

Bibliographical Note

Oral history interviews played the leading role in assembling this narrative. The personal files and recollections of John Andrews, Wendell R. Becton, Edward O. Gangstad, Burton F. Kiltz, and Vance W. Mays, former Corps of Engineers employees, were invaluable sources. Their files include office correspondence, Army publications, and papers covering the period from the 1940s to the 1970s. Notes and tape recordings of interviews are on deposit at the Corps of Engineers' Office of History, along with photocopies of selected file materials.

Andrews spent 20 years as an Army forester in the field before serving at the Office of the Chief of Engineers' Buildings and Grounds Branch from 1978-1984. Becton, a forester with the Army since 1942, served both overseas during World War II and as chief forester for the Third Army from 1950-1973. Gangstad served as assistant agronomist at Buildings and Grounds from 1966-1969. Kiltz, an agronomist with Soil Conservation Service, Army, and Air Force experience--and particular expertise in dust control--served as chief of the Land Management Section at Buildings and Grounds from 1951-1965. Mays, an expert in agronomy, soil conservation, and forestry with several decades of Army experience, was chief of the Land Management Section from 1972-1977 and assistant to the chief from 1970-1972.

The current staff of the Buildings and Grounds Branch provided access to their files, which included both publications and historical items for the entire period covered by this history. Donald Bandel, management agronomist since 1977, and Donald Cole, forester since 1985, were interviewed.

Visits were made to Fort Meade and Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and to three U.S. Army sites in West Germany to learn about current practices in natural resources management at individual installations. Martin Elyn, management agronomist for the V Corps Directorate of Engineering and Housing since 1977; William Harmeyer, chief of the Natural Resources Office at Fort Meade since 1975; Jim Pottie, environmental protection specialist at Aberdeen Proving Ground since 1980; Cornelius Powells, management agronomist at Aberdeen since 1975; and Jamie Rappaport, natural/cultural resources program manager for the National Guard Bureau since 1982, provided the interviews and base tours. Tom Warren, environmental resources officer at Fort Carson, Colorado, provided information by telephone.

All of the former and current natural resources personnel assisted the authors in identifying the impacts of societal trends on Army policies and actions.

Department of the Army publications such as technical manuals, regulations, pamphlets, bulletins, and directives were available in Washington through the Buildings and Grounds Branch, the National Archives, and the HQ, USACE, Library, and through the Military History Institute at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Some of the publications date back to the 1940s. As well as covering both overall policy and procedural details on such topics as how to apply pesticides, these documents provided insight into the changing issues and concerns of each period.

At the National Archives Washington National Records Center (WNRC) at Suitland, Maryland, material from the Records of the Office of the Surgeon General, Record Group 112, provided information on wartime insect and rodent control performed by the Corps of Engineers under Medical Corps supervision. In Record Group 77, Office of the Chief of Engineers General Correspondence 1918-1945, items found in decimal files 612, 618.34, 618.36, 618.38, and 725 provided source material for this history.

Department of the Army Annual Historical Summaries for fiscal years 1974-1985, on file at the Corps of Engineers Office of History, provided an assortment of facts about the natural resources program.

The Form 135s (which identify the contents of records and the date they were transferred to WNRC, Suitland) were consulted at the office of the Chief of Engineers records manager. Eight boxes of Buildings and Grounds Branch office files, dated 1954-1961, that had been retired to WNRC were identified. Of these, four boxes yielded useful material and four were not found and believed to have been destroyed. The destroyed files were accession numbers 57-374, box 225; 58A-1075, box 313; 60A-1169, box 319; and 63-1553, box 18. These boxes reportedly contained land management and woodland management plans by installation, reforestation reports, and general administrative files for the 1950s.

The main office of the Wisconsin-based American Society of Agronomy (ASA), in which B&G staff members have participated, was contacted to determine whether papers relating to military land management were available. An ASA staffer, Richard Dinaur, stated that they were not. A few papers written by Army employees for presentation at ASA events had been saved by former employees and were made available for this history. Proceedings of Soil Science Society of America seminars held during the 1950s and 1960s were perused at the Library of Congress and not found to be relevant.

On the recommendation of a former employee, selected U.S. Department of Agriculture Yearbooks for 1948 through 1965 were examined. The only useful material was found in the 1958 yearbook, which contained an article on wartime military land management.

Annual reports of the Repairs and Utilities Division during 1951-1986 were seen at the Chief of Engineers Library but contained only fiscal data.

A handful of promising titles listed in The U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers and Environmental Issues in the Twentieth Century: A Bibliography were investigated, but they did not directly bear upon the topic.

The following selected bibliography lists the sources that directly contributed to this history.

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