

**Bruce C. Alleman, Steven A. Downes (Eds.), Sustainable range management – 2004: Proceedings of the First Conference on Sustainable Range Management, Battelle Press, Columbus, OH, 2004, ISBN 1-57477-144-2, US\$ 195.00, CD-ROM.**

The focus of the papers presented at this conference was: “How military ranges and training areas can be used to test and evaluate weapon systems and provide realistic training for military personnel without conflicting with economic, environmental, and other concerns.”

The more than 100 papers in these proceedings discuss “... the many issues that must be resolved to sustain the military’s ability to conduct realistic training into the foreseeable future.” New weapons require more training for the personnel who are to use them, but ranges are at risk of encroachment by urban growth, air quality, and endangered species issues.

The keynote address by John Walsh, Special Assistant for Training Ranges of the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary, U.S. Department of Defense (Readiness), described in detail the DOD’s Range Initiative Sustainment Program, which strives to:

- Modernize range facilities to sustain range operations
- Conduct range operations to enhance sustainability
- Maximize and sustain the availability of military ranges
- Maximize the accessibility of DOD ranges
- Focus environmental management to support access to ranges
- Implement sustainable outreach efforts
- Pursue the development of new technologies that support range sustainable growth

The number, range, and scope of papers were impressive. The coverage appears (to this reviewer who was only introduced to this topic by these proceedings) very comprehensive. In addition to the formal papers, there were numerous poster sessions. Conference sessions topics are as follows:

- Plenary session
- Operation and management
- Management approaches to range management
- eBusiness: improving range management through technology
- Planning tools
- Land use planning
- GIS tools to support environmental programs
- Stakeholders and community outreach issues
- Best management practices at small-arms ranges
- Regulatory issues
- Range characterization techniques
- Fate and transport of explosive residuals
- Air emissions
- Treatment of lead-contaminated soils
- Remediation of explosive residues
- Characterization and distribution of explosive residuals
- Cultural and natural resources

- Endangered and threatened species
- Innovative approaches to meeting the munitions response program (MRP) challenge
- Range residue issues
- Phytoremediation
- Encroachment impacts on range operations
- Underwater range issues
- Eglin story

The topic of this conference was new to me and was mainly beyond my area of expertise, so I simply “scan read” several papers. This reading opened up a whole new area of environmental impact concern and amelioration topics to me. The papers I read generally are technically sound and well written.

Of note in the proceedings was the extensive use of color, made possible by the CD-ROM format. There were many outstanding slides showing equipment and results. That was impressive. Not so impressive, however, was the seemingly large number of papers for which only the slides were given. [I only randomly scanned the proceedings but in my limited sample found more than half of the papers were in this format.] However, slides do convey most of the information in the papers without being obscured by rhetoric.

All in all, these proceedings are a valuable addition to the literature with their new “groundbreaking” topic.

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**Regina E. Lundgren, Andrea H. McMakin, Risk Communication: A Handbook for Communicating Environmental, Safety and Health Risks, third ed., Battelle Press, Columbus, OH, 2004, ISBN 1-5747-7142-6, 477 pp., paperback, US\$ 34.95.**

As this review is being drafted, the U.S. State of Florida is expecting the arrival of its fourth hurricane of the season. The Governor of the State has appeared on television numerous times recently urging the residents in the path of these storms to evacuate. Most did, but others stayed, and some died. They took a risk and paid for it.

This book deals with the process of communicating risks, i.e., the risks posed by many of society’s activities as well as those presented by nature. The book jacket notes “When health, safety, or environmental risks take center stage, communicating risk information can be a daunting challenge. Communication must be targeted, understandable, and effective.”