

This section provides an overview of plans and programs that are currently used or applied in evaluating and addressing compatibility issues in the Fort Drum JLUS Study Area. Relative to compatibility planning, there are a number of existing plans and programs that are designed to address compatibility either directly or indirectly.

This is not meant as an exhaustive list of plans and programs that influence planning in this study area, but rather a highlight of the plans and programs for the Fort Drum JLUS. For an exhaustive list of plans and programs refer to Chapter 4 of the JLUS Supporting Information document.

Federal

Army Regulation 200-1, Environmental Protection and Enhancement

This regulation implements federal, state, and local environmental laws and DOD policies for preserving, conserving, and restoring the environment. This regulation should be used in conjunction with 32 Code of Federal Regulation Part 651, which provides Army policy on NEPA requirements and supplemental program guidance.

This regulation defines Army Environmental Management System (EMS) framework and the five interconnected EMS areas which are: policy, planning and implementation, program management and operation, checking and corrective action, and management review.

As a steward for regional endangered species, Fort Drum has created a Bat Conservation Area within the Cantonment Area to assist in the preservation of both the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat.

Department of Defense Conservation Partnering Initiative

In 2003, Congress amended Title 10 U.S.C. §2684a and §2692a (P.L. 107-314), the National Defense Authorization Act, to give authority to the DOD to partner with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and conservation-based non-governmental organizations to set aside lands near military bases for conservation purposes and to prevent incompatible development from encroaching on and interfering with military missions. This law provides an additional tool to support conservation and environmental stewardship on and off military installations. This program could be used to assist in protecting land around Fort Drum to serve as a buffer to minimize future encroachment.

Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse

Section 358 of the 2011 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the study of the effects of new construction and obstructions on military installations and operations. The Energy Siting Clearinghouse serves to coordinate the DOD review of existing applications for energy projects. Several key elements of Section 358 include designation of a senior official and lead organization to conduct the review of energy project applications, a specific timeframe for completion of a hazard assessment associated with an application (30 days), specific criteria for DOD objections to projects and a requirement to provide an annual status report to Congress. This legislation facilitates procedural certainty and a predictable process that promotes compatibility between energy independence and military capability.



Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration

The DOD established the Readiness and Environment Protection Integration (REPI) program to implement the authority provided by the DOD Conservation Partnering Initiative. This initiative enables the DOD to work with state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, and willing landowners to limit encroachment and incompatible land use by preserving undeveloped land. This land preservation could allow for buffers around the installation to be established to help further the installation mission.

REPI funds are used to support a variety of DOD partnerships that promote compatible land use. By relieving encroachment pressures, the military is able to test and train in a more effective and efficient manner. By preserving the land surrounding military installations, habitats for plant and animal species are conserved and protected. Fort Drum has engaged REPI funding in conjunction with its army Compatible Use Buffer Program to preserve lands from incompatible development around Fort Drum.

Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

The US Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is responsible for developing and delivering market-driven solutions for energy-saving homes, buildings, and manufacturing; sustainable transportation; and renewable electricity generation.

The DOE's Wind Program funds research and development in wind power technology and evaluates market barriers such as environmental impacts, project siting, permitting processes, and the potential effects on US airspace and waterways. The program also assesses domestic wind energy potential, serves as a technical information resource, assists in the development of wind plant siting and permitting guidelines, and helps to develop testing centers for wind energy equipment.

The DOE's Solar Power Program funds research for developing and delivering innovative solar power technology that can compete with other sources of energy. Much of the research supports photovoltaic (PV) and solar thermal technologies that can be used to convert the sunlight into energy.

Projects supported by DOE work could affect Fort Drum. Wind and solar projects have the ability to produce height and glare issues respectively. This an encroachment concern since there are projects currently proposed within the Fort Drum JLUS Study Area.

Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973 established a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are the lead implementing agencies of the ESA. The USFWS has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms, while the responsibilities of NOAA Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) are mainly marine wildlife. Under the ESA, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened.

"Endangered" means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

"Threatened" means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

The ESA requires federal agencies, in consultation with the USFWS and/or the NMFS, to ensure that actions they "authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat of such species." The Act also prohibits any action that results in a taking of any listed species of endangered plant, fish, or wildlife. The ESA provides a platform for the protection of critical habitat and species that may be at risk of extinction.

Federal Aviation Act

The Federal Aviation Act was enacted in 1958 to provide methods for overseeing and regulating civilian and military use of airspace over the United States. The Act requires the Secretary of Transportation to make long-range plans that formulate policy for the orderly development and use of navigable air space. The intent is to serve the needs of both civilian aeronautics and national defense, but does not specifically address the needs of military agencies. Military planning strives to work alongside local, state, and federal aviation law and policies but sometimes must supersede these and other levels of government due to national security interests. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) was created as a result of the Act and serves a variety of purposes, including the management of airspace over the US.

The 500-foot rule, promulgated by the FAA, states that every citizen of the United States has “a public right of freedom of transit in air commerce through the navigable air space of the United States.” The rule was formally announced in the 1963 Court of Claims ruling in *Aaron v. United States*, and states that flights 500 feet or more above ground level (AGL) do not represent a compensable taking because flights 500 feet AGL enjoy a right of free passage without liability to the owners below.

Another important outcome of the Act is FAA Regulation Title 14 Part 77, commonly known as Part 77, which provides the basis for evaluation of vertical obstruction compatibility. This regulation determines compatibility / recommended use based on the height of proposed structures or natural features relative to their distance from the ends of a runway. Using a distance formula from this regulation, local jurisdictions can easily assess the height restrictions near airfields. Additional information on Part 77 is located on the FAA Internet site at <http://www.faa.gov>.

The FAA has identified certain imaginary surfaces around runways to determine how structures and facilities are evaluated and identify if they pose a vertical obstruction relative to the airspace around a runway. The levels of imaginary surfaces build upon one another and are designed to eliminate obstructions to air navigation and operations, either natural or man-made. The dimension or size of an imaginary surface depends on the runway classification.

National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is a federal regulation that established a US national policy promoting the protection and enhancement of the environment. It requires federal agencies to analyze and consider the potential environmental impact of their actions. The purpose of NEPA is to promote informed decision-making by federal agencies by providing detailed information concerning significant environmental impacts to ecological and natural resources and the human environment, such as community character, public health and safety, and cultural resources.

All federal agencies, including the military and projects receiving federal funding, require NEPA compliance and documentation prior to receiving a permit, approval, or funding. For Fort Drum’s purposes, NEPA requires that the military review the potential impact of proposed actions on the environment, including surrounding civilian communities, and measures to reduce, avoid or mitigate identified adverse environmental impacts. Not all federal actions require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). In cases where an action may not cause a significant impact, the agency would be allowed to produce a less detailed Environmental Assessment (EA) and make a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

A NEPA document can serve as a valuable planning tool for local planning officials. An EA can assist in the determination of potential impacts that may result from changing military actions or operations and their effect on municipal policies, plans and programs, and the surrounding community. If the EA finds there will be no significant impacts, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued. If the EA finds the proposed changes to military actions and operations will create significant impacts, an EIS will be prepared to further detail and outline the impacts upon the environment to the public. An EIS will result in a Record of Decision (ROD) that explains the decision made based on the information presented in the EIS, describes the alternatives considered, and outlines mitigation and monitoring plans.

Operational Noise Management Program

The Operational Noise Management Program provides a methodology for assessing impacts of noise generated by military operations on surrounding communities. This program was established by the Department of the Army to assist installations and surrounding communities develop guidelines for land use planning to mitigate noise and other hazards to the general public while protecting the public investment in the installation. This program encourages compatibility measures for both the US Army and surrounding communities through the development of an Operational Noise Management Plan (ONMP). The Operational Noise Management Handbook, completed in November 2005, provides guidance for the development of an ONMP.

Fort Drum / New York Army National Guard

The Fort Drum / New York Army National Guard (NYARNG) plans and programs provide guidance for land uses and development activities specific to Fort Drum. These tools govern land use decisions that occur inside the fence line or within the boundary of the Fort Drum operational footprint in relation to the military missions.

These tools provide guidance and establish measures for standard operating procedures during certain events, such as weapons firing. There are various installation tools that are instrumental in assisting and guiding land use decisions as they relate to the military mission.

Army Compatible Use Buffer

The ACUB Program permits Army Installations to work with other organization partners (e.g., land trusts) to acquire land or development rights to establish buffer zones that can help protect habitats, sensitive areas, and military training areas without acquiring any new land for Army ownership. The Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (THTLT) is a primary partner organization of the ACUB Program and tracks the progress of proposed ACUB lands for acquisition. As of August 2017, Fort Drum and its partners have preserved 7,600 acres of land around the installation within the priority areas identified through the ACUB program. The majority of this has been through partnership with the THTLT to preserve working farmland from future incompatible development.

Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield (WSAAF) is a high priority, mission critical asset to the United States Army, and protecting the airfield's accident potential zones and clear zones is the highest priority for Fort Drum's ACUB Program. Training operations can potentially produce excessive noise, making these areas unsuitable for residential development. The second highest priority for Fort Drum's ACUB Program is protecting the land closest to the installation's western border to minimize and limit incompatible residential development and protect training operations. Much of the residential development in the surrounding community is occurring along the Route 11 corridor west of Fort Drum's border. Environmental considerations are the third priority, and include acquiring areas to help protect the federally endangered Indiana Bat.

Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan

The objective of the Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan (ICRMP) is to balance the management of historic and cultural resources with mission readiness at Fort Drum. The ICRMP supports early identification of cultural and historic resources and defines necessary actions for managing agencies to ensure the protection of resources during military operations and non-military activities.

The ICRMP establishes compliance procedures to properly manage cultural and historical resources, establishing existing conditions and identifying the potential impacts of Fort Drum's mission on them. It also identifies impacts to mission readiness caused by preservation, maintenance, and repair of buildings and the continued use of historic buildings. In addition, the ICRMP establishes a coordination process between the installation and many state or regional agencies including the State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, Native American groups, and the interested public. This process is subject to Section 106 of the NHPA, which establishes a process for working with federal agencies on historic preservation issues.

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan

As required by the Sikes Act, an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) provides the opportunity for the proper inventorying, cataloging, and management of natural resources found on US government DOD managed lands. The DOD must review or update INRMPs for each installation with identified natural resources every five years to update the needs of local natural resource management policies. These policies affect all aspects of an installation's physical environment, including water quality, biodiversity, ecosystem, habitat quality, and mineral resources. These plans create the opportunity for the DOD and local base commanders to work with other federal, state, and local agencies to properly manage significant local resources for the maximization of compatible mixed use.

The Fort Drum INRMP outlines the various natural resources and addresses other related topics including important habitat found on the installation, soil types, management of noxious weeds and wildland fire, wildlife and riparian management, water resources and water rights, inter-agency responsibilities, and coordination efforts. It also provides the overall management plan for natural resources on Fort Drum to ensure no loss of capability for military training exercises.

Bird / Animal Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH)

Fort Drum's BASH Plan is integrated into the INRMP and is part of WSAAF's Standard Operating Procedures, with a focus on minimizing potential wildlife strikes to military aircraft operating at WSAAF. A BASH plan is designed to manage bird habitats and activity, alert aircrew and operations personnel, and provide increased levels of flight safety, especially during the critical phases of flight, take-off, and landing operations. Specifically, the plan is designed to:

- Designate a BASH Working Group (BWG) and outline the members' responsibilities.
- Establish procedures to identify high hazard situations and establish aircraft and airfield operating procedures to avoid these situations.
- Ensure that all permanent and transient aircrews are aware of bird hazards and the procedures for avoidance and reporting.
- Develop guidelines to decrease the attractiveness of the airfield to birds and disperse the number of birds on the airfield.

State of New York

The state tools provide further assistance and protection of lands in the State of New York. The tools authorize or mandate local counties and cities to provide for the protection of the state's valuable industries including the DOD and agriculture. In addition, the state's tools require communities and developers to protect and preserve the state's natural resources, including land and water, through regulatory measures to protect them from over-consumptive practices.

Municipal Governance

The State of New York comprises counties, cities, towns, and villages. The way in which each of these municipalities is governed has impacts on compatibility issues outside Fort Drum's fence line. New York is a Home Rule state. Article 9 in the New York State Constitution is the Municipal Home Rule Law, which grants municipalities authority to adopt and amend local laws, so long as they are not inconsistent with the New York State Constitution or any general law relating to its property, affairs, or government.

Comprehensive Planning Legislation

The State of New York provides legislative guidance for comprehensive planning at the county, town, city, and village level. However, the state does not require municipalities to adopt comprehensive plans. It is only encouraged by the legislature.

Zoning Law

The State of New York permits cities, towns, and villages to implement zoning laws and regulations to promote communities' morals, health, safety, and general welfare. Such municipalities reserve the right to regulate and restrict percentage of lot coverage, location of structures on properties, size of yards, building heights and number of stories, density of population, and uses of the land for properties under their jurisdiction. Communities in New York are not required to adopt zoning regulations. While state laws suggest that communities should adopt zoning regulations in accordance with a comprehensive plan, court cases have determined this is not a requirement.

New York State Agricultural Districts Program

The New York Agricultural Districts law was enacted in 1971 to protect and promote farm land and farm activities throughout the state. According to the NYSDEC, the purpose of agricultural districts is to encourage agricultural activity and protect farm land. This law permits any land owner or owners that own at least 250 acres of land to submit an agricultural district to their respective county for county review, state certification, and county adoption. Upon creation of an agricultural district, local laws may not "unreasonably restrict or regulate farm operations," unless public health or safety is threatened. Each certified agricultural district must go through a recertification process every eight years to ensure the majority of the land within the district is used for agricultural purposes. New properties may be added to an agricultural district once per year during an annual inclusion period.

New York State Energy Plan

Article 6 of the New York State Energy Law requires that, every four years, the State Energy Planning Board adopt a State Energy Plan that serves as a guide for public bodies throughout the State to make decisions consistent with statewide plans and policies related to energy. This influences many aspects of land use and planning throughout New York, including consideration of infrastructure needs and adequacy, energy efficiency in buildings, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the development of energy generation and renewables. The most recent State Energy Plan, issued in 2015, provides goals and long-range planning objectives for the entire State. These goals, in

part, have been codified by the state's Clean Energy Standard, adopted by the New York State Public Service Commission in 2016. The Clean Energy Standard sets renewable energy targets and encourages the development of small- and large-scale renewable generation in New York, which explains the growth in wind energy development in the North Country.

New York State Legislation Article 10 of the Public Service Law

The State of New York passed the Power New York Act of 2011. This Act transfers the siting and permitting process for energy generating facilities (including renewable energy developments) for projects that have the capacity to generate 25 megawatts (MW) or more from local communities to the New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment (Siting Board). The Siting Board is a seven-member board, consisting of:

- Department of Public Services Chair (also serves as the Siting Board chairperson)
- NYS Department of Environment Conservation Commissioner
- Health Department Commissioner
- NYS Energy Research & Development Chair
- Economic Development Commissioner
- Two "ad hoc" members that reside in the respective municipality the project is being proposed

The two appointed ad hoc members of the Siting Board are selected by the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly from a list of candidates provided by the supervisor and chief executive officer representing the impacted communities.

Article 10 requires energy developers to provide, among other things, a thorough analysis of a proposed project's impacts on transportation, including air transport and airspace safety, as well as communications systems, such as radar. In particular, a wind project seeking certification under Article 10 must consult with—and in some cases, obtain formal recommendations from—the US Department of Defense and the Federal Aviation Administration to identify and assess potential impacts on military operations, airspace, and aircraft of all types, and then work with those entities to determine how to minimize, avoid, or mitigate those impacts to the extent practicable. This legislation also requires Article 10 applicants to provide intervenor funds and a series of 41 exhibits illustrating their due diligence on the surrounding community, including exhibits demonstrating the local communities land use controls, as well as impacts to military training routes and radars.

JLUS Partner Community Planning Tools

Many of the communities around Fort Drum have local planning tools such as zoning laws and comprehensive plans to guide future growth, but some of them have not been updated in 10 or more years. The majority of these tools do not have policies or regulations to address planning or growth in relation to Fort Drum and military operations associated with the installation. At the times the tools were developed, there was not much interface with Fort Drum to include these types of policies or regulations. Part of the JLUS process is to enhance coordination between Fort Drum and the communities and look at potential updates to these tools that will help address compatibility between Fort Drum and the communities into the future. It should be noted that some of the communities do not have their own planning documents, policies, or regulations. In some of these cases, the communities rely on planning guidance from the county level, or by regional planning entities such as the Tug Hill Commission, Development Authority of the North Country, and Adirondack Park Agency.

County Planning Departments and Planning Boards

Many of the rural communities within Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties do not have adequate resources to develop and manage their own land use planning tools and land development. The counties have planning departments and planning boards that not only provide planning and development guidance and oversight at the county level, but also provide technical assistance to the communities within them. County planning departments can assist with project development, review, and administration, assistance in developing comprehensive plans and zoning laws, grant writing, research and analysis services, geographic information system (GIS) mapping, and provide technical assistance and guidance on Fort Drum-related growth and development around the installation.

Jefferson County

Building Code

Jefferson County utilizes the New York State Building Standards and Codes Uniform Code Supplement, most recently updated in March, 2016 as its general building code. However, the building code does not currently address sound attenuation around Fort Drum within the noise zones. Jefferson County has land within Fort Drum's operational footprints for noise and certain types of development are incompatible in these noise zones unless they are constructed with sound attenuation measures to reduce the indoor noise levels. The County could revise its building code to require sound attenuation measures for certain types of development, such as residential, within the noise zones.

City of Watertown

Land Use Plan

The City of Watertown adopted a Land Use Plan in 1987 in response to the growth of Fort Drum associated with the reactivation of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum in 1985. Watertown's Land Use Plan projected potential effects upon the City due to the growth of Fort Drum at the time it was developed, including a need for increased housing to support military personnel and families, and traffic congestion in some areas caused by personnel driving to Fort Drum. The Plan recognizes the importance and influence of Fort Drum on the City at the time, but it is now outdated.

Zoning

The City of Watertown's Zoning Law is Chapter 310 of the City Code and divides the city into 15 land use districts. It was most recently updated in 2013. Due to the City of Watertown's distance from Fort Drum, it is not within any of the military footprints associated with operations at the installation (see Chapter 3, Section 3.4 Mission Operations Footprints), so it is not necessary to adopt zoning laws for land within Fort Drum operational footprints, such as noise.

Towns of Champion and Wilna, and Villages of Carthage and West Carthage

Comprehensive Plan

The towns of Champion and Wilna and the villages of Carthage and West Carthage are all members of the River Area Council of Governments, and therefore each have their own individual comprehensive plans that are built off the same template, and as such are very similar in layout and text. All four comprehensive plans were adopted in 2009. These communities collaborated their land use planning efforts and used the same comprehensive template to address collective issues. It is clear each of these communities recognize Fort Drum as an important economic generator, and acknowledge in several instances throughout the comprehensive plans as

how the installation influences their population trends, schools, and economy. One of the issues identified is their proximity to Fort Drum and how they can protect the installation from incompatible land uses.

Each community identified a Fort Drum Land Use Planning Zone as a land use concept to address compatible land uses surrounding the installation. However, these are only a concept and do not have any implementing regulations attached to the zone. Furthermore, the communities' zoning codes do not include a Fort Drum Land Use Planning Zone, and none of the communities have officially implemented a Fort Drum Land Use Planning Zone as local law.

Also consistent in each comprehensive plan are the implementation recommendations for communication regarding appropriate development surrounding Fort Drum. However, while these policies help prompt discussions and facilitate communication lines between the communities and Fort Drum, they do not have the necessary regulatory backing. None of the communities have adopted land use controls addressing compatibility surrounding the installation as recommended in the comprehensive plans, and have not implemented zoning regulations specific to areas that may be affected by operations at Fort Drum to promote compatible development with the types of activities that occur in the military operational areas.

Zoning

The towns of Champion and Wilna and villages of Carthage and West Carthage have all adopted zoning laws. The zoning laws were most recently updated in 2013 (Champion), 1987 (Wilna), 2011 (Carthage), and 2005 (West Carthage). The towns of Champion, Carthage, and West Carthage have lighting standards in their zoning laws that require appropriate shielding to minimize glare and reflection, as well as limit the maximum apex angle of the cone of illumination to 150 degrees. This helps reduce nighttime lighting impacts on night training operations at Fort Drum.

Town of LeRay

Comprehensive Plan

The Town of LeRay Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2009, is the policy document that guides the town's long-range development plans. Since Fort Drum's Cantonment Area and Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield are completely located within the Town of LeRay's boundaries, the community and Fort Drum are intimately related and dependent on each other for long-term growth and sustainability. Therefore, the guidelines outlined in LeRay's Comprehensive Plan are important because of their potential impacts on operations at Fort Drum. The Town of LeRay's Comprehensive Plan acknowledges Fort Drum's importance to LeRay's economy and the impacts the town and Fort Drum have on one another. This is particularly noted in Chapter Four – Town Character Areas: Fort Drum.

Following are several compatibility factors addressed by the Comprehensive Plan.

- Communication / Coordination
- Energy Development
- Housing Availability
- Land Use
- Noise
- Public Transportation
- Safety Zones

Zoning

LeRay's zoning map identifies the noise zones created by Fort Drum training operations that extend into its jurisdiction. However, these noise zones identified are not connected to nor mentioned in LeRay's zoning laws. The underlying areas within these noise zones have potential for incompatible development with Fort Drum's training, leaving the installation vulnerable to a potential increase of noise complaints if higher density development is constructed.

LeRay's zoning law does have a lighting requirement that helps protect Fort Drum's night training. Section 158-75 contains general lighting requirements for the Town of LeRay. One such ordinance in this section reads, "Fixtures shall be 'dark sky' compliant." This ordinance limits the amount of light that may trespass onto adjacent properties, and helps keep the night sky darker for enhanced night vision training.

Compatibility with Fort Drum is addressed in Section 158-142 Preliminary Site Plan Approval. This section permits the Planning Board to consult with the Fort Drum community planner prior to approving a site plan application, although this is not a requirement.

Town of Philadelphia

Zoning Code

The Town of Philadelphia's Zoning Code is adopted as a local law to protect the town's existing development, while controlling growth and promoting general welfare. This zoning code contains an ordinance for commercial outdoor lighting. Section 555 Commercial Outdoor Lighting reads,

In order to reduce the potential negative impact on training at Fort Drum by excessive outdoor lighting, the following commercial outdoor lighting regulations shall apply when reviewing special permit applications and conducting site plan reviews.

This lighting requirement imposed by the Town of Philadelphia minimizes the amount of ambient light being reflected into the sky, supporting Fort Drum's night vision training.

Town of Watertown

Comprehensive Plan

The current Town of Watertown Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2014. The plan acknowledges that future growth in the town will be tied to growth at Fort Drum, among other factors. It identifies Fort Drum as both an opportunity for future growth and development in the town, and as a threat relating to the uncertainty of Fort Drum's future and the impact it could have on the town.

Zoning

The Town of Watertown's zoning code was most recently updated in 2012. It includes lighting standards that lighting shall comply with guidelines set forth by the International Dark Sky Association or equivalent and requires all lights to be shielded to restrict the maximum apex angle of the cone of illumination to 150 degrees. These regulations assist in reducing nighttime lighting impacts to night vision operations at Fort Drum.

Lewis County

Comprehensive Plan

Lewis County adopted a Comprehensive Plan in October, 2009. The Comprehensive Plan does acknowledge Fort Drum's importance and influence upon the county, and includes Fort Drum as a regional stakeholder identified as part of Policy Area 7: Regional Coordination; however, there are no specific policies to address Fort Drum's military operation areas.

Tug Hill Commission

The Tug Hill Commission is a non-regulatory state agency that was created by New York State in 1972. Its mission is to "enable local governments, private organizations, and individuals to shape the future of the Tug Hill region, to demonstrate and communicate ways that this can be done by other rural areas." The Tug Hill region encompasses 41 towns and 19 villages in parts of Jefferson, Lewis, Oneida, and Oswego counties, several of which participated in this JLUS. The commission is built upon empowering the citizens and communities within its area and assisting them with means to shape their communities to support their values for the future. This is done through efforts such as community programs, education, fund raising, and community improvement projects. The Commission also provides important services to local governments, economic development organizations, and other local groups, such as technical assistance, community development, geographic information systems (GIS) and other technology services, land use planning, natural resource management, and shared staff resources through a circuit rider program. These resources are very important for communities that don't have their own resources or staff capacity to perform these tasks on their own.

Development Authority of the North Country

The Development Authority of the North Country was created by the New York State legislature in 1985 to assist with coordination and communication between Fort Drum and the three counties that surround it (Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence) following the announcement of the reactivation of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum. Since its inception, the Development Authority of the North Country has evolved to provide more services for the communities within the three counties, and it operates a solid waste management facility, water and wastewater facilities, an open access telecom network, and administers several business and housing loan programs available to the communities. The Development Authority of the North Country's mission is to "serve the common interests of Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence counties by providing technical services and infrastructure, which will enhance economic opportunities in the region and promote the health and well-being of its communities." This is accomplished through the provision of shared services, fee-based services, administration for communities, solid waste management, water quality management, engineering, telecommunications, and community development. Fort Drum is a vital focus for the Development Authority, which provides water, sewer and telecommunications infrastructure to the post, as well as land use planning support, and has partnered with the post on housing initiatives. The Development Authority of the North Country also has a dedicated community planner who serves as the liaison between Fort Drum and the communities in the three counties. This staff resource has proved invaluable during the development of this JLUS by coordinating the various community stakeholders to work towards a common goal of achieving improved communication between the military and its neighboring communities.