

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

REVISED INTEGRATED NATURAL RESOURCES

MANAGEMENT PLAN AT

NAVAL STATION EVERETT

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, WASHINGTON

AND

SMOKEY POINT FSC AT SMOKEY POINT

MARYSVILLE, WASHINGTON



DECEMBER 2014

PREPARED BY:



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Environmental Assessment Revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan at Naval Station Everett, Snohomish County, Washington and the Smokey Point Smokey Point FSC, Marysville, Washington

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LEAD AGENCY:

U.S. Department of the Navy

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

NAVFAC Northwest
Environmental Planner
1101 Tautog Circle
Silverdale, WA 98315-1101

ABSTRACT

The programmatic Environmental Assessment identifies and evaluates the potential effects of adopting and implementing a revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for Naval Station Everett in Everett, Washington, and the Smokey Point Family Support Complex (FSC) Marysville, Washington in a manner that is consistent with the military use of the property and the goals and objectives established in the Sikes Act (16 United States Code § 670 et seq.) (as amended). The purpose of the Naval Station Everett Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan is to meet statutory requirements under the Sikes Act, provide management requirements for species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and meet the requirements of the Department of Defense and Navy Instructions. The programmatic Environmental Assessment analyzes one Action Alternative and a No Action Alternative. The analysis addresses potential direct and indirect impacts on the following natural resource categories: water resources; terrestrial and marine biology; and threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and essential fish habitat. Additionally, cumulative impacts are analyzed. The Action Alternative would implement all objectives and project recommendations of the revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for the natural resource categories noted above. The revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan is for fiscal years 2015–2020 with annual updates. There is no cooperating agency for this document.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BMP	best management practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CWA	Clean Water Act
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
DOD	Department of Defense
DON	Department of the Navy
EA	Environmental Assessment
EFH	essential fish habitat
EO	executive order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FSC	Family Support Complex
FY	fiscal year
HAP	hazardous air pollutant
HAPC	habitat areas of particular concern
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MSA	Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAVSTA	Naval Station
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act

NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fishery Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRM	natural resource manager
OPNAVINST	Office of the Chief of Naval Operations Instruction
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
TCDD	2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxin
TES	threatened, endangered, and sensitive
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
U&A	usual and accustomed
U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	U.S. Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WDFW	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EX.1 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action is to adopt and implement a revision to the 2009 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for Naval Station Everett in Everett, Washington and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville, Washington (Smokey Point FSC Marysville) in a manner that is consistent with the military use of the property and the goals and objectives established in the Sikes Act Improvement Act (Sikes Act) (16 United States Code §670 et seq.) (as amended). Per the Sikes Act, the goal of this plan is to implement an ecosystem-based conservation program that provides for conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources in a manner consistent with the military mission; integrates and coordinates all natural resources management activities; provides for sustainable multipurpose uses of natural resources; and provides for public access for use of natural resources subject to safety and military security considerations. The management objectives are to integrate forestry management, fish and wildlife management, land management, and management for outdoor recreational opportunities, as practicable and consistent with the military mission and established land uses of the facilities.

The purpose of the Naval Station Everett INRMP is to meet statutory requirements under the Sikes Act, provide management requirements for species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and meet the requirements of Department of Defense and Department of the Navy instructions. The Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. § 670a et seq.) requires the Secretary of Defense to, “carry out a program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations.” Military installations having significant natural resources must prepare and implement an INRMP. Section 101(b)(2) of the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. § 670a(b)(2)) states each Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan, “must be reviewed as to operation and effect by the parties thereto on a regular basis, but not less often than every 5 years.”

The Sikes Act states the primary purposes of a military conservation program are conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources, sustainable multipurpose use of those resources, and public access to military lands subject to safety requirements and military security (16 U.S.C. § 670a, et seq.). Moreover, the conservation program must be consistent with the mission-essential use of the installation to ensure the preparedness of the Armed Forces. The Sikes Act requires the preparation of an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan to facilitate the conservation program. In accordance with the Sikes Act, the Navy must develop the plan cooperatively with the appropriate federal and state agencies, which, in this case, are the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Additionally, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service have cooperated in the development of this plan.

The Navy provided the draft Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for review and comment by the Lummi, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes from August 28, 2014 through October 28, 2014 and no comments or changes were recommended. The Navy provided the draft plan to the public for review and comment from September 27, 2014 to October 10, 2014 and no comments were received. The Navy placed copies of the draft plan in the Everett Main Library and the Snohomish and Island County Library, Marysville branch.

EX.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Naval Station Everett is located in Snohomish County, Washington in the city of Everett (see figure 1-1). The station provides Navy homeport ship berthing, industrial support, and the U.S. Coast Guard to

homeports ships under an Inter-service Support Agreement. It is bordered to the north by the mouth of the Snohomish River and the Port of Everett Marina. To the north is Port Gardner Bay, and the East Waterway is to the southeast. The East Waterway is used by the Navy for operations, as well as by the Port of Everett shipping terminals and the Kimberly-Clark-owned property (previously the site of its Everett paper mill), located to the south of Naval Station Everett (see figure 1-2).

Smokey Point FSC Marysville, under the command of Naval Station Everett, is located approximately 12 miles north of the Everett waterfront in the City of Marysville, also in Snohomish County (see figure 1-1). Recreation, financial, and support services are located on the Smokey Point FSC Marysville and include the main Navy Exchange, the commissary, the Navy Lodge, and the education center.

EX.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Navy is considering two alternatives: an Action Alternative (Preferred Alternative) and a No Action Alternative. The Preferred Alternative would adopt and implement a revision to the 2009 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for Naval Station Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville in a manner that is consistent with the military use of the property and the goals and objectives established in the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. §670 et seq.) (as amended). The plan uses an integrated approach to the conservation and management of natural resources at Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville. It would satisfy current Department of Defense requirements for Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans by involving the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in the cooperative management of natural resources at Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville.

Under the No Action Alternative, the Navy would continue implementation of the existing Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan of 2009 as a management tool. On-going practices used for natural resources management at Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville would continue.

EX.3.1 Summary of Potential Environmental Consequences of the Alternatives

The Council on Environmental Quality regulations, the National Environmental Policy Act, and Navy instructions for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act, specify that Environmental Assessments should address those resource areas potentially subject to impacts. In addition, the level of analysis should be commensurate with the anticipated level of environmental impact.

This Environmental Assessment analysis addresses the overall natural resources management program in a programmatic context. As management decisions are made and specific project designs are developed, further project- and site-specific National Environmental Policy Act analysis or regulatory consultations may be required.

The following is a summary of the potential environmental consequences of the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative.

Water Resources

The Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan would implement a water resources management approach that evaluates current conditions, evaluates impacts of Navy activities, and determines appropriate actions to protect local watersheds. Additionally, the Preferred Alternative would help to ensure that water quantity and quality would remain unchanged or would improve by maintaining or enhancing forested buffers along water bodies. Under the

No Action Alternative, Naval Station Everett would still be required to comply with water resource laws, therefore limiting direct adverse impacts on specific regulated water resources (e.g., wetlands and waters of the United States, floodplains, coastal zones, and marine protected areas). There would be no increase in flooding potential, erosion, or pollutants entering water bodies. However, lack of a comprehensive management strategy would result in the potential for inefficient, redundant, and more costly management of these resources.

Terrestrial and Marine Biology

Implementing the Preferred Alternative at Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville would have a beneficial effect on vegetation, terrestrial, aquatic, and marine species and their habitats. The control and eradication of invasive species that compete with native plant species would promote healthy growth of native plant species on Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville. The Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan also provides a management strategy for the protection of species, which includes project review to identify actions with potential adverse effects. Improved water quality on Naval Station Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville would improve the health of individuals and populations of aquatic species. Enhancing fish passage in Hayho Creek would benefit anadromous and resident fish. The quality of habitat in riparian corridors would increase because of buffer zones along the creek as well as the wetland on Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Habitat will improve shading, woody debris recruitment, refuge creation, and increased species diversity that would likely occur because of controlling invasive species and planting of native vegetation. The No Action Alternative would maintain existing conditions for flora and fauna. There would be no change from the management strategies under previous Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan; however, several studies and initiatives would not be implemented.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species and Essential Fish Habitat

There are no known threatened or endangered species or essential fish habitat on or around the Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Several wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act have been observed in the marine waters along or adjacent to Naval Station Everett and there is essential fish habitat that has been designated within the vicinity of Naval Station Everett.

Implementing the Preferred Alternative is expected to have a beneficial effect on both threatened and endangered species and essential fish habitat adjacent to Naval Station Everett. The revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan includes surveys for threatened and endangered species, which would contribute to the natural resources managers' awareness of their use of habitats at Naval Station Everett. The natural resources managers may also use the revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan as a tool to help identify, at an early stage, potential impacts (both beneficial and negative) of planned Navy actions on threatened and endangered species and essential fish habitat to provide a basis for altering the action to prevent or minimize those negative impacts. The Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan identifies habitat restoration or projects that could be beneficial to threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Protection of essential fish habitat and forage fish habitat would benefit most listed species likely to be found in the waters near Naval Station Everett since these fish are vital food sources for threatened and endangered species, either directly or indirectly.

Furthermore, having a revised and approved Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan could preclude future designations for critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act within Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville property boundaries. Under the No Action Alternative, the Navy would continue to consult with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and for essential fish habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act on any activity that may affect threatened or endangered species or essential fish habitat. The Navy would implement terms and conditions required by the agencies to

minimize impacts to listed species and ensure no adverse effects. However, no additional habitat and species surveys would be performed (unless required through the Endangered Species Act/essential fish habitat consultations). While there is currently no designated critical habitat at or near Naval Station Everett or Smokey Point FSC Marysville, outdated information that may not reflect species presence, density, and use of habitats at the two locations could result in future designations of Endangered Species Act critical habitat on Naval Station Everett or the Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Designation of critical habitat would result in mission impacts from more costly and time-consuming development and changes to existing land use plans and/or operations.

Resource Areas Not Otherwise Analyzed

The following resource areas were not analyzed in the Environmental Assessment because impacts were determined to be negligible or non-existent: air quality; airspace management; noise; hazardous materials, wastes, and installation restoration; public health and safety; infrastructure and utilities (electricity, natural gas, water, sewer, solid waste); traffic and transportation systems; geologic resources; socioeconomics; cultural resources; American Indian tribal resources; visual resources and aesthetics; and land use. Additional details of why the impacts were considered negligible or non-existent are provided in table 1-1.

EX.3.2 Cumulative Effects

Based on a review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions at Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville, and their surrounding regions, several actions (described in table 4-1) were considered when analyzing the potential cumulative impacts. For Smokey Point FSC Marysville, there were no past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions that would result in cumulative impacts. Therefore, Smokey Point FSC Marysville will not be discussed further in this section.

Water Resources

Implementation of the revised INRMP would comply with water resource laws and result in long-term beneficial effects to water resources at NAVSTA Everett through implementation of BMPs to improve and protect water quality; shoreline and wetland siting criteria; wetland delineation; and education, outreach, and cooperative partnerships. Therefore, the proposed action would not contribute to significant adverse cumulative impacts to water resources.

Terrestrial and Marine Biology

The proposed action would not result in conversion or loss of fish and/or wildlife habitat at Naval Station Everett, and would not contribute to cumulative impacts to these resources.

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species and Essential Fish Habitat

The proposed action would be anticipated to benefit listed and sensitive species and Essential Fish Habitat adjacent to NAVSTA Everett, and would not contribute to adverse cumulative impacts to threatened or endangered species and essential fish habitat.

EX.3.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Navy will circulate the Draft Environmental Assessment for public review. Public comments received will be considered in the final analysis of potential environmental impacts prior to a final decision.

EX.3.4 CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis in this Environmental Assessment, the Navy has concluded that implementation of the Preferred Alternative, to adopt and implement the revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for Naval Station Everett in Everett, Washington and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville, Washington, would not result in significant impacts to any resource area when considered individually or cumulatively in the context of National Environmental Policy Act. This includes direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. Implementation of the revised Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan as proposed would not constitute a “major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.” Therefore, this Environmental Assessment supports a Finding of No Significant Impact and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted or required.

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CHAPTER 1

Purpose of and Need for Proposed Action

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The United States Department of the Navy (Navy) has prepared this programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. § 4321-4370h), as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508); Navy regulations for implementing the NEPA (32 CFR Part 775); and Chief of Naval Operations Instruction (OPNAVINST) 5090.1D, Environmental Readiness Program.

The Proposed Action is to adopt and implement a revision to the 2009 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) for Naval Station (NAVSTA) Everett in Everett, Washington and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville, Washington. The plan is consistent with the military use of the property and the goals and objectives established in the Sikes Act Improvement Act (Sikes Act) (16 U.S.C. § 670 et seq.) (as amended). Per the Sikes Act, the goal of the INRMP is to implement an ecosystem-based conservation program that provides for conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources in a manner consistent with the military mission. The plan integrates and coordinates all natural resources management activities; provides for the sustainable multipurpose uses of natural resources; and provides for public access for use of natural resources subject to safety and military security considerations. The management objectives are to integrate forestry management, fish and wildlife management, land management, and management for outdoor recreational opportunities, as practicable and consistent with the military mission and established land uses.

1.2 LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF NAVAL STATION EVERETT AND SMOKEY POINT SMOKEY POINT FSC MARYSVILLE

Naval Station Everett is located in Snohomish County, Washington, in the city of Everett (see figure 1-1) and is one of the Navy's newest and most modern facilities becoming operational in 1994. Located approximately 25 miles north of Seattle, NAVSTA Everett, is one of six major naval shore facilities in the Puget Sound region. The station has two piers supporting Navy carriers, destroyers, and frigates and is used by the U.S. Coast Guard to homeport ships as part of an Inter-service Support Agreement. Pier A is the only carrier-capable pier at NAVSTA Everett. Piers D and E and the small boat launch facilitate both security and port operations. Naval Station Everett also provides industrial support for Navy forces assigned to the Pacific Northwest and administrative support to the 26 tenant commands onboard the station. Naval Station Everett is 117 acres and built entirely upon fill material imported to the site. The mouth of the Snohomish River and the Port of Everett Marina border it to the north. Further to the north is Port Gardner Bay, and the East Waterway is to the southeast. The East Waterway is used for Navy operations, as well as by the Port of Everett shipping terminals and the Kimberly-Clark-owned property (previously the site of its Everett paper mill), located to the south of NAVSTA Everett. In addition, the

Navy controls a total of 299 acres of water/submerged lands comprised of fee simple ownership of 210 acres and control over an additional 89 acres for safety and security purposes per CFR 334.1215 (see figure 1-2).

Smokey Point FSC Marysville, under the command of NAVSTA Everett, is located approximately 12 miles north of the Everett waterfront in the City of Marysville, also in Snohomish County (see figure 1-1). The 52-acre site, built up through the placement of fill or graded material, was formerly agricultural land. Today, recreation, financial, and support services are located on the Smokey Point FSC Marysville and include the main Navy Exchange, the commissary, the Navy Lodge, and the education center.

The following tribes have usual and accustomed (U&A) fishing grounds and stations near NAVSTA Everett and/or Smokey Point FSC Marysville: Lummi, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes.



Figure 1-1. Vicinity Map of Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville



Figure 1-2. Naval Station Everett



Figure 1-3. Smokey Point FSC Marysville

1.3 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of the NAVSTA Everett INRMP is to meet statutory requirements under the Sikes Act, provide management requirements for species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and meet the requirements of the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of the Navy instructions and regulations.

In November 1997, the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. § 670a et seq.) was amended to require the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on military installations. To facilitate this program, the amendments require the secretaries of the military departments to prepare and implement integrated natural resource management plans for each military installation in the United States unless the absence of significant natural resources on a particular installation makes preparation of the plan for that installation inappropriate.

The principal use of military installations is to ensure the preparedness of the Armed Forces. The Sikes Act requires each installation to prepare an INRMP that provides for the following management activities to the extent that such activities are consistent with the use of the installation for military preparedness.

1. The conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on the installation
2. The sustainable multipurpose use of the resources, to include hunting, fishing, trapping, and non-consumer uses
3. The public access to installations to facilitate such uses subject to safety requirements and military security.

As required by the Sikes Act, to the extent appropriate and applicable, the plan must provide for:

1. Fish and wildlife management, land management, forest management, and fish- and wildlife-oriented recreation,
2. Fish and wildlife habitat enhancement or modification,
3. Wetland protection, enhancement, and restoration, where necessary for support of fish, wildlife, or plants,
4. Integration of, and consistency among, the various activities conducted under the plan
5. Establishment of specific, natural resource management goals, objectives, and time frames for the Proposed Action,
6. Sustainable use by the public of natural resources to the extent that the use is not inconsistent with the needs of fish and wildlife resources,
7. Public access to the military installation that is necessary or appropriate for the sustainable use of natural resources, subject to requirements necessary to ensure safety and military security,
8. Enforcement of applicable natural resource laws (including regulations),
9. No net loss in the capability of the installation's lands to support the military mission of the installation,
10. Such other activities as the Navy has determined are appropriate.

1.4 SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This EA analysis addresses the environmental effects of implementation of the revised INRMP in a programmatic context. As management decisions are made and specific project designs are developed, further project- and site-specific NEPA analysis or regulatory consultations may be required. In compliance with NEPA, CEQ regulations, and Navy regulations for implementing NEPA (32 CFR Part 775), the evaluation of environmental impacts should focus on those resources and conditions potentially

subject to impacts, identify potentially relevant environmental resource areas deserving of study, and deemphasize irrelevant resource areas. In addition, the level of analysis should be commensurate with the anticipated level of environmental impact. Environmental resources to be analyzed in this EA will include:

1. Water Resources (including water quality, wetlands, and stormwater management)
2. Biological Resources (including terrestrial, aquatic, avian, threatened and endangered species, species of concern, and essential fish habitat)

The resources described in Table 1-1 are not carried forward for analysis in this EA, as potential impacts are considered negligible or nonexistent for the reasons provided:

Table 1-1. Resource Areas Eliminated from Analysis (sheet 1 of 4)

Resources Eliminated	Reason for Elimination
Air Quality	NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville are in Snohomish County, Washington, which, per the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is in attainment/unclassifiable for the following criteria pollutants: nitrogen dioxide, ground-level ozone, particulate matter, and lead. Snohomish County is classified as a maintenance area for carbon monoxide. The EPA has deferred providing a designation for sulfur dioxide in Washington until additional data are gathered pursuant to their comprehensive implementation strategy. Implementation of activities under the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative would not cause a discernible impact on air quality, including criteria pollutants and hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). Any emissions sources would primarily be mobile sources, such as personnel vehicles that are already in the affected area and used for surveying and monitoring, the effects of which would be negligible. No emissions would be produced that would require a modification to the installation's current operating permit, and a federal conformity determination would not be required to implement either alternative.
Airspace Management	Both the Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternative would be entirely land-based. The use or modification of airspace would not occur.

Table 1-1. Resource Areas Eliminated from Analysis (sheet 2 of 4)

Resources Eliminated	Reason for Elimination
Noise	Noise from activities under the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative would primarily be generated from equipment and vehicles temporarily used in the resource conservation work. Noise would be minimal and short-term and would result in negligible impacts to nearby sensitive receptors (such as housing on the installation). The proposed action will not change the long-term noise environment.
Hazardous Materials, Wastes, and Installation Restoration	Herbicides, registered by the EPA under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, would be applied during invasive, non-native plant species removal and control in accordance with the manufacturer's labeled directions and would have little potential to affect human health or the environment under the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative. No other use of hazardous materials, generation of hazardous wastes, or disturbance of installation restoration sites would be anticipated under the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative.
Public Health and Safety	Implementation of activities under the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative would not negatively impact the public's or children's health and safety. There are no environmental restoration sites and/or environmental clean-ups in progress. Resource conservation work would be conducted in accordance with safety regulations.
Infrastructure and Utilities (electricity, natural gas, water, sewer, solid waste)	No modification or impacts on infrastructure or utilities would occur because of the Preferred Alternative or the No Action Alternative.
Traffic and Transportation Systems	Implementation of activities under the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative would have the potential to generate some traffic (e.g., survey and field crews) during performance of management actions; however, this traffic increase would be negligible because projects would be short-term efforts that would generate minimal vehicular traffic.
Geologic Resources	Proposed ground-disturbing projects include manual and/or mechanical removal of invasive, non-native plant species and replacement with native plants, installation or replacement of interpretive signage, and wetland delineation on Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Ground disturbance from these activities would be minimal, and negligible impacts to geologic resources, including soils, would occur as the result of implementing the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative.

Table 1-1. Resource Areas Eliminated from Analysis (sheet 3 of 4)

Resources Eliminated	Reason for Elimination
Socioeconomics	The Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternative would have no effect on local populations, employment, or income contributions, as no increase or decrease in NAVSTA Everett or Smokey Point FSC Marysville personnel is expected under either alternative. Proposed activities under the Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternative would not result in displacement of people or businesses nor change the economic character or stability of the installation or surrounding area.
Cultural Resources	For both alternatives, activities would avoid known cultural resources. The Navy would continue to consult under Section 106 of the NHPA when appropriate on individual actions related to natural resource management that have the potential to have an adverse effect on cultural resources.
American Indian Traditional Resources	<p>NAVSTA Everett is located within the U&A grounds and stations of the Lummi, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes. The Navy and the Tulalip Tribe signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in 1987 that among other things provided for cooperation in fish and water quality protection and support of tribal resource enhancement efforts. Both alternatives would have no effect to traditional resources because it would not change any tribe's access to exercise tribal treaty rights and it would not reduce or degrade harvestable marine resources.</p> <p>The Navy provided the draft Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for review and comment by the Lummi, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes from August 28, 2014 through October 28, 2014 and no comments or changes were recommended.</p>
Visual Resources and Aesthetics	Projects implemented under the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative would have a negligible impact on the current visual and aesthetic landscape of NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Proposed removal and control of invasive species to ensure existing habitats at NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville are not degraded would have a slight beneficial effect on overall aesthetics. However, the aesthetic impacts of this would be considered negligible.
Land Use	Implementation of activities under the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative would have a negligible effect on land use and the military mission at NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Management of natural resources is not an activity that would affect the land use.

1.5 RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The Navy has prepared this EA integrating federal and state laws, statutes, regulations, and policies that are relevant to the implementation of the proposed action including, but not limited to, the following:

1. NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370h), which requires an environmental analysis for major federal actions that have the potential to significantly impact the quality of the human environment
2. CEQ Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500–1508)
3. Navy regulations for implementing NEPA (32 CFR 775) which provides Navy policy for implementing CEQ regulations and NEPA
4. Clean Air Act (CAA) (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.)
5. Clean Water Act (CWA) (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)
6. Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.)
7. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.)
8. Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq., as amended)
9. Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. § 1361-1421h, as amended)
10. Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C. § 703-712)
11. Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. § 668-668c 16)
12. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) (16 U.S.C. § 1801-1882)
13. EO 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
14. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (Public Law 101-601; 25 U.S.C. 3001-3013)
15. EO 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-income Populations
16. EO 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks
17. EO 11990, Protection of Wetlands

A description of the Proposed Action's consistency with these policies and regulations can be found in chapter 5, table 5-1 of the EA.

1.6 INTERAGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Sikes Act requires INRMPs to be prepared in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and appropriate state fish and wildlife agency (in this case the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife [WDFW]). An INRMP represents a mutual agreement of the parties concerning the conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife resources. Additionally, the USFWS and the WDFW reviewed the INRMP and will review updates as they occur. While once every five years is required, an annual review is expected. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) shares some responsibility for implementing portions of the ESA. Therefore, NMFS and WDFW are included as a signatory to this INRMP as well as all subsequent annual and five-year reviews.

The Navy has also requested comments on the draft revised INRMP from WDFW and is consulting with the Lummi, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Tulalip, and Swinomish Tribes, which have U&A fishing grounds and stations in the waterways, and/or tribal treaty resources that are potentially affected by the plan.

The Navy provided the draft Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for review and comment by the Lummi, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes from August 28, 2014 through October 28, 2014 and no comments or changes were recommended. The Navy provided the draft plan to the public for review and comment from September 27, 2014 to October 10, 2014 and no comments were received. The Navy placed copies of the draft plan in the Everett Main Library and the Snohomish and

Island Count Library, Marysville branch. The Navy will consider comments received prior to completion of the Final EA.

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CHAPTER 2

Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action is to adopt and implement a revision to the 2009 INRMP for NAVSTA Everett in Everett, Washington, and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville, Washington in a manner that is consistent with the military use of the property and the goals and objectives established in the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. § 670 et seq.) (as amended). The revised INRMP would be implemented in fiscal years (FYs) 2015–2020 with annual updates. The revised INRMP analyzed in this EA replaces the 2009 version, which was implemented beginning in FY 2009. The INRMP, as a whole, outlines a strategy to sustain biodiversity and the ecosystem as well as plans for complying with applicable regulations while sustaining the military mission.

2.2 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The National Environmental Policy Act's implementing regulations provide guidance on the consideration of alternatives to a federally proposed action and require rigorous exploration and objective evaluation of reasonable alternatives. Only those alternatives determined to be reasonable require detailed analysis.

The purpose of the NAVSTA Everett INRMP is to meet statutory requirements under the Sikes Act, provide management requirements for species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and meet the requirements of the DOD and the Department of the Navy (DON) instructions and regulations. Since the Sikes Act requires the Navy to prepare and implement an INRMP, two alternatives were determined reasonable, and both are evaluated in this EA: the Preferred Alternative (adopts and implements a Revised INRMP), and the No Action Alternative (continue implementation of the existing INRMP).

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CARRIED FORWARD FOR ANALYSIS

2.3.1 Preferred Alternative: Adopt and Implement a Revised INRMP

The Preferred Alternative is to adopt and implement a revision to the 2009 INRMP for NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville in a manner that is consistent with the military use of the property and the goals and objectives established in the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. § 670 et seq.) (as amended). Appendix A shows a general comparison of natural resource project recommendations from the 2009 INRMP side-by-side with those proposed in the revised INRMP. Many of the project recommendations in the revised INRMP have been added since the 2009 INRMP, including:

- V-2 (review of NAVSTA Everett's Architecture Plan)
- V-3 (monitoring for invasive species at the Smokey Point FSC Marysville)
- FW-1 (5-year INRMP assessment)
- FW-2 (Marine Mammal Density survey)
- FW-4 (underwater sound data collection)

- FW-5 (environmental education)
- FW-6 (Herp, i.e. reptile and amphibian, surveys)
- FW-7 (study of auditory masking options)
- TES-2 (murrelet density surveys)
- WR-1 (delineate/classify wetlands on the Smokey Point FSC Marysville)
- LI-1 (develop/adopt siting criteria for shoreline/wetlands buffer areas)
- LI-2 (discussion of joint projects with the U.S. Army Reserve Center).

The implementation of all recommendations, with approval of the revised INRMP, would effectively manage natural resources at NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville beginning in 2015. The INRMP would be updated annually. Several projects would assist in future project planning, development, and climate change adaptation, including species surveys, underwater sound data collection, and assessment of options for masking noise of pierside operations.

In addition to meeting the purpose and need, the Preferred Alternative would have additional benefits that would include meeting the following closely related, but not mutually exclusive, goals and objectives:

Goals:

1. Protect, conserve, and manage the watersheds, wetlands, natural landscapes, soils, forests, fish and wildlife, and other natural resources, as vital elements of a natural resources program
2. Manage natural resources to provide outdoor recreation opportunities
3. Use and care for natural resources in the combination best serving the present and future needs of the United States and its people, with specific attention to the long-term effects of climate change on the installation
4. Provide for the optimum use of land and water areas and access thereto while maintaining ecological integrity and ensuring no net loss in the capability of military installation lands to support the military mission of the installation
5. Interact with the surrounding community to develop positive and productive community involvement, participation, and educational opportunities (U.S. Navy 2010).

Objectives:

1. Assign specific responsibility, provide centralized supervision, and assign professionally trained personnel to this program; and provide natural resource personnel the opportunity to participate in Natural Resources Management job-training activities and professional meetings
2. Develop approaches and plans to protect, conserve, and manage the watersheds, wetlands, natural landscapes, fish and wildlife, and other natural resources as vital elements of a natural resources program
3. Develop staff expertise in climate change and scope a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the installation
4. Ensure installation land-use planning is synchronized with ecosystem and species management plans, accommodate findings of on-going surveys and assessment and institutionalize these through development of installation land-use/activity siting criteria
5. Maximize the benefits of the annual increment review process with the agencies in order to maintain concurrency of the INRMP over time, thereby avoiding extensive re-writing processes and environmental reviews.

2.3.2 No Action Alternative

As required by CEQ guidelines, the No Action Alternative is carried forward as a baseline for the analysis in this EA. The No Action Alternative is to continue implementation of the existing INRMP of 2009 as a management tool. On-going practices used for natural resources management at NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville would continue. In general, the recommendations from the 2009 INRMP consist of monitoring and surveying, interpretive signage, and training.

2.3.3 Comparison of Alternatives

Recommended projects from the INRMP 2009 version and the revised INRMP, divided by resource category, are listed in Appendix A of this EA and in Appendix A of the previous and revised INRMPs. In addition to updates to the text, organization, and management plans, the following substantial changes were made between the 2009 INRMP and the revised INRMP:

1. The revised INRMP provides many new or updated project recommendations as shown in Appendix A and discussed in sections 2.5.2 and 2.5.3.
2. The revised INRMP updates information and management criteria for critical habitat and/or species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA, or defined as sensitive by the state of Washington, as well as for other species that may be found on NAVSTA Everett or in the marine waters adjacent to the facility. State-sensitive species are defined in WAC 232-12-297 as “any wildlife species native to the state of Washington that is vulnerable or declining and is likely to become endangered or threatened throughout a significant portion of its range within the state without cooperative management or removal of threats.” The revised INRMP also provides management criteria for the following threatened, endangered, or sensitive (TES) species and their associated critical habitat listed since 2009: yelloweye, canary rockfish, and bocaccio rockfish; Pacific eulachon; and green sturgeon. Protection of federally listed TES species is a high priority for Navy natural resources management. The revised INRMP addresses TES species management in section 4.1.
3. Natural resources constraints and opportunities have been identified for both NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville in the revised INRMP. Constraints identified for NAVSTA Everett are primarily related to the marine environment and for Smokey Point FSC Marysville are primarily related to a wetland, its associated buffer, and the Native Vegetation Protection Area. Any significant future development and changes in land use would likely require renovation or redevelopment of existing facilities and structures. There are minimal existing natural resources and opportunities for on-site restoration and mitigation. Opportunities for conservation of natural resources—including those resources that are unique, scarce, valuable, or vulnerable—identified in the revised INRMP include the opportunities to conduct species monitoring/surveys, credit for abatement of unused or derelict structures, shoreline preservation, and a cooperative partnership with the adjoining landowner, the U.S. Army Reserve Center, at Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Constraints and opportunities are discussed in sections 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 of the revised INRMP.
4. Section 3.7 of the revised INRMP on NEPA and environmental planning has been expanded to address coordination and planning for construction and facility maintenance, mitigation planning, and beneficial partnerships and collaborative resource planning.
5. The revised INRMP addresses the use of Geographic Information System management, data integration, access, and reporting using the GeoReadiness Systems to enable natural resources analysis on a landscape scale in sections 3.11 and 4.26.
6. The revised INRMP includes a discussion of climate change initiatives and Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (see section 4.25). In this section, in order to lay the foundation for an adaptation strategy, phenomena expected to be of greatest importance and applicability for

impacts related to climate change is defined. Discussions of vulnerabilities related to potential effects of climate change are also discussed.

7. The revised INRMP adds Chapter 4, sections 4.6, 4.7, and 4.8. Section 4.6, Forests, notes that no forest stands exist on either NAVSTA Everett or Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Section 4.7, Vegetation, discusses grounds maintenance and landscaping, including weed control and urban forestry. Section 4.8 combines discussion of management of coastal/marine habitat under the heading, "Management and Protection Plan for the Coastal/Marine Environment".

CHAPTER 3

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Chapter 3 discusses, by resource area, the affected environment and environmental consequences associated with the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative. Discussion of the affected environment first presents existing conditions for each resource area, then addresses the environmental consequences of each alternative upon each resource area.

3.1 WATER RESOURCES

3.1.1 Regulatory Setting

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by the Clean Water Act, is intended to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. The CWA regulates the discharge of pollutants from point sources into waters of the United States. The CWA, as amended in 1987, requires each state to establish water quality standards for its surface waters derived from the amount of pollutants that can be assimilated by a body of water without deterioration of a designated use.

The study area for analysis of water resources includes all upland properties covered under the revised INRMP and the water resources downstream, as activities on the installations have the potential to affect water quality downstream.

3.1.2 Affected Environment

Naval Station Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville lie in watersheds that are connected by the hydrology of the Snohomish River, the second largest drainage basin in Puget Sound. The river empties into Port Gardner Bay near NAVSTA Everett and provides approximately 30 percent of the freshwater discharge to the Whidbey Basin. Originating in the Cascade Mountains, tributaries of the Snohomish River drain a variety of forested, agricultural, and industrial properties (TEC, Inc. 2011).

3.1.2.1 Water Quality and Sediments

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has delegated the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) the responsibility for reviewing, establishing, and revising water quality standards. State water-quality standards must be at least as stringent as the federal standards. Ecology has a responsibility to identify impaired water bodies that do not meet applicable surface water-quality standards. Ecology has divided water body impairments into categories 1 through 5 as described below:

1. Category 1—Waters that meet the tested standards for clean waters.
2. Category 2—Waters of concern that Ecology wants to continue to test where there is some evidence of a water quality problem, but not enough to require production of a Water Quality Improvement Project (e.g. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), or Ecology's "Straight to implementation" clean-up strategy) (Ecology 2013b).

3. Category 3—Waters where there is insufficient data to meet minimum requirements according to Policy 1-11.
4. Category 4—Polluted waters that do not require a TMDL where pollution problems are being solved in one of three ways:
 - a. Category 4a—Water bodies that have an approved TMDL in place and are actively being implemented.
 - b. Category 4b—Water bodies that have a program in place that is expected to solve the pollution problems. While pollution control programs are not TMDLs, they must have many of the same elements and there must be some legal or financial guarantee that they will be implemented.
 - c. Category 4c—Water bodies impaired by causes that cannot be addressed through a TMDL and require complex solutions to help restore streams to more natural conditions.
5. Category 5—Polluted waters, also known as the 303(d) list, that require Ecology to develop a TMDL (Ecology 2013b).

Naval Station Everett

Naval Station Everett is adjacent to the mouth of the Snohomish River channel, also called the Snohomish River Estuary because the freshwater of the Snohomish River intermixes with the saltwater of Possession Sound at this point. The installation is in a historically industrialized area of highly modified shorelines and dredged waterways that form a protected harbor within Port Gardner Bay, an inlet of Possession Sound within north Puget Sound. The East Waterway is located in the Everett Harbor area between downtown Everett and NAVSTA Everett (Ecology 2013a). The installation has no surface streams, wetlands, or water bodies and the shoreline is principally armored and developed with piers, docks, seawalls, debris deflectors, and boomed areas.

The nearshore environment surrounding NAVSTA Everett (referred to as Port Gardner Bay and the Inner Everett Harbor and North Possession Sound by Ecology) are classified as category 2 for dissolved oxygen and bacteria under Ecology's EPA-approved 2012 marine water quality assessment 305(b) report and 303d list of impaired water bodies. The waters surrounding NAVSTA Everett are also listed as category 5 for contaminated sediments (Ecology 2013b). Marine sediments in the East Waterway and other waterways surrounding NAVSTA Everett have been polluted from historical industrial discharge and current industrial and municipal discharges, as well as log rafting, which contributed to high levels of wood debris.

The Snohomish River is classified as a category 5 for 2,3,7,8-Tetrachlorodibenzo-*p*-dioxin (TCDD), which is formed as an unintentional by-product of incomplete combustion, and is a probable human carcinogen (Ecology 2013b; EPA 2013). It is also classified as a category 2 for contaminated sediment.

Smokey Point FSC Marysville

The Smokey Point FSC Marysville is within the watershed of Quilceda Creek, a tributary of the Snohomish River. Hayho Creek, located on the western property line of Smokey Point FSC Marysville, flows south into Quilceda Creek. As shown in figure 3-1, toward the north of the property there is a wetland oriented east to west that bisects the property. The Navy maintains a 50-foot wide native growth protection area along east bank of Hayho Creek and a 25-foot wide buffer area on either each side of the wetland. Additionally, a portion of the northern property line and the entire length of the eastern property boundaries are subject to a 30-foot wide drainage and landscape easement. There are two sizable stormwater detention ponds along the eastern property boundary.

Quilceda Creek is classified as a category 4a for bacteria and is listed as a category 2 for dissolved oxygen (Ecology 2013b).

3.1.2.2 Wetlands

Executive Order 11990 (1977) requires federal agencies to minimize the loss or degradation of wetlands and to enhance their natural values. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act prohibits discharges of dredged or filled material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, without first obtaining a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The OPNAVINST 5090.1D refers to 33 CFR § 320-330, Clean Water Act Section 404, and requires that the Navy comply with the national goal of no net loss of wetlands, and to avoid loss of size, function, and value of wetlands.

Naval Station Everett

There are no wetlands on NAVSTA Everett.

Smokey Point FSC Marysville

Smokey Point FSC Marysville has one narrow wetland area to the north of the Navy Exchange within a fenced, confined area, immediately adjacent to a narrow stormwater detention trench. This wetland appears to pre-date construction of the Smokey Point FSC Marysville and remains unmodified in order to maintain drainage patterns within the local area. This small 1.6-acre wetland and buffer area drains toward the west where it joins Hayho Creek.



Figure 3-1. Smokey Point FSC Marysville Wetland and Storm Drainage/Detention

3.1.2.3 Stormwater Management

The CWA established the basic framework for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States. The CWA limits any discharge of pollutants to a level sufficient to ensure compliance with state water-quality standards. The CWA National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (33 U.S.C. 1342) requires permits for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities.

Naval Station Everett

Stormwater runoff from NAVSTA Everett drains into the base-wide drainage system that flows through four oil-water separators before discharging into the Snohomish River (TEC, Inc. 2011).

Smokey Point FSC Marysville

Overall, the Smokey Point FSC Marysville parcel is flat with very little change in grade. In order to manage stormwater on the site, an extensive storm-drainage and detention plan was implemented with large detention ponds located along the front or eastern side of the property. These detention ponds can be observed when entering the site from the public street. The ponds support a healthy population of various trees, shrubs, reeds, and grasses. There is also a detention feature immediately adjacent to the wetland area into which stormwater gradually discharges, with the benefits of improving surface water quality, enabling infiltration into groundwater, and aquifer recharge (INRMP 2012).

3.1.3 Environmental Consequences

3.1.3.1 Preferred Alternative

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would result in long-term beneficial effects to water resources at NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville. The revised INRMP would implement a water resources management approach that evaluates current conditions and impacts of Navy activities and determines appropriate actions to protect local watersheds. For example, under the Preferred Alternative, the Natural Resources Manager would implement the following best management practices (BMPs) to protect or improve water quality under the Preferred Alternative:

1. Identify operations and infrastructure that could affect water quality—for example, storm drains that release directly to a water body or pesticide applications near the shore—and coordinate with the command and station's departments to minimize or eliminate releases to fresh or marine waters.
2. Assist in the development of spill prevention, control, and countermeasures, which would be implemented to prevent accidental contaminant releases to fresh or marine waters.
3. Regularly inspect any NAVSTA Everett structures that extend below the mean higher high water line (such as security booms around ships) and keep the structures free of debris or other materials that could hinder species movement along the shoreline.
4. Maintain and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands for habitat and water quality purposes.
5. Ensure that program/project managers are aware of the laws and regulations regarding the protection of wetlands and waters of the U.S. during the program/project review process.

Under the Preferred Alternative, wetland areas at Smokey Point FSC Marysville would be delineated and classified in accordance with the 1987 USACE Wetlands Delineation Manual, and mapped. This project would assist the Navy in protecting wetlands from impacts and maintaining the 25-foot wetland buffer on either side of the wetland. Also under the Preferred Alternative, an education/outreach program with the

aim of informing the NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville populations of the importance of water quality and spill prevention for species recovery would be implemented. The development and adoption of siting criteria for shoreline and wetlands buffer areas in partnership with the U.S. Army Reserve would preserve and improve wetland and water quality. This would stabilize the shoreline areas of Hayho Creek at the Smokey Point FSC, which would provide storm protection and flood control. Proactive enhancement of the functions, values, and vegetation along waterways and wetlands would occur through invasive species removal if the Preferred Alternative were to be implemented. Therefore, no significant impacts would occur to water resources because of implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

3.1.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville would still be required to comply with water resource laws, therefore limiting direct adverse impacts on specific regulated water resources (e.g., wetlands and waters of the United States, floodplains, coastal zones, and marine protected areas). There would be no increase in flooding potential, erosion, or pollutants entering water bodies. However, a comprehensive management strategy for all NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville facilities would not be implemented, resulting in the potential for inefficient, redundant, and more costly management of these resources. Therefore, long-term, minor adverse effects on water resources and management of these resources could occur from implementation of the No Action Alternative; however, no significant impacts would be anticipated.

3.2 TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE BIOLOGY

3.2.1 Regulatory Setting

Marine mammals are protected under the MMPA of 1972, amended in 1994, administered by NMFS and USFWS. The MMPA prohibits the take of any marine mammal, which is defined by NMFS as to “harass, hunt, capture, collect, kill, or attempt to harass, hunt, capture, collect, or kill any marine mammal.” The National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2004 (Public Law 108-136) amended the definition of harassment and adopted the definition of “military readiness activity” as set forth in the Fiscal Year 2003 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 107-314). Congress has defined military readiness as all training and operations of the armed forces that relate to combat and the adequate and realistic testing of military equipment, vehicles, weapons, and sensors for proper operation and suitability for combat use. The proposed action constitutes military readiness activities as defined in Public Law 107-314. For military readiness activities, the relevant definition of harassment is any act that injures, or has the significant potential to injure, a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (“Level A harassment”) or disturbs, or is likely to disturb, a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of natural behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, surfacing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering to a point where such behavioral patterns are abandoned or significantly altered (“Level B harassment”) [16 U.S.C § (18)(B)(i) and (ii)].

Migratory birds are protected under the MBTA of 1918, amended in 1974, is administered by the USFWS. The MBTA prohibits the taking, killing, or possessing of migratory birds (defined as both migratory and most native-resident bird species) except under the terms of a valid incidental take permit. As a note, threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, as well as essential fish habitat will be discussed in section 3.3 versus this section.

3.2.2 Affected Environment

3.2.2.1 Flora

Naval Station Everett

Naval Station Everett contains a small range of habitat types; the upland landscape is almost entirely developed and the shoreline is armored. The nearshore area does not include any beaches, sediment sources, or accretion shore forms. There are landscape plantings comprised of both coniferous and deciduous tree species for shade and aesthetics. Eelgrass beds are present along the southern shoreline of Port Gardner Bay, near the mouth of Pigeon Creek and on the southern end of Jetty Island, but there are no kelp or eelgrass beds on NAVSTA Everett (Palsson et al., 2009).

Smokey Point FSC Marysville

Smokey Point FSC Marysville contains developed uplands, retention ponds, a channelized stream, and a wetland area. Sparse urban forest habitats, the result of intentional plantings for shade, aesthetics, and stream channel stabilization and cover, occur at Smokey Point FSC Marysville in forested wetlands and landscape trees around facilities and parking lots.

Invasive species are found in disturbed or developed areas on NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville.

3.2.2.2 Fauna

Hunting and trapping are not allowed at NAVSTA Everett or on the Smokey Point FSC Marysville. A variety of resident and migratory terrestrial and marine birds occurs at NAVSTA Everett. While the Smokey Point FSC Marysville lacks a marine environment, the wetlands, stream, and detention ponds do provide habitat for similar species. Migratory neo-tropical birds occur as summer residents. Raptor species may be migratory winter residents, summer residents, or present during fall and/or spring migration. Numerous waterfowl and shorebirds are found on the installation and adjacent waters.

Naval Station Everett has marine habitat along its armored shoreline, but intertidal habitat is severely limited due to the built-up nature of the site and the armored banks. The nearshore area of the installation does not include any beaches, sediment sources, or accretion shore forms. Therefore, forage fish and forage fish spawning are severely limited. Several species of marine invertebrates and crab species are found in the waters adjacent to NAVSTA Everett.

3.2.2.3 Aquatic Invertebrates

Naval Station Everett

Many aquatic invertebrate species commonly occur in the waters near NAVSTA Everett. These invertebrates include crabs (Dungeness crab [*Cancer magister*], red crab [*Cancer productus*], shore crabs [*Hemigrapsus* spp.]); shrimp (ghost shrimp [*Callinassa* sp.], blue mud shrimp [*Upogebia pugettensis*]); clams (geoduck [*Panopea generosa*], eastern soft-shell clam [*Mya arenaria*], varnish clam [*Nuttalia obscurata*], Baltic clam [*Macoma balthica*], *Macoma* spp., *Cryptomya* spp.); mussels (blue mussel [*Mytilus edulis*]); jingle shells (*Pododesmus macroschisma*); snails (*Littorina* spp.); polychaetes (*Nereis* spp., *Notomastus* spp., *Nephtys* spp., *Glycera* spp.); barnacles (*Balanus glandula*); and anemones (*Mertridium senile*) (City of Everett and Pentec Environmental 2001; SAIC 2010). Of these species, the Dungeness crab is the most important commercially and, due to the limited habitat available in Everett

Harbor and Puget Sound as a whole, is considered a priority species (City of Everett and Pentec Environmental 2001).

Each of the aquatic invertebrates mentioned above occupies specific habitats within Everett Harbor. Dungeness crabs prefer pilings, rocky substrates, sand flats, mudflats/mud banks, and shallow subtidal/soft bottom. Red crabs are typically found associated with pilings, rocky and mixed-fine substrates, sand flats, and shallow subtidal/soft bottom. Ghost shrimp occupy sand flats and mudflats/mud banks, while blue mud shrimp prefer mudflats/mud banks only. Clams occur in mixed-fine substrates, sand flats, mudflats, and shallow subtidal/soft bottom. Mussels are present on pilings and with rocky, mixed-coarse, and mixed-fine substrates. Cockles are associated with sand flats. Snails, shore crabs, and isopods are found over rocky, mixed-course, and mixed-fine substrates. Polychaetes occur in association with mixed-fine substrates, mudflats/mud banks, and shallow subtidal/soft bottom. Barnacles are found attached to pilings and with rocky, mixed-coarse, and mixed-fine substrates (City of Everett and Pentec Environmental 2001).

Benthic invertebrates include highly dense invertebrates that utilize or live in or on a lake or sea floor for at least some life stages. Benthic infaunal organisms live in or are associated with subtidal marine sediments. Epibenthic invertebrates describe those who occupy areas within the water column immediately above a lake or sea floor. The health of the benthic and epibenthic infauna community can be an important measure of sediment quality in an area when compared to the benthic community in uncontaminated sediments.

A 2010 sediment characterization study found that:

1. The inner East Waterway stations had a lower abundance of benthic infauna than found in the outer waterway stations
2. The inner waterway stations had proportionately more polychaetes and crustaceans than the outer waterway stations, and fewer bivalves, indicating greater disturbance
3. The inner waterway stations showed a decrease in species richness and diversity compared to those found in the outer waterway stations (SAIC 2010).

The nearshore areas of the East Waterway and other areas of the Everett Harbor are utilized as habitat by epibenthic invertebrates that live immediately above the bottom. Juvenile salmon feed upon the epibenthic invertebrates in the nearshore areas of the estuary at a critical phase in the life history success of the Snohomish River salmon runs (EDAW, Inc. 1994b).

Many species of small non-commercial crustaceans were documented at subtidal stations in the East Waterway (NAVFAC Western Division 1984). The one significant commercial and recreational species found in the East Waterway is the Dungeness crab (PSWQAT 1994; WDFW 1994). In the past, the shoreline along the western side of the East Waterway was found to support large numbers of juvenile Dungeness crab, which utilize the muddy/sandy areas at the base of the riprap slope (NAVFAC Western Division 1985a). Harvesting of Dungeness crab is not allowed in the East Waterway and is limited to Howarth Park, on the south shore of Port Gardner Bay (WDFW 2012).

Smokey Point FSC Marysville

The wetlands that bisect the property and nearby Hayho Creek have not been surveyed, but likely contain various benthic aquatic invertebrates such as the aquatic stages of insects.

3.2.2.4 Marine and Anadromous Fish

Naval Station Everett

The Snohomish River is the second largest drainage basin in Puget Sound and supports a substantial salmon and trout fishery. The Snohomish River Estuary and adjacent marine areas provide vital transit habitat for adults migrating up-river to spawn and for offspring migrating through to their marine phase of life. The timing of each species' presence in the river varies from species to species (table 3-1). The four species of salmon found in this system are coho, chum, Chinook (spring and summer/fall runs), and pink (even-numbered years only) (Hard 1996). These naturally reproducing species are augmented with hatchery fish (winter and summer steelhead) released from the WDFW and the Tulalip Tribal hatcheries (EDAW, Inc. 1994a).

Table 3-1. Seasonal Use of Snohomish River by Anadromous Fish

Species (Run)	Time of Adult Return	Spawning Season	Time in Freshwater	Estuarine Residence Time
Summer Chinook	June–July	Late Sept–Nov	90–180 days	April–July
Fall Chinook	Aug–Sept	Fall	90–180 days	April–July
	Aug–Nov	Oct-Dec	1 year	March–May
Chum	Sept–March	Sept-March	0–30 days	April–June
Pink	Aug–Sept	Sept-Oct	0–7 days	April–June
Winter Steelhead	Nov–April	Jan-June	2–3 years	March–May
Summer Steelhead	May–Oct	Jan-June	2 years	March–May
Sea-run Cutthroat	Dec–June	Dec-June	1–4 years	Jan–Oct
Bull Trout/Dolly Varden	April–Aug	Sept-Oct	2–3 years	March–May

Source: Washington State Conservation Commission 2002

The Snohomish River Estuary is utilized by juvenile anadromous fish during a period of adjustment to their saline existence. Both the native char (bull trout/Dolly Varden) and sea-run cutthroat use the Snohomish River Estuary for summer rearing. The first and most abundant juvenile salmon to enter the area are pink salmon (NAVFAC Western Division 1985b; Beauchamps 1986). They appear in early April and peak in numbers mid-April through mid-May, spending a short time in the nearshore area and moving into deeper surrounding waters around mid-June. Arriving about two weeks after the pinks, chum salmon juveniles peak from mid-April until mid-June, but are present through July. Chinook salmon juveniles arrive in the project area in early June and peak from mid-June to early July. Numerous factors, including habitat loss and over-fishing, have resulted in reduced runs of coho. Consequently, low numbers of coho salmon juveniles emigrate through the area for a short period in late May through early June.

Pelagic or off-bottom species of fish have been noted throughout the year in the vicinity of NAVSTA Everett. The most common are Pacific hake, walleye pollock, Pacific cod, Pacific herring, Pacific tomcod, and spiny dogfish.

Demersal or bottom-dwelling fish have been reported to be less diverse and numerous than pelagic species in the project area. The most abundant is the Pacific staghorn sculpin followed by English sole, sand sole, and Pacific sanddab.

Beach seining of the Port Gardner area revealed that juvenile or larval forms of both pelagic and demersal species utilize the shallower areas as well, while purse seining revealed that Pacific herring, Pacific sandlance, and three-spined stickleback were the most prevalent in the pier and log raft areas (NAVFAC Western Division 1985a).

There are documented surf smelt and sand lance spawning areas located within Port Gardner Bay. Surf smelt spawning habitat has been documented to the south, near the mouth of Pigeon Creek, while sand lance spawning habitat has been documented north near the mouth of Tulalip Bay and south near Howarth Park, as well as on some areas on Gedney Island.

Smokey Point FSC Marysville

The upland Smokey Point FSC Marysville has freshwater habitats in detention ponds, drain ditches, the channelized stream along the west side, and the wetland complex partially owned by the Navy on the complex's southwest side.

Quilceda Creek and its tributaries support coho, Chinook, and chum salmon. Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife surveys and priority habitats and species interactive mapping have found Hayho Creek supports passage for populations of coho, chum, and coastal resident cutthroat trout. In addition, winter steelhead utilize segments of Quilceda Creek downstream from the Smokey Point FSC Marysville.

The WDFW Priority Habitat and Species map for the area indicates anadromous fish utilize Hayho Creek along the western side of the Smokey Point FSC Marysville up to the northwest corner of the site (WDFW 1994). The map also indicates that the watercourse at the northwest corner of the Smokey Point FSC Marysville represents critical spawning habitat for resident species. In addition, the watercourse may be utilized as rearing habitat for juvenile coho salmon (WDF et al. 1993). Snohomish River coho salmon runs utilize the tributaries of the lower Snohomish main stem, including Quilceda Creek, however "[t]his population is described as depressed due to a short-term, severe decline in escapement" (EDAW, Inc. 1994b).

3.2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.2.3.1 Preferred Alternative

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative would likely have a beneficial effect on vegetation. For example, the control of invasive species would likely be a primary element of vegetation management. The control and eradication of invasive species that compete with native plant species would promote healthy growth of native plant species on NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Grounds maintenance and urban forestry activities would also reduce the number of non-native ornamental plants and replace them with native selections.

The Preferred Alternative would have a beneficial effect on terrestrial and freshwater or marine aquatic species and their habitats. Implementation of the revised INRMP provides a management strategy for the protection of species, which includes project review to identify actions with potential adverse effects. Implementation of the revised INRMP would ensure all applicable installation personnel are aware of current restrictions and regulations, and would ensure that installation personnel are involved in review

and planning for actions having a potential impact to wildlife and plant communities. Examples include in-water projects such as pile driving that may impact marine species, or construction projects near eagles' nests. Through the revised INRMP, natural resource managers (NRMs) would provide measures for minimization and/or elimination of impacts. Naval Station Everett is required to consult with NMFS, and obtain permits for any proposed action that may adversely impact marine mammals, in compliance with the MMPA.

Improved water quality on NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville would improve the health of individuals and populations of aquatic species. Enhancing fish passage in Hayho Creek would benefit anadromous and resident fish. The quality of habitat in riparian corridors would be increased as a result of buffer zones along the creek as well as the wetland on Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Habitat would be enhanced through the shading, woody debris recruitment, refuge creation, and increased species diversity that would likely occur as a result of controlling invasive species and planting of native vegetation. For example, planting native vegetation along the stream would decrease the potential of erosion, provide shading, and improve stream and riparian habitat. Overall, there would be no significant impact on terrestrial or marine biology resulting from implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

3.2.3.2 No Action Alternative

By not implementing the NAVSTA Everett INRMP update, the No Action Alternative would maintain existing conditions for flora and fauna. There would be no change from the management strategies under the previous INRMP; however, several studies and initiatives would not be implemented (see appendix A for a comparison of alternatives). Current natural resources management would continue to protect against substantial loss and degradation of native species. Naval Station Everett would continue to consult with NMFS, and obtain permits for any proposed action that may adversely impact marine mammals, in compliance with the MMPA. Long-term, minor adverse effects on fauna could be expected from the No Action Alternative due to the lack of a comprehensive plan to protect species and their habitats; however, no significant impacts would be anticipated.

3.3 THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES AND ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

3.3.1 Regulatory Setting

The ESA (16 U.S.C. § 1531-1544) authorizes the determination and listing of species as endangered and threatened and provides regulatory protection for listed species. The USFWS and NMFS share responsibility for conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species and conservation of designated critical habitat required for the survival and recovery of listed species. Generally, USFWS manages land and freshwater species, while NMFS manages marine and anadromous species. Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires all federal agencies to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by them is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any species listed as endangered or threatened, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species. If a proposed Navy action may affect a federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the Navy must initiate consultation with the USFWS or the NMFS, as appropriate. Analysis of impacts to candidate species is not required under the ESA. However, the USFWS and NMFS encourage conservation efforts for candidate species because they may warrant future protection under the ESA.

3.3.2 Affected Environment

No threatened or endangered plant species are known or expected to occur on NAVSTA Everett or the Smokey Point FSC Marysville.

Naval Station Everett

Several wildlife species listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA have been observed in marine waters along or adjacent to NAVSTA Everett, or are found in the greater surrounding region (table 3-2). Threatened marbled murrelets occur in the Puget Sound marine environment adjacent to NAVSTA Everett, but no nest sites or potential nest sites are known to occur on NAVSTA Everett due to lack of appropriate forest habitat. Puget Sound supports three federally-listed species of salmonids that may occur by NAVSTA Everett: Puget Sound Chinook salmon (threatened), Puget Sound steelhead (threatened), and the bull trout (threatened). Puget Sound Chinook and Puget Sound steelhead migrate within the nearshore habitat of NAVSTA Everett. The bull trout could potentially pass through the marine waters of NAVSTA Everett. In addition, three listed species of rockfish—bocaccio (endangered), canary rockfish (threatened), and yelloweye rockfish (threatened)—are known to occur in Puget Sound. Endangered humpback whales are rare visitors to Puget Sound. Southern Resident killer whales (endangered) are seen in Puget Sound and may occur in marine waters adjacent to NAVSTA Everett.

Other special status species in the vicinity of NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville include Washington threatened and endangered species, state monitored and sensitive species, candidates for federal or state listing, and species of concern. To promote ecosystem management, Navy policy (OPNAVINST 5090.1D) encourages cooperation with state protection programs such as the WDFW Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as well as numerous, detailed species management and recovery plans and watershed management plans, authored by USFWS, NMFS, WDFW and others. Naval Station Everett will implement appropriate strategies to protect special status species and habitats once they are identified on Navy lands. In accordance with OPNAVINST 5090.1D, the goal of the preferred alternative is “to maintain and improve the sustainability and native biological diversity of ecosystems while supporting human needs, including the military mission.”

Smokey Point FSC Marysville

There are no known threatened or endangered species on or around the Smokey Point FSC Marysville.

Table 3-2. Potentially Occurring Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species at NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville (sheet 1 of 2)

Endangered Species			
Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status/Federal Status/State	Designated Critical Habitat	Habitat
FISH			
Chinook salmon—Puget Sound ESU (<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>)	FT/NMFS	NDE	Marine waters, estuaries, salt marshes.
	C/WA	70 FR 52685	
Steelhead—Puget Sound DPS (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)	FT/NMFS	Proposed 78 FR 2725	Marine waters, estuaries, salt marshes.

**Table 3-2. Potentially Occurring Threatened and Endangered Species at
NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville (sheet 2 of 2)**

Endangered Species			
Common Name (Scientific Name)	Status/Federal Status/State	Designated Critical Habitat	Habitat
FISH			
Bull Trout—Coastal Puget Sound DPS <i>(Salvelinus confluentus)</i>	FT/USFWS	NDE	Marine waters, estuaries, salt marshes.
	C/WA	70 FR 56212 75 FR 2270	
Bocaccio Rockfish <i>(Sebastes paucispinis)</i>	FE/NMFS	79 FR 68041	Marine waters
	C/WA		
Canary Rockfish <i>(Sebastes pinniger)</i>	FT/NMFS	79 FR 68041	Marine waters
	C/WA		
Yelloweye Rockfish <i>(Sebastes ruberrimus)</i>	FT/NMFS	79 FR 68041	Marine waters
	C/WA		
Pacific Eulachon—Southern DPS <i>(Thaleichthys pacificus)</i>	FT/NMFS	None	Marine waters, estuaries, salt marshes
		76 FR 65324	
Green Sturgeon—Southern DPS <i>(Acipenser medirostris)</i>	FT/NMFS	NDE	Marine waters
		74 FR 52330	
BIRDS			
Marbled Murrelet <i>(Brachyramphus marmoratus)</i>	FT/USFWS	None	Marine waters, mature forest near coastal areas
	T/WA	57 FR 45328	
MARINE MAMMALS			
Killer Whale—Southern Resident DPS <i>(Orcinus orca)</i>	FE/NMFS	NDE	Marine waters
	E/WA	71 FR 69054	
Humpback whale <i>(Megaptera novaengliae)</i>	FE/NMFS	“where found”	Marine waters
	E/WA	35 FR 18319	
AMPHIBIAN			
Leatherback Sea Turtle <i>(Dermochelys coriacea)</i>	FE/NMFS and USFWS	None	Marine waters
		77 FR 4170	
FE—Federal Endangered FT—Federally Threatened NDE—National Defense Exemptions with an approved INRMP that provides benefit to the species E/WA—Endangered Washington		T/WA—Threatened Washington C/WA—Candidate Washington None means there may be habitat designated for the species, however, there is no impact or affect to the installation.	

3.3.2.1 Critical Habitat

Under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. § 1532) critical habitat consists of “the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the [protected] species, at the time it is listed [...] on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to the conservation of the species and (II) which may require special management considerations or protection.” Critical habitat may also include specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed [...] upon a determination by the Secretary [of the Interior] that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. Critical habitat must be designated on the basis of the best scientific data available and after taking into consideration the economic impact of the designation.

Critical habitat is not designated on lands or other geographical areas owned or controlled by the Department of Defense, or designated for its use, if there is an approved INRMP. Additionally, an area may be excluded from critical habitat designation based on economic impact or an impact on national security (16 U.S.C. § 1533(b)(i)). Due to this exemption, there is currently no critical habitat for the following TES species within NAVSTA Everett or the Smokey Point FSC Marysville:

1. Puget Sound Chinook Salmon
2. Coastal-Puget Sound Bull Trout
3. Southern Resident Killer Whale
4. Green Sturgeon.

The following species either do have critical habitat designations, but no designated habitat areas are at or near NAVSTA Everett or Smokey Point FSC Marysville, or no critical habitat has been designated:

1. Southern DPS of Pacific Eulachon
2. Marbled Murrelet
3. Humpback Whale (no critical habitat has been designated; it is protected “where found”)
4. Leatherback Sea Turtle.

Critical habitat has been proposed, but has not yet been designated for the following:

1. Puget Sound DPS of Steelhead

Critical habitat has been designated for the following Threatened and Endangered species, but the designation does not apply to Naval Station Everett:

1. Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Yelloweye Rockfish
2. Puget Sound/Georgia Basin Canary Rockfish
3. Bocaccio Rockfish.

3.3.2.2 Essential Fish Habitat

In 1996, the Sustainable Fisheries Act (Public Law 104-267) reauthorized and amended the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. As part of the reauthorization, the essential fish habitat (EFH) mandate requires that the regional fishery management councils, through federal fishery management plans, describe and identify EFH for each federally managed species; minimize, to the extent practicable, adverse effects on such habitat caused by fishing; and identify other actions to encourage the conservation and enhancement of such habitats. Congress defines EFH as “those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity” (16 U.S.C. Section [§] 1802(10)). The term “fish” is defined in the MSA as “finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animals and plant life other than marine mammals and birds” (16 U.S.C. § 1802(12)). Habitats

used at any time during a species' life cycle (i.e., during at least one of its life stages) must be accounted for when describing and identifying EFH (NMFS 2002).

is given to The Secretary of Commerce gives authority to implement the MSA that is delegated to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The MSA also requires federal agencies to consult with NMFS on activities that may adversely affect EFH or when NMFS independently learns of a federal activity that may adversely affect EFH. The MSA's implementing regulations define an adverse effect as "any impact that reduces quality and/or quantity of EFH. Adverse effects may include direct or indirect physical, chemical, or biological alterations of the waters or substrate and loss of, or injury to, benthic organisms, prey species and their habitat, and other ecosystem components, if such modifications reduce the quality and/or quantity of EFH. Adverse effects to EFH may result from actions occurring within EFH or outside of EFH and may include site-specific or habitat-wide impacts, including individual, cumulative, or synergistic consequences of actions" (50 CFR 600.810).

In addition to EFH designations, areas called habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC) are also designated by the regional fishery management councils. Designated HAPC are discrete subsets of EFH that provide extremely important ecological functions or are especially vulnerable to degradation (50 CFR 600.805-600.815). Categorization of an area as an HAPC does not confer additional protection or restriction to the designated area.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is responsible for designating EFH and HAPC for all federally managed species occurring in the coastal and marine waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, including Puget Sound. The PFMC designated EFH for these species within the fishery management plans for each of the four primary fisheries that they manage: Coastal Pelagic Species, Pacific Coast Salmon, Pacific Coast Groundfish, and West Coast Fisheries for Highly Migratory Species (PFMC 1998, 2003, 2007, 2009). Of these fisheries, only three (coastal pelagic species, salmon, and groundfish) contain species for which EFH and HAPC have been designated within the vicinity of NAVSTA Everett.

3.3.2.3 Coastal Pelagic Species

Essential Fish Habitat for coastal pelagic species addresses five pelagic species that are treated as a single species complex because of similarities in life histories and habitat requirements: Northern anchovy, Pacific sardine, Pacific (chub) mackerel, jack mackerel, and market squid. The definition for coastal pelagic species EFH is based on the geographic range and in-water temperatures where these species are present during a particular life stage (PFMC 1998). Essential fish habitat for these species includes all estuarine and marine waters above the thermocline where sea surface temperatures range from 10 to 20 degrees Celsius. These boundaries include the waters of NAVSTA Everett. No HAPC have been formally designated for coastal pelagic species.

Coastal pelagic species have value to commercial Pacific fisheries, and are also important as food for other fish, marine mammals, and birds (63 Federal Register 13833). Coastal pelagic species are considered sensitive to overfishing, loss of habitat, reduction in water and sediment quality, and changes in marine hydrology, including entrainment through water intakes.

3.3.2.4 Salmon

The Pacific salmon management unit includes Chinook, coho, and pink salmon. All three species use the marine nearshore environment for rearing as juveniles and migration for both adults and juveniles. The EFH designation for the Pacific salmon fishery in estuarine and marine environments in the state of Washington extends from nearshore and tidal submerged environments within state territorial waters out

to the full extent of the exclusive economic zone (200 miles) offshore (PFMC 2003). In addition to the marine and estuarine waters, salmon species have a defined freshwater EFH, which includes all lakes, streams, ponds, rivers, wetlands, and other bodies of water that have been historically accessible to salmon (PFMC 2003) including the Snohomish River System and the waters around NAVSTA Everett. The Snohomish River and the nearshore waters where it discharges to the estuarine nearshore environment is protected as EFH based on the functions they provide including nutrient loads, terrestrial and aquatic prey, chemical buffering, salinity buffering, and habitat structure (e.g., large woody debris). Currently, there is not sufficient quantity or resolution of data for the development of formal HAPC designations for Chinook, coho, and pink salmon.

Pacific salmon EFH is primarily affected by the loss of suitable spawning habitat, barriers to fish migration (habitat access), reduction in water and sediment quality, changes in estuarine hydrology, and decreases in prey food source (PFMC 2003). In Puget Sound, the most abundant forage fish species for salmonids include Pacific herring, surf smelt, and Pacific sand lance (Penttila 2007). Pacific herring is the most abundant of these species in Puget Sound (Orsi et al. 2007). Threats to salmonid forage species in Puget Sound include shoreline armoring, dredging, overwater structures and vegetation (shading), and aquaculture (Penttila 2007).

3.3.2.5 Groundfish

Pacific coast groundfish species are considered sensitive to over-fishing, the loss of habitat, and water and sediment quality (PFMC 2009). The groundfish EFH consists of the aquatic habitat necessary to allow for groundfish production to support long-term sustainable fisheries for groundfish and for groundfish contributions to a healthy ecosystem (PFMC 2009). The PFMC (2009) identifies the overall area designated as groundfish EFH for all species covered in the FMP as all waters and substrate within “depths less than or equal to 3,500 m [~11,500 feet] to mean higher high water level or the upriver extent of saltwater intrusion, defined as upstream and landward to where ocean-derived salts measure less than 0.5 ppt [parts per thousand] during the period of average annual low flow.” Furthermore, the PFMC (2009) has also designated EFH for each individual groundfish species by lifestage. Using the Pacific Habitat Use Relational Database developed by the PFMC, it was determined that 32 of the 83 groundfish species covered by the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan (PFMC 2009) have EFH designated within the vicinity of NAVSTA Everett.

Based on the analysis of the Pacific Habitat Use Relational Database, the primary habitat types designated as EFH within Puget Sound for groundfish include:

1. The epipelagic zone, which is the upper layer of the water column that extends from the surface down to a depth of 200 meters (656 feet)
2. Unconsolidated sediments consisting of mud, sand, or mixed mud/sand
3. Hard bottom habitats composed of boulder, bedrock, cobble, gravel, or mixed gravel/cobble
4. Mixed sediments composed of a combination of sand and rocks
5. Macrophyte canopies and drift algae
6. Vegetated bottoms consisting of algal beds, macrophytes, or rooted vascular plants.

Designated HAPC for Pacific groundfish include seagrass, canopy kelp, rocky reef, and estuarine habitats along the Pacific coast. The estuarine habitats designated as HAPC extend landward to mean higher high water or the upriver extent of saltwater intrusion. The seagrasses designated as HAPC include eelgrass beds in estuaries. While eelgrass does not occur on the base itself, it does occur in the vicinity of NAVSTA Everett, most notably along the southern shoreline of Port Gardner Bay, near the mouth of Pigeon Creek, and along the southern end of Jetty Island. Therefore, both seagrass and estuarine habitats designated as HAPC occur on or within the vicinity of NAVSTA Everett.

3.3.3 Environmental Consequences

3.3.3.1 Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative is expected to have a beneficial effect on both TES species and EFH. The revised INRMP includes surveys for TES species, which would contribute to the NRM's awareness of their presence and use of habitats at NAVSTA Everett. The NRMs may also use the revised INRMP as a tool to help identify, at an early stage, potential impacts (both beneficial and negative) of planned Navy actions on TES species and EFH to provide a basis for altering the action to prevent or minimize those negative impacts. The revised INRMP would assist NAVSTA Everett NRMs in ESA consultations with the USFWS and NMFS whenever proposed actions may affect listed TES species.

Protection of biological resources, habitat enhancement, and environmental effects described in the previous sections for flora and fauna would also apply to TES species and their habitat. For example, improved water quality would benefit federally-listed salmonid and rockfish species. Protection of EFH and forage fish habitat would benefit most listed species likely to be found on NAVSTA Everett since these fish are vital food sources for TES species, either directly or indirectly. The Preferred Alternative would provide NRMs with updated information on TES species and habitats through surveys and outreach activities such as participation in the Audubon Christmas Bird count. This additional data would provide NRMs with a basis for decisions on how to best manage habitat and minimize effects of installation activities on TES species. Overall, there would be no significant impact on threatened, endangered, and sensitive species or EFH resulting from implementation of the Preferred Alternative.

Implementation of the Preferred Alternative, a revised and approved INRMP, could preclude future designations for critical habitat under the ESA within NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville property boundaries.

3.3.3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Navy would continue to consult with USFWS and NMFS under Section 7 of the ESA, and under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act on any activity that may affect TES species or EFH. The Navy would implement terms and conditions required by the agencies to minimize impacts to listed species and ensure no adverse effects. However, no additional habitat and species surveys would be performed (unless required through ESA/EFH consultations) and outdated information may not reflect species presence, density, and use of habitats at NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville. Continued reliance on the 2009 INRMP would ensure no significant impacts to threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or EFH would occur.

3.4 COMPARISON OF IMPACTS

No significant impacts would occur to the physical environment, the biological environment, or the human environment from either the Preferred Alternative or the No Action Alternative. Table 3-3 compares the impact for each alternative.

Table 3-3. Comparison of the Impacts and Alternatives

Alternatives	Preferred Alternative Implement all objectives and recommendations	No Action Alternative Maintain previous INRMP management practices
Water Resources	Long-term beneficial effects to water resources would be expected because of good stewardship practices and possible enhancement opportunities. Use of BMPs would reduce pollutants from entering surface water, wetland delineation and mapping would help protect wetlands and assist the Navy in maintaining wetland buffer areas, and development or adoption of siting criteria for shoreline and wetlands buffer areas and exploration of a cooperative partnership with the U.S. Army Reserve facility to implement a project for the buffer areas of Hayho Creek would help preserve and improve wetland and water quality and stabilize the shorelines.	Long-term, minor adverse effects on water resources would be expected from the lack of a water resources management approach to proactively identify and protect sensitive areas.
Terrestrial and Marine Biology	Beneficial effect on vegetation would be expected from the control and eradication of invasive species. Beneficial effects on terrestrial and freshwater or marine aquatic species and their habitats would be expected through the use of a management strategy to protect species, improved water quality and habitats, and enhanced fish passage in waterways.	Long-term, minor adverse effects on fauna could be expected due to the lack of a comprehensive plan to protect species and their habitats.
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species and Essential Fish Habitat	Beneficial effects would be expected from enhancement of ESA species and EFH through habitat and vegetation restoration and species monitoring. Could preclude future designation of critical habitat on Navy lands and potential impacts on the Navy's mission.	Continued reliance on the 2009 INRMP would ensure no significant impacts to threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or EFH would occur.

CHAPTER 4

Cumulative Effects

Analysis of cumulative impacts (or cumulative effects)³ presented in this section follows requirements of the NEPA and the CEQ guidance (Council on Environmental Quality 1997). The CEQ regulations (40 C.F.R. §§1500–1508) provide the implementing regulations for NEPA. The regulations define cumulative impacts as:

“...the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to the 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 (40 C.F.R. §1508.7).”

While a single project may have minor impacts, overall impacts may be collectively significant when considered together with other projects on a regional scale. A cumulative impact is the additive effect of all projects in the geographic area. The CEQ provides guidance on cumulative impacts analysis in Considering Cumulative Impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (Council on Environmental Quality 1997). This guidance further identifies cumulative impacts as those environmental impacts resulting “from spatial and temporal crowding of environmental perturbations. The impacts of human activities will accumulate when a second perturbation occurs at a site before the ecosystem can fully rebound from the impacts of the first perturbation.” This guidance observes that “no universally accepted framework for cumulative impacts analysis exists” while noting that certain general principles have gained acceptance.

The CEQ provides guidance on the extent to which agencies of the federal government are required to analyze the environmental impacts of past actions when they describe the cumulative environmental effect of an action. This guidance provides that an analysis of cumulative impacts might encompass geographic boundaries beyond the immediate area of an action and a timeframe that includes past actions and foreseeable future actions. Thus, the CEQ guidelines observe, “[it] is not practical to analyze cumulative impacts of an action on the universe; the list of environmental impacts must focus on those that are truly meaningful.”

4.1 PAST, PRESENT, AND REASONABLY FORESEEABLE ACTIONS

The scope of the cumulative impacts analysis involves both the geographic extent of the impacts and the timeframe in which the impacts have or will occur. For this EA, the geographic extent is the immediate project land and water areas and adjacent land and water areas. The timeframe is from five years prior to an undetermined time forward for reasonably foreseeable Navy projects. The underlying issue is whether a resource can adequately recover from the impact of an action before the environment is exposed to a subsequent action(s).

Based on a review of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions at NAVSTA Everett, Navy Support Complex Marysville, and the region, it was determined that several actions should be considered when analyzing the potential cumulative impacts of the actions. The projects listed in this section are

those that have the greatest potential to impact cumulatively the resources assessed in this EA. These projects are described in table 4-1, and the impacts from these projects, in combination with the impacts from the Proposed Action, are described in section 4.2.

Table 4-1. Past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions.

Project Name	Description	Year activity occurred/to occur
Past		
Minor Repairs Project	Minor structural small repairs to the underside of Piers A and B; no in-water work required at NAVSTA Everett.	2010
Waterfront Major Repairs	Various repairs made to Piers A and B and the South Wharf at NAVSTA Everett.	2011–2012
Demolition of Kimberly-Clark pulp and paper mill	Adjacent former Kimberly-Clark mill site has been demolished.	2013
Present		
Construction and Operation of a Small Craft Launch	Construction and operation of a small craft launch at NAVSTA Everett requiring excavation of the shoreline, addition of fill, installation of a concrete ramp and concrete piles, and design modifications to the existing wash-down facility located at Building 2124.	2011–2014
Everett Shipyard Clean-up	Port of Everett's North Marina Redevelopment Project includes approximately five acres of upland area and adjacent in-water areas where the port and ESY, Inc. (previously Everett Shipyard, Inc.) historically operated. After studying the extent of site contamination, cleanup is being performed, the bulkhead is being replaced, and the site is partially redeveloped.	Cleanup is anticipated to occur in 2013–2014. Partial redevelopment has occurred.
Foreseeable Future		
Debris Deflector	Modification to a floating debris deflector located at the northwest corner of the South Wharf at NAVSTA Everett.	Undetermined
Replacement of Piers D and E	Replace Piers D and E with a new small craft berthing pier at NAVSTA Everett.	Undetermined
Kimberly-Clark site redevelopment	Redevelopment alternatives will require contamination cleanup and may require roadway improvements. Foss Maritime Co. will redevelop the site as a shipyard and maritime complex. There is no set plan for the redevelopment at this time.	Undetermined
North Marina Redevelopment	Construction of a new pedestrian access along West Marine View Drive and remodeling existing buildings at the Port of Everett.	Undetermined

Smokey Point FSC Marysville

Only routine maintenance is planned for facilities within the Smokey Point FSC Marysville property boundaries and there are no ongoing or planned projects within a quarter mile of the installation in the City of Marysville. Therefore, there are no past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions that, combined with the proposed action, could result in cumulative impacts to water resources; terrestrial and marine biology; or threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, and essential fish habitat. Consequently, Smokey Point FSC Marysville will not be discussed further in this section.

4.2 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS ANALYSIS

4.2.1 Water Resources

The study area for evaluating cumulative impacts on water resources includes all upland properties covered under the INRMP and the water resources downstream, as activities on the installations have the potential to affect water quality downstream.

The activities listed in table 4-1 could impact water resources. However, these activities would include standard BMPs and mitigation measures to avoid and minimize impacts to water resources.

Implementation of the revised INRMP would result in long-term beneficial effects to water resources at NAVSTA Everett through implementation of BMPs to improve and protect water quality; shoreline and wetland siting criteria; wetland delineation; and education, outreach, and cooperative partnerships. Under the No Action Alternative, NAVSTA Everett would still be required to comply with water resource laws, therefore limiting direct adverse impacts on specific regulated water resources. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative or the No Action Alternative in combination with the past, present, and foreseeable future projects would not have a significant cumulative impact to water resources.

4.2.2 Terrestrial and Marine Biology

The study area for evaluating cumulative impacts on terrestrial and marine biology is defined as all upland properties and water resources covered under this INRMP. These properties are under the Navy's control and subject to changes in land use and operations to meet mission requirements. Depending on the species, there is a varying potential for actions elsewhere in the Puget Sound area to affect wildlife species affected by the proposed action. Resident species are unlikely to be affected by actions outside this region. However, migratory birds, fish, marine mammals, or other wide-ranging wildlife species may be affected by such actions. There is a general trend toward loss or conversion of wildlife habitat due to development.

Due to land constraints, future growth and development of facilities on NAVSTA Everett would be minimal. Existing wildlife habitat is not expected to be converted or lost at NAVSTA Everett. The past, present, and future projects have resulted in or would result in the removal of mostly second and third-growth forest habitat and riparian, wetland, and shoreline habitats. This habitat has been replaced by buildings, parking lots, piers, and landscaped areas. Over time, this combination of loss of wildlife habitat and increased human activity has resulted in removal or displacement of the original native species and replacement by non-native wildlife more adapted to an urban environment and the habitats it provides. In addition, habitat fragmentation due to roads, buildings, fences, and other development affect an animal's freedom of movement within a contiguous habitat. Similar loss of wildlife habitat has occurred throughout the Puget Sound region due to past and present non-Navy development. Ongoing and future projects listed in table 4-1 could contribute to cumulative impacts to terrestrial and marine biology.

By managing natural resources on NAVSTA Everett, the Preferred Alternative would have a long-term beneficial effect on terrestrial and aquatic or marine species and their habitats. Through the INRMP, NRMs would provide measures for minimization and/or elimination of impacts from actions that could have an impact to wildlife and plant communities. Under the No Action Alternative, NAVSTA Everett would continue to rely on the existing INRMP for management of natural resources. In doing so, management actions would be anticipated to result in less overall future benefit to terrestrial and marine biological resources than the Preferred Alternative. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative or the No Action Alternative in combination with the past, present, and foreseeable future projects would not have a significant cumulative impact to terrestrial and marine biology.

4.2.3 Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species and Essential Fish Habitat

The study area for evaluation of cumulative effects to TES species and EFH considers Navy activities occurring at NAVSTA Everett and non-Navy activities bordering Naval Station boundaries in the City of Everett.

As described under section 4.2.2, past development has resulted in loss and modification of habitat, which has affected fish and wildlife species, some of which are now listed as threatened or endangered under the ESA. Past development has also affected EFH. Although future growth and development of facilities on NAVSTA Everett would be minimal, future non-Navy actions could result in habitat loss or alteration that would affect TES species and EFH. Federal or federally-funded actions must evaluate project impacts to TES species and EFH, analyze impacts (including a biological assessment when necessary), and consult with federal regulatory agencies to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of listed species and to conserve and manage EFH.

The Preferred Alternative would not contribute to adverse cumulative impacts to TES species and EFH. The revised INRMP includes surveys for TES species, which would contribute to the NRM's awareness of their use of habitat at NAVSTA Everett. The updated INRMP would be used to identify habitat restoration or enhancement and mitigation projects that could be beneficial to TES species and EFH. Under the No Action Alternative, NAVSTA Everett would continue to rely on the existing INRMP for management of natural resources, and would continue to consult with the appropriate regulatory agencies when Navy activities may impact TES species and EFH. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative or No Action Alternative, in combination with the past, present, and foreseeable future projects, would not have significant cumulative impacts to TES species or EFH.

CHAPTER 5

Other Considerations Required by NEPA and Relevant Environmental Laws

In accordance with 40 CFR Section 1502.16(c), analysis of environmental consequences shall include discussion of possible conflicts between the Proposed Action and the objectives of federal, regional, state, and local land use plans, policies, and controls. Table 5-1 identifies the principal federal laws and regulations applicable to the Proposed Action and describes briefly how compliance with these laws and regulations would be accomplished.

Implementation of the proposed action would not conflict with the objectives or requirements of federal, state, or local plans, policies, or legal requirements. The Navy will consult with regulatory agencies, as appropriate, during the NEPA process.

Table 5-1. Principal Federal Laws Applicable to the Proposed Action

Federal, State, Local, and Regional Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls	Status of Compliance
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.); CEQ NEPA implementing regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508; Navy procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 CFR Part 775 and OPNAV M-5090.1, Chapter 10)	This EA has been prepared on a programmatic level in accordance with NEPA, CEQ regulations, and the Navy's NEPA procedures to analyze the potential effects of the Proposed Action on the quality of the human environment. Public participation and review will be conducted in compliance with NEPA. As management decisions are made and project designs developed, further NEPA analysis or regulatory consultations may be required.
Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.)	NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville are in Snohomish County, Washington, which is in attainment for criteria pollutants, including: nitrogen dioxide, ground-level ozone, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide. Snohomish County is a maintenance area for carbon monoxide. The Proposed Action would not change air quality attainment status or conflict with attainment and maintenance goals established in the state implementation plan. Therefore, a CAA conformity determination is not required.

Table 5-1. Principal Federal Laws Applicable to the Proposed Action (sheet 2 of 4)

Federal, State, Local, and Regional Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls	Status of Compliance
<p>Clean Water Act (Sections 401 and 404, 33 U.S.C. 1251 <i>et seq.</i>)</p>	<p>Adopting the revised INRMP as a management tool under the Preferred Alternative would not require permits/authorizations under the CWA.</p> <p>However, some of the management actions may affect navigable waters and waters of the United States if they are implemented. Prior to implementing any management actions affecting these regulated water resources (i.e., culvert removal) the Navy would obtain any required CWA permits/authorizations.</p>
<p>Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 <i>et seq.</i>)</p>	<p>A Coastal Consistency Determination will be prepared in compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Act, if required by the individual management recommendation.</p>
<p>National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106, 16 U.S.C. 470 <i>et seq.</i>)</p>	<p>Adopting the revised INRMP as a management tool under the Preferred Alternative is not an undertaking under NHPA that would have an adverse effect on historic properties since it does not designate any specific tasks at specific locations that can be evaluated or consulted for adverse effects. Thus, consultation under the NHPA for the adoption of the revised INRMP is not required.</p> <p>However, some of the management actions may affect historic properties if they are implemented. Any management actions that disturb soils or may cause erosion (i.e., fence repair, tree planting, culvert removal, etc.) have the potential to adversely affect historic properties. If and when decisions are made to use these management actions and locations are defined the Navy will consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and interested parties, as appropriate, under Section 106.</p>
<p>Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 <i>et seq.</i>)</p>	<p>The Navy developed the INRMP cooperatively with USFWS, NMFS, and WDFW and determined the Proposed Action would not adversely affect any federally-listed threatened, sensitive, or endangered species.</p> <p>Some of the management actions may affect threatened or endangered species and critical habitat if they are implemented. If and when decisions are made to use these management actions, biological assessments and agency consultations may be required under the ESA.</p>

Table 5-1. Principal Federal Laws Applicable to the Proposed Action (sheet 3 of 4)

Federal, State, Local, and Regional Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls	Status of Compliance
Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1361 <i>et seq.</i>)	The Proposed Action would not adversely affect marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. As management decisions are made and project designs developed, the Navy would conduct any required consultations and obtain any required authorizations under the MMPA.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712)	The Proposed Action would not adversely affect birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Consultation with USFWS is not required.
Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d)	The Proposed Action would not adversely affect bald and golden eagles under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Consultation with USFWS is not required.
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1801-1882)	The Proposed Action would not adversely affect marine fisheries management under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). As management decisions are made and project designs developed, the Navy would conduct any required consultations under the MSA.
Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments	The Proposed Action would have no effect to traditional resources because it would not change any tribe's access to exercise tribal treaty rights and it would not reduce or degrade harvestable marine resources. In accordance with Executive Order 13175, the Navy conducted government-to-government consultations with the Lummi, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, and Tulalip Tribes, which have U&A fishing grounds and stations in the waterways and tribal treaty resources that are potentially affected by the revised INRMP.

Table 5-1. Principal Federal Laws Applicable to the Proposed Action (sheet 4 of 4)

Federal, State, Local, and Regional Land Use Plans, Policies, and Controls	Status of Compliance
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (Public Law 101-601; 25 U.S.C. 3001-3013)	The Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternatives do not involve intentional excavations of burial sites. If there is an inadvertent discovery of human remains during resulting from any management action, the Navy will consult with the affected tribes.
Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-income Populations	Proposed activities under the Preferred Alternative and No Action Alternative are survey and informational in nature, coordinated interagency planning, and monitoring and eradication of noxious/invasive plants that would not take place outside of the military installations. Hence, the management activities of either alternative would not change the economic character or stability of the surrounding area. Therefore, no disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations would be expected from implementation of the Proposed Action.
Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children From Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks	There are no schools at NAVSTA Everett or Smokey Point FSC Marysville and work would be short term and temporary. In addition, there would be no significant impacts from noise to the children at the child development center and workplace safety zones would prevent children from being exposed to materials or equipment at any project sites. Therefore, implementation of proposed activities for either alternative would not result in disproportionate environmental health and safety risks to children.
Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands	No adverse impacts to wetlands, including destruction or modification, would be expected from implementation of the Preferred or No Action Alternatives. Under the Preferred Alternative, wetland delineation would assist in avoiding new construction in wetlands whenever there is a practicable alternative.

5.1 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Unavoidable adverse effects are not expected from either the Preferred Alternative or the No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, projects will continue to be reviewed for environmental compliance, but would not benefit from updated protection and conservation measures for natural resources included in the revised INRMP.

5.2 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

Resources irreversibly or irretrievably committed to a project are those used on a long-term or permanent basis. This includes the use of non-renewable resources such as metal and fuel, and natural or cultural resources. These resources are irretrievable since they would be used for a specific project when they could have been used for other purposes. Human labor is also considered an irretrievable resource. Another impact falling under this category is the unavoidable destruction of natural resources that could limit the range of potential uses of that particular environment.

Implementation of the revised INRMP under the Preferred Alternative would commit capital, labor, fuel, and non-renewable energy sources—resources to survey and map resources, as well as to perform removal of invasive species. It would also incorporate updated protection and conservation measures for the natural resources existing on NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville. These types of activities and labor are not in short supply and their continued use would not adversely impact the availability of these resources.

Implementation of the No Action Alternative reverts to ongoing natural resource management practices at NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville, which would involve capital, labor, fuel, and energy sources.

5.3 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

The implementation of the revised INRMP under the Preferred Alternative would have long-term beneficial effects on natural resources at NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville. This alternative would maintain, conserve, and improve the natural resources present on the installations and update effective management practices for these resources. Short-term uses are associated with surveys, invasive species control, or other land-management actions needed to proactively manage natural resources.

The No Action Alternative would continue to have some long-term beneficial effects to the natural resources at NAVSTA Everett and the Smokey Point FSC Marysville. However, the beneficial effects to natural resources would be less than with implementation of the Preferred Alternative since the No Action Alternative would not update conservation and management practices for natural resources and would not include long-term natural resources goals or objectives. Minor adverse effects would be possible from the lack of a comprehensive natural resources plan to guide long-range planning, resulting in piecemeal development that lacks ecosystem planning.

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List of Preparers and Distribution List

LIST OF PREPARERS

Sara Upchurch, Naval Engineering Command, Atlantic NEPA Project Manager

Valerie Carpenter-Ho, Naval Engineering Command, Atlantic Infrastructure Branch Manager

Christopher Runner, Naval Engineering Command, Northwest NEPA Project Manager

Carter Watterson, Naval Engineering Command, Atlantic Fisheries Biologist

Walter Briggs, Naval Engineering Command, Northwest Senior Natural Resources Specialist (Forester)

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APPENDIX A

Naval Station Everett INRMP Management Recommendation Comparison Table

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2009 INRMP Project Recommendations (No Action Alternative)	Implementation Year (FY)	Revised INRMP Project Recommendations (Alternative 1)	Implementation Year (FY)
Vegetation Resources Management			
<p>V-1: Monitor and control invasive, non-native plants at Smokey Point FSC.</p> <p>If significant populations of non-native plant species are found, these undesirable species should be removed and controlled. Primary efforts at control should consist of manual and/or mechanical removal and replacing with native plants.</p>	<p>2009 2011 2013</p>	<p>V-1: Survey, Monitor, and Control Invasive, Non-native plants and Animals.</p> <p>If significant populations of non-native plant species are found, these undesirable species should be removed and controlled. Primary efforts at control should consist of manual and/or mechanical removal and replacing with native plants.</p>	<p>2015</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>V-2: Review the NAVSTA Everett Base Exterior Architecture Plan (1994), Chapter III Landscape Design, Planting, and Maintenance, and the Installation Appearance Plan (2007) with principal focus upon shrubs, groundcover and maintenance prescription.</p> <p>Update lists of preferred species; assess mowed areas and update.</p>	<p>2015</p>
<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>V-3: Conduct regular monitoring for invasive species at Smokey Point FSC Marysville, along Hayho Creek, wetland, and stormwater detention ponds.</p>	<p>2015 2016 2017 2018 2019</p>

2009 INRMP Project Recommendations (No Action Alternative)	Implementation Year (FY)	Revised INRMP Project Recommendations (Alternative 1)	Implementation Year (FY)
Fish and Wildlife Resource Management			
<p>FW-1: Produce new interpretive signs for South Wharf.</p> <p>Interpretive signs regarding marine mammals and other wildlife are located on the north side of South Wharf. These signs are faded and scratched and are in need of updating. Produce new interpretive displays using durable materials (such as porcelain enamel metal signs) to be placed on the piers adjacent to the log rafts, describing the life history of the sea lions and other marine mammals and the Navy's continuing efforts to protect this site.</p>	N/A–Unfunded	Listed as FW-3, see below.	
N/A	N/A	<p>FW-1: Natural Resources Management.</p> <p>INRMP annual adjustment for minor actions and five-year assessment, review, and NEPA analysis in order to ensure ongoing coordination with agencies and state, maintain compliance with the Sikes Act, and maintain National Defense exemptions, as required by law.</p>	2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

2009 INRMP Project Recommendations (No Action Alternative)	Implementation Year (FY)	Revised INRMP Project Recommendations (Alternative 1)	Implementation Year (FY)
Fish and Wildlife Resource Management			
<p>FW-2: Bi-annually attend marine mammal identification and stranding training.</p> <p>The station's NRM or other designated personnel will attend marine mammal identification and stranding training sessions. The NRM will also initiate contact with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, coordinated by NOAA and will become familiar with stranding protocols. Contact 206-526-6733 to initiate training and obtain manuals or other aids.</p>	<p>2009 2011 2013</p>	<p>FW-2: Marine Mammal Density Surveys.</p> <p>Conduct marine mammal density surveys for inland waters of Puget Sound near NAVSTA Everett. The presence of and use of areas in proximity to NAVSTA Everett may have mission impacts if not managed.</p>	<p>2015 2016 2017 2018 2019</p>
<p>FW-3: Design and construct interpretive displays at Smokey Point FSC.</p> <p>Place displays along the edges of the manmade and beaver-made ponds describing the fish and wildlife species that may be found there and the importance of protecting and enhancing these habitats.</p>	<p>N/A—Unfunded</p>	<p>FW-3: Produce Everett Interpretive Signs.</p> <p>Replace natural resources interpretive signs at different locations on NAVSTA Everett and at Smokey Point FSC Marysville with emphasis upon marine mammals.</p>	<p>As of EA publication, this recommendation was unfunded</p>

2009 INRMP Project Recommendations (No Action Alternative)	Implementation Year (FY)	Revised INRMP Project Recommendations (Alternative 1)	Implementation Year (FY)
Fish and Wildlife Resource Management			
<p>FW-4: Join the Audubon Society in their annual Christmas Bird Count program.</p> <p>The NRM will seek Navy volunteers to perform annual bird counts, using the Audubon protocol. By counting and tracking birds, the NRM or other NAVSTA personnel will eventually have data to help determine the long-term status of migratory and resident bird populations, and potentially identify early losses or changes of habitats that may require corrective actions. By using Navy volunteers, the NRM will instill a sense of pride and “ownership” in the natural resources of NAVSTA Everett and provide an educational opportunity to Navy personnel that may not know much about environmental issues.</p>	<p><u>Executed jointly by the Navy and the Audubon Society</u></p> <p>2009 2010 2011 2012 2014</p> <p><u>Executed by the Audubon Society</u></p> <p>2013</p>	<p>Listed as LI-3 under Local Initiatives, see below.</p>	
N/A	N/A	<p>FW-5: Environmental Education.</p> <p>NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville.</p>	<p>As of EA publication, this recommendation was unfunded</p>

2009 INRMP Project Recommendations (No Action Alternative)	Implementation Year (FY)	Revised INRMP Project Recommendations (Alternative 1)	Implementation Year (FY)
Fish and Wildlife Resource Management			
N/A	N/A	FW-6: Conduct Herp Presence and Habitat Surveys at NAVSTA Everett and Smokey Point FSC Marysville in order to provide necessary baseline information and for management of resources.	2016
N/A	N/A	FW-7: Assess and study options for the reduction of auditory masking noise during pierside operations.	To be determined
Threatened and Endangered Species Resources			
<p>TES-1: Survey for endangered fish use along the shores of NAVSTA Everett (currently, Chinook salmon, Hood Canal summer run salmon, and bull trout, but steelhead are proposed for listing and should be included).</p> <p>Incidental catch data should be recorded to identify areas used by forage fish. Conduct a survey during the first year of this INRMP implementation and in the fifth year of this INRMP implementation, or more often as budget and staffing constraints allow. This will provide a means to gauge the success of the Navy's protection and management of these species.</p>	N/A–Unfunded	<p>TES-1: Everett TES Species Surveys.</p> <p>Nearshore, substrate, and aquatic environment survey, presence, and habitat.</p>	2015 2016
N/A	N/A	<p>TES-2: Murrelet Survey.</p> <p>NAVSTA Everett and NASWI marbled murrelet density surveys.</p>	2016 2018

2009 INRMP Project Recommendations (No Action Alternative)	Implementation Year (FY)	Revised INRMP Project Recommendations (Alternative 1)	Implementation Year (FY)
Water Resources			
N/A	N/A	WR-1: Delineate and classify wetlands on Smokey Point FSC Marysville.	2016
Local Initiatives			
N/A	N/A	LI-1: Criteria-Based Siting. Develop or adopt by-reference siting criteria for shoreline and wetlands buffer areas.	2015
N/A	N/A	LI-2: Cooperative/Joint Projects. Contact US Army Reserve facilities and discuss cooperative/joint projects for the buffer areas of Hayho Creek.	2015
N/A	N/A	LI-3: Bird Inventories: Participate in the Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. The NRM will seek Navy volunteers to perform annual bird counts using the Audubon protocol. Counting and tracking birds, will provide data to help determine the long-term status of migratory and resident bird populations and potentially identify early losses or changes of habitats that may require corrective actions. The NRM will instill a sense of pride and ownership in the natural resources of the NAVSTA, and provide an educational opportunity to personnel that may not know much about environmental issues.	2015 2016 2017 2018 2019