

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA)
FOR
PRESCRIBED FIRE FOR AIRFIELD VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT ON ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE**



PREPARED BY:
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28 CES/CEIEN, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota

7 March 2018

Letters or other written comments provided may be published in the Final EA. As required by law, substantive comments will be addressed in the Final EA and made available to the public. Any personal information provided will be kept confidential. Private addresses will be compiled to develop a mailing list for those requesting copies of the Final EA. However, only the names of the individuals making comments and their specific comments will be disclosed. Personal home addresses and phone numbers will not be published in the Final EA.

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DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Prescribed Fire for Airfield Vegetation Management Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota

Pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Title 42 United States Code (USC) Sections 4321 to 4347, implemented by Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations, Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §1500-1508, and 32 CFR §989, Environmental Impact Analysis Process, the U.S. Air Force (Air Force) assessed the potential environmental consequences associated with application of prescribed fire to manage overgrown vegetation within the airfield environment. Overgrown vegetation incapable of being treated by mechanical means within the airfield environment attracts wildlife (primarily waterfowl) and poses a significant Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard at Ellsworth AFB, Pennington and Meade Counties, SD.

The purpose of the proposed action is to manage vegetation in the airfield environment to reduce BASH risk. Topography does not allow mechanical treatment of vegetation in all areas within the airfield area. Vegetation including brush and cattails has developed within the drainages and adjacent to open water in the sloughs and ponds west of the airfield. This vegetation needs to be controlled to reduce BASH. These areas attract wildlife which present a significant risk to flight operations.

The Environmental Assessment (EA), incorporated by reference into this finding, analyzes the potential environmental consequences of activities associated with using prescribed fire for airfield vegetation management and provides environmental protection measures to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts.

The EA considers all potential impacts of Alternative 1, Conduct Prescribed Fire, and the No-Action Alternative. The EA also considers cumulative environmental impacts with other projects in the Region of Influence.

ALTERNATIVE 1 (Preferred Alternative)

The proposed action would be to conduct a prescribed burn on approximately 17 acres in the north and south sloughs in the airfield environment at Ellsworth AFB. Burning would occur prior to the Spring migration. The proposed action would burn off the brush and standing vegetation to reduce cover for wildlife and allow access to the regrowth for herbicide treatments.

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No-Action Alternative, the Preferred Alternative would not occur and no prescribed burning would occur. The vegetation in those areas adjacent to the runway would not be managed. Goals to reduce BASH risk would not be met. Flight safety could be impacted and mission readiness degraded.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The analyses of the affected environment and environmental consequences of implementing the Preferred Alternative presented in the EA concluded that by implementing standing environmental protection measures and operational planning, the Air Force would be in compliance with all terms and conditions and reporting requirements.

The Air Force has concluded that no significant adverse effects would result to the following resources as a result of the Preferred Alternative: air quality, biological resources, geology and earth resources, land use, noise, public health and safety, hazardous materials/waste, socioeconomics / environmental justice, and water resources. No significant adverse cumulative impacts would result from activities associated with Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative)] when considered with past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future projects.

Air Quality: The proposed action will generate smoke and ash over the short term. However, to minimize smoke impacts, burning would only be conducted under the appropriate atmospheric conditions outlined in the prescribed burn plan. Small area burns in grasslands will be completed in a single burn cycle and will be of short duration with little residual smoke.

Safety and Occupational Health: Short term risk to firefighters is expected. The use of certified firefighters and PPE addresses risk. Smoke from the fire will be short term and burning will occur during conditions to minimize exposure. The result of the action would have a longer term positive impact on flight safety.

Earth Resources: The proposed action would remove above ground dead biomass from plants but root systems would remain intact. Little or no soil disturbance would occur. Bare ground would be seeded to protect soils on the project area.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Based on my review of the facts and analyses contained in the attached EA, conducted under the provisions of NEPA, CEQ Regulations, and 32 CFR §989, I conclude that the Preferred Alternative, Conducting Prescribed Burns for Airfield Vegetation Management, would not have a significant environmental impact, either by itself or cumulatively with other known projects. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The signing of this Finding of No Significant Impact completes the environmental impact analysis process.

SIGNATORY NAME, Rank/Title

Date

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Environmental Assessment
Acronyms and Abbreviations

Prescribed Fire for Airfield Vegetation Management
Ellsworth AFB, SD

GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AF	Air Force
AFB	Air Force Base
AFCEC	Air Force Civil Engineering Center
AFI	Air Force Instruction
AFPAM	Air Force Pamphlet
AFWFC	Air Force Wildland Fire Center
AICUZ	Air Installation Compatible Use Zone
BASH	Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CES	Civil Engineering Center
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAFB	Ellsworth Air Force Base
EIAP	Environmental Impact Analysis Process
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
INRMP	Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
PREIAP	Planning Requirements for the Environmental Impact Analysis Process
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
USAF	United States Air Force
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The governing policy for wildland fire management can be found in DoDI 6055.06, Chapter 13 of AFI 32-7064, Chapter 3.2.4 of AFI 32-2001, *Fire Emergency Services Program*, 24 February 2014 (AFI 32-2001), the AFCEC/CZOF Playbook, and *Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy*, January 2001 (FWFMP), as implemented through the *Guidance for Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy*, February 2009 (FWFMP Guidance).

Management of the vegetation in the airfield environment to reduce Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) risk is governed by the following references: AFI 91-202, The U.S. Air Force Mishap Prevention Program; AFI 91-204, Safety Investigation and Reports; AFPAM 91-212, Bird/Wildlife Aircraft Strike Hazard Management Techniques; AC 150/5200-33 BWASH Team Staff Assistance Visit Reports; Wildlife Agency Reports; and compiled listing of base bird strikes.

The management of Natural Resources on Ellsworth Air Force Base of governed by AFI 32-7064, Integrated Natural Resource Management. The Ellsworth AFB Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan (INRMP) includes reference to the utilization of Prescribed Fire for the management of vegetation.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Ellsworth Air Force Base (EAFB) is an Air Force Global Strike Command B-1B bomber base located approximately eight miles east of Rapid City, South Dakota. EAFB is located along the western side of the central flyway for waterfowl. In addition to a wetland complex east of the airfield, two sloughs are located within the aerodrome, one of which encroaches into the runway buffer.

Management of the vegetation around the airfield in addressed in the BASH Plan as well as the Landscape Design Guide and is covered by the Grounds Maintenance Contract. Management includes treating vegetation to reduce attractiveness to wildlife. Vegetation in some areas within the airfield, such as the sloughs, are not suitably managed through mechanical means.

The proposed action would be to implement a prescribed fire to reduce vegetation attractiveness to wildlife in the airfield area of Ellsworth AFB (Figure 1 and 2). This will provide for a safer operational environment for installation aircraft.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE ACTION

The purpose of the proposed action is to manage vegetation in the airfield environment to reduce BASH risk. Topography does not allow mechanical treatment of vegetation in all areas within the airfield area. Herbicide treatments are ineffective or inappropriate in some vegetation types. These areas, especially the sloughs, provide attractive habitat for a number of BASH risk species.

The utilization of prescribed fire will provide an additional tool for managing the vegetation within the aerodrome to reduce risk to aircraft and aircrews.

1.3 NEED FOR THE ACTION

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Environmental Assessment
Purpose of and Need for Action

Prescribed Fire for Airfield Vegetation Management
Ellsworth AFB, SD

Vegetation including brush and cattails has developed within the drainages and adjacent to open water in the sloughs and ponds west of the airfield. This vegetation needs to be controlled to reduce BASH. The cattails are overgrown and herbicides are not effective. These areas attract migratory waterfowl which present a significant risk to flight operations. Additionally, these areas provide wildlife habitat that attract other BASH risk species including raptors. Significant resources are employed to clear the airfield during flight operations and flight delays can impact mission readiness.

1.4 DECISION TO BE MADE

The decision to be made is the selection of an alternative for Ellsworth Air Force Base to support the use of prescribed fire for vegetation management. The decision options are:

- 1) To continue with current operations (the No Action Alternative);
- 2) Selecting an alternative and preparing a FONSI; or
- 3) Preparing an Environmental Impact Statement if the alternatives would result in significant environmental impacts.

1.5 COOPERATING AGENCY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION/ CONSULTATIONS

1.5.1 Cooperating Agency (*Include name of cooperating agency*)

In December 2017, the Air Force Wildland Fire Branch (AFWFB) became a cooperating agency in the preparation of this Environmental Assessment (EA). The United States Air Force (USAF) has obtained technical input from the AFWFC to prepare this EA. The USAF works cooperatively with the AFWFC to ensure that adoption of the findings of this EA will provide for reduced BASH risk and an improved ability to meet the EAFB mission.

1.5.2 Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination and Consultations

Federal, state, and local agencies that could be affected by the alternative actions notified include US Fish and Wildlife Service, SD Division of Wildland Fire Management, Great Plains Interagency Fire Dispatch Center, and the city of Box Elder.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PROPOSED ACTION – CONDUCT PRESCRIBED FIRE

The proposed action would be to conduct a prescribed burn on approximately 17 acres in the north and south sloughs in the airfield environment at Ellsworth AFB (Appendix A). Burning would occur prior to the Spring migration. The proposed action would burn off the brush and standing vegetation to reduce cover for wildlife and allow access to the regrowth for herbicide treatments.

2.2 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The no action alternative would not conduct prescribed burns and the vegetation in those areas adjacent to the runway would not be managed. Goals to reduce BASH risk would not be met. Flight safety could be impacted and mission readiness degraded.

2.3 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT CARRIED FORWARD

2.3.1 Fill Sloughs and Create Grass Cover

This proposal would fill the slough to the surrounding elevation and have a grass cover seeded. A proposal to set a culvert and fill approximately 1,200 feet of the south slough has a cost of approximately \$1 million. This section represents approximately 20% of the length of the slough. The south slough drains the south ramp of the airfield and the drainage must be maintained. Filling the slough is not practical. Additionally, this proposal does not address the north slough or other unmanaged areas within the airfield. This alternative does not meet the Purpose and Need for this action.

2.3.2 Drain the slough

The slough is on the drainage for the south ramp and terminates at a containment pond at its south end. Water must remain in the slough to prevent petroleum products from entering the soil in the event of a spill. A draw down of the water would not reduce the attractiveness of the slough to waterfowl. This alternative does not meet the Purpose and Need for the action.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The Region of Influence (ROI) for the Proposed Action is Airfield at Ellsworth AFB, unless otherwise specified below for a particular resource area where a resource would have a different ROI.

3.1 SCOPE OF THE ANALYSIS

This chapter describes the current conditions of the environmental resources, either man-made or natural, that would be affected by implementing the Preferred Alternative or the No Action Alternative.

Based on the scope of the Proposed Action, issues with minimal or no impacts were identified through a preliminary screening process. The following describes those resource areas not carried forward for a detailed analysis, along with the rationale for their elimination.

Regardless of the alternative selected, the following resources would not be affected by the Proposed Action and are not discussed in detail in this EA:

- **Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (AICUZ) / Land Use / Noise:** The proposed action lies within the 80 dBA noise zone adjacent to the runway and would not impact land use.
- **Hazardous Materials / Waste:** The proposed action is located next to a restoration area but would not impact the cap. Fuel used for ignitions (drip torch) will be consumed by the fire.
- **Socioeconomic Resources / Environmental Justice:** The proposed action does not involve any activities that will impact socioeconomic resources and will not disproportionately affect minority or low-income groups.

3.2 AIR QUALITY

Air quality is described by quantities of criteria pollutants contained in the atmosphere compared to federal and/or state air quality standards. EAFB is in an attainment area for all criteria pollutants.

3.3 WATER RESOURCES

Water resources include surface water, groundwater, and floodplains. The project area includes two sloughs (wetland areas) and three containment ponds. Two of the containment ponds are natural substrate impoundments and one is a lined concrete basin. One of the sloughs is the primary drainage for the south ramp with aircraft parking and fueling operations. This slough contains surface water which must be maintained for spill isolation. A groundwater trichloroethylene (TCE) plume exists to the NW of the project area.

3.4 SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Fire is inherently dangerous. Smoke may produce health concerns for fire fighters as well as personnel down wind. Operating aircraft in the airfield environment includes hazards imposed by bird/wildlife activity in the area.

3.5 BIOLOGICAL / NATURAL RESOURCES

Biological / natural resources include the habitats as well as the plants and animals associated with those habitats. Habitats in the project area include grasslands managed to reduce BASH risk, as well as wetlands and woody draws associated with the drainages. Accessible grasslands are managed according to the BASH Plan and the Landscape Design Plan. Grasses are kept between 7 and 14 inches to reduce habitat suitability to both short grass species and tall grass species. Additionally, this reduces seed production and forage value to birds and small mammals. Bare areas are seeded and forbs may be treated with herbicides to limit seed production. Wetland areas have been modified from their original condition with some channeling. These areas contain hydrophilic plants such as cattails and willows. The channels are steep and mechanical vegetation treatment is impractical. Additionally, the north slough contains mature trees and plum thickets. There are no federal threatened or endangered species located on EAFB.

3.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

EAFB has 21 National Register of Historic Places eligible buildings. Three of these buildings are located in the project area. There are no other archeological or historical features in the project area.

3.7 EARTH RESOURCES

- Geology – The Black Hills and adjoining areas were formed by the Black Hills uplift, which resulted from tectonic movement. EAFB is located in an area consisting of a series of thick beds of sandstone, limestone and shale, the oldest and deepest of which are crystalline basement rocks. These are overlain by deposits of limestone, sandstone and dolomite, several of which are known aquifers. A band over 1,000 feet thick of marine shale with intermittent sandstone and limestone beds extends to the surface at EAFB. The uppermost of these deposits is the Pierre Shale, which forms the bedrock surface at the base and occurs from depths of 40 feet below ground surface to surface outcroppings. Thickness of the Pierre shale is reported to be approximately 860 feet at EAFB, based on well logs for EAFB Production Well Number 1. Unconsolidated materials including colluvial deposits, alluvial deposits and residual material overlay the Pierre Shale at EAFB.
- Soils - Permeability of the soils on EAFB ranges from very slow in the clay soils to moderate in the loamy soils. Fourteen soil types are mapped on EAFB, the majority of which can be grouped into three soil series. Nunn series soils are dominant, covering approximately 85 percent of the installation. Nunn soils are composed of well-drained alluvium, nearly level to moderately sloping loamy soils that occur on terraces and uplands. Onita clay loam soils are found interspersed throughout the base, primarily located on the uplands and high terraces in swales and on foot slopes. These soils are very deep, well and moderately well drained soils that developed in local alluvium. Nunn soils are the dominant soil in the project area with small inclusions of Onita soils near the north slough.
- Topography - The topography of the installation is level to gently sloping, with the exception of the northern most section of the base that descends abruptly northward to a valley floor. The remainder of the base slopes southward towards Box Elder Creek. The highest base elevation is 3,380 feet in the north, and the lowest is 3,080 feet in the south.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the potential environmental consequences that are likely to occur as a result of implementation of all Alternatives that are being considered and analyzed. Impacts described in this chapter are evaluated in terms of type (positive/beneficial or adverse), context (setting or location), intensity (none, negligible, minor, moderate, severe), and duration (short-term/temporary or long-term/permanent). The type, context, and intensity of an impact on a resource are explained under each resource area. Unless otherwise noted, short-term impacts are those that would result during and shortly after implementation of the project. Long-term impacts are generally those persisting after completion of the proposed project.

4.2 AIR QUALITY

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). No significant adverse effects would be expected. The proposed action will generate smoke and ash over the short term. However, to minimize smoke impacts, burning would only be conducted under the appropriate atmospheric conditions outlined in the prescribed burn plan. Small area burns in grasslands will be completed in a single burn cycle and will be of short duration with little residual smoke.

No Action Alternative. No significant adverse effects would be expected.

4.3 WATER RESOURCES

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). No significant adverse effects would be expected. Fire will remove above ground biomass, but root systems will remain intact. Minimal short term ash runoff into surface water may occur, but would not degrade water quality. Fire lines will be mow lines eliminating soil disturbance and sedimentation concerns. No foam or retardant will be used near stream channels or waterbodies. Vegetation will quickly regrow with increased vigor, further stabilizing soils.

No Action Alternative. No significant adverse effects would be expected.

4.4 SAFETY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). No significant adverse effects would be expected. Short term risk to firefighters is expected. However, the burn plan ensures that all personnel on the fire will be certified and all PPE will be used at all times. Smoke from the fire will be short term and burning will occur during conditions to minimize exposure. The objective of the fire would be a reduction of suitability of the area to BASH species resulting in a longer term positive impact on flight safety.

No Action Alternative. Significant adverse impacts may be expected. Fire is the most reasonable management tool for reducing attractiveness of the slough vegetation to wildlife. Significant BASH risk occurs when wildlife use these habitats.

4.5 BIOLOGICAL / NATURAL RESOURCES

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). No significant adverse effects would be expected. Proposed prescribed fire areas are areas managed for BASH reduction. These areas are managed to reduce attractiveness to wildlife. No threatened and endangered animals or critical habitats exist on EAFB. Vegetation would be maintained to protect soil and water.

No Action Alternative. No significant adverse effects would be expected.

4.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). No significant adverse effects would be expected. EAFB has three National Register of Historic Places eligible buildings near the project area. However, these buildings are brick with cleared areas around them and would not be impacted by the proposed action. There are no other archeological or historical features in the project area.

No Action Alternative. No significant adverse effects would be expected.

4.7 EARTH RESOURCES

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). No significant adverse effects would be expected. The proposed action would remove above-ground dead biomass from plants. Root systems would remain intact. Fires will not be hot enough to remove the seed bank and regrowth will be rapid. Little or no soil disturbance would occur. Additionally, the landscape Management Plan calls for seeding areas of bare ground in the airfield area. These measures will protect soils on the project area.

No Action Alternative. No significant adverse effects would be expected.

4.8 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

This EA also considers the effects of cumulative impacts as required in 40 CFR 1508.7 and concurrent actions as required in 40 CFR 1508.25[1]. A cumulative impact, as defined by the CEQ (40 CFR 1508.7) is the "...impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of which agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time."

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**Environmental Assessment
Environmental Consequences**

**Prescribed Fire for Airfield Vegetation Management
Ellsworth AFB, SD**

Continued use of small-scale prescribed fire would become a part of a comprehensive vegetation management plan for the airfield environment. Vegetation in the airdrome is intensively managed for BASH reduction. This strategy is in place to support the primary military mission of the 28th Bomb Wing. Short term impacts from smoke during firing operations are minimized by design in the prescribed fire burn plan. No cumulative effects would be expected from the addition of prescribed fire to the suite of vegetation management tools already employed.

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

This EA has been prepared under the direction of the Air Force Civil Engineer Center, USAF, and 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota.

Gary C. Brundige, Natural / Cultural Resources Manager / Ph.D.
29 years of experience

The following Individuals from the Environmental Compliance branch at the 28th CES and the Ellsworth Module Lead for the Air Force Wildland Fire Center listed below contributed to the preparation of this EA.

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Doug Baldwin, Hazardous Waste Program Manager / B.S.
16 years of experience

Joe Zushlag, Toxics Program Manager / USAF Certification
14 years of experience

Robert Lehmann, Ellsworth AFB Wildland Fire Module Team Leader / A.S. RXB2
25 years of experience

6.0 REFERENCES

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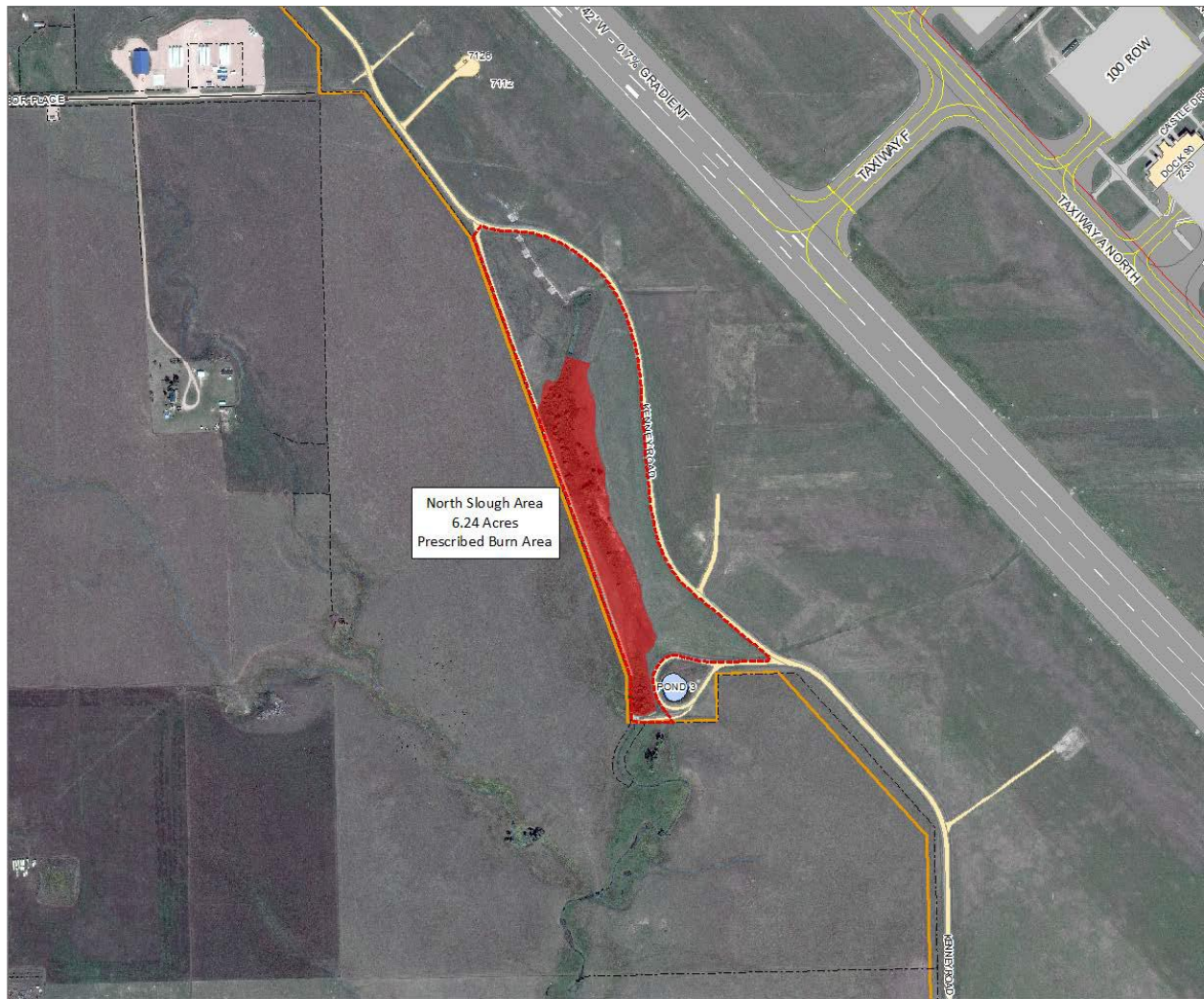
APPENDIX A

MAPS

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Environmental Assessment
Appendices

Prescribed Fire for Airfield Vegetation Management
Ellsworth AFB, SD

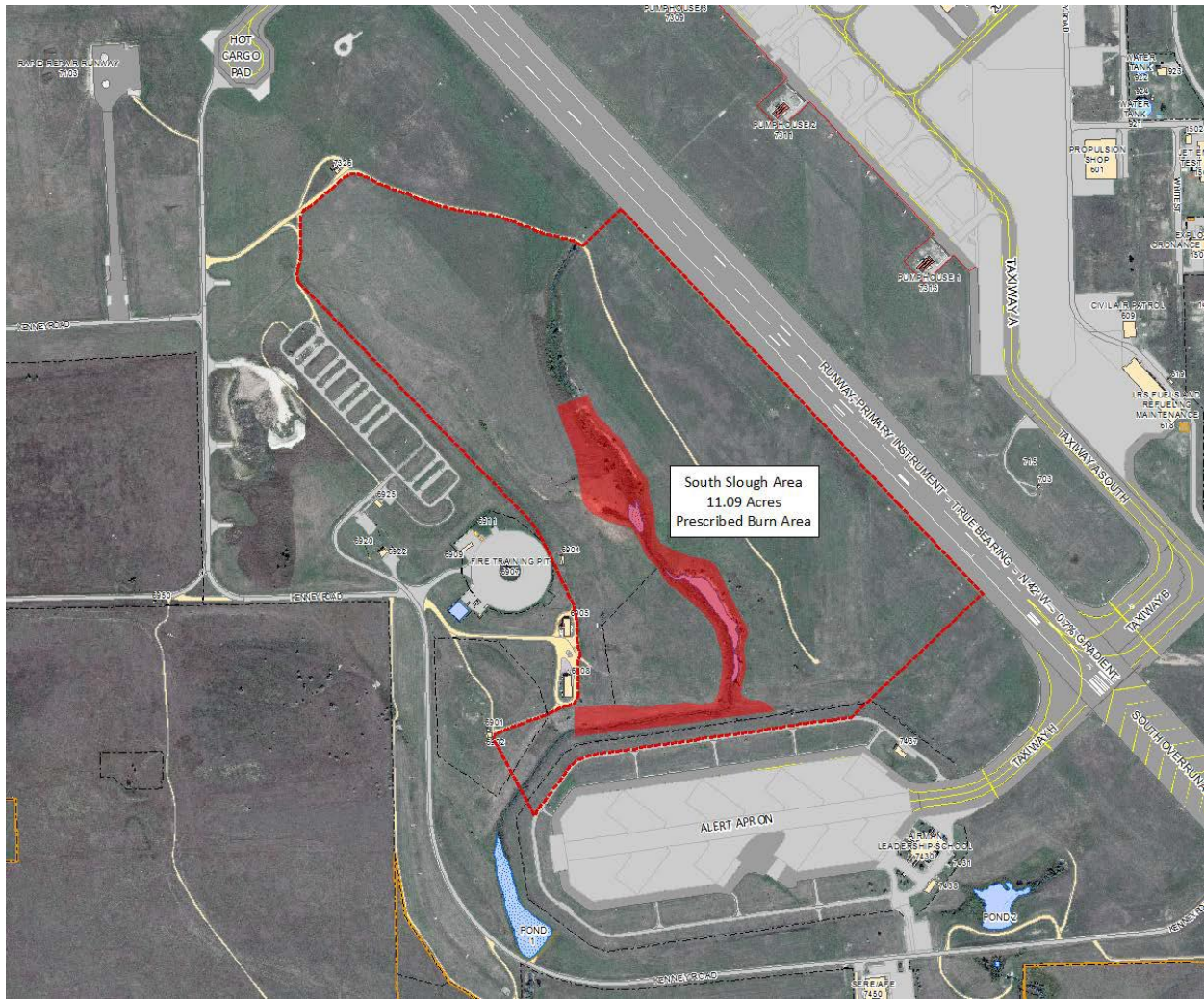


North slough prescribed burn unit, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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Prescribed Fire for Airfield Vegetation Management
Ellsworth AFB, SD



South slough prescribed burn unit, Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota.

APPENDIX B

Notice of Availability

A Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft EA and FONSI was published in the newspapers of record (listed below), announcing the availability of the EA for review on 16 March 2018. The NOA invited the public to review and comment on the Draft EA. The public and agency review period ended on 23 March 2018. Public and agency comments are provided below.

The NOA was published in the following newspapers: Rapid City Journal.

Copies of the Draft EA and FONSI were also made available for review at the following locations: [http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/About -Us/Environmental/](http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/About-Us/Environmental/)

COMMENTS:

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Environmental Assessment
Appendices**

**Prescribed Fire for Airfield Vegetation Management
Ellsworth AFB, SD**

**PUBLIC NOTICE
United State Air Force
Notice of Availability
Draft Environmental Assessments (EA) Addressing the Use of Prescribed Fire for
Vegetation Management at Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB), South Dakota.**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to analyze the impacts of prescribed burning to control vegetation in the airfield environment on Ellsworth AFB. The purpose of this project is to manage vegetation to reduce its suitability for wildlife presenting a risk to aircraft. Fire will remove cover in two sloughs that are near the runway, reducing the attraction of wildlife to areas near the active runway.

The EA, prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and Air Force instructions implementing NEPA; evaluates potential impacts of the alternative actions on the environment including the No-action Alternative. Based on this analysis, the Air Force has prepared a proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The Draft EA and proposed FONSI, dated 7 March 2018, are available for review at the following locations:

Rapid City Public Library (Main Library)
610 Quincy Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
(605) 394-4171

The documents are also available online at
<http://www.ellsworth.af.mil/About-Us/Environmental/>

You are encouraged to submit comments through March 23, 2018. Comments should be provided to:

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PRIVACY ADVISORY NOTICE

Public comments on this Draft EA are requested pursuant to NEPA, 42 United States Code 4321, et seq. All written comments received during the comment period will be made available to the public and considered during the final EA preparation. Providing private address information with your comment is voluntary and such personal information will be kept confidential unless release is required by law. However, address information will be used to compile the project mailing list and failure to provide it will result in your name not being included on the mailing list.