



Army Compatible Use Buffers: Protecting Soldier Training While Preserving the Environment

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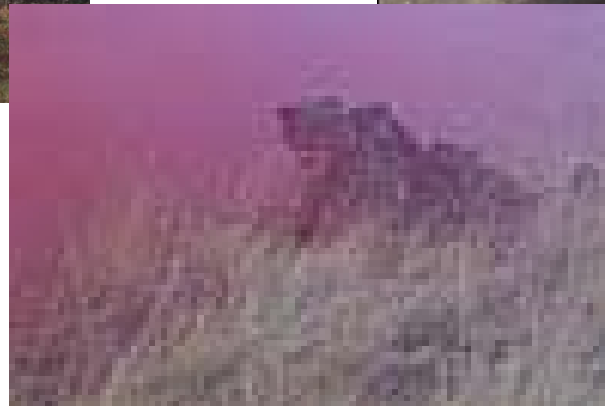


Purpose

Present Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program, provide current status of approved ACUBs, and summarize future opportunities to use buffer authority to protect training and testing.



Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program



Bottom Line: Soldiers must train as we fight



Military Readiness Training Requirements

- Soldiers must “train as we fight”
- Readiness is perishable – skills must be maintained through regular and realistic training
- Encroachment and incompatible land use challenge the Army’s ability to train and maintain weapons proficiency





Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program

Definitions



Fort Hood and Killeen, TX

Encroachment: cumulative result of any and all outside influences that inhibit normal military training and testing

Buffers: areas of land that separate one use from another





Encroachment Problem

Land around military installations is being rapidly developed

Urban encroachment:

Incompatible land use and conflicts over noise, dust, training activity



Habitat loss:

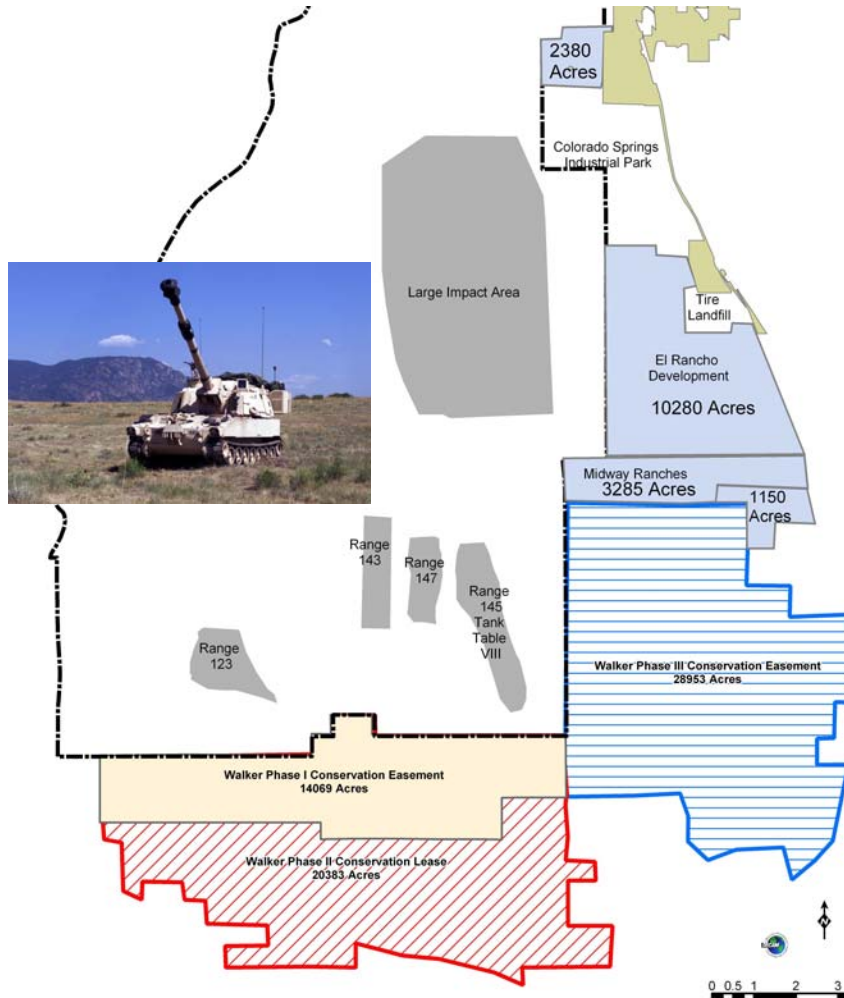
Army lands increasingly carry conservation responsibilities for surrounding areas



Result: restrictions on type, timing, and location of training activities that can compromise military readiness



Encroachment Solution: *compatible land use around Army installations*



- ✓ Reduces or eliminates military training and testing restrictions
- ✓ Decreases neighbor conflicts over military activities
- ✓ Assists communities with local and regional planning objectives
- ✓ Supports conservation objectives for open space and species habitat

...Allows soldiers to train as we fight



Army Tools to Address Encroachment

- Sustainable Range Program (SRP)
- Range and Training Land Strategy (RTLTS)
- DOD Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)
- **Cooperative Agreements (ACUBs)**



Encroachment is a local issue with Army-wide impacts as it affects training, testing and installation operations.





Newest Tool to Address Encroachment at Military Installations

- Codified at 10 U.S.C. §2684a, *Agreements to Limit Encroachments and Other Constraints on Military Training, Testing, and Operations*
- Enacted by §2811 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2003 and amended by §2822 FY06 NDAA
- Implemented through Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program





10 U.S.C. §2684a Cooperative Agreement Authority

- Allows Army to enter into cooperative agreements with “eligible entities” to address use or development of property near a military installation
- “Eligible entity” is state government or private organization with specific purpose of land or natural resource conservation
- Purpose of agreements is to limit use or development of property near military bases, or to preserve habitat to relieve environmental restrictions on military operations
- Army and cooperating partner may share costs



Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program



Army Implementation of 10 USC §2684a

- HQDA Joint Memorandum (19 May 2003)
 - establishes Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program
 - outlines HQDA oversight and guidance
- Army Range and Training Land Strategy (11 Feb 04)
 - prioritizes installations based on strategic value
 - establishes priority installations for ACUBs based on:
 - value to mission
 - encroachment
 - reversibility
 - being updated (spring 2006)





What **IS** an ACUB?

- Excellent tool for avoiding/limiting encroachment and providing long-term sustainability of Army ranges
- Involves an agreement between an Army installation and partner(s) to address land use and development around the installation
- Army contributes funds towards partner(s) acquiring land or interest in land from a **willing** private landowner



What ACUB is *Not*

- *Not* a program to purchase additional Army lands.
- *Not* a program to acquire additional training areas.
- *Not* the entire solution, but an important tool to assist in mitigating the impacts of encroachment on the installation's ability to "train as we fight" and *sustain* the mission.



ACUB Benefits

- Army realizes greater training flexibility and reduced encroachment
- Partner gets financial support for land conservation, including endangered species and habitat protection, and other conservation uses
- Landowners receive financial benefit, can retain ownership, and contribute to conservation
- Installation can influence development patterns and trends outside of installation boundaries

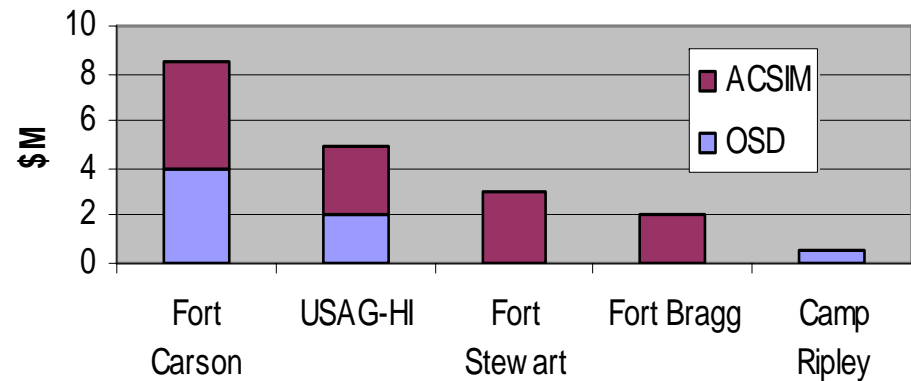


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ACUB Funding

- OSD received **\$12.5M** in FY05
- Army portion/**\$6.5M**:
 - \$4M Fort Carson
 - \$2M USAG-HI
 - \$500K Camp Ripley
- ACSIM FY05 End of Year Funding/**\$12.5M**:
 - \$4.5M Fort Carson
 - \$3M Fort Stewart
 - \$3M USAG-HI
 - \$2M Fort Bragg
- OSD requested **\$20M** in FY06, Congress increased to **\$37M** – Army receiving **\$19.1M**

FY05 ACUB Funding



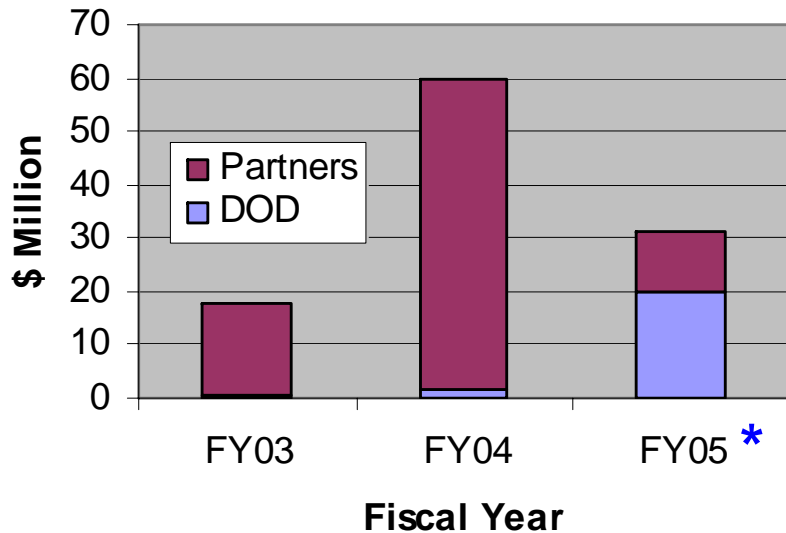
ACUB Priority Installations with Approved Proposals and Executable Cooperative Agreements



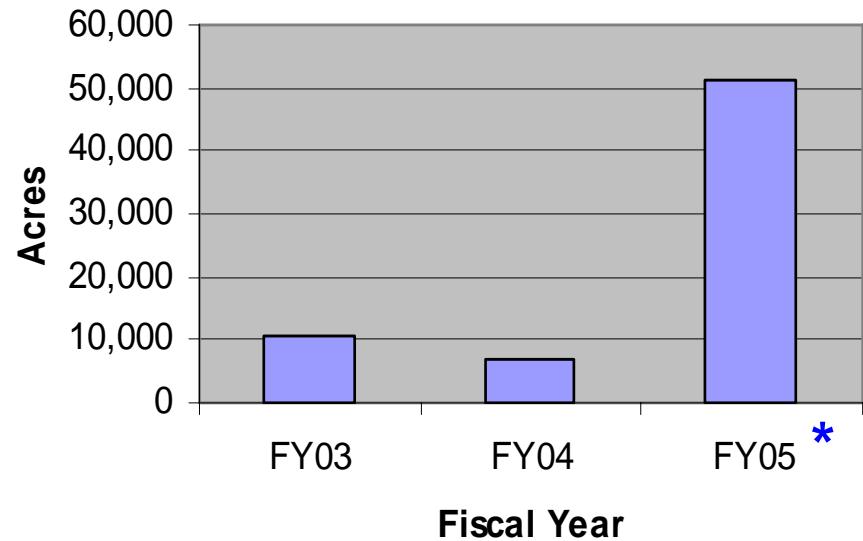
Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program

ACUB Investments

ACUB investments



Buffer Acres Protected

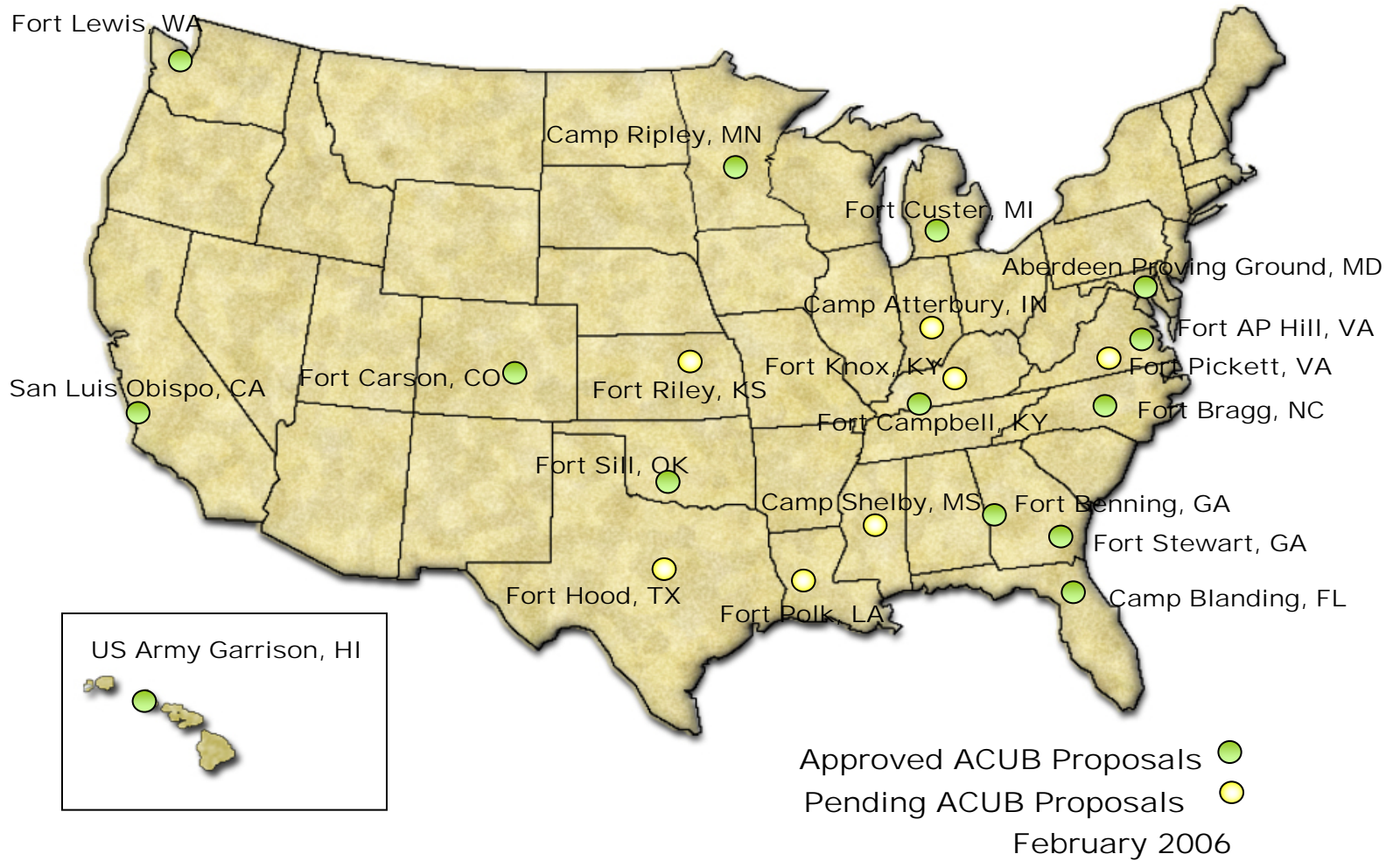


*FY05 data includes acreage in progress and Army funds obligated, but does not include total partner contribution since some actions are not completely executed.



Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program

ACUB Status



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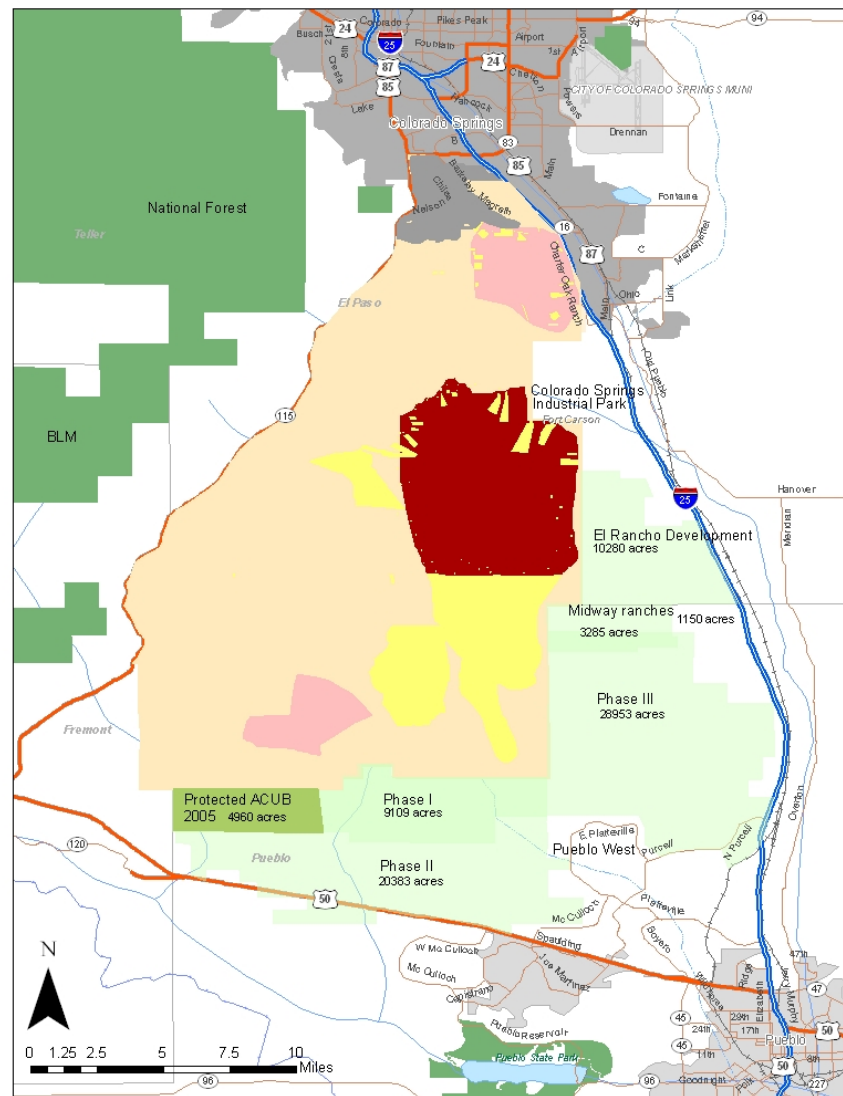
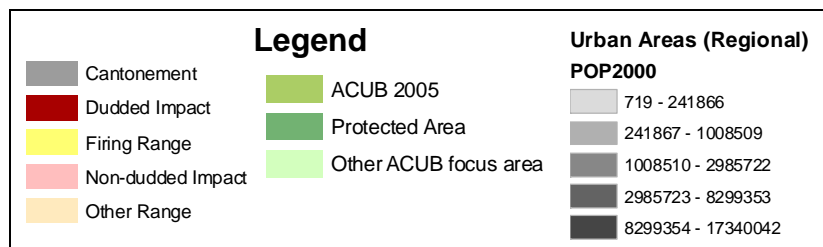


Fort Carson, Colorado



Objective

Protect major firing ranges and impact areas while preserving the ranching way of life. It also protects the diminishing short grass prairie ecosystem and its endangered species.

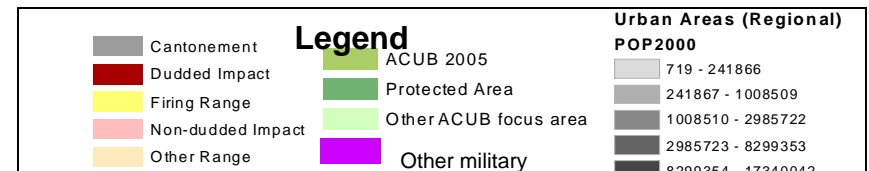
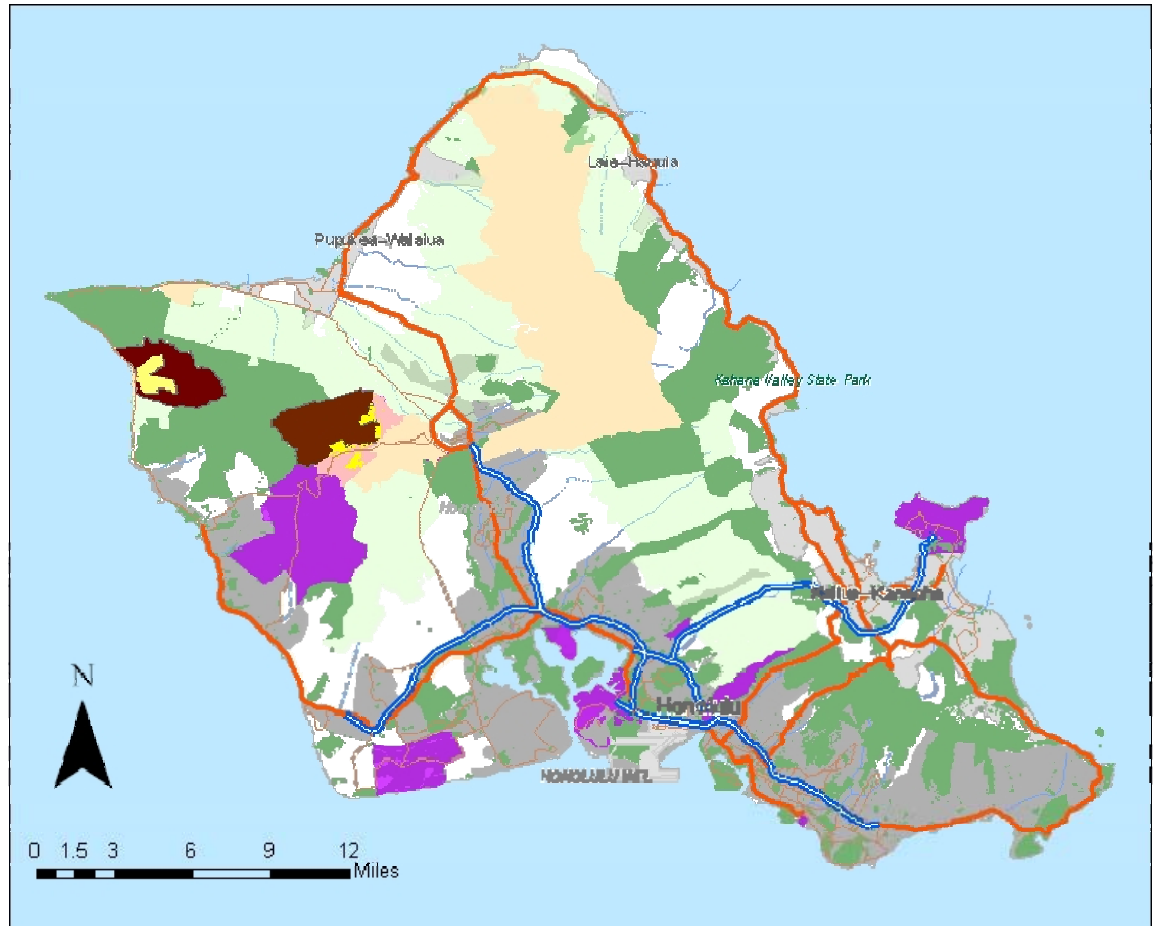


Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program



Objective

Protect The Army and other military services in Hawaii through the conservation of many endangered species, which coincides with the objectives of many conservation organizations in Hawaii. This enables training to continue on post, while buffering important training areas and forming important community relationships.



US Army Garrison Hawaii



Future ACUB Opportunities



- Establish HQ level partnerships with other Federal agencies to address mutual interests and leverage resources
- Increase outreach to expand partnership base with diverse organizations
- Evaluate the feasibility of market-based tools such as transfer of development rights or conservation banking credits to leverage buffers
- Demonstrate the feasibility of wetland banking on buffer lands



Summary

- ACUB is a powerful tool to limit encroachment and ensure future access to existing training lands
- ACUBs are an integral part of range sustainability
- Cooperative partnering with our neighbors achieves common objectives
- ACUBs allow soldiers to train as we fight





Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program

A new way of thinking for the military



"There are two things that interest me - the relationship of people to each other and the relationship of people to land."

~ Aldo Leopold (Sand County Almanac)



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QUESTIONS?



“Conservation is a great moral issue for it involves the patriotic duty of insuring the safety and continuance of the nation.”

~ Theodore Roosevelt ~