



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

ACUB

FORT HUACHUCA 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

Nestled between the ridges of the Huachuca Mountains and the valley of the Upper San Pedro River, Fort Huachuca encompasses 73,000 acres of land approximately 60 miles southeast of Tucson, Ariz. The primary missions at Fort Huachuca include intelligence and unmanned aviation warfighter training and testing, Army global network management; mission-ready forces deployment and redeployment, and Army and Air Force manned aircraft training and operational missions. The testing mission covers a wide range of command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems. All training and testing missions use the isolated radio frequency environment and frequency authorizations assigned to Fort Huachuca. The installation also hosts several critical Department of Homeland Security training and operational missions.

Recent increases in the population growth adjacent to areas north and west of Fort Huachuca challenge the future use of installation airfields and training lands. Maintaining low levels of electronic interference and broad lines of sight in the immediate vicinity of the installation is critical to preserving the installation's training and testing mission. The ability to test systems and equipment over long distances in real-world conditions is vital to fielding the best equipment for our military. In addition, the installation holds current training restrictions due to threatened and endangered species requirements. The lands in and around Fort Huachuca provide valuable habitat for several protected species, including the Huachuca water umbel, a semi-aquatic plant found in the shallow water ecosystem. The Huachuca water umbel is located on Fort Huachuca's test range in the Upper San Pedro River Basin. If left unchecked,

For more information

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urban growth and its associated impacts on air-space, water quality, the ecosystem, and the electromagnetic spectrum will ultimately result in the degradation of military training and deployment capabilities.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the ACUB program at Fort Huachuca is to secure Soldier training by protecting undeveloped areas under the R2303 airspace. The buffer lands will ensure the avoidance of frequency encroachment on critical electromagnetic spectrums used for military testing and training. An additional benefit of the project is the prevention of training restrictions being imposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to protect the endangered Huachuca water umbel habitat on post. The ACUB program will protect and manage the regional water table adjacent to the San Pedro Riparian Area and its associated critical habitat.

PRIMARY PARTNER: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, ARIZONA 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. Through the ACUB program, The Arizona Chapter of TNC will purchase land and conservation easements on priority areas adjacent to Fort Huachuca. For more information on the Arizona Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, visit <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/arizona/>.

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

