Evaluating Soil Suitability for Ecosystem Management and Movement of Military Vehicles. (A02-daigle104116-Oral)

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Abstract:

The Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) program was developed by the Department of Defense as a guidance-oriented initiative. It was designed as a management tool to minimize the detrimental effects of military activities on natural resources. The Louisiana Army National Guard (LAARNG) has embraced the ITAM initiative and made a commitment to preserve thousands of acres of natural ecosystems that serve a dual role as military training areas and home to numerous plant and animal species. When instituted properly, this program will enable its users to make educated, environmentally sound decisions about suitable levels and types of uses of particular training lands. These decisions are based upon the capabilities and limitations of training areas. Since soil type and condition are critical to the health of any ecosystem, an inventory was conducted of the soils on the six LAARNG facilities in Louisiana. The soils were mapped and entered into a digital format that can be manipulated with geographical information system (GIS) software. The spatial data were merged with a military use specific database to generate thematic maps of various military applications.

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