



HUNTING AND FISHING

ARMY HUNTING AND FISHING



The Army manages more than 12 million acres of land encompassing a number of diverse ecosystems. Through careful management by Army natural resources professionals, these environments have flourished and become ideal habitats for numerous plant and animal species. The Army's hunting and fishing program is a part of The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund is an optional, installation-level program that utilizes proceeds obtained from the sale of hunting, trapping, and fishing permits to fund program expenses and projects that promote fish and wildlife habitat conservation. Proceeds from the sale of permits and licenses average approximately \$3 million annually.

BACKGROUND

Before the mid-1950s, hunting was permitted on installations to control wildlife populations and prevent the land from being over-browsed. The passage of the Sikes Act in 1960, permitted hunting level, and provided installations with an incentive to allow greater public access. The Sikes Act was passed to "promote effectual planning, development, maintenance, and coordination of wildlife, fish, and game conservation and rehabilitation in military reservations." This also provided the legal basis for wildlife conservation on military lands. The passage of the Sikes Act led to the widespread opening of military areas to public recreation in the early 1960s.

Over 30 installations participate in the program with many of them boasting large, healthy deer herds. There are also unique opportunities for hunters including the hunting of exotic species like the Oryx, a member of the antelope species from the Arabian Peninsula, on White Sands Missile Range. Other hunting opportunities include wild hog, turkey, and several fowl species. Each installation mandates the type of hunting allowed and regulates the number of permits sold each year. Hunting programs provide soldiers and the public an excellent opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while supporting sound scientific management of wildlife populations.

For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command
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<http://aec.army.mil>

PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

A recent initiative of the Army is the Wounded Warrior Program (W2), which provides opportunities for wounded warriors to continue their rehabilitation through outdoor recreational activities including hunting, fishing, archery, hiking, and camping. The W2 helps enhance the quality of life for participants while building life-long skills they can enjoy in their home communities. Several installations host unique hunting and fishing experiences specifically designed for the W2. In addition some installations participate in the Make-a-Wish program enabling terminally ill patients to enjoy outdoor activities on the installation.

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management is the Army's hunting and fishing program manager, and receives support from the U.S. Army Environmental Command.

