

**BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE**

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE
INSTRUCTION 32-7064**



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Civil Engineering

**INTEGRATED NATURAL
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

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This instruction aligns with AFPD 32-70, *Environmental Quality*, and implements Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 32-7003, *Environmental Conservation*. This instruction addresses multiple natural resources issues including hunting and fishing, wildlife damage control, trapping, wildlife and plant hazards, operating off-road/all-terrain vehicles in natural areas, urban forest management, firewood collection, and landscaping practices. It applies to all persons on Robins Air Force Base (RAFB). Should anything in this document contradict the contents of the RAFB 2017 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), this instruction will control. This publication may be supplemented at any level, but all direct supplements must be routed to the OPR of this publication for coordination prior to certification and approval. Requests for waivers must come through the chain of command from the commander of the office seeking relief from compliance. Waiver requests must be submitted to the OPR; waiver authority has not been delegated. The waiver approval authority for all compliance items within this publication are at Wing Level (Tier T-3). Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using Air Force (AF) Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route AF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained in accordance with Air Force Instruction (AFI) 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and disposed of in accordance with Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS) Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) located at <https://www.my.af.mil/afrims/afrims/afrims/rims.cfm>. See **Attachment 1** for a glossary of references and supporting information.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document has been revised and needs to be completely reviewed. Unit responsibilities were updated.

1. Responsibilities.

1.1. Robins AFB (78 ABW and Tenant Units).

1.1.1. 78 ABW and Tenant units shall be responsible for minimizing conditions conducive to wildlife within working areas. These conditions may include, but are not limited to, open sources of water (i.e. waste treatment retention areas), nesting and roosting sites, and feeding wild and feral animals. These conditions should be eliminated or mitigated to support objectives of the BASH program, avoid wildlife enclosure, and to avoid take of game and non-game species as a result of normal operations. 78 CEG/CEIE will assist units to identify conditions conducive to wildlife and make recommendations to mitigate these conditions. 78 ABW and tenants units will be responsible for implementing recommended mitigation.

1.2. Environmental Management Branch (78 CEG/CEIE).

1.2.1. The 78 CEG/CEIE shall establish and annually update the hunting season opening and closing dates, hunting and fishing rules, weapons and tackle restrictions, bag limits, catch limits, equipment restrictions, and other regulations that govern the harvest of fish and wildlife resources. 78 CEG/CEIE shall work with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and 78th Security Forces Squadron (SFS) to maintain a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the enforcement of fishing and hunting regulations on RAFB.

1.2.2. 78 CEG/CEIE shall ensure that permits necessary for the control of nuisance wildlife, particularly birds, deer, and other wildlife which pose hazards to flight operations, are acquired from the appropriate regulatory agencies, and that the base remains in compliance with stipulations listed in those permits.

1.2.3. The 78 CEG/CEIE Natural Resources Manager shall chair the Robins AFB Tree Board and it shall consist of members from 78 CEG/CEIE, Entomology (78 CES/CEOIE), Pine Oaks Golf Course (78 FSS), Legal (78 ABW/JA), and Service Contracts (78 CES/CEOES). The Tree Board will meet on an as needed basis to review tree management and landscaping issues, and will make recommendations to the 78 CES/CEOES and 78 CEG/CEIE regarding urban forest management. The objectives of the Tree Board include ensuring the professional management of the urban forest to promote its health and the safety of base personnel, and reducing maintenance costs, especially with respect to water and pesticide usage, and ensuring that the base qualifies for Tree City USA status.

1.2.4. The 78 CEG/CEIE Natural Resources Manager shall work with the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) and Robins' Fire Department (778 CES/CEXFP) personnel in utilizing prescribed fire, when appropriate, to maintain natural ecosystems.

1.3. 78th Civil Engineer Squadron (78 CES).

1.3.1. The 78 CES is an Office of Collateral Responsibility (OCR) for Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM). It is the responsibility of the 78 CES, in consultation with the Natural Resources Manager, 78 CEG/CEIE, to plan and execute grounds maintenance projects to eliminate and guard against dangerous conditions that may result in injury to persons or damage to property; to promote and enhance the natural beauty of the installation; and to protect trees, shrubs, facilities, and personnel against the spread of disease or pests.

1.4. 78th Force Support Squadron (78 FSS).

1.4.1. The 78 FSS, Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental Office, is an OCR for INRM. This office shall sell permits for hunting and fishing, and shall verify that permits are only issued or sold to authorized persons. This office shall also provide information on fishing and hunting regulations (authored by 78 CEG/CEIE) to anglers and hunters, and shall sponsor a hunting areas orientation class. This office shall provide game harvest and license sales data to 78 CEG/CEIE on an annual basis. Additionally, this office shall ensure that hunters who use all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) shall first have descriptive information about their ATVs recorded in the Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Office log and are familiar with the following provisions.

1.4.2. ATV Provisions.

1.4.2.1. Off-road or all-terrain vehicles (hereafter referred to as ATVs) are defined as any motorized vehicle with three or four wheels, low pressure tires, a wheel base of 50 inches or less, an overall weight of 600 pounds or less, a handlebar for steering, and a seat designed to be straddled. This section of this instruction also establishes restrictions regarding the use of vehicles other than ATVs in forests and wetlands.

1.4.2.2. Hunting. ATVs may be used by hunters, and only during hunting seasons for deer and hog, on the natural gas pipeline road east of the Horse Creek Bridge. ATVs shall be transported to the hunting areas by trailer or truck.

1.4.2.3. Archery. ATVs may also be used on established trails at the Archery Range for the purpose of transporting targets in support of tournaments and other special events.

1.4.2.4. ATVs shall not be operated on nature trails or trails used for exercise. ATVs, or any other type of vehicle, are not authorized for use in forests and wetlands, with the following exceptions: 1) Those used for emergency purposes; 2) Any civil engineering vehicle performing authorized work; 3) Any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense purposes; 4) Landscape maintenance vehicles; 5) Vehicles used in support of the natural resources management program; and 6) Those used by DNR on the natural gas pipeline to access easements or state property. Habitat damage attributed to ATV use in the wetland areas of hunting areas shall be the basis for barring ATVs from the gas pipeline road.

1.4.2.5. All ATVs shall be licensed and insured according to Air Force and State regulations. All ATV operators shall possess a State driver's license. Hunters who operate ATVs on the natural gas pipeline road shall first have the make, color, and any other relevant information regarding their ATVs logged in the record book at the Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental Office; this shall be done annually. Minors operating ATVs shall carry a learner's license and be under the supervision of an adult who has a State driver's license.

1.4.2.6. Persons operating ATVs shall wear personal protective equipment (i.e., helmet with securely fastened chin strap, boots, gloves, and eye protection) and must acquire an ATV Safety Institute course completion card as described in AFI 91-207, USAF Traffic Safety Program, prior to using ATVs on RAFB. Passengers are not allowed on ATVs.

1.4.2.7. All ATVs shall be equipped with a muffler and spark arrestor in good working order, and shall conform to State laws regarding vehicle pollution emissions and noise.

1.4.2.8. Anyone driving recklessly, operating an ATV while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or driving in areas where the use of ATVs is prohibited shall be subject to enforcement by the 78 SFS or other authorized enforcement officials.

1.5. 78th Security Forces Squadron (78 SFS).

1.5.1. The 78 SFS is an OCR for INRM. The 78 SFS may enforce rules concerning safety and environmental issues in base fishing areas including personal flotation device requirements, prohibitions on swimming, wading, and improper trash disposal, and prohibitions on the use of boats with gasoline or other internal combustion engines. The 78 SFS may provide support to the Natural Resources Manager, 78 CEG/CEIE, to enforce hunting and fishing regulations.

2. Hunting and Fishing.

2.1. Eligibility. All military (active duty and retired) personnel and members of their immediate family may hunt and fish on RAFB. Department of Defense (DoD) employees assigned to RAFB may participate on a space-available basis. Guests of military and civilian personnel shall be accompanied by the sponsor at all times.

2.2. Licenses and permits.

2.2.1. Fishing. While fishing, persons 16 years of age or older shall have a valid State of Georgia fishing license and a RAFB fishing permit in their possession at all times and shall show to any enforcement official, including the base Natural Resources Manager, upon request. An adult shall accompany any person less than 12 years of age who is fishing. In cases where a family is fishing, one member shall be able to produce the family permit if requested. Permits may be purchased during regular duty hours at the Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental Office, 926-4001, Bldg. 984.

2.2.2. Hunting. While hunting, persons 16 years of age or older shall have a valid State of Georgia hunting license and a RAFB hunting permit in their possession at all times and shall show to any enforcement official, including the base natural resources manager, upon request. No one under 18 shall hunt unless under direct adult supervision. Permits may be purchased during regular duty hours at the Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental Office, 926-4001, Bldg. 984.

2.3. Hunting Orientation Class. All persons wishing to hunt on base are required to annually complete the hunter orientation class. Contact the Outdoor Recreation and Equipment Rental Office at 926-4001 for information regarding this class.

2.4. Noncompliance. Violations of Base, Federal, and State rules and regulations governing natural resources requirements are subject to enforcement under the U.S. Magistrate, U.S. District Court, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Georgia civil and criminal requirements, civilian employee administrative processes, military administrative processes, and base privileges and debarment requirements.

3. Wildlife and Plant Hazards, and Their Control.

3.1. Feeding and harassing wildlife.

3.1.1. Base personnel shall not feed wildlife, such as ducks and geese at base lakes. As doing so attracts more of these birds, increasing a hazard to aircrews and aircraft.

3.1.2. Garbage containers, such as dumpsters, shall be properly sealed at all times. Food wastes shall not be placed in containers that cannot be sealed, or left in bags beside containers.

3.1.3. Base personnel shall not approach, touch, or capture wild animals, including dogs and cats. Many species of wildlife are protected by state or federal law including nearly all bird species and their nests (i.e., when occupied by eggs or young), non-venomous snakes, land turtles, and game species such as deer, turkey, mourning dove, and wood duck.

3.2. Nuisance Animal Control.

3.2.1. DNR issues a Nuisance Animal Control Permit and an Airport Deer Permit to RAFB authorizing the control of multiple species of animals. FWS issues a Depredation Permit to RAFB authorizing the control of some species of birds on the base airfield in emergency situations. These permits stipulate that control activities must be coordinated with and authorized by 78 CEG/CEIE. When lethal control must be used, it is critical that it be done in a manner that is both humane and sensitive to public opinion. Requirements for the control of three categories of wildlife typically encountered at Robins AFB are outlined below.

3.2.2. Small Animals: Squirrels, raccoons, opossums, skunks, armadillos, beavers, snakes, bats, birds, dogs, and cats. Some of these species are potential carriers of rabies, therefore shall only be handled by personnel who are trained to do so. For issues involving these animals, contact CE Customer Service, at 468-5657. That office shall notify 78 CEG/CEIE by phone or email concerning trapping requests and needs for controlling small animals/coordinating response if needed.

3.2.3. Large Game Animals: Deer, feral hog, coyote, fox, and bobcat. Some of these species are potential carriers of rabies, and all can be potentially dangerous under certain conditions. They shall only be handled by personnel who are trained to do so.

3.2.3.1. Deer. 78 CEG/CEIE shall direct/coordinate response actions by USDA, 78 CES/CEOIE, or DNR, whichever is appropriate.

3.2.3.2. Hog. 78 CEG/CEIE shall direct/coordinate response actions by USDA, 78 CES/CEOIE, or DNR, whichever is appropriate.

3.2.3.3. Coyote, Bobcat, Fox. 78 CEG/CEIE shall direct/coordinate response actions by USDA, 78 CES/CEOIE, or DNR, whichever is appropriate.

3.2.4. Large Carnivores: Bear, alligator, and Florida panther. These animals should be avoided. Killing or harassing one of these animals is subject to enforcement under the U.S. Magistrate, U.S. District Court, the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Georgia civil and criminal requirements, civilian employee administrative processes, military administrative processes, and base privileges and debarment requirements. Notify 78 CEG/CEIE, 926-9645, of sightings of these animals. For emergencies, contact 78 SFS, 497-2187, or 911.

3.2.4.1. Black Bear. Often seen on RAFB, these animals are usually very timid unless they have young, are startled, or feel cornered. Stay clear and give them a chance to vacate the area. 78 CEG/CEIE shall direct/coordinate response actions through USDA, 78 CES/CEOIE, or DNR, as necessary.

3.2.4.2. Alligator. Give the animal a chance to vacate the area. Do not crowd them and never approach them on foot. Keep pets away from them, and never feed alligators. Never allow dogs to swim in water bodies where alligators have been seen. If the problem persists, 78 CEG/CEIE shall contact the DNR.

3.2.4.3. Cougar/Florida Panther. These animals are usually very timid unless they have young, are startled, or feel cornered. Give them space, allowing them to vacate the area. This animal is protected by the federal Endangered Species Act. If the problem persists, 78 CEG/CEIE shall contact the USFWS.

4. Urban Forest Management, Firewood, Pecans, and Landscaping.

4.1. Urban forest is defined as those areas lying within the developed parts of the base, to include the industrial area, training areas, the airfield, and base housing areas.

4.2. Trees shall not normally be removed unless they are a hazard to personnel or property, inhibit a mission need such as construction, their removal will protect the health of other trees or other natural resources (e.g., diseased trees or invasive exotic species), or their removal is part of a plan to promote forest productivity or biodiversity.

4.3. Invasive plant species shall not be planted on RAFB. All landscaping plans must be reviewed and approved/disapproved by 78 CEG/CEIE.

4.4. RAFB's trees and associated products (i.e., firewood, fruit, and pine straw) are government property. Firewood and pecans are the only two tree products that are permitted to be collected from RAFB. 78 CEG/CEIE shall issue a permit to government personnel wishing to collect firewood. Pecans may be collected by government personnel without prior approval. The use of a ladder, ropes, tree shaking, etc., is not permitted when collecting pecans. Use of any such means is a violation of O.C.G.A Section 44-12-241(b) and is a crime, punishable in Magistrate Court or by others process. Pecans may only be collected from the ground. Pecans and firewood shall not be sold for profit. No other products associated with trees are permitted for collection.

LINDSAY C. DROZ, Colonel, USAF
Commander

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFPD 32-70, *Environmental Considerations in Air Force Programs and Activities*, 30 Jul 2018

AFMAN 32-7003, *Environmental Conservation*, 20 Apr 2020

AFI 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, 28 Jul 2021

AFI 91-207, *USAF Traffic Safety Program*, 26 Jul 2019

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AF—Air Force

AFI—Air Force Instruction

AFMAN—Air Force Manual

AFPD—Air Force Policy Directive

AFRIMS—Air Force Records Information Management System

ATV—All-terrain vehicles

DNR—Department of Natural Resources

DOD—Department of Defense

GFC—Georgia Forestry Commission

INRM—Integrated Natural Resources Management

INRMP—Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

MOU—Memorandum of Understanding

OCR—Office of Collateral Responsibility

OPR—Office of Primary Responsibility

RAFB—Robins Air Force Base

RDS—Records Disposition Schedule

USDA—U.S. Department of Agriculture

USFWS—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service