



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

ACUB

FORT BRAGG ACUB



The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program creates land conservation partnerships between the Army and outside organizations to protect land from development that is incompatible with the military mission.

INSTALLATION BACKGROUND

Fort Bragg is a 154,000 acre military installation located in the Sandhills region of North Carolina. Known as the “Home of the Airborne and Special Operations Forces”, Fort Bragg is the Army’s premier power projection platform. The XVIII Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne division are housed on the installation, as well as the U.S. Army Special Operations Command and the U.S. Army Parachute Team (the Golden Knights). The mission at Fort Bragg is to maintain the XVIII Airborne Corps as a strategic crisis response force, manned and trained to rapidly deploy anywhere in the world by air, sea, or land.

The Sandhills region of North Carolina is recognized as one of the last remaining strongholds of longleaf pine in the Southeast. Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (RCW) live predominantly in longleaf pine, and only five percent of this historic habitat remains today due to rotation forestry, residential and commercial development, and related fire suppression. In 1992, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) biological opinion imposed significant training restrictions on Fort Bragg as part of the RCW recovery requirements. In order to protect military readiness and the longleaf pine and wiregrass ecosystem, it was critical that Fort Bragg participate in the recovery of the RCW population.

OBJECTIVE

The RCW recovery requirements imposed by the USFWS launched a regional partnership to bring stakeholders together to find a habitat management solution that extended beyond Fort Bragg and included critical habitat on privately owned lands. The Fort Bragg ACUB program began when the installation formed the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership to protect military readiness and restore the endangered RCW’s longleaf pine habitat. This initiative was

For more information

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the foundation for the legislation that authorizes the ACUB program today.

More than 12,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat have been preserved through Fort Bragg's Sandhills partnership, with efforts underway to acquire additional conservation easements to form a cohesive ecosystem in the Sandhills area. The ACUB program at Fort Bragg contributed to the early recovery of the RCW population in 2006. It has also reduced training restrictions, protected critical areas on the installation's southern boundary, enhanced connectivity in the northeast training area, and has buffered a new special forces training facility on Camp Mackall.

**PRIMARY PARTNER:
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY,
NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER**

The mission of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. With the assistance of Fort Bragg and the ACUB program, the North Carolina Chapter of TNC is working to protect the diverse natural communities in the vicinity of Fort Bragg, with a focus on the long term sustainment of RCW habitat. For more information on the North Carolina Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, visit <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/northcarolina/>.



For more information on ACUB accomplishments,
funding and other stakeholders
please view the ACUB website at
<http://aec.army.mil/usaec/acub/acub00.html>

