SUCCESS STORY

Water Conservation
Fort Huachuca, AZ

Going Beyond Compliance

At Fort Huachuca, water conservation is about more than compliance. Like other Department of Defense installations, Fort Huachuca has obligations beyond its boundaries. It must be a good neighbor to the local population and the Upper San Pedro River, which is home to several Federally listed endangered species.

With the help of policy, technology and the community, Fort Huachuca is addressing water management issues head on. As a result of these efforts, Fort Huachuca has cut its water pumping from its aquifer by 50 percent, and overall consumption by even more.

Policy

Fort Huachuca implemented strict water use guidelines for post residents – families can only water their lawns two months of the year, and of those two months, only two hours a day, two days a week. If residents are found watering out of hours, they are issued a citation.

Technology

Treated effluent is used to irrigate the installation's golf course and excess water is used to recharge groundwater through basins at the installation's East Range. Detention basins were built, both on and off the installation, to efficiently recharge urban runoff water. Staff also initiated several demolition projects for abandoned WWII buildings, which allowed the installation to conserve water by capping off the old, leaky water lines.

Artificial turf was installed to lessen the installation's dependence on water resources. A rainwater catchment system, or "drinker," in a waterless area was installed to help sustain local wildlife in need of reliable water. The installation even uses specially designed appliances, including showerheads, urinals and front-loading washing machines, that limit water usage.

Fort Huachuca has installed artificial turf at this baseball field as a means to lessen the installation's dependence on water resources.

For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command
Public Affairs Office
1-800-USA-3845 or 1-800-872-3845
email: imcom-usaecpublicaffairsoffice@conus.army.mil
http://aec.army.mil

Community

Fort Huachuca is one of 21 member agencies and organizations that make up the Upper San Pedro Partnership established in 1998. The goal of the partnership is to ensure the water needs of the present and future population are met while protecting the watershed. The partnership serves as a platform to advocate water conservation activities in the area. Its priorities include the development of water management and conservation plans that identify actions that will help meet the partnership goal, the identification of the hydrologic conditions necessary for a healthy sub-watershed, and the creation of opportunities for collaboration with Mexico and the public to further support the watershed.

In addition, a dynamic Fort Huachuca program called Water Wise and Energy Smart, or WWES, supports activities that relate to education on water use reduction. This includes the provision of literature or related water conservation products, submission of service orders, audits or inspections of how water is used, recommendations on reduction in use, and assistance in the planning or execution of landscape renovation projects. Funded by Fort Huachuca in cooperation with the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, WWES runs an active school-age program. It also has a web site that outlines tips for water and energy conservation. It can be viewed on line at http://huachuca-www.army.mil/index.html.

Fort Huachuca's Water Wise and Energy Smart program, or WWES, supports activities that relate to education on water use reduction. It has a specific program geared toward school age children.