



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

ACUB

FORT CARSON 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 Carson encompasses approximately 137,000 acres of land between Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colo. The installation trains, mobilizes, and deploys combat-ready forces. The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, 43rd Area Support Group, and 10 Special Forces are housed at Fort Carson. As a result, the installation contains numerous vehicle maintenance

facilities for tanks and other tracked and wheeled vehicles. A complete tank engine depot maintenance and dynamometer testing facility is also located on post. The Butts Army Airfield is an active runway and hanger facility used primarily by Army rotary-wing aircraft. In addition, a Brigade Combat Team and unit of employment are scheduled to move to Fort Carson as part of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

Due to its close proximity to the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains, Fort Carson hosts a valuable “view shed” that is attracting development to its borders. With the increase in population comes land use and conservation issues that could potentially challenge the installations ability to conduct a full range of training activities. Fort Carson also provides suitable habitat for the federally listed Mexican Spotted Owl and greenback cutthroat trout. The Mountain Plover and the black-tailed prairie dog are previously listed species that remain sensitive and possess potential for becoming re-listed.

In addition to protecting species seeking refuge on the installation, Fort Carson must also address the training related impacts on neighboring communities such as noise, dust, and smoke. Four essential firing ranges in the southern region

For more information

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of Fort Carson would be heavily restricted or closed if residential development were to reach the southern boundary of the installation. Light pollution is currently impacting night training activities on post. The ACUB program will help to avoid further restrictions or even a complete loss of night training capabilities on Fort Carson.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the ACUB program at Fort Carson is to support Soldier training through the purchase of conservation easements, leases, and land from willing sellers adjacent to the installation. This is a unique opportunity to protect large tracts of primarily private ranch lands under single ownership. The Fort Carson ACUB program enhances and protects critical habitat, training areas, ranges, and the installation's large impact area by preventing incompatible land use of properties adjacent to its southern and eastern boundaries.

PRIMARY PARTNERS: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, COLORADO 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. The Colorado Chapter of TNC is in partnership with Fort Carson's ACUB program to protect diverse and natural communities near the installation through the acquisition of land and conservation easements. For more information on the Colorado Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, visit <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/colorado/>.

EL PASO COUNTY

The objective of El Paso County is to support Fort Carson's mission by reducing or eliminating the development or incompatible use of property adjacent to or near Fort Carson. For more information on El Paso County, visit <http://www.elpasoco.com/>.

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

