

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## CHAPTER 5 PUBLIC ACCESS, NATURAL RESOURCES RELATED RECREATION, AND EDUCATION

<b>5.1. PUBLIC ACCESS</b> .....	<b>5-3</b>
5.1.1. Public Access Policy and Coordination .....	5-4
5.1.2. Real Estate Agreements: Leases, Easements, etc. ....	5-5
<b>5.2. RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH</b> .....	<b>5-5</b>
5.2.1. Human-Wildlife Conflict Management .....	5-6
5.2.2. Hunting Program .....	5-7
5.2.3. Fishing Program .....	5-11
5.2.4. Non-Developed Camping Program .....	5-13
5.2.5. Picnicking, Hiking, Jogging, Photography, Bicycling and Other Outdoor Activities .....	5-15
<b>5.3. OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE RELATED RECREATION</b> .....	<b>5-16</b>
5.3.1. Beach and Ocean Use .....	5-17
5.3.2. Equestrian Program.....	5-17
<b>5.4. NONMILITARY OFF-ROAD VEHICLES</b> .....	<b>5-17</b>
<b>5.5. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION</b> .....	<b>5-18</b>

### TABLES

Table 5-1. Camp Pendleton Recreational Facilities/Resources Available.....	5-2
Table 5-2. Hunting Seasons on Camp Pendleton .....	5-9

[This page intentionally left blank.]

## CHAPTER 5

### PUBLIC ACCESS, NATURAL RESOURCES RELATED RECREATION, AND EDUCATION

The Marine Corps allows access to natural resources, to the extent appropriate and consistent with the military mission, safety and security requirements, and the sustainability of natural resources. Further, it is Marine Corps policy that “a program for outdoor recreational developments will be created in consultation with the Department of the Interior and appropriate state agency (HQMC 1998).”

Many recreational activities that occur on Camp Pendleton are conducted within cantonment areas (e.g., fitness centers, swimming pools, bowling alleys, tennis courts, athletic fields, concert grounds, and cinemas). This Plan, however, only discusses natural resources related recreational opportunities that are broadly defined to include activities such as: hunting, fishing, camping, beach access, hiking, jogging, bicycling, picnicking, nature photography, and horseback riding. Recreational activities are only allowed in areas not being used for military training, and when security, management decisions, and natural resources and fire conditions allow. Portions of the Base may be closed to recreational activities because of security, military training requirements, fires, potential fire danger (as noted by the Fire Danger Rating), inclement weather, or wildlife management concerns. In training areas, most recreational activities are limited to weekends and holiday periods to avoid conflicts with training exercises. The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) provides public access and recreational opportunities year-round at San Onofre State Beach on over four miles of beach (~25% of the Base’s coastline) through a 2,000 ac lease agreement with the Base.

A nominal fee for participation in each program established on Camp Pendleton may be charged. Fees or proceeds collected for these programs are used for management and enhancement of fish and wildlife programs on Camp Pendleton. All recreational activities, including fishing and hunting, at Camp Pendleton are subject to applicable federal and State laws and Base regulations.

Outleashes and recreation programs on Base provide access to natural resources through a variety of activities for Base personnel and members of the general public. To illustrate the facilities and opportunities available, Table 5-1 presents general categories and the recreational facilities/resources available to each patron.

The program, goals, and objectives presented in this chapter were developed and prioritized to support public access and natural resources related recreation on Camp Pendleton. Several organizations on Base are involved in the administration and coordination of different aspects of public access and recreation. These organizations are included in the descriptions of the programs presented within this chapter.

**TABLE 5-1. CAMP PENDLETON RECREATIONAL FACILITIES/RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

<b>Patron Category</b>	<b>Recreational Facilities/Resources Available</b>
<p>Active duty and retired military personnel, Medal of Honor recipients, etc. Family members (spouses, children, and dependent parents) of active duty, reserve, or retired military personnel. This includes surviving spouses, children, and dependent parents of service members who died while on active duty or who were Medal of Honor recipients. Family members of foreign military personnel assigned to the U.S. Armed forces. Employees of the Red Cross and their family members who are required to reside aboard Camp Pendleton. Civilian employees in a temporary duty status who are residing aboard Camp Pendleton. MCCS employees.</p>	<p>Everything.</p>
<p>Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) members, under orders, who are conducting summer training or orientation visits to Camp Pendleton.</p>	<p>Everything except Del Mar and San Onofre Beach Cottages.</p>
<p>Civilian employees and visitors to Camp Pendleton (upon approval of the CG/CO or local commander).</p>	<p>Access to hunting, fishing and camping programs. Same as General Public.</p>
<p>Active duty personnel of the Armed Forces of a foreign nation visiting Camp Pendleton.</p>	<p>Same as General Public with additional access to Retail Division (e.g., exchanges, stores, service stations, etc.) and Service Division facilities (e.g., video/car rentals, beauty/barber/tailor shops, etc.).</p>
<p>Federal employees who work on Camp Pendleton. Family members of federal employees in programs specifically approved by the CG/CO.</p>	<p>Everything except Del Mar and San Onofre Beach Cottages, Retail Division facilities and most Service Division facilities.</p>
<p>General Public (civilians unaffiliated with the military and unaccompanied by a Base employee or military affiliate).</p>	<p>Food establishments (e.g., Subway, McDonalds, etc.), vending machines and pay phones (not Clubs).</p> <p>Fishing (only allowed in ocean waters at Del Mar Harbor unless escorted by a military or DoD sponsor), live bands/concerts, museum (by appt.), outdoor races (e.g., biking, runs, and marathons), and bicycling (via Old Hwy 101 transit route).</p> <p>San Onofre State Beach, beach and inland hiking, surfing, beach access, undeveloped camping (Red Beach with no water access), and bicycling.</p>

## **5.1. PUBLIC ACCESS**

Goal: Provide public access to the Base for natural resource related recreational and educational opportunities that are compatible with the military mission, security and natural resources sustainability.

Public access is restricted on Camp Pendleton for the safety of visitors, security, and Antiterrorism and Force Protection (AT-FP) requirements of Camp Pendleton, to ensure the safety of personnel and mission-essential property and resources aboard the Base. Overall access control is implemented through protective measures and specific actions required to reduce vulnerability to known or anticipated terrorist or other criminal attack. These protective measures and actions are implemented by all DoD components in accordance with the Terrorist Threat Condition System (THREATCON). The THREATCON system describes five progressive levels of protective measures required, in response to terrorist threats identified through local and national level intelligence community assessments. These five THREATCON levels are:

- **NORMAL** – Applies when a general threat of possible terrorist activity exists but warrants only a routine security posture.
- **ALPHA** – Applies when there is a general threat of possible terrorist activity against personnel and installations, the nature and extent of which are unpredictable.
- **BRAVO** – Applies when an increased and more predictable threat of terrorist activity exists.
- **CHARLIE** – Applies when an incident occurs or intelligence is received indicating some form of terrorist action against personnel and installations is imminent.
- **DELTA** – Applies in the immediate area where a terrorist attack has occurred, or when intelligence has been received that terrorist action against a specific location is likely.

At levels above **NORMAL**, security requirements may result in the curtailment of or increased restriction on public access for natural resources programs addressed in this INRMP or other purposes. These restrictions may be basewide or localized as to time, location or activity. THREATCON levels may change at any time without warning or notification and may not follow sequentially through all five levels.

Military and non-military agencies and individuals may be granted access to the Base to conduct research, use training facilities (e.g., for local law enforcement training), for cultural resources related reasons, participate in organized field tours, or for other special event purposes. Special events sponsored or hosted by Base organizations ranging from race events to outdoor music concerts, are normally open to the general public.

Long-term access to the Base is granted to public or governmental entities for non-military purposes in the form of real estate agreements, including leases and easements (see Section 2.3.3.). This has enabled public access to the San Onofre State Beach, including an extensive uplands section along San Mateo Creek (Section 2.3.3.2.), and the vehicle transit access provided on the I-5 corridor.

### **5.1.1. Public Access Policy and Coordination**

Objective: Improve public awareness of access and the opportunities for access, where compatible with the military mission, safety, security, AT-FP requirements and natural resources sustainability.

Several organizations on Camp Pendleton are involved in the granting of public access to the Base. The role of these organizations and the general policy of such access for non-military functions are described in Base Order 5720.16A Policies and Procedures for Non-Military Use of MCB Camp Pendleton (MCBCP 1995). The Base organization(s) involved in granting access depends largely upon the location and nature of the activity to occur on Base. In some instances, such as the San Onofre State Beach (administered by California State Parks), public access is coordinated through a lease holding agency.

Military and non-military organizations wanting to use training ranges, training areas, and airspace on Base have to coordinate their use with AC/S Operations and Training (O&T). AC/S O&T will provide the organizations and agencies external to the Base, with request forms and procedure instructions. Military organizations are DoD-member organizations or those sanctioned by the DoD e.g., ROTC or Junior Reserve Officer Training Course (JROTC) units. Non-military organizations are organizations with no DoD affiliation. These include most federal, and all State and local law enforcement agencies.

The Director of the Consolidated Public Affairs Office serves as the coordinating agency for all media use and access to Camp Pendleton, including use of training areas for movies and television.

The AC/S MCCS manages, coordinates and operates recreational activities that are dependent on developed facilities, such as the equestrian facilities, golf course, recreational beaches, developed campgrounds, pools and stores. The AC/S MCCS also sponsors or hosts special race events (e.g., “mud runs”) that utilize natural areas and are open to the general public.

Recreational activities that are solely natural resources dependent are under the management of the Resources Management Division (RMD) of AC/S ES, and are administered by the Resource Enforcement Compliance Branch (REC) with assistance from professional staff biologists that may be in the other RMD branches. The REC serves as the coordinating agency for Camp Pendleton’s natural resources related activities such as: hiking, hunting, fishing, non-developed camping, bicycling, nature photography, horseback riding, hiking, picnicking and other related recreational access within training areas. The REC, in turn, coordinates all activities that involve the use of training lands with AC/S O&T.

Camp Pendleton incurs costs, both directly and indirectly, when Base facilities, training areas, and ranges are used. It is Base policy (MCBCP 1995) that all reimbursable costs be recovered. All non-military organizations (most REC permit customers) are required to obtain a real estate license to use facilities at Camp Pendleton, and they are charged a usage fee unless granted a waiver by the CG/CO (MCBCP 1995). Requests for use of Camp Pendleton facilities must be received ninety (90) days before the first day of the requested

activity (MCBCP 1995). Requests for field trips must be submitted to the Consolidated Public Affairs Office at least sixty (60) days in advance, along with proof of liability insurance. Typically, field trip requests are limited due to staffing constraints and training area availability.

### **5.1.2. Real Estate Agreements: Leases, Easements, etc.**

Objective: Ensure that all real estate agreements are compatible with Camp Pendleton's military mission, and consistent with Camp Pendleton's natural resources management and public access policies.

Camp Pendleton allows recurring use of over 4,350 ac of the Base to non-military organizations through outgrant leases, easements, licenses and agreements. These outgrants include: 1) easements for public utilities (e.g., SONGS, SDG&E pipelines, and telephone cables); 2) right-of-ways (e.g., Caltrans I-5 corridor, Kinder Morgan gas pipeline and railroad corridor); 3) leases to public, recreational, and educational organizations (e.g., Pacific Marine Credit Union, San Onofre State Beach, and Fallbrook and Oceanside School Districts); and 4) agricultural leases for seed collection within various locations (see Section 2.3.3.).

## **5.2. RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE BRANCH**

The REC is a branch within the RMD that is staffed with game wardens, a wildlife biologist and biological science technicians who are responsible for enforcing game regulations and managing and administering the hunting, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreational programs on Base (the RMD and two of its other branches, Wildlife Management Branch [WMB] and Land Management Branch [LMB], are discussed in Chapter 4).

Mission: 1) to provide the Base and AC/S ES with resource, cultural, environmental mission and program support; 2) manage wildlife conflicts; and 3) develop, manage and oversee recreational hunting, fishing, dispersed-use camping and other related outdoor recreation programs while ensuring compliance to applicable laws and regulations.

Vision: Promote safe and legal outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, camping and other recreational uses to ensure that service members and their families will have ready access to enjoy federally managed natural resources now, and well into the future. REC staff proactively patrols to enforce Base regulations, State fish and game codes, and federal laws as they apply to natural and cultural resources. Staff will provide high quality customer service and information to all customers, and encourage opportunities in the Base's wild lands.

The Chief Game Warden is Camp Pendleton's Chief Conservation Law Enforcement Official (CLEO) for federal and State laws and regulations pertaining to fish, wildlife, and natural resources. The Chief Game Warden appoints game wardens, biologists and technicians as required. Game wardens are authorized to conduct CLEO duties, searches pertinent to fish, wildlife and natural resources, in accordance with federal and State laws,

NAVMC Directive 5090.4, MCO 5090.4A, Base Order P5821.1 and P5000.2k, Standard Operating Procedures for Legal Matters (MCBCP 2002b), and other Base regulations.

Some basic duties of REC staff include:

- Enforcement and compliance of natural resources regulations.
- Enforcement and compliance of outdoor recreation program restrictions.
- Management and the Administration of the hunting, fishing, and undeveloped camping and other related outdoor recreation programs.
- Proactive patrolling the Base.
- Implementing habitat conservation programs.
- Responding to inquiries or problems involving wildlife.
- Recovering selected injured wildlife and road kills.
- Confiscating exotic pets per Base Order P5000.2k, Base Regulations (MCBCP 2010).
- Presenting educational and instructional briefs to users of the Base.
- Monitoring the locations of the Base's resident bison herd.
- Providing game and non-game management.

Natural resources related recreation programs within training areas managed by the REC are: 1) hunting; 2) fishing; 3) camping; 4) bicycling; 5) nature photography; 6) horseback riding (not including Stepp Stables); 7) hiking; and 8) picnicking (and other related recreational access within training areas).

### **5.2.1. Human-Wildlife Conflict Management**

Objective: Minimize wildlife conflicts with human health and safety, military operations, quality of life, cantonment areas, agricultural programs, and other species management programs.

Camp Pendleton's boundaries interface with both urban and natural environments. Conflicts routinely arise with animals that occasionally pose a health or safety hazard to Base residents. Further, federally listed threatened and endangered species and other native wildlife can become prey for domestic animals (e.g., cats), including pets and feral animals. FMD conducts Camp Pendleton's pest control in accordance with the Integrated Pest Management Plan (2007) with assistance as required by other local vector/animal control agencies and the RMD (including exotics control, threatened and endangered species management, and awareness programs and elements). Wildlife problems previously identified at Camp Pendleton include coyotes around housing areas, bats roosting in buildings, gulls and crows at the landfill, snakes and coyotes in housing and cantonment areas, and birds nesting in operation areas and in military equipment. Wildlife management services have included the removal of beavers from the Santa Margarita River, the removal of coyotes from housing areas that were classified as a threat to human health or safety by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the removal of opossums, raccoons and skunks that have become problem animals.

Feral cats on Base also pose a potential threat to human health. Feral cats may carry many human and wildlife diseases, including cat scratch fever, distemper, histoplasmosis, toxoplasmosis, leptospirosis, mumps, plague, rabies, ringworm, salmonellosis, toxoplasmosis, tularemia, and various endo- and ectoparasites (AFPMB 1996). Installation residents are required to keep all pet cats inside their homes and spay/neuter both dogs and cats. Education, rule enforcement, and predator control are the primary tools for controlling feral cat populations on Base. Assistance with animal problems is also obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (USDAWS) on a reimbursable basis e.g., the USDAWS removed 14 feral cats from the Base least tern colony in 2007. Consistent with DoN policy, Trap/Neuter/Release (TNR) Programs will no longer be allowed on Base (DoN 2002).

To minimize problems from domestic animals and the potential escape and establishment of exotics, the Base has established and published, in the section of the Base Regulations that applies to residents of on-Base housing, a policy on prohibiting most exotic pets basewide and placing restrictions on the possession of normal domestic household pets such as dogs and cats in some housing areas adjacent to sensitive resources.

Routine, ongoing wildlife conflict management efforts are focused on domestic, exotic and native species that can be a nuisance, pose a threat to human health and safety, or are causing property damage. Wildlife conflict management efforts in housing and cantonment areas are focused on providing information to residents on how to avoid creating conditions that will attract wildlife and potentially create a conflict. Handouts are developed in conjunction with the REC and emphasize actions to avoid conflicts and remind people about the ecological value of animals involved in human-wildlife conflicts. All wildlife damage management and control measures on Base are conducted in a humane and judicious manner.

The Base will continue to adopt and use methods that minimize the likelihood of human-wildlife conflicts. The distribution of housing and cantonment areas, and the frequent relocation of Marines and their families requires regular action to resolve wildlife conflicts. It also ensures that human and wildlife conflicts will be an ongoing concern.

Actions supporting resolution of wildlife conflicts between humans, agricultural programs, and other species management programs include those listed below (see Appendix M for additional details on these actions):

- Animal damage control.
- Conduct beaver control.
- Africanized honeybee control activities.
- Wildlife conflict education.
- Wildlife removal.

### **5.2.2. Hunting Program**

Goal: Provide mission-compatible and ecologically sustainable hunting opportunities for military personnel, dependents, and the public.

Camp Pendleton's hunting program dates as far back as the early 1940s and 1950s, and the *Cooperative Plan for the Conservation and Management of Fish and Wildlife Resources Aboard Camp Pendleton*, was signed by the DoI, DoD, and CDFG in August 1963.

The hunting program is managed in cooperation with CDFG, and is in compliance with California law and the annual framework established by CDFG. Section 640, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (Management of Fish and Wildlife on Military Lands) and Sections 3450 through 3453 of CDFG Code allow the Base sufficient flexibility in administering its hunting program to avoid conflicts with military training. To improve hunting opportunities, the Base has coordinated with the CDFG to revise its deer hunting management program on Camp Pendleton. For instance, a change in the season opening dates helped reduce restrictions to hunting area access, historically imposed by the high fire danger common during deer hunting season. The result has been, historically, an excellent military and civilian participation (hunting was closed to civilians due to AT-FP requirements after 11 September 2001), and perennially high hunter success rates relative to other deer hunting zones in southern California. In addition, the Base has traditionally invited CDFG personnel to participate in conducting helicopter surveys of pre-hunt deer populations.

REC biologists review harvest limits established by the State, and set quotas at or below those limits depending on species population levels on Base. REC technicians and game wardens issue permits, check users in and out of areas, collect data on species harvested, and enforce federal, State and Base game regulations. Base Hunting and Fishing Regulations are based largely on the State's current regulations. The REC and its programs are described in Base Order P5000.2k Chapter 9 (MCBCP 2010), and are included in Appendix Q with more specific requirements outlined within specific REC program rules. Base Hunting and Fishing Regulations are subject to change to accommodate training, mission, and environmental concerns and may not be reflected in the most current Base regulations. The REC regulations may be more restrictive than federal or State regulations.

Recreational hunting is permitted year-round and includes seasons for small/upland game, deer, and waterfowl hunting (Table 5-2). Hunting is allowed within Base training areas when not in use for military training. Hunting is not permitted in dud-producing impact areas, most cantonment areas, areas closed for conservation (e.g., recently burned), and areas with sensitive vegetation and habitat. However, it is allowed within some non dud-producing impact areas if no training is occurring. Hunting may also be allowed before or after working hours (0730-1600), and all day on holidays and weekends as authorized, in areas not in use for military training.

**TABLE 5-2. HUNTING SEASONS ON CAMP PENDLETON**

<b>Species<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Dates<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Limit<sup>c</sup></b>
Mourning Dove	1 September to mid-September, and early-November to mid-December	10 per day; 10 in possession
California Quail and Mountain Quail	mid-October to late-January	10 per day; 10 in possession
Band-Tailed Pigeon	mid-December to late-December	2 per day; 2 in possession
Waterfowl	mid-October to late-January	Varies by species
Deer (archery)	September to early-December	2 per season; 1 in possession
Deer (rifle)	mid-October to early-December	1 per season; 1 in possession
Ground Squirrel	Year-round	None
Brush Rabbit and Cottontail Rabbit	1 July to late-January	5 per day; 5 in possession
Coyote	Year-round	None

<sup>a</sup> Species may be added to or removed from this list, depending upon resource needs and as long as State and federal hunting regulations are met.

<sup>b</sup> Actual dates of hunting periods vary. The REC publishes specific dates annually.

<sup>c</sup> Limits may be reduced dependent upon resource management decisions.

The number of hunters allowed in each hunting area is determined by several factors: the size of the area, vegetation, fire frequency, road access, game species population levels, manpower availability, cumulative harvest for the current season, safety, and hunter satisfaction. Limiting the number of hunters in each area allows Camp Pendleton to spread hunter impacts across the Base, and avoid too much pressure on any single area. Consequently, this restriction helps to provide a safe, quality hunting experience while better managing game populations.

Hunting is available to active duty military, retired service members, DoD employees, dependents, and some immediate family members. In addition to holding a valid State hunting license, and State required stamps and tags, hunters must also hold a valid Base hunting permit that may be purchased from the game warden office located in building 2648. The REC submits Camp Pendleton quotas for deer tags to the CDFG annually for approval. In turn, the CDFG allows up to 400-deer tags to be issued annually to the Base for the Camp Pendleton Special Hunt (zone G-10) (Asmus pers. comm. 2009). The CDFG now has an automated license, tag and stamp issuing system across the State which issues required items to eligible hunters. Hunters with disabilities may coordinate with REC staff for assistance; REC employees can assist with the placement of disabled hunters in more accessible areas, provide field chairs, etc. The Base restricts hunting to daylight hours, and may limit the take of some species beyond which would otherwise be legally allowed.

Immediately after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, all recreation programs were stopped and re-evaluated. Due to the Base's AT-FP considerations, restrictions were placed upon the hunting program. Since 11 September 2001, the only civilians allowed to participate in the Camp Pendleton hunting program have been sponsored by immediate relatives of people with military affiliation that are already authorized to hunt on Base (Asmus pers. comm. 2009). The general public can still participate in the fishing program in ocean waters at Del Mar Harbor, or if sponsored by a DoD employee within inland waters. The general public can also participate in the dispersed-use camping program on approved beach camping areas. Availability of all natural resources-based recreation programs to the general public is re-evaluated annually.

Hunters may use firearms, crossbows, or bow-and-arrows, in accordance with all applicable State and Base regulations. Hunters are required to check-in and check-out with the REC office in person daily when hunting is authorized. This allows the REC to minimize overuse, maximize hunter enjoyment, and see each animal taken. Detailed data on the species harvested (number, sex, age, and condition of animals), hunter success, and other parameters are also obtained.

While not a common activity, Camp Pendleton allows hunters to field-train hunting dogs with game birds during daylight hours between 1 July and 31 March. All people planning to train hunting dogs on Base must have a CDFG permit and approval from the REC. Hunters must ensure that birds are not harmed or killed while field-training the dogs.

The REC also provides approved CDFG Hunter Education Instructors that teach a CDFG mandated 10 hour hunter safety course, for people who would like to hunt in the future. Courses are normally taught at the REC office each month from February through December, and are offered free of charge to all attendees. Students can call the REC office at 760-725-3360 the month prior to a scheduled class and reserve a seat in their name. The daylong classes are normally scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday on the third weekend of each month. A test is given at the end of each class, and once passed students are issued a hunter certificate. That certificate can then be used to purchase a California Hunting License, stamps, and tags which are required while hunting.

The REC actively maintains wildlife watering devices (guzzlers). This program supports over 30 watering devices located throughout the Base and primarily within training areas. Over 60 watering devices were used at one time during the 1960s and 1970's but many fell into disrepair due to non-maintenance, exposure to the weather, or training exercises. Some watering devices pre-date the Base and were used to water cattle. The REC completed a two year study on the watering devices during 2007 and 2008 to determine: 1) which guzzlers were being used; 2) the best locations for use by wildlife; 3) which guzzlers to remove or keep; and 4) additional sites if guzzlers are added in the future. REC Employees remove worn-out guzzlers and replace them with new watering devices, as well as maintain existing guzzlers to provide water sources at specific locations throughout the year. Watering devices are above- or below-ground concrete structures, or fiberglass concave/convex structures that sit at ground level. Some devices are spring fed, but most are able to collect rainfall during the winter months. REC employees also refill the devices

as needed when water levels drop from use or evaporation during the warmer summer months.

The REC ensures that staff responsible for implementing and enforcing the hunting program obtain training and annual updates regarding the implementation and enforcement of natural resources laws and requirements relevant to hunting and other natural resources/conservation needs. Since the conversion of military game wardens to civilian game wardens in 2005, the REC has implemented a program to train all its CLEOs at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Georgia or New Mexico. CLEOs are also required to meet annual weapons qualification standards as outlined within MC05090.4.

Informational booklets and handouts on game species hunting on Base have been developed for distribution to hunters. These materials are updated and reprinted as needed.

Base game wardens work weekly with AC/S O&T to identify possible measures for improving training area availability for the hunting program when areas are not in use for military training. For example, measures include validating scheduled use with units to ensure that any last minute training area cancellations result in additional availability for recreational use. Periodically, the REC assesses the feasibility and desirability of expanding the hunting program to include additional species (e.g., hunting of coyote was added in 2005). When desirable and feasible, proposed changes will be coordinated using the Base NEPA process.

As federal game wardens, the REC staff: 1) patrols training areas anytime hunters are out to provide a safe hunting environment; 2) checks hunters in the field; and 3) makes sure hunters stay in assigned areas, wear hunter-orange, use correct equipment, and take only the proper game and amounts authorized by law. In case of conflict with units training, game wardens coordinate with the Range Operations Division (ROD) of AC/S O&T to resolve the conflict and relocate hunters, if necessary.

### **5.2.3. Fishing Program**

Goal: Provide mission-compatible and ecologically sustainable fishing opportunities that enhance quality of life for military personnel, dependents, and the public.

Objective: Provide a quality, sustainable outdoor fishing experience for military and civilian patrons within the constraints of the military mission and capability of the resources.

Objective: Collect accurate fishing information and data from fishermen, wardens and biologists.

Camp Pendleton's fishing program dates back to the early 1940s and 1950s, and was supported with the development of the *Cooperative Plan for the Conservation and Management of Fish and Wildlife Resources Aboard Camp Pendleton*, signed by DoI, DoD, and CDFG in August 1963.

The Base fishing program is managed in cooperation with the CDFG, and is in compliance with California law and the annual framework established by CDFG. Section 640, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (Management of Fish and Wildlife on Military Lands) and Sections 3450 through 3453 of CDFG Code allow the Base sufficient flexibility in administering its fishing program to avoid conflicts with military training.

The REC administers the Base fishing programs. The fisheries biologist in the RMD Wildlife Management Branch reviews limits established by the State and assists the REC in setting quotas at or below those limits. REC employees issue permits, check users in and out of areas, collect data on species harvested, and enforce State, federal, and Base fishing regulations. Base hunting and fishing regulations, which are based largely on the State's current regulations, are published in Chapter 9 of Base Order P5000.2k, Base Regulations (MCBCP 2010) and are included in Appendix Q. Base hunting and fishing regulations are changed, as required, to accommodate training, mission, and environmental concerns and may not be reflected in the most current edition of the Base Regulations.

On Camp Pendleton, fishing opportunities range from surf fishing on authorized beaches to freshwater fishing at a variety of inland locations. Surf fishing and collecting mollusks, crustaceans, and clams are permitted for military and civilian personnel at Del Mar Harbor. Only angling is permitted from the northern Del Mar Harbor jetty. Regular fishing activity is allowed adjacent to Cockleburr and Red Beaches for permit holders only. Clamming is also permitted at San Onofre Beach (aka Green Beach). Fishing with hook and line is prohibited on all recreational beaches unless authorized. The general public is allowed access for surf fishing at Del Mar Harbor with the purchase of a Camp Pendleton fishing permit from the REC office at building 2648. Take, possession, and season limitations of saltwater finfish and invertebrates are based on the CDFG regulations (although the Base may place further restrictions on these regulations for management purposes in the future). Specific fishing locations and regulations are provided when a Camp Pendleton fishing permit is purchased.

Depending on training requirements and natural resource conditions, inland fishing may be authorized at Case Spring ponds, Lake O'Neill, and Pilgrim Creek Pond. Fishing is permitted at Pulgas Lake for catch and release only. Detailed fishing information is available at the REC office.

Fishing at inland locations is available to active duty military personnel, DoD personnel, retired service members, dependents, and guests when accompanied by a sponsor. The number of military affiliates fishing in upland waters is unrestricted; however, persons 16 years of age and older engaged in fishing must have a valid State fishing license and a Camp Pendleton fishing permit. Qualified anglers must be at least 18 years of age to access training areas on their own. Currently, the general public is not permitted to fish at freshwater locations on Base, with the exception that the Base may issue group fishing permits to organized groups. All fishing participants may be assessed a fee established by the CG/CO.

The freshwater game fish species found on Base include, but are not limited to, largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*), brown bullhead

(*Ictalurus nebulosus*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*), bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*), and black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*). Most freshwater species, including the exotic red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), may be taken all year long. The invasive, exotic bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) may also be taken under recreational fishing regulations on Base. Although there are no length/size restrictions on most of the species, some have take limits.

In addition to compliance with the California Fish and Game laws, Camp Pendleton has additional restrictions that affect recreational fishing, such as ‘daylight fishing only’ and license and permit requirements at all fishing locations. Fishing at locations in training areas is limited to weekends, established holidays, and days next to holiday weekends when the Base provides multiple days off for military personnel. Inland fishing at Lake O’Neill is available year-round and is not typically restricted for reasons pertaining to training. However, Lake O’Neill’s primary purpose is to serve as water storage to allow the Base to exercise its water rights. To support these rights, there are times throughout the year when there is a need to draw the water level down, which may affect fishing. The WMB occasionally stocks Lake O’Neill with exotic game fish, including largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie and channel catfish, and may also stock or remove fish from other locations on Base. However, in order to prevent the potential introduction of non-native species into the Santa Margarita River from Lake O’Neill, the Base fisheries biologist is pursuing the implementation of exclusionary devices. One such device, known as a fish screen, was added to the Lake O’Neill out-flow to minimize fish release into the Santa Margarita River. State law prohibits fishing on the Santa Margarita River.

The REC ensures that staff responsible for implementing and enforcing the fishing program obtain training and annual updates regarding the implementation and enforcement of laws and requirements relevant to hunting and other natural resources/conservation needs on Base. Since the conversion of military game wardens to civilian game wardens in 2005, the REC has implemented a program to train federal game wardens (CLEOs) at the FLETC in Georgia or New Mexico.

REC employees check fishermen in the field to ensure that they stay in assigned areas, display licenses and permits, use correct equipment, and take only the proper fish and quantities authorized by law.

Fisheries Management Plans were developed for Lake O’Neill and Pulgas Lake by the USFWS (see Berg 1995b). The REC biologists and the WMB fisheries biologist review these plans and implement recommendations as staff, funding, and conditions allow.

#### **5.2.4. Non-Developed Camping Program**

Goal: Provide a quality, sustainable camping program for military and civilian patrons within the constraints of the military mission and capability of the resources.

Objective: Increase the number of camping customers and permits sold to provide a consistent annual budget within the 17X account (17X is a fiscal account used for the collection of recreational access fees to ensure those funds are used only for improvement

and management of specific recreational programs, to include: hunting, fishing, camping, or other related recreational-use-programs).

Objective: Provide camping customers with multiple campsite options while keeping prices reasonable, and simultaneously stabilizing and increasing the number of camping permits sold each year.

Objective: Provide DoD dispersed-use campers with a safe, quiet, enjoyable scenic experience.

Developed site camping opportunities are available to the general public on the 2,000 ac leased to California State Parks for the San Onofre State Beach (Section 2.3.3.2.). The San Onofre State Beach has two campgrounds, one inland at the San Mateo section and one in the San Onofre section adjacent to sandstone cliffs overlooking the beach. These sites are all open to the general public. The campground in the San Mateo section of the beach has 150 developed sites, showers, and hookups for trailers and campers. The campground in the San Onofre section of the beach has 221 developed sites with cold, outdoor showers and hookups for trailers and campers. San Onofre State Beach is leased from Camp Pendleton, and the campsites are managed completely separate from all other campsites on Camp Pendleton by California State Parks.

AC/S MCCS provides developed site camping opportunities to active duty and retired military, their dependents, DoD Base personnel, and guests. Cottages and campsites with electrical hookups and picnic cabanas are available at the Del Mar and San Onofre Beaches. Recreational camping and picnic cabanas are also available at Lake O'Neill. Lake O'Neill campgrounds offer tent camping and developed campsites with water, electricity, and sewer hookups. The Lake O'Neill Peninsula is available for large group activities like promotions, retirements, and wedding receptions. This area has picnic cabanas, BBQ grills, a stage, electrical power, and athletic facilities. Bumper boats, paddleboats, and rowboats are also available to rent.

Camping in self-contained vehicles is permitted at the dirt overview area at Cockleburr Beach and on Red Beach, as training and security issues allow. Camping at Cockleburr Beach is permitted only during September through March, the non-breeding season of the California Least Tern (federally endangered) and the western snowy plover (federally threatened). Camping at Cockleburr Beach is for the DoD community only and no general public civilian campers are allowed. Anyone obtaining a camping permit can camp at Red Beach when it is available. Camping permits are required for both beach locations and additionally, are restricted during training operations. Camping is also allowed at the Las Flores Ranch House when it is available by all camping permit holders. There is no recreational swimming allowed at either Cockleburr or Red Beach.

Upland camping on Base is undeveloped, with no toilets or water provided. Campers are required to obtain an annual camping permit and must coordinate campsite use with the REC to verify site availability. Up to 1,000 permits (an internal restriction) can be issued annually on a first-come-first-served basis. In addition, group camping permits may be

available in the future. Seniors (>65 years old) and patrons with a California vehicle disability placard can receive a discount on camping fees.

The REC designates undeveloped recreational campsites (after coordination with Range Operations Division) that will not conflict with training activities or natural resources management objectives. Currently, other undeveloped recreational campsites may also be available in the following upland locations: Talega Canyon, Uniform Beach Bluffs, Pulgas Lake, Case Springs (larger and smaller ponds), San Mateo Creek and a few other locations as authorized. These areas are not normally utilized, but may be in the future if specific regulations are created. Detailed information of available camping areas is available at the REC office located in building 2648. Recreational customers may not use any roads which enter training areas, or training areas until legally authorized by the REC.

Depending upon the location, campgrounds on Base are supervised by MCCA staff, the REC, and/or beach lifeguards. In addition, volunteer night hosts residing at beach campgrounds assist with after-hours supervision of those areas. Campers on Camp Pendleton are required to follow Base Regulations that have been established to accommodate the Mission of the Base, and to provide a safe and quality environment for recreational users. A Base permit and check-in with the REC is required before occupying any non-developed campsite. All vehicles (to include RVs and camping trailers) on Camp Pendleton must meet all California Vehicle Code sections (street legal), be properly registered, and insured.

The REC regulates available dispersed campsites by patrolling, to ensure campers are following State laws and Base camping regulations. During patrols, wardens monitor permit holders, provide signage and information for other people looking for day use activities, ensure quick responses and perform random checks to dispersed-use campers in training areas. Ultimately, these patrols are intended to support a safe and enjoyable environment, make certain campers remain in assigned areas and display their permits, and prevent conflicts with military units. Game wardens also reinforce patron awareness of, and compliance with, Base Order P11320.13D Fire Protection Regulations and Instructions (MCBCP 2000) regarding campfires, use of stoves, etc.

#### **5.2.5. Picnicking, Hiking, Nature Photography, Bicycling, Horseback Riding and Other Outdoor Activities**

Goal: Provide a tracking method to account and provide safety for all recreational users (excluding MCCA activities) that enter Base natural areas on weekends and holidays.

Objective: Issue recreational permits to authorized users who picnic, hike, bike, photograph natural resources, bird watch, ride horseback, or otherwise use Base natural areas for recreation.

Generally, recreational hiking and jogging are permissible throughout the Base for active duty military, retired service members, DoD employees, and dependents. However, clearance is required to enter impact areas, restricted areas, firing ranges, hunting areas (when in use), wildlife protection areas, and/or areas where troops are training. About once a month, organized races are held on Base roads and trails, including the semiannual "Mud

Run” (a 10-km route of rugged terrain, training obstacles, deep water, and mud) and “Ridge Run” (a 5-km route along steep terrain). The Base allows hikers to use primary and secondary roads, fire breaks, and designated hiking trails for recreational hiking and jogging, subject to the above-mentioned restrictions. Before use on weekends and holidays, hikers must contact the REC office, purchase a day-use permit and receive authorization to enter training areas.

Recreational biking on Base is permitted only for active duty military, retired service members, DoD employees, and dependents on established roads and trails, except for MCCS-sponsored race events that are open to the general public. If allowed, bicycle riders must contact the REC office, purchase a recreational-use permit and receive authorization before entering any training areas. Members of the general public may use the established bicycle transit corridor during daylight hours, without prior authorization, as a means of bypassing I-5 between Oceanside and San Clemente. The San Onofre State Park also permits cyclists on established trails.

Picnicking, hiking, nature photography, horseback riding and other outdoor activities can be conducted on many non-restricted areas of the Base. Before use on weekends and holidays, recreationists wanting to enter training areas must contact the REC office, purchase a recreational-use permit and receive authorization to enter training areas. Camp Pendleton has many areas available from the Del Mar Marina and Stepp Stables, to Lake O’Neill and the State Park leased land on the north side of the Base. Cantonment and housing areas also provide places that are available for recreational use. Natural areas on Camp Pendleton provide a unique opportunity for Base customers to picnic, hike, bike, photograph natural resources and more. Since these activities may involve entering training areas and use of the roads entering these areas, restrictions are in place to make sure there are no conflicts between Marines meeting training mission requirements, and individuals using these areas for recreation.

Anyone wishing to enter training areas for recreational purposes should first contact the REC office for details, permits, or access. Outdoor recreational activities in training areas relating to natural resources programs can be directed to the REC office located in building 2648. The REC aims to make some areas available on weekends and holidays that can be used for picnicking, hiking, nature photography, bird watching, bicycling, and more.

### **5.3. OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE RELATED RECREATION**

MCB Camp Pendleton offers many natural resources related recreational opportunities beyond hunting, fishing, and developed and undeveloped camping. These include beach and ocean use, equestrian activities, hiking, jogging, races, bicycling, etc.

Goal: Provide mission compatible and ecologically sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for military personnel and the general public.

Objective: Ensure that natural resources related recreation is conducted, so as not to interfere with training and in compliance with all applicable environmental laws, their implementing regulations, and this Plan.

### **5.3.1. Beach and Ocean Use**

Camp Pendleton's land holdings include approximately 17 miles of beachfront; 40% of which is managed primarily for recreation by the Base or California State Parks. The leased acreage comprising the San Onofre State Beach features over four miles of sandy beaches with six access trails from the bluffs above, as well as access to the famous "Trestles" surfing beach. The State Beach provides public access year-round and State Park personnel administer activities on the State Beach. The State Beach is popular with hikers, campers, swimmers, sunbathers and surfers. Nature observers may see whales, dolphins, and sea lions offshore. Bird watching is primarily at the marshy area where San Mateo Creek meets the shoreline at Trestles Beach. The State Beach has two campgrounds and a nature trail that starts at San Mateo Canyon and leads to San Mateo State Preserve/Trestles Beach.

In addition to the beach leased to and administered by the State Park, the Base MCCA administers Del Mar Beach and Marina, at the southern end of the Base, and San Onofre Beach, to the north. Miles of recreational beach are accessible at these locations to active and retired military, their dependents, civilian Base personnel, and guests. Both beaches have cottages and campsites with electrical hookups, picnic cabanas, and recreational equipment. Each beach has a bathhouse, and lifeguards are on duty year-round. Del Mar Beach and San Onofre Beach are open to the general public periodically for special events.

### **5.3.2. Equestrian Program**

Stepp Stables provides equestrian recreational activities for active duty and retired military personnel, their dependents, civilian Base personnel, and sponsored guests. Patrons may board horses and utilize three riding arenas and three round pens, all with excellent footing, in addition to the 15 miles of trails accessible from the barn. Mare motel style stalls are 24' x 24', and come with a spacious individual tack room and a variety of feeding options. Lot pasture options are also available. Full and partial training programs are offered in a variety of disciplines.

Lessons available to patrons include group and private lessons, for a wide spectrum of ages and skill levels. Both arena and trail lessons are available, as well as use of a Stepp Stables horse. The Stepp Stables also hosts horse shows, and has a competitive show team that travels to both schooling and rated shows (Grace pers. comm. 2011).

## **5.4. NONMILITARY OFF-ROAD VEHICLES**

All privately owned vehicles on Base must meet California Vehicle Code standards, and be properly registered and insured. Authorized individuals with properly registered, street-legal vehicles must contact the federal game wardens' office before accessing training areas for recreational purposes not relating to MCCA activities. Complete accountability is required for everyone entering training areas for recreational use. Off-road privately owned vehicles such as all-terrain vehicles, dirt bikes, etc. are not authorized on Camp Pendleton.

The use of nonmilitary, off-road vehicles on Base is not consistent with the Base's mission. This recreational use of the land conflicts with military land use requirements, wise land management practices, environmental values, and other recreational activities. The restrictions placed on nonmilitary off-road vehicles do not apply to vehicles used for

official use by an employee, agent, or designated representative of the Federal Government or one of its contractors (EO 11644).

## **5.5. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

The importance of educating Base residents, visitors, and the surrounding communities about Camp Pendleton's unique natural resources, stewardship initiatives, and contributions to regional conservation goals cannot be overstated. As far back as the early 1970s, Camp Pendleton played host to many organizations and provided numerous group tours and lectures to the southern California Chapter of the Soil Conservation Service, San Diego County Agriculture Department, the University of California Davis School of Agriculture, and annual CDFG regional managers' meetings. Other Base environmental awareness efforts included sponsoring Los Angeles Zoo field study classes on southern California reptiles, a University of California Riverside class on range grasses, SDSU students' master theses (e.g., oak woodlands), an Orange Coast College study on San Onofre Beach erosion and ecology, a University of California Los Angeles and USDA study on soils, plus many outdoor programs for youth group activities, school events, and campouts.

At present, environmental and natural resources staff on Base conduct slide presentations on natural resources and Base management programs, for a variety of on-Base and off-Base groups such as conservation organizations, service groups and college classes. On occasion, Base personnel also lead field trips to observe wildlife.

An objective of community outreach and educational programs has been, and continues to be, proper public environmental awareness and recognition of DoD stewardship. Awareness is accomplished through interpretive signs and programs, nature trails, and viewing areas. Interpretive signs and programs provide an opportunity to communicate natural resources information and value to users and visitors of Camp Pendleton. Special interest areas, including locations where military activities are highly visible along I-5 and historical sites, offer a setting for education and public orientation. Access to cultural sites, however, must be limited to prevent vandalism.

To generate and celebrate environmental awareness, and spread the message of support for environmental protection, Camp Pendleton annually participates in Earth Day events. These events usually include live displays of a variety of native reptiles, birds and/or mammals that occur on Camp Pendleton. Partaking in the activities allows for a unique opportunity (for the public) to learn more about the various species that occur on Base in a safe and controlled environment. Periodically, news articles are prepared for the Base paper and interviews are often given to local newspapers. Staff also participates with local high schools in a School-to-Career program, which introduces students to environmental compliance and natural resources management professions.

For land users and personnel on Camp Pendleton, the Environmental Training Branch within AC/S ES conducts periodic training-needs assessments and coordinates the environmental education and training programs. The Environmental Training Branch prepares and presents installation-specific education and training materials that are

explicitly and implicitly required, and provides career-enhancing continuing education as mandated by federal, State and local regulations and various MCOs. The Branch also conducts the senior commanders' symposia, delivers the training programs for unit operations and logistics officers (S3 and S4), and provides unit-specific onsite environmental instruction. This Branch also tracks all environmental training programs being conducted on Base through the Learning Management System database embedded within the Online Environmental Campus distance learning program. In addition, the Environmental Training Branch ensures all training materials and course content meet or exceed technical and quality standards, as established by Marine Corps Headquarters and MCB Camp Pendleton's CG/CO.

The Environmental Training Branch is guided by the U.S. Marine Corps' Comprehensive Environmental Training and Education Program (CETEP). Devised in 1992, CETEP is a Headquarters Marine Corps sponsored program that was approved at the highest levels by both the USMC training (CG/CO, Marine Air Ground Training and Education Command [MAGTEC]) and environmental (Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics) functional commands. CETEP was designed to incorporate the development and program management aspects of the USMC Systems Approach to Training and principles of Total Quality Leadership into a program and program-development process to address the environmental training challenge Marine Corps-wide. The ultimate goal of CETEP is to ensure that appropriate environmental instruction and information are provided at all levels of the Marine Corps, in the most effective manner, to achieve full compliance with all environmental training requirements.

The five major components of CETEP are:

1. General environmental awareness training for all.
2. Marine Corps job-specific training for all Marine Corps personnel.
3. Environmental information for CGs/COs.
4. Training for environmental professionals.
5. Assess environmental training needs and evaluate the adequacy of training policies and programs to meet those needs.

Educational and training programs at Camp Pendleton serve as proactive measures to prevent violations of natural resources-related laws and regulations. A natural resources orientation program for new personnel is under development that will include: 1) a short presentation on natural resources; 2) emphasis on the importance of protection of federally listed threatened and endangered species, and archeological and historical resources; and 3) a reminder about Camp Pendleton's policy prohibiting off-road vehicle activity that is not specifically authorized, which includes mountain bikes. Training programs will include educating existing and future Base personnel about natural resources and use of this INRMP.

The Mission Resource Conservation District, under contract with the Riverside County Flood Control District, provides elementary school education programs for watershed and stormwater awareness on Base.

[This page intentionally left blank.]