



ACUB Fact Sheet

Fort Polk



Background

Fort Polk is one of the Army's premier training installations, home to the Joint Readiness Training Center, a rapid deployment Brigade Combat Team/Unit of Action, and nineteen strategic force/general support force units. Its mission includes training and deploying combat and combat support units. Approximately one-half of the 198,500-acre training land is within the Kisatchie National Forest (KNF). The U.S. Forest Service lands are used by Fort Polk under the terms of a special use permit and operating plan.

Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) population recovery and habitat management requirements increasingly constrain Fort Polk's ability to use its lands for current and future mission requirements. RCW habitat management requirements similarly constrain the use and development of KNF land. The Louisiana pine snake (LPS), found on the installation and KNF permitted-use lands, could also restrict training operations and land use if listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Urban growth does not threaten Fort Polk's training capabilities. However, future development on private properties within the limited use area of the KNF or adjacent to Fort Polk's boundaries could impact future training and range operations. Fort Polk's ACUB strategy addresses encroachment threats by establishing conservation easements on private lands within the region, or acquiring the development rights to parcels adjoining key range and training facilities. The buffers support the Fort Polk and the KNF's RCW recovery and habitat management requirements by ensuring continuity of RCW and LPS habitat. By including RCW populations on the buffers, Fort Polk can achieve its RCW recovery goals more quickly, leading to greater training flexibility. The first ACUB actions at Fort Polk will be the protection of 2 parcels (about 5,500 acres) of prime RCW habitat along the installation's southern border.

Objective

The Fort Polk ACUB program protects the installation from incompatible development adjacent to its boundaries. The easements reduce and avoid restrictions on range and training land capabilities resulting from endangered and candidate species management requirements.

Partners

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, LOUISIANA CHAPTER

Louisiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy works with local partners and communities to protect diverse natural communities of Louisiana. For further information, call 337-480-9393 or visit <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/louisiana/>.

COASTAL PLAIN CONSERVANCY

The Coastal Plain Conservancy is a regional non-profit land trust dedicated to preserving the lands that define the coastal plain's distinct landscape. For further information, call 337-436-9401 or visit <http://www.coastalplain.net/>.

Installation ACUB POC

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