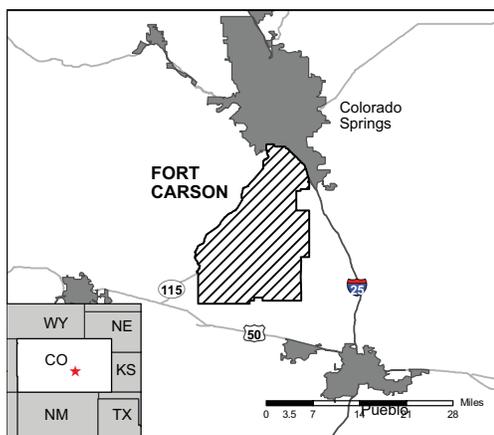




U.S. ARMY :  
**FORT CARSON** : COLORADO



**F**ort Carson is a key Army installation that supports a range of training and deploy units abroad by air and rail. The post's 137,000 acres are suited to training soldiers with large-caliber weapons on landscape and terrain comparable to current conflict areas. These training lands allow units to simultaneously prepare for the full spectrum of land-based operations, combining offense, defense, stability, and civil support operations. The post's ability to support this range of training will become even more important with the stationing of new



troops.

To protect Fort Carson's mission, a large buffer is being completed to guard against extreme residential growth pressures from Colorado Springs to the north and Pueblo to the southeast. The post's close relationship with local ranchers and The Nature Conservancy has enabled it to save valuable working ranch lands. Of

note already, a single, large-scale rancher has been willing and eager to protect his land to help aid Fort Carson in meeting its training land protection and sustainability goals.

This partnership effort is providing multiple valuable benefits to Fort Carson and a variety of stakeholders. Conservation easements have eliminated potential encroachment conflicts from development that would impact the installation's southern and eastern training ranges and impact areas. Meanwhile, the buffer zone protects critical wildlife and plant species, and it allows local ranchers to continue their traditional way of life.

**BENEFIT SUMMARY**

**COMMUNITY**

- Preserves working ranch lands and local character
- Supports existing regional planning objectives

**MILITARY**

- Preserves live-fire, helicopter, and maneuver on-installation training capacity through the buffering of high-noise areas
- Improves operational safety



Ranch lands near Fort Carson protect training by shielding noise from the CH-47 heavy-lift helicopter (top) and M1 Abrams tank (bottom).

**KEY PARTNERS**

- The Nature Conservancy
- El Paso County
- Great Outdoors Colorado
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Colorado Department of Transportation

**FAST FACTS** AS OF 30 SEP 12

- » Acres preserved: **24,157**
- » Transactions conducted: **16**
- » Partner cost share: **1%**
- » Project status: **Completed**

**CONTACT**

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