

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI) FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT (EA) FOR ADOPTING AND IMPLEMENTING A REVISED
INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN (INRMP) AT NAVAL
BASE KITSAP (NBK) MANCHESTER, KITSAP COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Navy regulations (32 CFR Part 775), the Department of the Navy (Navy) gives notice that an EA has been prepared and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required for the revised INRMP at NBK Manchester, Kitsap County, Washington. This action will be implemented as set out in the Preferred Alternative.

A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA was published in the Kitsap Sun newspaper on August 22, 24, and 27, 2023 and the draft EA was made available for public review on the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest website at that time. The public comment period on the Draft EA was from August 22, to September 22, 2023, and no public comments were received. An NOA of the Final EA and FONSI will be published in the Kitsap Sun and copies of the documents will be available at <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/NWNEPA>.

Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is to adopt and implement a revised INRMP for NBK Manchester, Manchester, Kitsap County, Washington, consistent with the military use of the property and the goals and objectives established in the Sikes Act (16 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 670a et seq., as amended). This INRMP will be implemented once it is signed by Commander, Navy Region Northwest.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to meet statutory requirements under the Sikes Act. The need for the proposed action is to provide management requirements for species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and meet the requirements of the U.S. Department of Defense and Department of the Navy (DON) Instructions.

Existing Conditions: NBK Manchester is located on approximately 2 miles of Puget Sound shoreline and is made up of two distinct areas separated by a 26-acre tidal lagoon, Little Clam Bay, and Beach Drive. Beach Drive is a county road located on Navy property for which Kitsap County holds an easement. Approximately 51 acres of land is developed and 194 acres remain

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undeveloped/forested. Developed facilities include buildings, underground and aboveground fuel storage tanks, and two piers.

Alternatives Considered: This EA analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the following two alternatives: A No Action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative, which would adopt and implement the revised INRMP at NBK Manchester. Under the No Action Alternative, NBK Manchester would continue to implement the goals and objectives outlined in the 2009 INRMP. The No Action Alternative would not include management improvements described in the Preferred Alternative, nor provide management strategies for newly-listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats. Under the Preferred Alternative, NBK Manchester would adopt and implement a revised INRMP that would continue to meet the land use needs of the military mission, comply with the Sikes Act, and initiate actions and projects to meet the natural resources management program goals of the INRMP.

The EA analyzed the potential impacts of the Proposed Action (preferred alternative) and No Action on the quality of the human environment on a programmatic level. As management decisions are made and project plans developed, further NEPA analysis may be necessary.

Environmental Effects: No significant direct, indirect, or cumulative environmental impacts would occur from implementing the proposed action. Certain environmental resources - IDENTIFY RESOURCES - were not analyzed in detail in this EA because implementation of the proposed action would not be likely to result in any potential environmental impacts on these resources or impacts would be negligible. The following is a summary of the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action:

Water Resources. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative will involve manual and/or mechanical removal of invasive species and re-vegetation and could result in short-term localized turbidity to all applicable water resources. NBK Manchester will continue to implement the Facility Oil Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan as well as comply with water resource laws and installation stormwater best management practices, therefore limiting direct adverse impacts on water resources. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to baseline water resources. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternative will not result in a significant impact to water resources.

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Biological Resources. Under the Preferred Alternative, management of biological resources at NBK Manchester will be guided by the goals and objectives outlined in the revised INRMP to protect, conserve, and manage fish and wildlife including threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, as well as habitats. Federally listed species include marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), Chinook salmon (Puget Sound Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU)) (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), steelhead (Puget Sound Distinct Population Segment (DPS)) (*O. mykiss*), bocaccio rockfish (*Sebastes paucispinis*), yelloweye rockfish (*S. ruberrimus*), killer whale (Southern resident DPS) (*Orcinus orca*), and humpback whale (Mexico DPS/Central American DPS) (*Megaptera novaengliae*), as well as the federally proposed for listing sunflower sea star (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*). Natural resources management projects will benefit vegetation and species. NBK Manchester will continue to consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Consultation will occur with National Marine Fisheries Service for marine mammals under the protection of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and for Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for activity that may affect listed species, critical habitat, or Essential Fish Habitat. Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change to baseline biological resources. Implementation of the Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternative will not result in a significant impact to biological resources.

Finding: Based on the analysis presented in the EA, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of NEPA and DON policies and procedures (32 CFR Part 775), and in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Navy finds that implementation of the proposed action as set out in the Preferred Alternative will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an EIS will not be prepared.

