

Preface

This history covers the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' role in natural resources management on military installations from 1 December 1941, the date all construction activities transferred from the Quartermaster Corps, to the end of fiscal year 1987, the date natural resources management at Corps of Engineers Headquarters transferred to the Environmental Office from the Buildings and Grounds Branch. The Buildings and Grounds Branch, created after World War II, handled natural resources management throughout the period.

Natural resources management, as covered by this report, includes soil erosion control, grounds maintenance, land use management, forest management, wildlife management and conservation, and pest control. Each of these topics is discussed in three chapters covering the periods 1941-1959, the 1960s, and 1970-1987.

This history encompasses the Army-wide natural resources management program: the policy decisions of the Buildings and Grounds Branch at the Office of the Chief of Engineers (OCE) level, the technical assistance provided by land managers at the Army commands, and the influence of the program on activities at individual installations. Pest control, although not a direct natural resources management activity, is discussed herein as it relates to protection of soil and vegetation. The final chapter describes natural resources management in 1987 and provides illustrative examples of conservation programs at selected installations.

For the reader's convenience, an executive summary is provided. Assertions made in the summary are

footnoted only when they are not discussed and documented in detail in the subsequent chapters.

Thanks are due Drs. Frank N. Schubert and Martin K. Gordon, who reviewed and gave helpful advice on revising the manuscript, and Susan Carroll, who edited the manuscript. Special thanks go to Donald Bandel, who conceived the idea for this study and who extended the full cooperation of his office during the study's research and writing.

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