



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

ACUB

FORT IRWIN 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

Established in 1797, Fort Irwin is located on more than 642,000 contiguous acres in central San Bernardino County, Calif. Nestled within the West Mojave Desert, the National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin is one of three Combat Training Centers for the U.S. Army. The mission of the NTC is to provide challenging, realistic, combined arms training under conditions that our military is likely to face in actual combat. Fort Irwin's large size, remoteness, and training infrastructure make it the only place, worldwide, where the Army has the capability to conduct joint service instrumented, live training with unit equipment and tactical systems for a full brigade combat team.

In 1985, a need for additional maneuver land at Fort Irwin was identified, based on changing technology, force structure, and doctrine. In 2001, maneuver land expansion at Fort Irwin was approved by Congress consisting of three separate parcels including Eastgate, Superior Valley and UTM 90. The legislation required compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and other appropriate legislation prior to military ground disturbing activities. During the NEPA process, area stakeholders expressed numerous concerns with the expansion, primarily related to environmental impacts and threatened and endangered (T&E) species.

For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command
Public Affairs Office
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email: APGR-USAECPublicAffairsOffice@
conus.army.mil
<http://aec.army.mil>

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective of the ACUB program at Fort Irwin is to acquire approximately 2,500 acres of land adjacent to the installation which provides suitable habitat for the endan-

gered desert tortoise. Relinquishment of grazing rights on an additional 154,848 acres of federally-owned (BLM) land is also an objective of the program that will support viable habitat. These actions should greatly reduce the impact on the desert tortoise as well as other species, allowing for expansion of maneuver lands and increased Soldier training on Fort Irwin.

**PRIMARY PARTNER:
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND GAME**

The mission of the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public. For more information on the California Department of Fish and Game, visit <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>.



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

