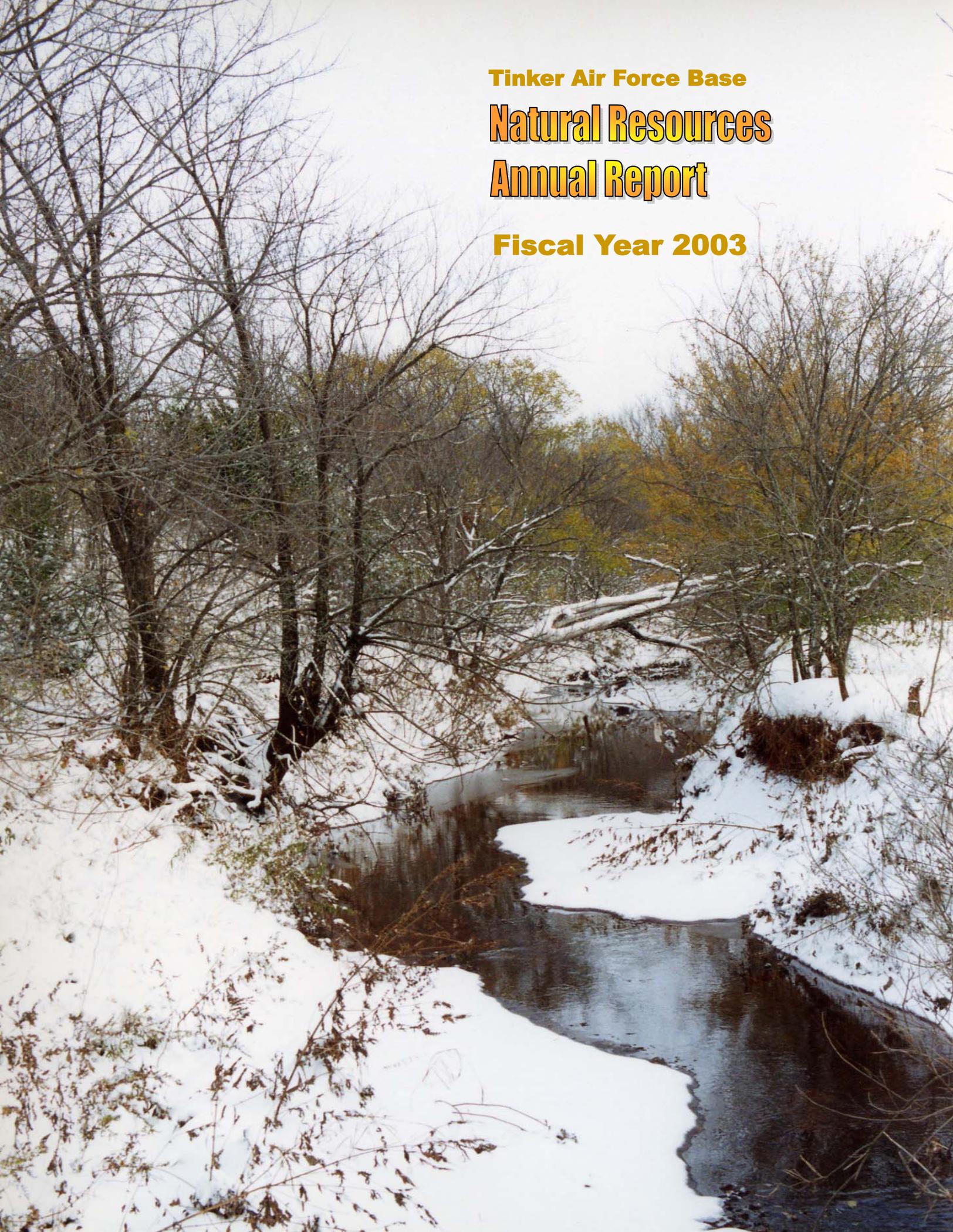


Tinker Air Force Base
Natural Resources
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2003



This report is intended to keep you, our stakeholder, apprised of the progress of Tinker Air Force Base's Natural Resources (NR) Program and to stimulate collaboration in our mutual stewardship efforts.

Our Mission: Strengthen our warfighter and surrounding community by building a healthy, native urban ecosystem

Our Vision:

- Local community has taken pride and ownership in their surrounding natural environment
- Balance between the built and natural environment
- Outdoor recreation opportunities unmatched for an industrial military installation
- Program identity and public trust are high
- Effective and efficient program operation
- Customer needs at the forefront; customer satisfaction high
- Bottom line: The Tinker team and surrounding community have made sound environmental stewardship their way of doing business

Fiscal Year 2003 Accomplishments:

Encouraged Community Involvement

- Held stakeholder meetings involving key personnel from base tenants, local communities, private companies, and county, state, and federal governments
 - Stakeholders provided program-changing input for new NR management plan
 - First major step in transforming to a community-based program

Promoted Land Use Planning

- Completed 100-year floodplain survey of the Crutcho Creek Drainage basin
- Balanced built and natural environment by siting new base housing around base's Urban Greenway without encroachment—a win-win for the base community

Protected Special Natural Areas

- Forty acres of the base's Urban Greenway designated as a registered natural area by the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory, a first for Oklahoma county



John Krupovage, Natural Resources Manager, briefs stakeholders on Tinker's Urban Greenway

Improved Landscaping and Grounds Management

- Initiated development of a Native Plant Landscaping Guide for the central Oklahoma region
- Partnered with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Oklahoma Environmental Science Student Association, and others to conduct first prescribed burn on Tinker golf course to improve native grass stand health
- Completed Eagle Scout stabilization project, planting 400 feet of shoreline in native tussock sedge
- Initiated conversion of 5 acres of high-maintenance Bermuda turf to native grass



Jackie Simmons, OU Environmental Graduate Teaching Assistant, sets head fire at golf course native grass area

Enhanced Urban Forestry

- Completed Eagle Scout Project, planting 30 trees around the base Family Camp
- Partnered with Irving Middle School to plant 30 trees on base/school property
- Transplanted approximately 500 native trees and shrubs from the base tree farm to on- and off-base locations
- Received Sterling Award for maintaining Tree City USA status for 10 consecutive years
- Dozens of trees were recycled by chipping, providing mulch for future base tree planting projects
- In cooperation with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service & Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, hosted Tree Care Workshop to encourage professional tree maintenance
- Over 40 removed evergreen trees submerged in Redbud Pond to improve fish and wildlife habitat



Eddie Hunt, left, and Tim Riding from the 72nd CE, learn the ABCs of trees from Mark Bays, urban forestry coordinator

Conserved Plants & Animals

- Initiated Texas horned lizard research with Oklahoma State University, Williams Inc., & others
 - 49 lizards captured, tagged and tracked using radio telemetry, PIT tag, and GIS technologies
- Collaborated in regional conservation efforts:
 - Oklahoma BioBlitz, a 24-hour biotic inventory conducted at Boiling Springs State Park, OK
 - Sutton Avian Research Center & USFWS project to research lesser prairie chickens
 - USFWS paddlefish restoration initiative in the Red River
- Maintained base geese activity at half the pre-2001 levels by hazing and minimal lethal control
- Relocated off-base egret colony (~10,000 birds), virtually eliminating their migration over the base and thereby providing a safer aircraft flying environment



Texas horned lizard outfitted with radio transmitter



The mission -- an AWACS taking to the skies

Encouraged Outdoor Recreation

- Outdoor Recreation Flight hosted 75 on- and off-base activities with over 700 participating in rock climbing, sailing, scuba diving, orienteering, deep sea fishing, and backpacking -- recognized as the Air Force's best in 2003
- Held swimming pool fishing derby attended by 650 people, the largest single gathering of anglers ever for a Tinker fishing event
- Held annual fishing clinic for special needs children and adults, an exciting first-time fishing experience for some participants & a thrilling, unforgettable first catch for others



Anglers stand shoulder-to-shoulder at annual swimming pool derby



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