

**IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD TRAINING AREA INVENTORY:**

**HAUSER LAKE TRAINING AREA**

**By**

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## SUMMARY

The Hauser lake Training Area lies five miles southwest of Rathdrum. This area is an old agricultural field on gently undulating terrain of the Rathdrum Prairie, which is underlain with well-drained outwash gravels from the continental icesheets. One rare animal species, upland sandpiper, was the target of searches during April and June 1997. No populations were discovered. The entire area is covered with exotic plant species. No native habitats exist.

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## INTRODUCTION

During April 1997, the Military Division of the State of Idaho entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Idaho Department of Fish and Games's Conservation Data Center for the purpose of providing threatened and endangered, and sensitive species surveys on lands utilized for military training activities in the state. The Idaho National Guard utilizes 28 training areas throughout Idaho. Eight training areas were chosen for surveys during 1997, including the Hauser Lake Training Area.

The Idaho Military Division (Idaho National Guard) is responsible for ensuring proper stewardship of natural resources under its jurisdiction through various federal laws and Army regulations. For the scope of work under the MOA, threatened, endangered and sensitive species include any species listed as threatened or endangered under federal or state jurisdiction, species proposed as candidates for listing, and other species deemed rare at local, state, regional or national levels.

The Conservation Data Center (CDC) is the central repository in Idaho for information related to rare plant and animal populations, as well as data on significant ecological sites in the state. These data are organized on maps, manual files, and a series of interrelated computerized data bases encompassed by our Biological and Conservation Data System. These data bases include species and community occurrences, extensive bibliographic material, site specific ecological and management data, ecological monitoring, and others.

The Idaho CDC is a node in an international network of Natural Heritage Programs and Conservation Data Centers that occur in all the United States and in many other areas of the western hemisphere. All Natural Heritage Programs manage data in a standardized format so that data can be aggregated upward in the network for regional-, national-, and continental-scale perspectives of biodiversity protection. The Idaho CDC cooperates with numerous state, federal, county, and municipal institutions, as well as private corporations, organizations, and individuals to accomplish its mission.

## METHODS

We used a three-phase approach to field inventories of Guard training areas for rare species and habitats: (1) information gathering; (2) field inventory; and (3) documentation. Each of these phases is described below for this training area.

### Information Gathering

As explained in the Introduction, the CDC is the central repository for rare species information in Idaho. CDC biologists collect rare species information and have considerable expertise about habitats in the state. We also have developed relationships with many cooperating institutions over the years who provide us distribution information. In other words, our data bases are being continually updated with the best information available. The first step in the process involved reviewing our map and computer data bases with help from Fish and Game's nongame biologists. From this review, we developed a target list of rare plants and animals that may occur at each of the training areas. The next step was then to review the literature or expertise of appropriate

biologists to develop an inventory protocol for each species.

For the Hauser Lake Training Area the following target species were identified and inventory protocols developed:

GROUP	SPECIES	STATUS <sup>1</sup>	INVENTORY COMMENTS
Plants	None		None known in vicinity. Rare species in steppe and woodland habitats usually surveyed for during June.
Animals	upland sandpiper ( <i>Bartramia longicauda</i> )	CDC: G5 S1 IFG: SC USFWS: W BLM: S	A presumed nesting area of the mid-1980's occurs ca. 3 miles to the SW. Birds can be observed any time through the spring and early summer.

<sup>1</sup>**Conservation Status:** CDC=Conservation Data Center/Heritage Network: G - Global/Rangewide Conservation Rank (1-5); S - State Conservation Rank (1-5). IFG = Idaho Fish and Game: G - Game Species; SC =Species of Special Concern. USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Endangered Species Act: W - Watch Species. BLM = Bureau of Land Management: S - Sensitive Species. Up-to-date status information and definitions of these categories can be found on the CDC home page: [www.state.id.us/fishgame/cdchome.htm](http://www.state.id.us/fishgame/cdchome.htm)

In addition, the Hauser Lake Training Area is 0.5 mile west of a small grassland remnant of the Rathdrum Prairie. The *Festuca scabrella*/*Festuca idahoensis* (rough fescue/ Idaho fescue) plant association occurs on this remnant site and is a high priority for conservation in Idaho and Washington.

### Field Inventory

Field inventories were conducted during the appropriate time(s) of the year, depending on the phenology or natural history of the target species. The training areas are small enough that a complete inventory can be made of the sites. The following types of information were collected during the inventories:

**Habitat:** If native habitats existed on the training area, the plant association(s) were identified using the *Natural Plant Communities of Idaho* catalog compiled by the CDC. An *Idaho Plant Community Observation Form* was filled out for each occurrence of the plant association at the site. Information collected on this form includes location, size, site quality, land use, community description, successional and structural conditions, and species composition.

**Rare Plant or Animal:** If a rare species was encountered, an *Idaho Rare Animal Observation Form* or *Idaho Rare Plant Observation Form* was filled out for each occurrence at the site. Information collected on these forms include location, population size and quality, land use, and habitat description. The location was mapped on a USGS 7.5' quadrangle.

**Vascular Plant Species:** A complete list of vascular plants was made during the inventory. No voucher specimens were collected, but most species were identified using technical floras.

In the case of the Hauser Lake Training Area, late April through June was chosen as the optimum time to conduct the field inventory. Inventories were conducted on April 22 and June 16, 1997. Two days proved sufficient to inventory for all elements over the entire site. This inventory included early morning and late evening surveys, when upland sandpipers may be the most active and visible.

### Documentation

The first step in documenting the field surveys is to process the field data into various modules of the Biological and Conservation Data System (BCD) of the CDC. Here they contribute to the centralized information base about rare species, habitats, and managed areas in the state. The pertinent modules are described below.

**Training Area:** General training area information is entered into the *Managed Area* module of BCD. Information on location, ownership and management responsibility, site description, land use, references, and management description are included in this computerized record. The boundaries of the area are mapped on the CDC's base set of USGS quads for the state. They are also digitized and added to the Managed Area layer in the Department's GIS.

**Habitats:** Similar to rare species populations, occurrences of plant associations are entered into the *Element Occurrence* module (both species and communities are "elements" of biodiversity, hence the generic name element occurrence). Using field data from the Plant Community Observation Form, information for each plant association occurrence is kept on map, computer, and manual files. The computer file contains numerous fields under such headings as Location, Status (quality, dates of observation, etc.), Description, Protection, Ownership, and Documentation (sources of information about an occurrence).

**Rare Species:** As described above, populations of rare species are also cataloged in the *Element Occurrence* module of BCD, with similar information to natural communities. Field data from the Rare Animal or Rare Plant observation forms are used to populate the data base records.

*Characterization Abstracts* are used to produce status reports for each rare species encountered. Status information for vertebrate animals is abstracted in the *Vertebrate Characterization Abstract* (VCA), while the plant abstract module is referred to as the *Plant Characterization Abstract* (PCA). Each characterization abstract record contains both global (rangewide) as well as state-specific information. The exception is if the species is endemic to Idaho, in which case only global information is used.

The next step is to use these data bases, supplemented with other information and personal knowledge, to generate this summary report of the inventory.

## RESULTS

### Training Area

The following description was adapted from the Managed Area record for Hauser Lake Training

Area (BCD record M.248; Appendix 1):

The training area is about 5 miles southwest of Rathdrum, just south of Highway 53, and east of the McGuire Road/Highway 53 intersection. This area is an old agricultural field on gently undulating terrain of the Rathdrum Prairie, which is underlain with well-drained outwash gravels from the continental icesheets. The entire area is covered with exotic plant species. No native habitats exist.

#### Habitats

As mentioned above, the entire training area is an old agricultural field that is now entirely covered with exotic species and is continually disturbed by training activities. No native habitat exists on the site.

#### Rare Species

No rare plants are known from the vicinity of this training area and none were on the target list. Not surprisingly, none were discovered on the site during the field inventory in April and June.

No rare animals were observed on the training area. Because there is a possibility that upland sandpipers may be found in or around the training area in the future, a characterization abstract is included as Appendix 2.

#### Vascular Plant Species

I observed 52 vascular plant species at the training area during April and June 1997, including trees, shrubs, forbs (mostly), and grasses and sedges. Only 16 species (30%) are native; the rest are exotic weeds. The list appears in Appendix 3.

Appendix 1

Managed Area Basic Record

Hauser Lake Training Area (M.248)



Managed Area Basic Record  
HAUSER LAKE TRAINING AREA  
#248

**Location**

*County:* Kootenai  
*Quadrangles:* Rathdrum  
*Township, Range, Section:*  
051N 005W 16 SW4

**Description**

Training area is about 5 miles SW of Rathdrum, just S of Highway 53, and E of the McGuire Road/Highway 53 intersection. This area is an old agricultural field on gently undulating terrain of the Rathdrum Prairie, which is underlain with well-drained outwash gravels from the continental icesheets. The entire area is covered with exotic plant species. No native habitats exist.

*Acres:* 66.00

**Stewardship**

*Owner:*  
Emmett Burley and Richard Beiter  
P.O. Box 786  
Veradale, WA 99037

*Cooperating Institution:*  
Idaho Army National Guard  
4715 S. Byrd Street  
Boise, ID 83705

*Comments:*

The National Guard has a Memorandum of Agreement with private landowners permitting them use of this land for training.

*Management:*

The area appears to be an old agricultural field. It was probably plowed in the past and is now totally covered by exotic species. No native habitat remains. Weed cover is maintained by Guard training activities. The Idaho National Guard uses the area for training during its drill weekends throughout the year and during its annual training periods. Moseley made a species list for vascular plants and inventoried for potential habitat for rare plants and animals during two visits in 1997.

**Elements**

*Plant Communities:*  
None

*Rare Species:*  
None

**References**

Moseley, B. 1997. Field notes for the Hauser Lake Training Area (M.USIDHP\*361).

**Record Maintenance**

*Edition:* 97-10-22

*Edition Author:* L. Williams

*File Note:* A managed area file is maintained at the Idaho Conservation Data Center, Department of Fish and Game, Boise.

Appendix 2

Characterization Abstracts

Vertebrate Characterization Abstracts:  
Upland Sandpiper



(FOR THE FOLLOWING 6 CATEGORIES, Y = YES and BLANK = NO)  
IDAHO GAME SPECIES:  
IDAHO COMMERCIAL SPECIES:  
IDAHO SPORT FISH:  
IDAHO PROTECTED NONGAME: Y  
IDAHO FURBEARER:  
IDAHO PEST SPECIES:

COMMENTS ON STATUS (IDAHO):

COMMENTS ON THREATS (IDAHO):

## DISTRIBUTION

COUNTY NAME (IDAHO)

Kootenai  
Boundary  
Valley  
Latah  
Butte  
Benewah  
Bonner  
Nez Perce  
Jefferson  
Camas  
Fremont

WATERSHED CODE (IDAHO)

170103  
170501  
170601  
170402

IDAHO MINIMUM ELEVATION (METERS): 636

IDAHO MAXIMUM ELEVATION (METERS):

COMMENTS ON RANGE (GLOBAL):

COMMENTS ON RANGE (IDAHO):

Found in isolated areas of n and s Idaho.

## MIGRATION

NONMIGRANT:

LOCAL MIGRANT:

DISTANT MIGRANT: Y

BREEDS IN IDAHO: Y

WINTERS IN IDAHO:

MIGRATES WITHIN IDAHO:

IRREGULARLY APPEARS IN IDAHO:

TRANSIENT MIGRANT/NONBREEDING SUMMER RESIDENT IN IDAHO:

COMMENTS ON MIGRATION (RANGEWIDE):

Arrives in northern breeding areas in April-May, departs by September (Bent 1929). Peak spring migration through the U.S. mid-Atlantic states occurs in April. Rare spring and fall migrant in Puerto Rico (Raffaele 1983).

COMMENTS ON MIGRATION (IDAHO):

Breeding records from Panhandle are old. Breeding uncon- firmed but strongly suspected in Valley county.

HABITAT

(BLANK=UNKNOWN OR SPECIES DOES NOT OCCUR IN THIS HABITAT)

RIVERINE (RANGEWIDE):

RIVERINE (STATE):

LACUSTRINE (RANGEWIDE):

LACUSTRINE (IDAHO):

PALUSTRINE (RANGEWIDE):

PALUSTRINE (STATE):

TERRESTRIAL (RANGEWIDE): GRASSLAND/HERBACEOUS  
OLD FIELD  
CROPLAND/HEDGEROW

TERRESTRIAL (IDAHO):

SUBTERRANEAN (RANGEWIDE):

SUBTERRANEAN (IDAHO):

COMMENTS ON HABITAT (RANGEWIDE):

Extensive open grassland, especially prairies, dry meadows, pastures, short-grass savanna, plowed fields, fields around airports, and (in Alaska) scattered woodlands at timberline; very rarely in migration along shores and mudflats (AOU 1983). ^Preferred habitat includes large areas of short grass for feeding and courtship with interspersed or adjacent taller grasses for nesting and brood cover; in the northeastern U.S., airfields currently provide the majority of suitable habitat, though grazed pastures and grassy fields also are used (Carter 1992). Nests on ground among grasses; sometimes along prairie sloughs (Terres 1980).

COMMENTS ON HABITAT RELATIVE TO REPRODUCTION:

COMMENTS ON HABITAT (IDAHO):

Prefers dry grass prairies and is not tied to wet areas or shores.  
(A67LAR01IDUS)

## FOOD HABITS

FOOD HABITS: INVERTIVORE

### COMMENTS ON FOOD HABITS (RANGEWIDE):

Eats mainly insects and other small terrestrial invertebrates (Terres 1980); also seeds and grains (Ehrlich et al. 1992). Obtains food from ground.

### COMMENTS ON FOOD HABITS (IDAHO):

STATE FOOD SAME AS ABOVE (A67LAR01IDUS)

## ECOLOGY

### COMMENTS ON ECOLOGY (RANGEWIDE):

Nonbreeding: solitary or in small scattered groups.

### COMMENTS ON ECOLOGY (IDAHO):

Conspicuous habit of sitting on fence posts and whistling. (U85POW01IDUS)  
Engage in high flying as part of courtship. Communal nesting suspected. (U88THI01IDUS)

## PHENOLOGY/SEASONALITY

### PHENOLOGY

CIRCADIAN

### PHENOLOGY/SEASONALITY (IDAHO)

JANA:	APRA:	JULA: R	OCTA:
JANB:	APRB: A	JULB: R	OCTB:
FEBA:	MAYA: R	AUGA: A	NOVA:
FEBB:	MAYB: R	AUGB: A	NOVB:
MARA:	JUNA: R	SEPA: A	DECA:
MARB:	JUNB: R	SEPB: A	DECB:

(E.G., JANA = FIRST HALF OF JANUARY; JANB = SECOND HALF OF JANUARY)

P = PRESENT (RESIDENTS OR REGULAR MIGRANTS)

A = PRESENT AND ACTIVE (E.G., NOT HIBERNATING)

R = PRESENT, ACTIVE, AND REPRODUCING

BLANK = ABSENT OR UNKNOWN

### COMMENTS ON PHENOLOGY (RANGEWIDE):

### COMMENTS ON PHENOLOGY (IDAHO):

Arrive early May and begin courtship and copulation immediately. Vacated area in July. Predators may include raptors and canids. (U88THI01IDUS)

## REPRODUCTION

COLONIAL BREEDER (Y=YES, BLANK=NO):

COMMENTS ON REPRODUCTION (RANGEWIDE):

Lays clutch of usually 4 eggs, mostly May-June (late April to early June in Virginia). Incubation lasts 21-28 (average 24) days, by both sexes. Young are tended by both parents, leave nest within 24 hours of hatching, first fly at 30-34 days. Family groups tend to stay together at least until postbreeding migration. First breeds at one year. Density varies from 0.6-6.1 ha/nest in loosely spaced "colonies" (Harrison 1979); up to 2.6 pairs/sq km in North Dakota (see Carter 1992).

COMMENTS ON REPRODUCTION (IDAHO):

NO STATE DATA

## MANAGEMENT

COMMENTS ON MANAGEMENT (RANGEWIDE):

COMMENTS ON MANAGEMENT (IDAHO):

## MISCELLANEOUS ATTRIBUTES

ECONOMIC COMMENTS:

Poses little threat to aircraft at airports; tends to stay on the ground, flies low.

LENGTH (OF A LARGE ADULT IN CENTIMETERS): 31

WEIGHT (OF A LARGE ADULT IN GRAMS): 190

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## Appendix 3

### Vascular Plant Species List

Hauser Lake Training Area

Vascular plant species observed by Bob Moseley, April and June 1997.

\* = non-native species

TREES

*Pinus ponderosa* ponderosa pine

SHRUBS

*Crataegus douglasii* hawthorn  
\**Rosa eglanteria* sweetbrier  
*Sambucus cerulea* elderberry

FORBS

*Achillea millefolium* yarrow  
\**Agrostemma githago* common corncockle  
*Asclepias speciosa* milkweed  
\**Cardaria draba* white-top  
\**Capsella bursa-pastoris* shepherd's purse  
\**Centaurea maculosa* spotted knapweed  
\**Chenopodium album* goosefoot  
\**Cirsium arvense* Canada thistle  
*Collomia linearis* narrow-leaf collomia  
\**Convolvulus arvensis* bindweed  
*Draba verna* whitlow-grass  
*Eriogonum heracleoides* Wyeth buckwheat  
*Gayophytum diffusum* spreading groundsmoke  
\**Hypericum perforatum* St. Johns wort  
\**Lactuca seriola* prickly lettuce  
\**Lamium amplexicaule* henbit  
\**Lepidium campestre* field peppergrass  
\**Linaria dalmatica* dalmatian toad-flax  
\**Lithospermum arvense* annual stoneseed  
*Lupinus sericeus* lupine  
\**Lychnis alba* white campion  
\**Matricaria matricarioides* pineapple weed  
*Microsteris gracilis* microsteris  
*Montia dichotoma* miner's lettuce  
\**Papaver spp.* cultivated poppy  
*Phacelia linearis* threadleaf phacelia  
*Potentilla gracilis* cinquefoil  
\**Potentilla renacta* sulfur cinquefoil  
\**Rumex acetosella* sheep sorrel  
\**Sanguisorba minor* small burnet  
\**Sisymbrium altissimum* tumbling mustard  
*Solidago missouriensis* goldenrod  
\**Taraxacum officinale* dandelion  
\**Tragopogon dubius* salsify  
\**Trifolium pratense* red clover  
\**Verbascum blattaria* moth mullein  
\**Verbascum thapsus* woolly mullein  
\**Vicia villosa* vetch

GRAMINOIDS

\**Agrostis stolonifera*  
\**Aleopecurus pratense*  
\**Bromus inermis*  
\**Bromus japonicus*  
\**Bromus tectorum*  
\**Dactylus glomerata*  
*Festuca idahoensis*  
\**Phleum pratense*  
\**Poa compressa*  
\**Poa pratensis*

redtop  
foxtail  
smooth brome  
downy brome  
cheatgrass  
orchardgrass  
Idaho fescue  
timothy  
Canada bluegrass  
Kentucky bluegrass