COOPERATIVE PLAN
CONSERVATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES
U. S. MARINE CORPS BASE, CAMP LEJEUNE, NORTH CAROLINA

I. Authority

A. In accordance with the authority contained in Public Law 85-337 (approved 28 February 1958) and in Public Law 86-797 (approved 15 September 1960), the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, and the State of North Carolina, through their duly designated representatives whose signatures appear below, approved the following cooperative plan for the protection, development, and management of fish and wildlife resources on Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

B. Under the authority delegated to him by higher echelons of Command, the Commander, Marine Corps Base, hereinafter referred to as the Commanding General, is recognized as the official representative of the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

C. Under the authority vested in him, the Regional Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, hereinafter referred to as the Regional Director, is recognized as the official representative of U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

D. Under the authority vested in him, by the State of North Carolina, the Executive Director, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Executive Director, is recognized as the official representative of the State of North Carolina.

E. By definition, action by and to the Marine Corps shall be understood to refer specifically to the U. S. Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

II. Forest-wide Wildlife Habitat Inventory

An inventory of fish and wildlife resources was completed in 1973 and included in the updated Management Plan for the base. The inventory was accomplished through the cooperation of field personnel of all three representatives to this agreement. The inventory was planned to identify and describe habitat conditions of all present species regardless of the degree of public use.

III. Base-Fish and Wildlife Management Plan

The plan for the management of fish and wildlife was published in 1975. This plan, primarily, involves management techniques for freshwater game fish, upland game animals, upland game birds, fur-bearing animals, migratory waterfowl, and endangered species. Consideration will be given to all other fish and wildlife species present in all aspects of management.

IV. The Cooperative Plan

The Marine Corps Base, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission agree to assist together in preparing and implementing a progressive program of fish and wildlife conservation for the base. Meetings may be called as necessary by either of the three parties to review the fish and wildlife management program.

A. Cooperative Responsibility

1. Marine Corps Base will execute the Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, provide labor, equipment, and materials for habitat improvement and development, work effectively and in harmony with local, state, and federal conservation officials, provide within manageable quotas for controlled public access for the purpose of hunting, fishing, and trapping and regulate the taking of fish and wildlife in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Marine Corps Base will retain and protect all wildlife habitat to the fullest extent possible for all numerous and unique species. The base will promote an educational program of Wildlife Conservation to increase public awareness of wise use of these natural resources.

2. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service will render technical advice and professional assistance through the Regional Director, Atlanta, Georgia concerning management of fish and wildlife including game, nongame, and endangered species. The Service will assist in censusing of birds and mammals through its field personnel who visit the base.

3. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission will provide technical assistance and professional advice, through its Executive Director, Raleigh, North Carolina, concerning the management of fish and wildlife including game, nongame, and endangered species. Assistance for censusing fish and wildlife will be provided through biologists who call upon Base Conservation personnel. The Commission will provide seed mixtures and plants as needed and as available for upland game, and migratory species. Freshwater fish for management purposes will be provided by the Wildlife Resources Commission based upon adequate survey and demonstrated need.

B. Development and Improvement of Habitat

Present habitat conditions are good to excellent for both game and nongame species. White-tailed deer, wild turkey, squirrel, rabbit, quail, and waterfowl are the featured game. Other game, nongame, and endangered species will be considered in all phases of management. Additional grassy openings are needed in some wildlife units and will be established in the near future. Forest access roads will be utilized for wildlife enhancement by establishing many of these in perennial grass plantings. Wetlands, bottomlands, hardwoods, and hardwood stands on slopes or inclusions will be managed for wildlife. The Forester and Wildlife Manager will coordinate management activities in a modified even-aged forest wildlife habitat program under the "multiple-use" concept.

C. Restoration or Restocking of Desired Species. Restocking practices on the base will normally be limited to releasing freshwater game fish into ponds, lakes, and streams. The introduction of exotic species of fish and wildlife is prohibited. Only wild trapped birds and animals which are native may be released on the base at such times that might warrant restocking efforts in the future. Preliminary studies will be required by the three parties before any restocking is permitted in the future.

D. Control of Plant and Animal Species

1. All game species will be controlled through hunting to keep populations from reaching high densities which could limit essential requirements for food and cover.

2. Raccoons are being controlled by allowing individual trapping of these animals.

3. Aquatic weeds are controlled in ponds and lakes through the application of aquatic herbicides by management personnel as necessary.

E. Protection of Fish and Wildlife. The taking of all fish and wildlife will be within the manner and limits prescribed by local, state, and federal laws and regulations. Hunting and fishing access is controlled through a centrally located checking station. Tagging of big game kills at the scene of the kill is mandatory. Game kills are reported in at the checking station where they are inspected, management data collected, and possession permits affixed to the carcass of each kill.

F. Public Use of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Consumptive use of fish and wildlife resources by the public is through hunting, fishing, and trapping. Non-consumptive use of fish and wildlife includes nature study, viewing, and photographing wildlife. Plans are to make non-consumptive use more available to the public. The present civilian guest use of fish and wildlife resources comprises 27% of the total number of trips for fishing and hunting. The following persons are authorized to hunt, fish, and trap on base:

1. Military personnel, including retired and their dependents.

2. Civilians assigned to or employed on the base or living in base housing and their dependents to include Civil Service employees retired from Marine Corps Base.

3. All civilians (other than employees) when accompanied by a military or civilian employee sponsor. Sponsors of such persons are responsible for their proper conduct. A sponsor may take with him no more than two guests on an individual hunt without special permission.

4. Public access to hunting, fishing, and trapping will be on a first-come, first-served basis within manageable quotas.

G. Permit Requirements and Use of Funds

1. All persons authorized to hunt, fish, and trap shall have in their possession a valid North Carolina or Onslow County hunting, fishing and/or trapping license. A big game permit is required to hunt deer and turkey. Persons hunting migratory waterfowl shall have in their possession a valid Federal Migratory Bird Stamp.

2. All persons must, additionally, apply for a base permit to meet the requirements for hunting, fishing, and trapping on base.

3. Types of permits, fees and effective dates

a. Combination Hunting/Fishing - to military personnel, civilian employees, their dependents:

1 August - 31 July $ 4

b. Minor dependent Hunting Permits - to minor dependents of military personnel and civilian employees:

1 August - 31 July No Charge

c. Fishing Permits - to military personnel, civilian employees, their dependents 16 years of age and above:

1 January - 31 December $ 2

d. Special Combination Hunting/Fishing Permits - to civilian guests:

1 August - 31 July $10

e. Daily Hunting/Fishing Permits - to civilian guests:

$ 3

f. Trapping Permits - to military personnel, civilian employees, and their dependents:

1 August - 31 July $ 3

4. Fees for base permits will be collected by an appointed collection agent. The collection agent is accountable for all fees and is responsible for depositing fees with the Base Comptroller to a special non-appropriated project fund.

5. This project fund will be expended against an Annual Operational Plan for fish and wildlife management.

H. Technical Advice and Assistance

1. The Regional Director, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service through his state Field Supervisor, Raleigh, North Carolina, and his Field Supervisor, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, will provide fish and wildlife management services and assistance to the base.

2. The Executive Director of the N. C. Wildlife Resources Commission, acting through the professional staff, will provide technical advice as requested concerning the proper management and regulation of the wildlife species native to Camp Lejeune.

This Cooperative Plan upon its adoption as witnessed by its execution will be in full force and effect for an indefinite period. The plan is subject to amendment or revision as may be agreed upon by all parties represented. A request for an amendment or revision to the Cooperative Plan may originate with anyone of the represented parties. This plan supersedes the Cooperative Plan of November 1973.

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BY H. Poggemeyer

TITLE Commanding General

MARINE CORPS BASE
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DATE 17 Mar 77

FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BY Kenneth E. Black

TITLE Regional Director

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DATE 3 Mar '77

FOR THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

BY Robert B. Hazel

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DATE 25 Jan 77