

NATURAL RESOURCE SUSTAINABILITY FOR MILITARY READINESS

INTRODUCTION

Military readiness – the preparedness of U.S. Armed Forces – depends on the quality and frequency of testing and training. Incompatible land uses such as development, loss of habitat, and growing competition for land, air, sea and frequency spectrum resources, if left unchecked, can further limit already constrained training and testing activities, ultimately inhibiting military readiness. The military services have generally tried to manage these threats through programs implemented at an installation-by-installation approach. However, solving many of these issues requires a collaborative, regional approach that fully engages local, state, and federal interests. These same factors, incompatible land uses and increasing competition for scarce resources, threaten the ability of a region to sustain a competitive economy and a healthy environment. Thus, our nation's military readiness, economic competitiveness, and environmental quality are all linked to natural resource sustainability. The challenge of sustainability requires the engagement of both science and policy across political boundaries.



APPROACH

Integrated, coordinated, and focused planning and action for regional sustainability are essential to achieving mutual and multiple benefits over the long-term. The mission of the proposed *National Center for Natural Resource Sustainability for Military Readiness* is to enhance military readiness through programs leading to natural resource sustainability. These programs will take a regional approach to solving complex land use and natural resource

issues important for maintaining economic competitiveness, environmental quality, and military readiness. The mission will be accomplished through a network of three public university systems (North Carolina State University, Texas A&M University System, and Colorado State University), each supporting a high-priority program: (1) Program in Private Lands Policy and Incentives, (2) Program in Natural Resources Planning, Partnerships and Policy, and (3) Program in Public Policy for Ecoregion Management and Ecosystem Services.

BENEFITS

- Engage universities in the development of practical, regional approaches to solving the most critical natural resource problems facing defense installations within the context of other public and private interests.
- Provide a centralized resource for the multi-disciplinary training required to maintain military readiness while contributing to sustainable natural resource management.
- Provide a venue for policy analysis and innovative problem-solving for meeting regional demands for maintaining environmental quality and meeting mandates for mitigating and adapting to climate change, renewable energy, and biodiversity conservation.
- Establish a forum for collaboration among scientists, practitioners, policy innovators, and planners to promote natural resource sustainability that ultimately ensures national military readiness.

AMOUNT REQUESTED

- \$1.73 million/institution/year
- 15.63 million over 3 years

ANTICIPATED SUPPORT

- Texas Farm Bureau
- North Carolina Farm Bureau
- North Carolina Forestry Association
- NCSU Federal Relations
- CSU Federal Relations

PROJECT CONTACTS

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