concentrations of livestock. (This includes flying over any farmstead where livestock may be confined in outdoor pens and/or buildings).
4. Raptor nesting sites, when found, will be evaluated by the appropriate resource specialists relative to the property jurisdiction to determine if special requirements are needed to protect the nesting areas.
5. Proposed activity areas will avoid known Prairie Dog towns. A buffer of at least ¼ mile will be maintained around Prairie Dog towns.
6. Known or suspected Ferruginous Hawk nesting sites will be avoided. At a minimum; a one half mile “No New Disturbance Zone” will be established around nesting sites. Within this area, potentially disturbing activities will be restricted to minimize disturbing nesting pairs or recently fledged young. In the event Ferruginous Hawk nesting areas are discovered after a proposed activity area is occupied, steps will be taken to vacate the areas without disturbing the nest sites.
7. Large, standing snags (dead or dying trees) and cliff faces on the various bivouac sites should be avoided.
8. A 150 foot buffer area will be maintained around all ponds, streams and drainages. Access to watering ponds by wildlife will not be cut off by troop activities.
9. Other specific areas to avoid within bivouac sites will be marked on the ground by the USFS.

#### F. Land Use/Traffic

1. A helicopter landing zone will be required for most training sites. Units will clearly mark the sites and have them approved by the aviation section
2. Wire obstacles will be clearly marked with white engineer tape, to avoid personnel injuries.
3. Log obstacles, abates, log cribs, knife rests may be used to assist in securing of training areas. These will be removed upon departure from the site unless the USFS wants the obstacles to remain. Access to bivouac sites and training sites will be provided on current road systems. Traffic will be maintained to minimize disturbance outside designated routes.
4. All roads not physically blocked or gated will be open to military traffic unless the USFS restricts use. If gated roads are allowed for use by the military the military units will see that the gates are closed when used. Coordination will be made with local USFS range managers to identify locations of cattle so that permittees can be notified when activities are occurring.



Military troops shall not prohibit permittees from driving cattle through occupied areas enroute to summer pastures unless safety issues are present.

5. In general, vehicle traffic will be confined to open trails and roads. Creation of access roads or trails within the training areas will be with the specific approval of the USFS.
6. Maintenance of all access routes will be the responsibility of the SDARNG.
7. Weight limits on posted roads/bridges shall be adhered to by the drivers.
8. Within the bivouac and training areas traffic will be limited. Each path created shall be reclaimed. Areas where traffic has created a new travel way shall be scarified to a depth of four inches, seeded and dragged. These areas will be slashed in to the extent possible with existing downed logs, limbs, etc. to discourage use.
9. Other specific areas to avoid within bivouac sites will be marked on the ground by the USFS.
10. Identify and follow established speed limits, except that the speed limit for military vehicles on two-lane gravel roads will be twenty-five miles per hour, unless a lower speed is posted.
11. Bivouac and training sites may be located adjacent to public use areas (roads, campgrounds, picnic areas, hiking/equestrian trails, swimming beaches, etc.) and /or private properties (rural homes, farmsteads, etc.). Adjacent landowners and people utilizing affected public parks and recreation areas will be notified of planned military activities by the USFS. The military shall not delay any civilian vehicle or personnel more than fifteen minutes.
12. The Liaison Officer is responsible for 3-day advance notification of the USFS, prior to any tactical use of an area.

## G. Water Quality

### 1. Surface Water:

- a. Unless required for emergency fire suppression events no water will be taken from wells, stock dams, lakes or streams that have not been approved by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the USFS and /or the National Guard Liaison Officer.
- b. No refueling operation will be conducted within three hundred feet of a stream or body of water.
- c. Water purification units will utilize grassy areas as set up points, when possible. No discharge of water from the purification units will be permitted into bodies of water without prior authority from DENR.

## 2. Groundwater

- a. Surface spills will be promptly remediated to prevent contamination of ground water.

## 3. Drinking Water

- a. Water purification units (ROWPU) will generate potable water for military units.

## 4. Wastewater

- a. Latrines: latrines, in the form of portapots, will be used in bivouac/project sites in conformance with South Dakota regulations (ARSD 74:53:01).
- b. Field Showers: The wastewater will be allowed to drain on to adjacent soils. Discharge shall be in conformance with South Dakota regulations (ARSD 74:53:01).
- c. Kitchens: Kitchen grease and graywater will be disposed of in conformance with South Dakota regulations (ARSD 74:53:01).
- d. Wastewater used for dust control will be only liquids and contain no waste products such as paper products or non-biodegradable products or backflush from ROWPU.

## H. Waste

### 1. Solid Waste:

- a. All solid waste (paper, cardboard, food, cigarette butts, plastics, sandbags, etc.) must be collected from the areas and disposed of in a state permitted sanitary landfill (ARSD 74:27).
- b. The use of blanks, “dummy” grenades, and pyrotechnics may be allowed. If used, ALL empty ammo cases and residue shall be policed and properly disposed. All unused devices and materials will be recovered.

### 2. POL/Hazardous Substances:

- a. Should any spill greater than one quart occur, the appropriate National Guard Liaison Officer and USFS will immediately be notified. Reporting and spill clean-up procedures will follow the South Dakota Army National Guard Spill Contingency Plan. The spill report forms found in this document will be completed and submitted to the National Guard Liaison Officer for forwarding to the SDARNG Environmental Office. Central collection points will be set up for contaminated soils at the bivouac clusters, fuel points, etc. Disposal will be coordinated with USPFO-W or Camp Rapid Training Center.
- b. For SDARNG units, properly contain, mark, label and turn in used POL and Hazardous waste (solvents, gas mask filters, mercury and lithium batteries, chemical detection kits, etc.)

generated during activities to an Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS) or the United States Property and Fiscal Office Warehouse (USPFO-W) for final disposition.

- c. For visiting units, coordinate/pay for disposal of used POL and hazardous waste generated during annual training or transport it back to your home station.
- d. The South Dakota Army National Guard Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Plan (June 2010) will be used as a guidance document for all handling, transporting, and disposing of hazardous waste.

#### I. Fire Protection

- 1. All bivouacking military units must have fire extinguishers.
- 2. All equipment, except turbo-charged equipment, and vehicles with emission control systems require spark arrestors.
- 3. The National Guard Liaison Officer and USFS will be notified immediately of fires. Every fire will be reported through the chain of command.
- 4. There will be NO campfires at bivouac, training or project sites.
- 5. Fire protection measures will be ensured at each helicopter landing zone.
- 6. During an ongoing fire, in the specified training area or adjacent areas, firefighting personnel shall have first priority for air space.
- 7. The USFS will make the determination on the use of ammunition/pyrotechnics. All applicable permits must be obtained and given to the appropriate personnel of the USFS for his/her approval prior to the use of ammunition/pyrotechnics. Restrictions may be issued based on fire danger.
- 8. If simulators or flares are used, the unit will insure the area is free of debris and that a fire control plan is in effect prior to discharge. Aerial flare parachutes will be retrieved if at all possible upon completion of each exercise.
- 9. Units may require the use of pyrotechnics (excluding live ammunition). The National Guard Liaison Officer will coordinate the requests with the USFS. Live ammunition will not be used in training exercises unless ranges for this purpose exist at a particular site. No ammo with tracers, incendiary shells or any other projectiles that can cause a fire will be used if the fire danger is high, very high or extreme.
- 10. No tear gas will be authorized for use on USFS land.
- 11. Fire extinguishers and basic fire fighting equipment will be immediately available in field kitchen areas.

12. All vehicles will be kept on established roads if fire danger is high, very high or extreme.
13. All bivouac, training or project sites will be patrolled for at least 24 hrs after the exercise if fire danger is high, very high or extreme.
14. Liaison Officers will notify the forest supervisor office and appropriate district ranger office if any devices/actions are used that could be mistaken for a fire; such as smoke generation.

#### J. Cultural Resources

1. The SDARNG will ensure cultural resource clearance for all bivouac and training sites on the NNF. The USFS will ensure cultural resource clearance for all Forest Service projects.
2. As a result of cultural investigations and previous finds in the area proposed for this project mitigation measures were put in place by the SD SHPO and NNF to avoid damaging these sites. These measures include avoiding all eligible and unevaluated sites and the establishment of an archeological NO GO zone on the Red Shirt areas. This area is designated on the map on page 28 of this document. The two track road which bisects this area has been agreed upon by the SDARNG, NNF and SD SHPO as the boundary between the project area and the NO GO zone.
3. If, during annual training operations, items of archaeological, historical, or paleontological interest are reported or discovered, know or unknown deposits of such items are disturbed, the SDARNG will immediately cease operations in the area and protect the site with a guard. The commander will then notify the National Guard Liaison Officer and will not resume operations in the areas until written approval is issued by the National Guard Liaison Officer. The National Guard Liaison Officer will have coordinated this release to proceed with operations, through the Nebraska National Forest ranger district archeologists or other appropriate personnel.
4. Collecting of any fossils or cultural artifacts is not allowed under any circumstances.

These rules are not all inclusive. The requirements can change to support the specific situation. These general rules will assist the units in planning for annual training in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. Should any questions arise, route them through the National Guard Liaison Officer or the USFS representative who will be monitoring your area.

# Emergency Spill Response Card

## PREPLANNING

Designate an Installation On-Scene Coordinator (IOSC)

Convoys - Convoy Commander

Refueling Points - OIC and/or NCOIC

Training Site - Unit Commander

### IOSC Responsibilities

Obtain a list of Petroleum, Oil & Lubricant (POL) products and hazardous materials being transported. Hazardous materials will have MSDS and Emergency Response Guides from The North American Emergency Response Guidebook.

Ensure absorbent material is readily available. Also, ensure shovels and other small tools are available if spill containment is possible. These materials should be placed in a vehicle that is not carrying hazardous materials or POL.

Review hazardous materials list, associated hazards, and spill response measures in safety briefing.

## SPILL RESPONSE MEASURES

Report spill immediately to IOSC

Identify the spilled substance and evaluate its hazards. RESIST THE URGE TO RUSH IN. Don't become an accident statistic or a part of the problem. IF IN DOUBT, STAY OUT!

Secure the scene. Set up an adequate perimeter to assure the safety of people and the environment.

If possible, without exposure of personnel to hazards, contain the spill using whatever means available. Always enter the spill area from upwind, uphill, and upstream. Prevent spills from flowing into drainage ditches, storm and sewer drains, and bodies of water. Earthen fill dams or sandbags can be effective.

REPORTING SPILLS/EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Agency	Commercial	DSN
SDARNG Environmental Office	(605) 737-6670/6265/ 6231/6502/	747-6670/6265/ 6231/6502/
SDARNG Training Site	(605) 737-6201/6699	747-6201/6699
SDARNG Camp Rapid South Gate	(605) 737-6024 (24 Hr #)	747-6024
SDARNG Joint Operations Center (JOC)	(605) 737-6032	747-6032
SD Division of Emergency and Disaster Services	(605) 773-3231 (24 Hr #)	
Contact state police immediately in the event of a spill on the highway		
South Dakota State Police	(605) 773-3536 (24 Hr #)	
If out-of-state and a spill occurs on a highway, contact the area state police or call the National Response Center		
National Response Center	(800) 424-8802	

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

**As a minimum, post one copy of this document in the Convoy Commander's vehicle, at all refueling points, and in all vehicles transporting fuel or hazardous materials (i.e. bore cleaner, solvent, thinner, oil, etc).**

Questions or comments relating to this document should be addressed to the SDARNG Environmental Office.

### Spill or Hazardous Substance Release Report Form

Person Reporting: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Commander: \_\_\_\_\_

Person notified at CFMO-ENV: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency or Incident: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Summary

Source of Spill: \_\_\_\_\_ Material Spilled: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity Spilled: \_\_\_\_\_ Date and Time of Spill: \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of Spill: \_\_\_\_\_

What was the spill area surface made of? \_\_\_\_\_

Was anyone injured? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Was there any equipment damage? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Was evacuation required? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

How was the spill contained? \_\_\_\_\_

How was the spill cleaned up? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the Fire Department called? \_\_\_\_\_

Was the spill response contractor called? \_\_\_\_\_

List any additional notifications made: \_\_\_\_\_

Was there a public reaction? Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Plans to prevent recurrence: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and fax this report immediately to the CFMO-ENV. Maintain a copy at the facility.

Department of Military and Veterans Affairs

Phone: (605) 737-6670/6231/6502

Attn: Environmental Office

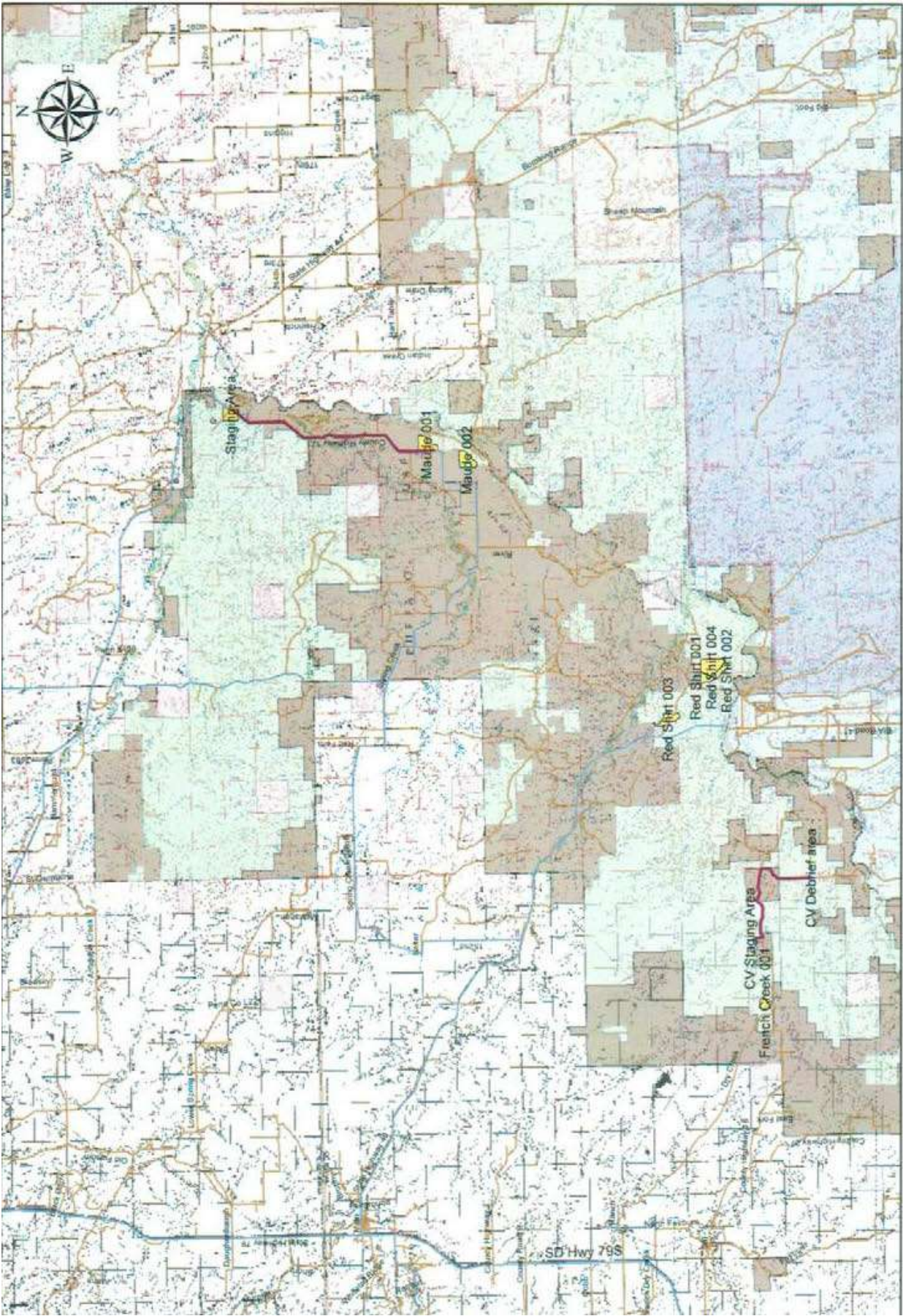
Fax: (605) 737-6204

2823 West Main Street

Rapid City, SD 57702-8186/4789

EMERGENCY TREATMENT AND INCIDENT NOTIFICATION		
<b>AUTHORITY:</b>	AR 40-1, AR 190-45 and AR 385-10. Proponent Agency is NGSD-TAG-SSO.	
<b>PRINCIPAL PURPOSE:</b>	Reporting Emergency Treatment and Incident Information.	
PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT		
NOTIFICATION WILL BE REPORTED WITHIN 24 HOURS		
TO: SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD JOINT OPERATIONS CENTER (NGSD-OPS-JOC) (COPY TO INTERMEDIATE HQ'S i.e. CO, BN, GP or BDE)	UNIT PHONE NUMBER: _____	
UNIT: _____	DSN NUMBER: _____	UIC: _____
UNIT POINT OF CONTACT: _____		PHONE NUMBER: _____
<b>ACCIDENT INFORMATION:</b>		
DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT: _____		_____
WHERE DID THE INCIDENT OCCUR?: (Distance and /or direction from city, highway and /or mile marker)		
_____		
CLOSEST CITY: _____	STATE: _____	ZIP CODE: _____
NARRATIVE: (Explain how and what happened)		
_____		
_____		
_____		
<b>PERSONNEL INVOLVED:</b> (When multiple persons are injured, complete a form for each person)		
RANK/GRADE: _____	NAME (Last, First, MI) _____	
DUTY STATUS: <input type="checkbox"/> IDT <input type="checkbox"/> ADOS <input type="checkbox"/> AT <input type="checkbox"/> AGR <input type="checkbox"/> SAD <input type="checkbox"/> TECH <input type="checkbox"/> CMLIAN <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	(Explain): _____	
DESCRIBE INJURY: _____		
<b>STATUS AFTER TREATMENT:</b>		
RETURN TO WORK:	DIDNT RETURN TO WORK:	
<input type="checkbox"/> NO RESTRICTIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> RELEASED TO UNIT, NOT TO WORK	
<input type="checkbox"/> WITH RESTRICTIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> KEPT OVERNIGHT	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ADMITTED	
	<input type="checkbox"/> SENT HOME	
<b>EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE INFORMATION:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> ARMY VEHICLE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMBAT VEHICLE	<input type="checkbox"/> GSA VEHICLE/FLEET VEHICLE/NTV
<input type="checkbox"/> MOTORCYCLE	<input type="checkbox"/> POV CAR/TRUCK	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLOSIVES
<input type="checkbox"/> CIVILIAN VEHICLE		
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		
REMARKS (Model number of equipment) _____		
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATE OF DAMAGE:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 2,000,000 OR MORE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50,000 TO \$ 500,000	<input type="checkbox"/> LESS THAN \$ 2,000
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500,000 TO \$ 2,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 2,000 TO \$ 50,000	<input type="checkbox"/> NO DAMAGE
<b>COMMANDER CRITICAL ISSUE INVOLVING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> AA&E	<input type="checkbox"/> NIGHT VISION DEVICE	<input type="checkbox"/> HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL
<input type="checkbox"/> SENSITIVE ITEMS	<input type="checkbox"/> RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS	<input type="checkbox"/> FACILITY FIRE

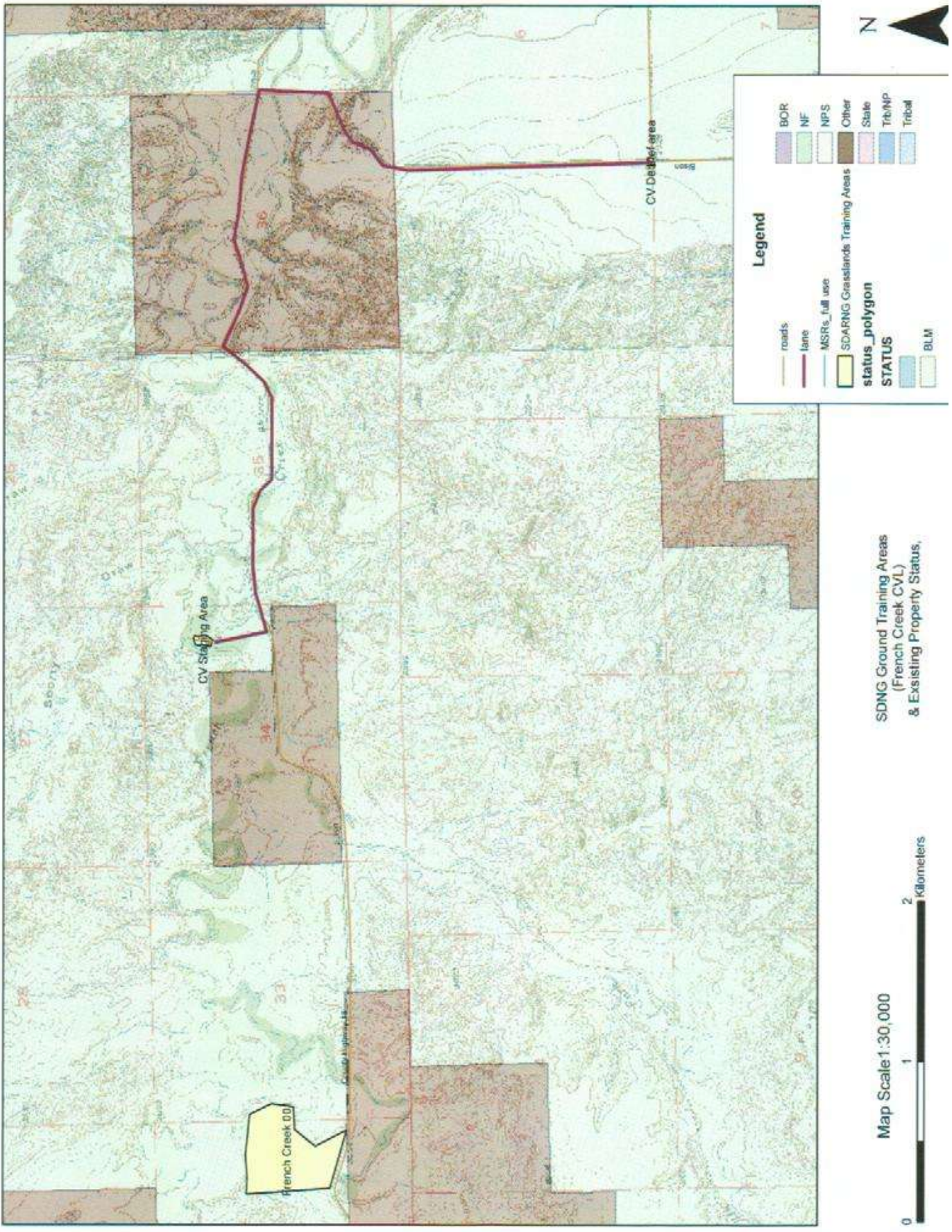


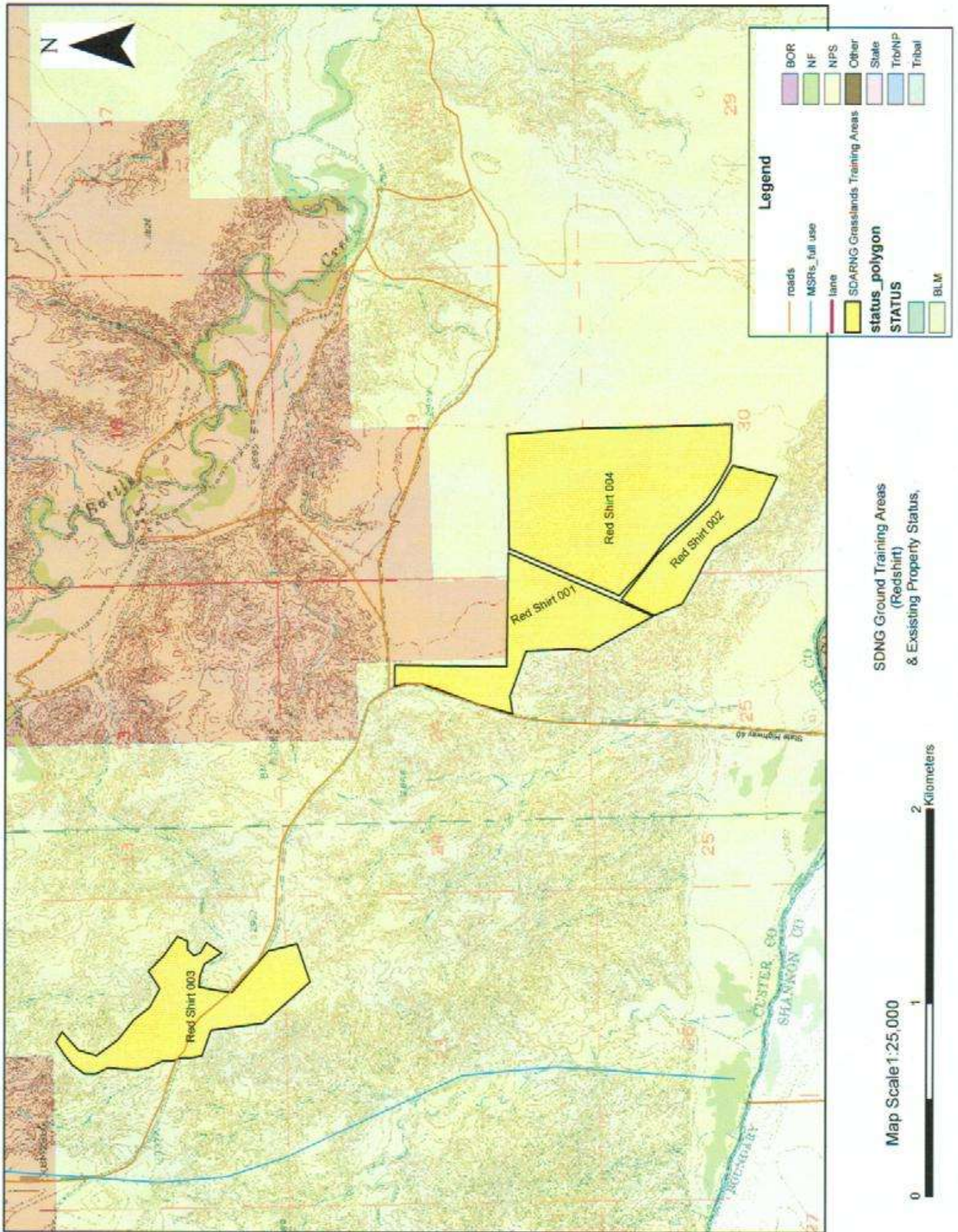


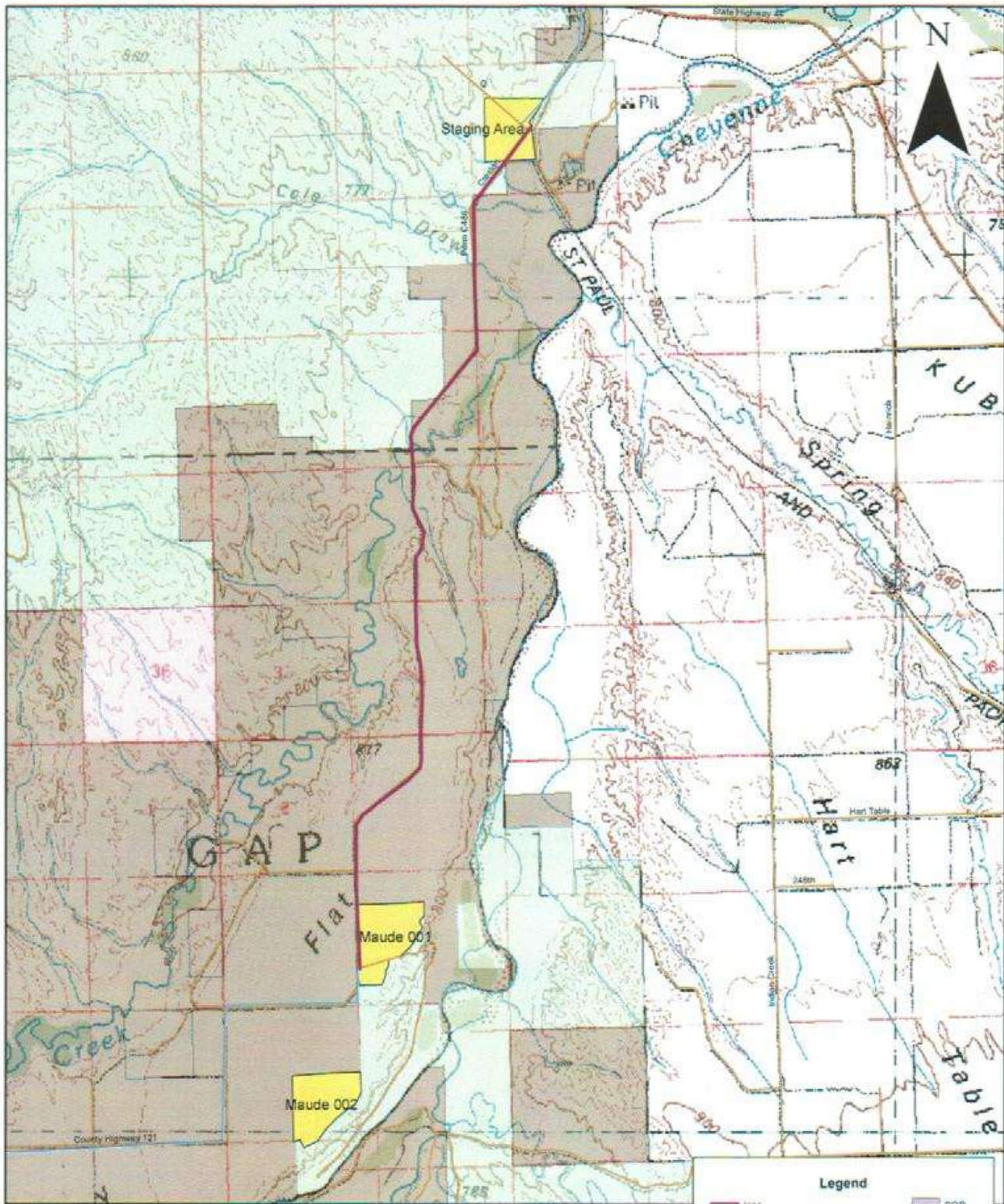
SDNG Ground Training Areas  
& Existing Property Status

Map Scale 1:241,212









Map Scale 1:62,000



SDNG Ground Training Areas  
Maude / Creston CVL  
& Existing Property Status,



MASTER AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
AND  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
CONCERNING

THE USE OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS FOR MILITARY ACTIVITY

I. PREFACE

A. National Forest System lands provide for the use and enjoyment of the public and are managed under multiple use and sustained yield concepts. The use of these lands for military training activities is within the statutory authority of the Act of June 4, 1897.

B. The availability of National Forest System lands to the Department of Defense provides a variety of geographic and topographic settings to conduct training activities. This is an important resource for developing a strong National defense.

C. Therefore, training activities on National Forest System lands will be authorized when compatible with other uses and in conformity with applicable forest plan(s), provided the Department of Defense determines and substantiates that lands under its administration are unsuitable or unavailable.

D. This agreement does not apply to the use of airspace over National Forest System lands unless directly associated with the land based training.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Master Agreement is to establish procedures for planning, scheduling and conducting authorized military activities on National Forest System lands. It also establishes policies and procedures for supplemental agreements and special use authorizations which are required for all Department of Defense activities (including National Guard and Reserve activities) using National Forest System lands. This agreement replaces the Joint Policy Statements between the Department of Agriculture and (a) the Department of the Army signed July 3, 1951; the Department of the Navy, signed February 19, 1952; and the Department of the Air Force, signed September 12, 1951, which are hereby rescinded.

III. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

To facilitate the orderly development, management, and administration of National Forest System lands and to provide suitable and appropriate lands to further the National defense effort, the Department of Defense and the Department of Agriculture jointly agree:

A. Availability of Department of Defense Lands - Prior to requesting use of National Forest System lands, the Department of Defense will determine if lands administered by the Department of Defense are available and suitable. In all cases where a special use authorization or supplemental agreement to use National Forest System lands is proposed, Department of Defense will forward its analysis and determination as to the unsuitability or unavailability of DoD land to the affected Forest Supervisor.

B. Planning For the Use of National Forest System Lands - Military training activities on National Forest System lands are actions which require the analysis of environmental impact in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutory and regulatory requirements. The Department of Defense and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, will cooperate to accomplish appropriate NEPA compliance. The lead agency concept in 40 CFR 1501.5 will be applied to the process except in cases involving classified activities. In such cases, the Department of Defense Component will be the lead agency.

C. Management

1. Periodically conduct joint reviews of selected activities for the purpose of: (a) determining the effectiveness of supplemental agreements so that the management and mission of both agencies are accomplished; (b) identifying and recommending solutions to existing and potential problems; and (c) monitoring the implementation and effectiveness of environmental mitigation measures.
2. Jointly identify rights-of-way or other authorizations required to implement supplemental agreements or special use authorizations.
3. Have their respective agents mutually refer unresolved points of disagreement to the next higher management level for resolution.

IV. DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

IT IS AGREED THAT:

A. The Department of Defense Components will:

1. Provide to the affected Forest Supervisor the analysis and determination as to the unsuitability or unavailability of Department of Defense lands.
2. Involve the Forest Service designated representative in the initial planning stages of activities proposed on National Forest System lands.
3. During initial planning, provide an unclassified description of proposed activities to the affected Forest Supervisor and cooperate in fulfilling requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and conducting appropriate environmental analyses.
4. For each training activity, identify a representative of the Department of Defense to serve as liaison to the Forest Service.

5. Cooperate with Forest Service representatives to comply with the terms of this Master Agreement, supplemental agreements, and special use authorizations.
6. Reimburse the Forest Service for costs directly attributable to military training activities, subject to the availability of appropriated funds. This may include, but is not limited to, the preparation and processing of applications, preparation of environmental documents, administration of special use authorizations, and Forest Service liaison officers' time.
7. Explore land interchange as an alternative or mitigating measure when military training activities are not in conformance with the affected Forest Plan.
8. Make every effort to avoid degradation of National Forests and provide for restoration as agreed in the special use authorization.
9. Provide for mitigation measures identified in the environmental analysis and agreed in the special use authorization.

B. The Department of Agriculture, Forest Service will:

1. Make National Forest System lands available for military training activities when such activities can be made compatible with other uses and conform with applicable forest management plans, provided the Department of Defense determines and substantiates that lands under its administration are unsuitable or unavailable.
2. Cooperate with the Department of Defense to expedite decisions associated with military training activities on National Forest System lands.
3. Fully consider all proposals and, when necessary, develop alternatives that may meet the needs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.
4. Ensure that applicable forest management plans include military training activities. Requirements for these activities should be coordinated with the Department of Defense during formulation and development of those plans.

V. SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION

The special use authorization for a Department of Defense activity on National Forest System lands requires, but need not be limited to, the following:

1. Identification of National Forest System lands required for the activity.
2. Duties and responsibilities of each agency in the planning process.
3. Procedures for resolving issues, misunderstandings, or disputes.
4. Identification of rights-of-way and other authorizations which may be needed outside the activity area.

5. Incorporate, develop, or reference a basic plan covering monitoring, fire protection and control, public health and safety, recreation, watershed, minerals, timber, grazing, fish, wildlife, public notification, and other appropriate features.

6. Assign responsibilities for restoration of the site. Restoration shall be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

7. Provide procedures for emergency cessation of military activities where necessary to protect public health, safety or the environment.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENTS

For recurring Department of Defense activities on Forest Service lands, supplemental agreements to this master agreement may be developed. Within 12 months following the effective date of this agreement, representatives of the Departments of Defense and Agriculture, Forest Service, shall agree upon a schedule for the revision of any existing supplemental agreement which requires modification to conform with this master agreement.

VII. DELEGATION

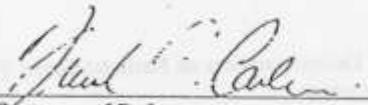
Authorized representatives of the Forest Service and the Department of Defense may execute special use authorizations and enter into supplemental agreements within the scope of this document.

VIII. MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

This agreement may be modified or amended upon request of either Department and the concurrence of the other. This agreement may be terminated with 60-day notice of either party.

IX. IMPLEMENTATION

This agreement becomes effective when signed by both parties.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Defense

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Agriculture

Date: 22 SEP 1988

Date: Sept 30 1988



85-MU-11020700-002  
NO EXP

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST, USDA FOREST SERVICE  
AND  
SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD

Pursuant to the Joint Policy Agreement between the Department of the Army and the Department of Agriculture, dated July 3, 1951, relating to the use of National Forest System lands for defense purposes, the following supplemental Agreement is hereby entered into between the aforementioned parties, covering lands within the Nebraska National Forest located within the State of South Dakota (Buffalo Gap and Ft. Pierre National Grasslands).

WHEREAS, the South Dakota National Guard, in the interest of national defense, desires to conduct training and maneuver exercises on lands within the Nebraska National Forest, State of South Dakota.

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is agreeable to authorizing the South Dakota National Guard to use National Forest System lands for this purpose.

NOW THEREFORE, the USDA Forest Service, herein referred to as the Forest Service acting by and through the Forest Supervisor, Chadron, Nebraska and the South Dakota National Guard herein referred to as the National Guard, acting by and through the TAG-SD agree as follows:

A. THE FOREST SERVICE WILL:

1. Grant permission by Letter of Authorization to the National Guard for use of National Forest System lands for military training and exercises on a specific request and approval basis, subject to limitations included herein and as may be necessary for specific requests.
2. Authorize temporary occupancy for incidental type occupancies such as retrieval of equipment and establishing temporary targets, essential to conduct training flights.
3. Notify the National Guard Contact Officer of the fire danger, as applicable to Part B.12 of this agreement.

4. Provide a letter of release from further responsibility after each training or maneuver exercise when cleanup and remedial actions have been accomplished.
  5. Retain administrative jurisdiction of the land and its resources.
- B. THE SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD WILL:
1. Prior to each planned occupancy of National Forest System lands, designate, in writing, a Project Liaison Officer who will be responsible for maintaining continuity in carrying out the provisions of this Agreement and establishing liaison with the District Ranger of the affected District.
  2. Through its Project Liaison Officer, meet with the District Ranger of the affected District to jointly inspect the proposed training or maneuver area and agree on all needs and restraints. The same parties will jointly inspect the area near the end of the exercise. Remedial action to restore damaged areas or to clean-up areas will be agreed upon.
  3. The following documents will be submitted to the Forest Service at least 30 days prior to occupancy of National Forest System lands:
    - a. Finalized request for training on National Forest System lands, including specific training activities and periods of occupancy intended.
    - b. Report on the joint inspection of the proposed training or maneuver area made by the Project Liaison Officer and the affected District Ranger, including a listing of agreements made concerning needs and restraints.
    - c. Cultural Survey Report covering all areas that may receive soil disturbance.
    - d. Environmental Assessment Report addressing the proposed exercise (when requested).
  4. Recognize that use is made of National Forest System lands under the principle of multiple-use and agree to joint use by the public of the maneuver area and roads subject to such restrictions as the District Ranger determines necessary. The National Guard will not interfere with any member of the general public, either on the maneuver or training area or on access roads leading to the area.
  5. Confine vehicular travel to specified roads wherever feasible and limit cross-country vehicle travel to essential activities.
  6. Will not encroach on privately owned land and will recognize any outstanding rights within the maneuver or training area.
  7. Comply with applicable South Dakota laws regarding hunting, fishing, or trapping of wildlife.

8. Comply with the regulations of the Department of Agriculture governing the use of National Forest System lands, observance of all sanitary laws and regulations applicable to the premises, and restoration of the bivouac sites, roads, and actual maneuver portions to a neat and orderly condition.
9. Prevent any pollution of waters and the watershed resulting from its action thereon. Sanitary regulations to be strictly adhered to include.
  - a. Provide and use chemical toilets at base camps and all secondary campsites. The tanks will be dumped in approved sewage disposal systems.
  - b. Require the use of "Cat holes" in dispersed field areas. These will be at least one foot deep, covered after use and located no closer than 100 feet from streams, springs, drainage bottoms, roads and private land.
  - c. Return all cans, paper and other trash from field maneuver or training areas to the base camp for hauling to approved dumps.
  - d. Remove all garbage, trash and other debris from all camp areas by hauling to approved dumps. Burying even small quantities shall not be permitted.
  - e. Maintain control of and remove all training material, simulated weapon devices and equipment to insure that none of these are left on National Forest System lands.
10. Take all reasonable precautions to prevent and suppress forest fires and shall not dispose of any material by burning in open fires during the closed season established by law or regulations without obtaining the written consent of the District Ranger.
11. Take immediate action with troops and equipment for suppressing forest fires within and adjacent to training or maneuver areas and immediately notify the District Ranger. All unplanned or unpermitted fires must be reported to the District Ranger, regardless of location.
12. Exercise the following rules and regulations governing the use of campfires and smoking on National Forest System lands when notified by the District Ranger of a very high fire danger:
  - a. Campfires will not be permitted outside the main bivouac area.
  - b. Permit smoking only while resting and in a safe place, such as on large rocks, gravel bars, within large bare soil areas or in fireproof camps.
  - c. Require field stripping of cigarettes and holding of hot tobacco ashes and matches until they are cold or extinguishing them in a cleared area by mixing with mineral soil.

C. THE FOREST SERVICE AND THE NATIONAL GUARD MUTUALLY AGREE:

1. The Forest Supervisor of the Nebraska National Forest is the Forest Service Officer responsible for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement. Unless the National Guard is notified in writing otherwise by the the Forest Supervisor, the District Ranger is the representative of the Forest Service to (a) receive notices in regard to performance under this agreement, and (b) take action in relation to this agreement. The term "District Ranger" as otherwise used in this agreement means the Forest Service line officer responsible to the Forest Supervisor for administering a specific geographical subunit (District) of the Nebraska National Forest.
2. That the Directorate of Plans, Operations and Training will serve as the National Guard agency responsible for negotiating this Agreement and any amendments thereto.
3. All National Guard training and maneuver exercises on the Nebraska National Forest will be arranged through the DPOT-SD ARNG. DPOT who will designate a representative as the Point of Contact to the Forest Service and will be responsible for maintaining continuity in carrying out the provisions of this Agreement.
4. The area included in this Agreement contains tracts of private lands, valid claims, and other ownerships not under Forest Service jurisdiction, as well as areas under other current permits from the Forest Service. It is not the intent of this Agreement to authorize in any way the use of, or trespass over, such areas, nor in any way to modify or interfere with the free use of such lands. The Forest Service will not be responsible for any damages or loss of property, including death or injury to persons and livestock and other incidents which may occur as a result of Army activities in connection with this Agreement.
5. That the training and maneuver area may be restricted, as to its use by the National Guard, or be relocated in some other area within the Nebraska National Forest, at the discretion of the Forest Service. The selection of an alternative area will be made jointly between the Forest Service and the National Guard.
6. This Agreement does not authorize the cutting of any timber or other standing trees without prior approval of the District Ranger, but downed trees may be used where necessary in connection with the training activities.
7. No permanent structures are authorized by this Agreement and any area of concentrated use requiring temporary improvements on or to the land will be approved in writing, in advance, by the District Ranger. Upon completion of each training or maneuver exercise, such areas and their associated improvements shall be suitably obliterated or removed to the satisfaction of the District Ranger. "Improvements", as used herein, include but are not limited to temporary building, tents, roads, bridges, latrines and topographic changes of all kinds.

8. No live ammunition will be used or carried onto National Forest System lands. No incendiary devices or blank ammunition will be permitted, except by special authorization; however, flares may be used without authorization in emergency situations. The use of explosive devices will be restricted to specified areas agreed upon in advance by the District Ranger and the National Guard. All areas containing dangerous materials or explosives will be posted as such by the National Guard and said materials and explosives are to be removed from National Forest System lands immediately upon completion of the exercise.
9. That no charge will be made for this use, under 36 CFR 251.57(c).
10. This agreement will remain in effect until terminated by mutual consent of both parties, provided that it may be reviewed periodically to assure its compliance with all existing laws and regulations governing such use of National Forest System lands.
11. This Agreement may be terminated upon breach of any of the conditions or at the discretion of the Chief of the Forest Service. In addition, when it is determined by the Forest Service that use by the National Guard under this Agreement is in conflict with existing permitted uses, or is creating dual use which is not compatible with proper land management, existing Letters of Authorization will be modified or terminated by the Forest Service.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement as of the last date written below.

USDA FOREST SERVICE

4/18/85  
Date

By Robert H. Storch  
Forest Supervisor

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD

22 APR 85  
Date

By Paul D. [Signature]  
The Adjutant General

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN  
THE SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD  
AND  
THE BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST  
CONCERNING  
USE OF NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS FOR MILITARY TRAINING

I. PREFACE

- A. This agreement is made in accordance with the master agreement between the Department of Defense and Department of Agriculture, dated September 30, 1988.
- B. Annual training activities under the command of the South Dakota National Guard hereafter referred to as the National Guard are anticipated on Forest System Lands within the Black Hills National Forest hereafter referred to as the Forest Service.
- C. A like training experience which is available within the Black Hills National Forest is not known to exist on any Department of Defense lands. Practical, useful work is available to enhance the skills of the people in the National Guard.
- D. Work identified to be completed is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Land and Resource Management Plan of the Black Hills National Forest. Appropriations to complete this work by other means is not available in the foreseeable future.

II. PURPOSE

This agreement is made to identify responsibilities and procedures for coordination of National Guard training activities on Forest System Lands.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

IT IS AGREED THAT

- A. THE FOREST SERVICE AND NATIONAL GUARD WILL JOINTLY PARTICIPATE IN AN ANNUAL COORDINATION MEETING TO:
  1. Confirm the non availability of Department of Defense lands for needed National Guard training activities.
  2. Confirm the non availability of funds to complete Forest Service projects.
  3. Identify equipment and manpower expected to be utilized by both agencies for proposed activities.
  4. Identify costs of training activities and funding reimbursements to be made.

5. Identify the planned dates for training activities.
6. Prepare an action plan to conform with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and other statutory and regulatory requirements.

A. THE FOREST SERVICE WILL:

1. Designate a representative as Coordination Officer to the National Guard. This representative will be responsible for carrying out the provisions of agreements between the National Guard and Forest Service. The National Guard shall be notified in writing who the Forest Service representative will be and where he can be contacted. The National Guard will be notified promptly upon a change in representative.
2. Designate liaison officers to the National Guard. Liaison officers will be responsible to coordinate completion of individual projects and restoration of bivouac areas.
3. Fulfill requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act for project activities as detailed in the annual action plan.
4. Retain administrative control of the land and its products.
5. Authorize use of Forest system Lands within the terms of this agreement free of charge under authority of 36 C.F.R. 251.57(c)

B. THE NATIONAL GUARD WILL:

1. Designate a representative as Coordination Officer to the Forest Service. This representative will be responsible for carrying out the provisions of agreements between the National Guard and Forest Service. The Forest Service shall be notified in writing who the National Guard representative will be and where he can be contacted. The Forest Service will be notified promptly upon a change in representative.
2. Designate liaison officers to the Forest Service. Liaison officers will be responsible to coordinate completion of individual projects and insure restoration of bivouac areas.
3. Fulfill requirements of the National Environmental Protection Act for bivouac areas and other National Guard activities as detailed in the annual action plan.
4. Comply with regulations of the Department of Agriculture and laws which are applicable to the area.

5. Install and maintain sanitation improvements in accordance with County, State, or Federal codes and maintain areas in a neat and orderly condition by frequent policing and disposing of debris.
6. Take all reasonable precautions to prevent damage to the land, its products and improvements. All areas and improvements which have been damaged by this use, shall be restored to satisfaction of the Forest Service liaison officer, to as near the original state as is reasonably possible. This may include but is not limited to smoothing and seeding of area where the ground cover is destroyed, cleanup of the used area, and repair of damage to roads, trails and other improvements.
7. Complete Forest Service projects to the acceptable level identified in the project plans and complete restoration of bivouac areas.
8. Restrict the use of live ammunition and other explosives and incendiary devices to limited areas, agreed upon in writing, in advance. Upon completion of use, such areas will be thoroughly searched for unexploded rounds and other hazardous residue. All areas containing dangerous material shall be so posted by the National Guard.
9. The National Guard shall hold the Forest Service harmless for accidents resulting from this use by the National Guard.

IV. MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

This agreement may be modified or amended upon request of either party and the concurrence of the other. This agreement may be terminated with 60-day notice of either party.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

This agreement becomes effective when signed by both parties.

BLACK HILLS NATIONAL FOREST

SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD

BY: *Arnold L. Kopp* 4/2/91  
 FOREST SUPERVISOR DATE

BY: *Howard J. [Signature]* 2/17/91  
 ADJUTANT GENERAL DATE





DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

August 6, 2010

Pete Gober  
Project Review  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
420 South Garfield Avenue/Suite 400  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

Dear Mr. Gober:

This letter and the attached map are in reference to information pertinent to threatened and endangered plant and animal species found in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of South Dakota.

The attached map shows where Army National Guard units will be bivouacking and conducting tactical exercises during the annual training periods of June 2011-2015. Please search your records for listed species within and surrounding the designated sites. Your findings will be incorporated into an environmental document that is presently being developed.

Your prompt attention to this request is certainly appreciated. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me at (605) 737-6265. Thank you.

Sincerely,

R.D. Grams  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental Programs  
South Dakota Army National Guard

Enclosure



RECEIVED

AUG 25 2010

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE

2823 West Main Street

Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8188

(605) 737-6601

FAX (605) 737-6204

August 6, 2010

Pete Gober  
Project Review  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
420 South Garfield Avenue/Suite 400  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

This constitutes a report of the Department of  
the Interior prepared in accordance with the  
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C.  
661 et seq.). We have reviewed and have  
NO OBJECTION to this proposed project.

9/7/10  
Date

*Scott Simon*  
Supervisor

Dear Mr. Gober:

This letter and the attached map are in reference to information pertinent to threatened and endangered plant and animal species found in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of South Dakota.

The attached map shows where Army National Guard units will be bivouacking and conducting tactical exercises during the annual training periods of June 2011-2015. Please search your records for listed species within and surrounding the designated sites. Your findings will be incorporated into an environmental document that is presently being developed.

Your prompt attention to this request is certainly appreciated. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me at (605) 737-6265. Thank you.

Sincerely,

RD Gramis  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental Programs  
South Dakota Army National Guard

Enclosure

9 SEP '10 AM 9:46



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

August 6, 2010

Brian Gustafson  
Point Source Control Program  
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources  
Joe Foss Building  
523 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501-3181

Dear Mr. Gustafson:

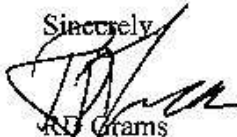
The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the types of areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on air quality from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact air quality at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact me at (605) 737-6265. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,  


RJ Grams  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental Programs  
South Dakota Army National Guard

Enclosures

8 SEP '10 AM 10:11



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

August 6, 2010

RECEIVED

AUG 25 2010

AIR QUALITY PROGRAM

Brian Gustafson  
Point Source Control Program  
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources  
Joe Foss Building  
523 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501-3181

Dear Mr. Gustafson:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the types of areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on air quality from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact air quality at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact me at (605) 737-6265. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

AIR QUALITY DETERMINATION

It appears, based on the information, that the project will have little or no impact on the air quality in this area. This project is approved.

Approved By: *[Signature]*

Date: 9/3/2010

(605) 773-6038 Fax: (605) 773-5286

South Dakota Department of Environment  
And Natural Resources

Enclosures

Sincerely,

RD Grams

Senior Scientist

Environmental Programs

South Dakota Army National Guard



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

August 6, 2010

Bill Markley  
Ground Water Quality Administrator  
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources  
Joe Foss Building  
523 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501-3181

Dear Mr. Markley:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the types of areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on groundwater resources from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact groundwater quality at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact me at (605) 737-6265. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,  


J.D. Grams  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental Programs  
South Dakota Army National Guard

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

August 6, 2010

Jeanne Goodman  
Surface Water Quality Administrator  
Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources  
Joe Foss Building  
523 E. Capitol  
Pierre, SD 57501-3181

Dear Ms. Goodman:


The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the types of areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on surface water resources from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact surface water quality at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact me at (605) 737-6265. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,  
  
RD Grams  
Senior Scientist  
Environmental Programs  
South Dakota Army National Guard

Enclosures



**DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT  
and NATURAL RESOURCES**

PMB 2020  
JOE FOSS BUILDING  
523 EAST CAPITOL  
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182  
denr.sd.gov

October 15, 2010

South Dakota Army National Guard  
Dept. of Military and Veteran Affairs  
Attn: R D Grams  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186

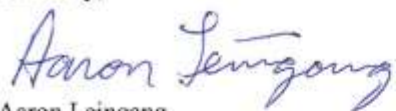
Dear Mr. Grams:

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reviewed the proposed project concerning the South Dakota Army National Guards 2011-2015 Golden Coyote field exercises. The DENR finds that this construction, using conventional construction techniques, should not cause violation of any statutes or regulations administered by the DENR based on the following recommendations:

1. At a minimum and regardless of project size, appropriate erosion and sediment control measures must be installed to control the discharge of pollutants from the construction site. Any construction activity that disturbs an area of one or more acres of land must have authorization under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. Contact the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for additional information or guidance at 1-800-SDSTORM (737-8676) or [www.state.sd.us/denr/des/surfacewater/stormwater.htm](http://www.state.sd.us/denr/des/surfacewater/stormwater.htm).
2. A Surface Water Discharge (SWD) permit may be required if any construction dewatering should occur as a result of this project. Please contact this office for more information.
3. Wetlands and tributaries may be impacted by this project. These water bodies are considered waters of the state and are protected under the South Dakota Surface Water Quality Standards. The discharge of pollutants from any source, including indiscriminate use of fill material, may not cause destruction or impairment except where authorized under Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concerning these permits.
4. The Waste Management Program does not anticipate any adverse impacts. All waste material must be managed according to our solid waste requirements. Please contact the Waste Management Program if you have any questions on solid waste disposal requirements at (605) 773-3153.

If you have any questions concerning these comments, please contact me at (605) 773-3351.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron Leingang". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Aaron Leingang  
Environmental Scientist  
Surface Water Quality Program

Cc: Waste Management Program, Vonni Kallemeyn





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Nebraska National Forests  
and Grasslands

125 North Main Street  
Chadron, NE 69337-2118  
308-432-0300  
308-432-0304 TDD

File Code: 2360

Date: November 30, 2010

ATTN: Section 106 Review and Compliance  
South Dakota State Historical Society  
Cultural Heritage Center  
900 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501-2217

Dear Review and Compliance Coordinator:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDANG) is proposing to conduct training exercises and bivouac in Custer and Pennington Counties. The project area is located on the Fall River Ranger District, Buffalo Gap National Grassland, Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands (Forest).

A review of the enclosed cultural resources report prepared by Quality Services, Inc. has been completed by Forest Archaeologist Shari Counce and Forest Staff Archaeologist Dennis Fry:

*Level III Cultural Resources Inventory of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Golden Coyote 2011 - 2015, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Training Areas, Custer and Pennington Counties, South Dakota, T2S-T5S, R9E-R12E, report prepared by Emily Calhoun, October 19, 2010. Quality Services, Inc. Project #SD10003.*

Nine new cultural resources were documented during the inventory. The Forest concurs with the report evaluation that sites 39CU4007, 39CU4010, 39CU4011 and 39CU4012 are *not eligible* to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). However, the Forest disagrees with the report recommendation that sites 39CU4005, 39CU4006, 39CU4008, 39CU4009 and 39CU4013 are considered *unevaluated* to the NRHP. The Forest considers these five sites to be *eligible* to the NRHP based on their possible sacred nature. Mr. Wilmer Mesteth, Oglala Sioux Tribe THPO, visited these sites and requested that no subsurface testing be conducted at this time and that the sites be avoided. All of the eligible sites are located in the Red Shirt Forward Operating Base (FOB) training area. The Forest has had several discussions with the SDANG concerning the destructive effect that training would have on these sites. The Forest will stipulate that the SDANG restrict their training activities to the area north of the road that bisects the training area. All of the eligible sites would then be between 230 m - 425 m southwest of the training area. This stipulation would be included in the proposed Forest Special Use Permit to the SDANG and in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document prepared by the SDANG.

At a later date the Forest, in consultation with the SD SHPO, will propose the bluff edge overlooking the Cheyenne River and Battle Creek is analyzed for its potential as a historic district. All of the sites overlooking these perennial streams are either *eligible* or *unevaluated* and considered *eligible* to the NRHP.



Caring for the Land and Serving People

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The Forest does not concur with the report recommendation of 'no historic properties affected' as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1).

Please review the report and inform me if you concur with our "finding of no adverse effect" as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(b). If you have any questions, please contact Sharilee Counce (308-432-0333).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jane D. Darnell*  
JANE D. DARNELL  
Forests and Grasslands Supervisor

*/s/ Lisa Heiser (for)*  
SHARILEE COUNCE  
Forest Archaeologist

Enclosure

cc: Office of the State Archaeologist at the Archaeological Research Center



Forest  
Service

Nebraska National Forests  
and Grasslands

125 North Main Street  
Chadron, NE 69337-2118  
308-432-0300  
308-432-0304 TDD

---

File Code: 2360

Date: February 1, 2011

Route To:

Subject: SHPO Comment, Nebraska NF Heritage Program Report R2010020705002

To: District Ranger, Fall River Ranger District

Enclosed is a copy of the comment letter from the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SD SHPO) for the following project:

*Level III Cultural Resources Inventory of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Golden Coyote 2011 - 2015, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Training Areas, Custer and Pennington Counties, South Dakota, T2S-T5S, R9E-R12E, report prepared by Emily Calhoun, October 19, 2010, Quality Services, Inc. Project #SD10003.*

A copy is provided for your project files. As discussed at our meeting with Bob Grams on January 25, 2011 the South Dakota Army National Guard will be required to adhere to the stipulations listed in the letter, with the exception that the boundary of the Red Shirt FOB area will be modified. Moving the southern boundary of the Red Shirt FOB to the two track trail that bisects the area will eliminate the need for flagging in this area by following a distinct physical feature on the ground while providing an adequate buffer to the sites identified in the area. Enclosed is a map showing the area to be dropped from the Red Shirt FOB.

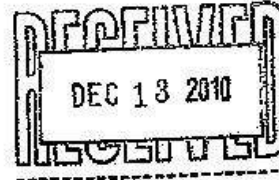
You now have cultural resources clearance to proceed with the project.

Please remember that the project will be temporarily stopped if bones, artifacts or other indications of past human occupation are encountered during project implementation. In that instance, the SD SHPO and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Preservation Program will be consulted. If you have any questions, please call me at 308-432-0333.

/s/ Dennis Pry (for)  
SHARLEE COUNCE  
Forest Archaeologist

December 9, 2010

Jane Darnell  
Forest Supervisor  
Nebraska National Forest  
125 North Main St  
Chadron NE 69337-2118



**SECTION 106 PROJECT CONSULTATION – IDENTIFICATION/EVALUATION**

Project: 101025001F – SD Army National Guard training exercises and bivouac  
Location: Custer and Pennington Counties  
(NNF)

Dear Ms. Darnell

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). The South Dakota Office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurs with your determination regarding the effect of the proposed undertaking on the non-renewable cultural resources of South Dakota.

The SHPO has made this consensus determination based on the information provided in your correspondence and the report, "Level III Cultural Resources Inventory of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Golden Coyote 2011-2015 Buffalo Gap National Grasslands Training Areas, Custer and Pennington Counties, South Dakota" prepared by Mark Carpenter of Quality Services, received on December 2, 2010. SHPO concurs with your determinations that newly recorded sites 39CU4007, 39CU4010, 39CU4011, and 39CU4012 should be considered not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Also, sites 39CU4005, 39CU4006, 39CU4008, 39CU4009, and 39CU4013 should be considered eligible for the NRHP until evaluation of the area as a historic district may be conducted. Therefore, SHPO concurs with your determination of No Adverse Effect given the following stipulations. Stipulation 1) all eligible and unevaluated sites are avoided by all project activities. Given the nature of the project activities SHPO recommends that the sites be flagged at a 100 meter buffer to provide an additional on the ground reminder for the applicants. Stipulation 2) please submit any additional information concerning the identification of historic properties by other consulting parties, such as Traditional Cultural



Department of  
Tourism & State  
Development

Office of Tourism [TravelSD.com](http://TravelSD.com)  
Governor's Office of Economic Development [SDreadytowork.com](http://SDreadytowork.com)  
Tribal Government Relations [SDtribalrelations.com](http://SDtribalrelations.com)  
Arts Council [arts council.sd.gov](http://arts council.sd.gov)  
State Historical Society [history.sd.gov](http://history.sd.gov)  
Housing Development Authority [SDHDA.org](http://SDHDA.org)

**2010**  
INITIATIVE  
[2010initiative.com](http://2010initiative.com)

Properties and/or areas of cultural and religious significance. Stipulation 3) activities occurring in areas not identified in your request will require the submission of additional documentation pursuant to 36 CFR part 800.4.

If historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found after the agency official has completed the Section 106 process, the agency official shall avoid, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects to such properties and notify the SHPO/THPO, and Indian tribes that might attach religious and cultural significance to the affected property within 48 hours of the discovery, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800.13.

Concurrence of the SHPO does not relieve the federal agency official from consulting with other appropriate parties, as described in 36CFR Part 800.2(c).

Should you require additional information, please contact Amy Rubingh, Review & Compliance Archaeologist, at (605) 773-8370. Your concern for the non-renewable cultural heritage of our state is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jay D. Vogt  
State Historic Preservation Officer

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Rubingh".

Amy Rubingh  
Review & Compliance Archaeologist

Cc: Jane Watts, Archaeological Research Center



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
Construction & Facilities Management Office  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
(605) 737-6502  
FAX: (605) 737-6204

NGSD-CFMO-EV

16 April 2010

Mr. Wilmer Mesteth  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Oglala Sioux Tribe  
PO Box 320  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

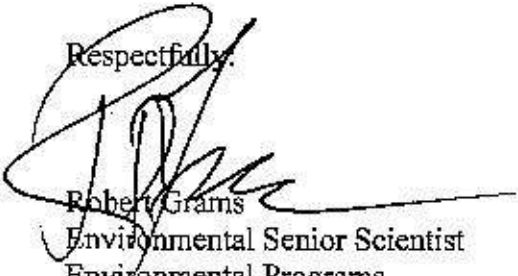
Sir:

I had emailed you 4/15/10 reference some cultural surveys this office has undertaken in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands for a 2011 Golden Coyote 2011 training exercise. I am enclosing for your review the paper copies of South Dakota Archeological Research Site Forms completed by Quality Services Inc. of Rapid City, SD which details sites near Red Shirt that we would like the tribe to view and make comment. I have also enclosed a CD which has the Shape Files for the evaluated sites.

At your convenience, I would like to coordinate a date/time consultation that yourself and other interested parties from the tribe could visit the sites and comment on proposed training by the South Dakota Army National Guard in and around the Cheyenne River Bluffs where the sites are located. I believe you are familiar with the Red Shirt area which is just off of highway 40.

I can be reached Tuesday through Friday at my office (605)737-6265 here at Camp Rapid if you require further clarification on the enclosed data or wish to discuss a time that we could meet at the Buffalo Gap Grasslands Red Shirt Sites.

Respectfully,

  
Robert Grams  
Environmental Senior Scientist  
Environmental Programs  
South Dakota Army National Guard

Encl: Site Forms/CD



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

**Chairman:** Josh Weston  
Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe  
PO Box 283  
Flandreau, SD 57028-0283

Dear Mr. Weston:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

Conrad Fisher, THPO  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
PO Box 128  
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Mr. Fisher:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

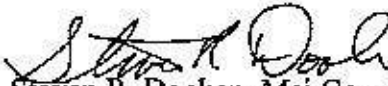
Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures





DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

Joanne White, THPO  
Northern Arapaho Tribe  
533 Ethete Rd  
Ethete, WY 82520

Dear Ms. White:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven K. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-8601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

Pam Halaverson, THPO  
Lower Sioux Indian Community  
PO Box 308  
39527 Res Hwy 1  
Morton MN 56270

Dear Ms. Halaverson:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

**Chairman:** Robert Cournoyer  
Yankton Sioux Tribe  
PO Box 248  
Marty, SD 57361-0248

Dear Mr. Cournoyer:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(805) 737-6601  
FAX (805) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

**Chairman: John Steele**  
Oglala Sioux Tribe  
PO Box 2070  
Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

Dear Mr. Steele:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

**THPO:** Russell Eagle Bear  
Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
PO Box 658  
Rosebud, SD 57570-0658

Dear Mr. Eagle Bear:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.


Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj. Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8188  
(605) 737-8801  
FAX (605) 737-8204

January 20, 2011

**THPO:** Diane Desrosiers  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
PO Box 509  
Agency Village, SD 57262-0509

Dear Ms. Desrosiers:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6801  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

**THPO:** Tim Mentz, Sr.  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
PO Box D  
Ft. Yates, ND 58538-0522

Dear Mr. Mentz:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-8204

January 20, 2011

THPO: Elgin Crows Breast  
Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation  
Three Affiliated Tribes  
404 Frontage Road  
New Town, ND 58763

Dear Mr. Crows Breast:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

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Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures





DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

Brady Grant, THPO  
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
PO Box 900  
Belcourt, North Dakota 58316

Dear Mr. Grant:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

**Chairman:** Michael Jandreau  
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe  
PO Box 187  
Lower Brule, SD 57548-0187

Dear Mr. Jandreau:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

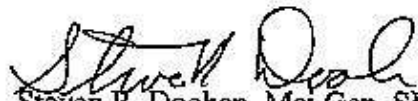
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Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

**Chairman:** Lester Thompson, Jr.  
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe  
PO Box 50  
Ft. Thompson, SD 57339-0050

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

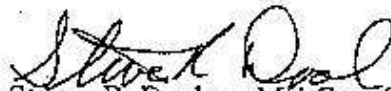
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If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

**Chairman:** Joseph Brings Plenty  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
PO Box 590  
Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

Dear Mr. Brings Plenty:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doochen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICE  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8186  
(605) 737-6601  
FAX (605) 737-6204

January 20, 2011

Curley Youpee, THPO  
Fort Peck  
PO Box 836  
Poplar MT 59255

Dear Mr. Youpee:

The South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) is developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the Annual Training Exercise Golden Coyote scheduled for June 2011-2015 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office requests your input into this process.


Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

Attachment 2 provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

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If questions exist, please contact LTC James Peterson, Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
Steven R. Doohen, Maj Gen, SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosures



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Nebraska National Forests  
and Grasslands

125 North Main Street  
Chadron NE 69337-2118  
308-432-0300  
308-432-0304 TDD

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File Code: 1900

Date: April 21, 2011

Robert D. Grams  
Environmental Senior Scientist  
South Dakota Army National Guard  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, SD 57702

Dear Bob:

This letter is in regards to our April 14, 2011 conference call to discuss the Environmental Assessment for the Army National Guard (Golden Coyote) annual training activities on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland. Listed below were the main points of conversation:

The Draft Environmental Assessment was returned to the Washington Office National Guard Bureau with errata changes incorporated.

It may take 30-45 days to receive the final Environmental Assessment from the Washington Office National Guard Bureau.

Once the final copy is received, Bob Grams will send a copy to Carla Loop, Environmental Coordinator on the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands.

A two week period will be provided for Forest Service specialist review.

The Appeal Reform Act will require a 30-day public notification period compliant with the Forest Service rules and regulations.

The Forest Service will then prepare a decision document tiering from the final Environmental Assessment for my signature.

The Forest Service will not be in the position to consider authorization of the National Guard Training this summer (2011) on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland.

The Forest Service will make the final determination regarding authorization of the training in 2012.



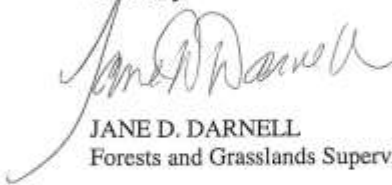
Caring for the Land and Serving People

Printed on Recycled Paper



Please share this letter with Colonel John V. Holter in your office. Thanks for working with us, Bob. We value the close coordination that is developing between the Buffalo Gap National Grassland and the South Dakota National Guard. If you have questions please contact Carla Loop at 308-432-0336.

Sincerely,

  
JANE D. DARNELL  
Forests and Grasslands Supervisor

*Bob ~  
Thanks again for  
working with us!  
Jane*

cc: Stephen Lenzo, Carla Loop, Mike McNeill, John H Kinney, Lisa Heiser



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY  
AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
(605) 737-6702  
FAX: (605) 737-6677

SDARNG-CFMO

9 June, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR NGB-ILE-C

SUBJECT: Request to waive 30 day public review

I, James A. Peterson, Environmental Program Manager, South Dakota Army National Guard, request to waive the 30-day public review and comment period for the (Draft) Environmental Assessment for Army National Guard Training Activities on the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands, Nebraska National Forest.

I certify that the 30-day public review and comment period would jeopardize timely execution of this project. Year round Innovating Readiness Training Projects, unit training activities and projects currently scheduled to begin as early as summer 2011 will not take place if this project is not completed in a timely fashion. Furthermore, Buffalo Gap National Grasslands terrain closely replicates that which will be encountered by units deploying to both Iraq and Afghanistan, adding near real world enhancement to pre-mobilization tactical training.

The additional comment period provides no public benefit. The proposed action is not of national concern, is not unprecedented, and does not normally require an Environmental Impact Statement.

  
James A. Peterson  
LTC, SDARNG  
Environmental Program Manager

NGB-ILE-~~1~~

 \_\_\_\_\_ 6/9/11  
Approved Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Disapproved Date





*South Dakota*  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
 (605) 737-6702  
 FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Russell Eagle Bear, THPO  
 Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
 PO Box 658  
 Rosebud, SD 57570-0658

Dear Mr. Eagle Bear:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

Enclosure 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

The table below provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

SUMMARY OF BIVOUAC/TRAINING SITES FOR GOLDEN COYOTE

TRAINING AREAS	INTENDED USES	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
Red Shirt 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 003	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100

Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
French Creek Convoy Lanes	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12
Creston Convoy Lane	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12


Explanation of "Intended Uses" abbreviations: FOB=Forward Operating Base; B=Bivouac; FP=Fuel Point (fuel transfer); HQ=Headquarters; LSA=Logistics Support Area; LT-Lanes Training; LZ=Landing Zone (helicopters); ME=Medical; S=Signal (communications); TOC=Tactical Operations Center.

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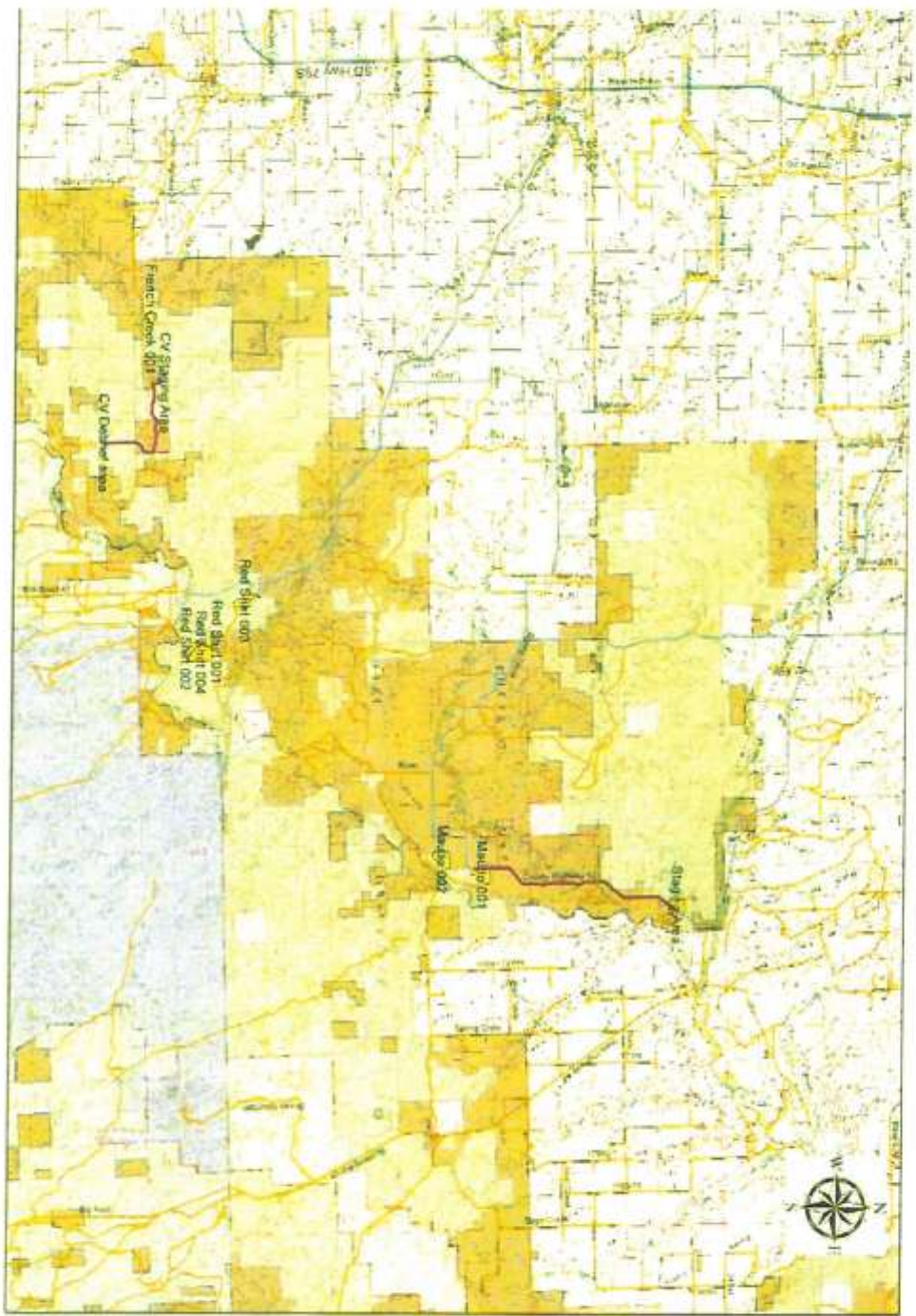
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If questions exist, please contact Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
 Timothy A. Reisch  
 Major General (SD), SDNG  
 The Adjutant General

Enclosure



Map Scale 1:241 212  
 0 2 4 6 8 10  
 Meters

SRMGT Ground Training Areas  
 & Existing Property Status.



*South Dakota*  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
2823 West Main Street  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
(605) 737-6702  
FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Joanne White, THPO  
Northern Arapaho Tribe  
533 Ethete Road  
Ethete, WY 82520

Dear Ms. White:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

Enclosure 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

The table below provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

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French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
French Creek Convoy Lanes	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12
Creston Convoy Lane	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12


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Sincerely,

  
 Timothy A. Reisch  
 Major General (SD), SDNG  
 The Adjutant General

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 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
 (605) 737-6702  
 FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Conrad Fisher, THPO  
 Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
 PO Box 128  
 Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Mr. Fisher:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Pam Halaverson, THPO  
 Lower Sioux Indian Community  
 PO Box 308  
 39527 Res Hywy 1  
 Morton, MN 56270

Dear Ms. Halaverson:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Lester Thompson, Jr.  
 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 50  
 Ft. Thompson, SD 57339-0050

Dear Mr. Thompson:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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November 30, 2011

Chairman: Robert Cournoyer  
 Yankton Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 248  
 Marty, SD 57361-0248

Dear Chairman Cournoyer:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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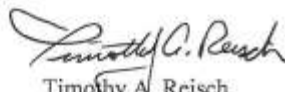
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 Timothy A. Reisch  
 Major General (SD), SDNG  
 The Adjutant General

Enclosure



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 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
 (605) 737-6702  
 FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Chairman Michael Jandreau  
 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 187  
 Lower Brule, SD 57548-0187

Dear Chairman Jandreau:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Enclosure



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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Chairman Joseph Brings Plenty  
 Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
 Post Office Box 590  
 Eagle Butte, South Dakota 57625-0590

Dear Chairman Brings Plenty:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Chairman Josh Weston  
 Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 283  
 Flandreau, SD57028-0283

Dear Chairman Weston:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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*South Dakota*  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
 (605) 737-6702  
 FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Curley Youpee, THPO  
 Fort Peck  
 PO Box 836  
 Poplar, MT 59255

Dear Mr. Youpee:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

Enclosure 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

The table below provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

SUMMARY OF BIVOUAC/TRAINING SITES FOR GOLDEN COYOTE

TRAINING AREAS	INTENDED USES	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
Red Shirt 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 003	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100

French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
French Creek Convoy Lanes	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12
Creston Convoy Lane	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12


Explanation of "Intended Uses" abbreviations: FOB=Forward Operating Base; B=Bivouac; FP=Fuel Point (fuel transfer); HQ=Headquarters; LSA=Logistics Support Area; LT-Lanes Training; LZ=Landing Zone (helicopters); ME=Medical; S=Signal (communications); TOC=Tactical Operations Center.

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Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact Environmental Programs at (605) 737-6502. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
 Timothy A. Reisch  
 Major General (SD), SDNG  
 The Adjutant General

Enclosure



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November 30, 2011

Tim Mentz, THPO  
 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box D  
 Ft. Yates, ND 58538-0522

Dear Mr. Mentz:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Sincerely,

  
 Timothy A. Reisch  
 Major General (SD), SDNG  
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December 12, 2011

**THPO:** Tim Mentz, Sr.  
 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box D  
 Ft. Yates, ND 58538-0522

Dear Mr. Mentz:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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If questions exist, please contact me at (605) 737-6265. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosure



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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



November 30, 2011

Elgin Crows Breast, THPO  
 Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation  
 Three Affiliated Tribes  
 404 Frontage Road  
 Newtown, ND 58763

Dear Mr. Crows Breast:

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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November 30, 2011

Chairman John Steele  
 Oglala Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 2070  
 Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

Dear Chairman Steele::

In January 2011, you received a letter regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016, in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Enclosure



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December 12, 2011

**Chairman:** Lester Thompson, Jr.  
 Crow Creek Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 50  
 Ft. Thompson, SD 57339-0050

Dear Mr. Thompson:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Timothy A. Reisch  
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December 12, 2011

**Chairman:** Joseph Brings Plenty  
 Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 590  
 Eagle Butte, SD 57625-0590

Dear Mr. Brings Plenty:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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 Major General (SD), SDNG  
 The Adjutant General

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December 12, 2011

**Chairman:** Robert Courmoyer  
 Yankton Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 248  
 Marty, SD 57361-0248

Dear Mr. Courmoyer:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
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December 12, 2011

**Chairman:** Josh Weston  
 Flandreau-Santee Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 283  
 Flandreau, SD 57028-0283

Dear Mr. Weston:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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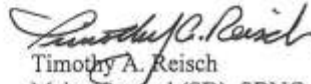
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Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact me at (605) 737-6265. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,

  
 Timothy A. Reisch  
 Major General (SD), SDNG  
 The Adjutant General

Enclosure



*South Dakota*  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
 (605) 737-6702  
 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

Curley Youpee, THPO  
 Fort Peck  
 PO Box 836  
 Poplar MT 59255

Dear Mr. Youpee:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

Attachment I is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

The table below provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

**SUMMARY OF BIVOUAC/TRAINING SITES FOR GOLDEN COYOTE**

TRAINING AREAS	INTENDED USES	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
Red Shirt 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 003	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25

French Creek Convoy Lanes	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12
Creston Convoy Lane	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12

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Sincerely,



Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

**Chairman:** Michael Jandreau  
 Lower Brule Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 187  
 Lower Brule, SD 57548-0187

Dear Mr. Jandreau:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

The table below provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

**SUMMARY OF BIVOUAC/TRAINING SITES FOR GOLDEN COYOTE**

TRAINING AREAS	INTENDED USES	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
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Red Shirt 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 003	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
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Convoy Lanes			
Creston Convoy Lane	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12

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Sincerely,



Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosure



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 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

Pam Halaverson, THPO  
 Lower Sioux Indian Community  
 PO Box 308  
 39527 Res Hwy 1  
 Morton MN 56270

Dear Ms. Halaverson:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100

French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
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Sincerely,

  
 Timothy A. Reisch  
 Major General (SD), SDNG  
 The Adjutant General

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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

Joanne White, THPO  
 Northern Arapaho Tribe  
 533 Ethete Rd  
 Ethete, WY 82520

Dear Ms. White:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
French Creek	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12

Convoy Lanes			
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Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosure



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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

Conrad Fisher, THPO  
 Northern Cheyenne Tribe  
 PO Box 128  
 Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear Mr. Fisher:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
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Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosure



*South Dakota*  
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 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
 (605) 737-6702  
 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

**Chairman:** John Steele  
 Oglala Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box 2070  
 Pine Ridge, SD 57770-2070

Dear Mr. Steele:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Red Shirt 003	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
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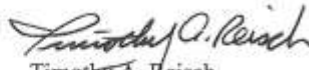


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Sincerely,

  
Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosure



*South Dakota*  
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 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

**THPO:** Russell Eagle Bear  
 Rosebud Sioux Tribe  
 Tribal Historic Preservation Office  
 PO Box 658  
 Rosebud, SD 57570-0658

Dear Mr. Eagle Bear:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosure



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 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

**THPO:** Diane Desrosiers  
 Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
 PO Box 509  
 Agency Village, SD 57262-0509

Dear Ms. Desrosiers:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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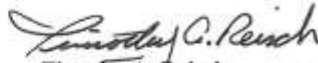
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Sincerely,



Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosure



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 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
 (605) 737-6702  
 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

**THPO:** Tim Mentz, Sr.  
 Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
 PO Box D  
 Ft. Yates, ND 58538-0522

Dear Mr. Mentz:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

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TRAINING AREAS	INTENDED USES	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
Red Shirt 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 003	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
French Creek Convoy Lanes	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12
Creston Convoy Lane	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12

Explanation of "Intended Uses" abbreviations: FOB=Forward Operating Base; B=Bivouac; FP=Fuel Point (fuel transfer); HQ=Headquarters; LSA=Logistics Support Area; LT=Lanes Training; LZ=Landing Zone (helicopters); ME=Medical; S=Signal (communications); TOC=Tactical Operations Center.

**Explanation of "Vehicles":** Personnel transports (Humvee, pickup, government civilian vehicle, medical ambulance, etc.), construction vehicles/equipment (dozers, graders, scrapers, loaders, backhoes, fuel/water/dump/maintenance trucks, etc.), and tracked personnel transports.

Based on the areas involved, the sites delineated on the map, and types of activities proposed for the sites, this office requests a determination from your office regarding potential impacts on tribal cultural resources or traditional places from the proposed actions. Will activities associated with this military training exercise significantly impact tribal cultural resources or traditional places at these isolated locations? A prompt written response is appreciated.

If questions exist, please contact me at (605) 737-6265. Thank you for your input into this environmental document review process.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosure



*South Dakota*  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
 (605) 737-6702  
 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

THPO: Elgin Crows Breast  
 Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation  
 Three Affiliated Tribes  
 404 Frontage Road  
 New Town, ND 58763

Dear Mr. Crows Breast:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

The table below provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

**SUMMARY OF BIVOUAC/TRAINING SITES FOR GOLDEN COYOTE**

TRAINING AREAS	INTENDED USES	NUMBER OF PERSONNEL	NUMBER OF VEHICLES
Red Shirt 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 003	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Red Shirt 004	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
Maude 002	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
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Sincerely,



Timothy A. Reisch  
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 2823 West Main Street  
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702-8170  
 (605) 737-6702  
 FAX: (605) 737-6677



December 12, 2011

Brady Grant, THPO  
 Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa  
 PO Box 900  
 Belcourt, North Dakota 58316

Dear Mr. Grant:

In January 2011 and November 2011 you received letters regarding the South Dakota Army National Guard (SDARNG) developing an environmental assessment addressing construction and military activities associated with the SDARNG's two week summer camp, scheduled for June 2012-2016 in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands of western South Dakota. This office once again, requests your input into this process.

Attachment 1 is a consolidated map showing the locations of proposed bivouac/tactical training sites. These sites comprise approximately 500 total acres which could be impacted by these activities at some point over the five year period.

The table below provides a description of military activities which will be accomplished during the two week summer camp during each of the five years.

**SUMMARY OF BIVOUAC/TRAINING SITES FOR GOLDEN COYOTE**

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Maude 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	500-600	<100
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French Creek 001	FOB, B, FP,HQ, LSA, LZ, ME, S	150	<25
French Creek Convoy Lanes	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12
Creston Convoy Lane	LT, TOC	20-50	10-12


Explanation of "Intended Uses" abbreviations: FOB=Forward Operating Base; B=Bivouac; FP=Fuel Point (fuel transfer); HQ=Headquarters; LSA=Logistics Support Area; LT=Lanes Training; LZ=Landing Zone (helicopters); ME=Medical; S=Signal (communications); TOC=Tactical Operations Center.

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Sincerely,

  
Timothy A. Reisch  
Major General (SD), SDNG  
The Adjutant General

Enclosure

## Appendix D

### FEDERAL ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES LISTS FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

#### Animals

##### *Status Listing*

- E Beetle, American Burying ( *Nicrophorus americanus* )
- E Crane, Whooping ( *Grus americana* )
- E Curlew, Eskimo ( *Numenius borealis* )
- E Ferret, Black-footed ( *Mustela nigripes* )
- E Mussel, Scaleshell ( *Leptodea leptodon* )
- T Plover, Piping (except Great Lakes watershed) ( *Charadrius melodus* )
- E Shiner, Topeka ( *Notropis topeka (=tristis)* )
- E Sturgeon, Pallid ( *Scaphirhynchus albus* )
- E Tern, Least (interior pop.) ( *Sterna antillarum* )
- T Wolf, Gray Eastern Distinct Population Segment ( *Canis lupus* )

E = Endangered

T = Threatened

The Bald Eagle, which exists within South Dakota, has been delisted from the Endangered Species Act but is still protected under the Federal Bald and Golden Eagle Act.

(USDA Forest Service, 2010)

**STATE ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES LISTS  
FOR THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	STATE STATUS
<b>Invertebrates:</b>		
American Burying Beetle	<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>	
Scaleshell	<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>	
Dakota Skipper	<i>Hesperia dacotae</i>	
<b>Fishes:</b>		
Banded Killifish	<i>Fundulus diaphanus</i>	SE
Blacknose Shiner	<i>Notropis heterolepis</i>	SE
Central Mudminnow	<i>Umbra limi</i>	SE
Finescale Dace	<i>Phoxinus neogaeus</i>	SE
Longnose Sucker	<i>Catostomus catostomus</i>	ST
Northern Redbelly Dace	<i>Phoxinus eos</i>	ST
Pallid Sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhynchus albus</i>	SE
Pearl Dace	<i>Margariscus margarita</i>	ST
Sicklefin Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis meeki</i>	ST
Sturgeon Chub	<i>Macrhybopsis gelida</i>	ST
Topeka Shiner	<i>Notropis topeka</i>	
Trout-Perch	<i>Percopsis omiscomaycus</i>	ST
<b>Reptiles and amphibians:</b>		
Blanding's Turtle	<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	SE
Eastern Hognose Snake	<i>Heterodon platirhinos</i>	ST
False Map Turtle	<i>Graptemys pseudogeographica</i>	ST
Lined Snake	<i>Tropidoclonion lineatum</i>	SE
<b>Birds:</b>		
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	ST
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	ST
Eskimo Curlew	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	SE
Interior Least Tern	<i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i>	SE
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	ST
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	SE
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	ST
Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	SE
<b>Mammals:</b>		

Black-Tailed Prairie Dog	<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>	
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	ST
Black-Footed Ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	SE
Gray Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	
River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	ST
Swift Fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	ST

**Plants:**

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid *Platanthera praeclara*

**KEY TO CODES:**

PE = Proposed Endangered      SE = State Endangered  
PT= Proposed Threatened      ST = State Threatened

(SD Game, Fish & Parks, 2010)