



## ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

# ACUB

### FORT CUSTER 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

Located in southwest Michigan, Fort Custer Training Center (FCTC) is a 7,570 acre training site for the Michigan Army National Guard. The installation is home of the 177th Regiment, Regional Training Institute, Regional maintenance Training Site, and the new Augusta Armory. The primary mission of the FCTC is small arms and light maneuver training for both reserve component and active forces. Many Reserve Officer Training Corps students from colleges in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana train at this facility, as well as the FBI, Michigan State Police, and various other law enforcement agencies.

Fort Custer Training Center contains some of the most pristine habitat in southwest Michigan. Over 500 acres of high quality natural communities harbor many threatened, endangered, and special concern species on the installation. In 2006, the Hart's Lake property was identified as a target for the ACUB program at Fort Custer. Along with providing vital habitat for numerous species of flora and fauna, the Hart's Lake parcel lies directly adjacent to FCTC and therefore is a high noise and dust buffer to the installation. Development of this parcel, primarily the upland woods along the lake, would likely limit the operations of current range and training lands.

#### OBJECTIVE

The Fort Custer ACUB program entailed one parcel, Hart's Lake, and was completed in August 2007. Through the program, the 326 acre parcel was purchased by the Calhoun Conservation District. Preservation of the Hart's Lake property protects and enhances training capacity and operational areas at the Fort Custer Training Center. The ACUB project at Fort Custer maintains mission preparedness, as well as preserves an ecologically valuable property with a broad constituency of land managers. The land is available for

#### For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command  
Public Affairs Office  
410-436-2556, fax 410-436-1693  
email: APGR-USAECPublicAffairsOffice@  
conus.army.mil  
<http://aec.army.mil>

Soldier recreation, as well as for use and enjoyment by the general public.

**PRIMARY PARTNER:  
CALHOUN CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

The Calhoun Conservation District (CCD) is a locally controlled subdivision of state government, created by concerned landowners, and administered by a publicly elected board of directors to promote the wise use and management of natural resources. CCD's purchase of Hart's Lake successfully preserves a property with ecological importance in order to conserve the county's natural resources as well as prevent land uses which are incompatible with the military mission. For more information on the Calhoun Conservation District, visit <http://www.calhouncd.org/index.html>.



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

