

FT. BENNING

Saplings, mature trees and open space combine to support maneuver training.

FT. LEONARD WOOD

Soldiers take advantage of a site prepared by the installation's forestry program.

FT. DRUM

A forester marks trees for harvesting. Companies bid for the rights to remove wood as the installation molds land to meet specific military training goals.

FT. POLK

A training officer discusses landscape requirements with an installation forester. Foresters can adapt the forest to meet changing training needs.

FT. GORDON

A shredder/mulcher clears a forest for maneuver training. Cleared forest also provides better habitat for endangered species.

FT. JACKSON

A prescribed burn helps regenerate a forest and prevents catastrophic training accidents. Unmanaged fire risk can limit the use of live ammunition and incendiary devices.

FT. BRAGG

Young longleaf pines grow naturally as an installation forest regenerates. Foresters also plant seedlings to enhance reforestation.

It took seconds for Soldiers to set up an ambush...

but took decades for foresters to create the site. Today's Army foresters are heirs to more than a century of shaping training landscapes Armywide. Army forest management works to sustain Soldier readiness now and for decades to come.

Army Foresters manage over 3.4 million acres of federally owned forest land nationwide, an area slightly larger than the state of Connecticut.

Active Management

Army foresters consider today's training mission and tomorrow's training needs:

- Opening new areas to training
- Maintaining existing maneuver areas
- Enhancing forest biodiversity
- Reducing destructive pest outbreaks

Highlights

In fiscal year 2006, Army Installations:

- Generated \$19.8 million in proceeds
- Offset \$16.6 million in natural resources management costs
- Gave \$2.5 million of net proceeds to local schools and roads in 16 states
- Enhanced more than 300,000 acres of woodlands through prescribed fire
- Planted more than 3,500 acres of seedlings to ensure mature forests for the training of future warfighters

Proceeds from the sale of timber, pine straw and other forest products supplement installation forest management budgets. Installations send 40 percent of net proceeds to surrounding counties for schools and roads. The rest is sent to a Defense Department account for natural resources management.

Benefits

Properly managed forests provide a number of benefits for the Army mission and the natural environment:

- Realistic training landscape
- Reduced risk of lost training days due to wildfire
- Visual barrier for installation neighbors
- Habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Ecosystem sustainability
- Reduced soil erosion
- Carbon sequestration and water purification
- Space for outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, hiking and bicycling

ARMY FORESTRY

SHAPING THE WARFIGHTER'S LANDSCAPE

For more information, contact USAECForestryTeam@aec.apgea.army.mil or call the USAEC Training Support Division at 410-436-7526.