

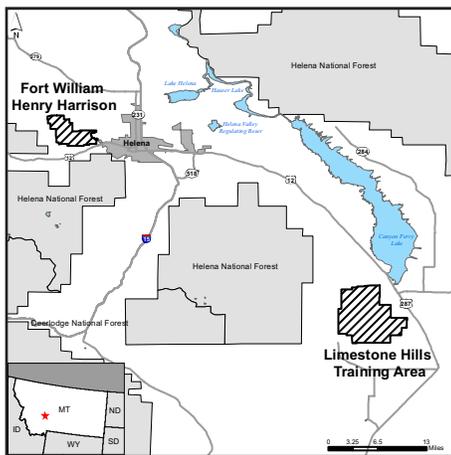


U.S. ARMY :

# FORT HARRISON AND LIMESTONE HILLS TRAINING AREA : MONTANA



**F**ort Harrison is a designated Maneuver Training Center-Light installation that provides training facilities and ranges for National Guard, Reserve, and active duty personnel from all four Services. Much of the post's infrastructure, including ranges and training areas, has been specifically designed to support individual and collective training for Special Forces units up to Battalion in size. This has resulted in special operations units becoming a mainstay among Fort Harrison users. Fort Harrison and the Limestone Hills Training Area, 41 miles southeast of the main post, support training for several types of helicopter flights and gunnery, maneuver, demolition, and live firing of weapons from small arms to tanks.



Fort Harrison is located just three miles west of the capital city of Helena, and is under constant pressure of development moving closer to its fence line. Urban encroachment already causes conflicts and complaints from noise, vibrations, and dust from training activities. However, Fort Harrison's location also presents a conservation opportunity to its partners. The area west and southwest of Fort Harrison is

part of the Yellowstone-to-Yukon Initiative's Crown of the Continent ecosystem, the largest intact ecosystem in the U.S.

This pristine landscape is one of only two remaining areas within the Yellowstone-to-Yukon region where grizzly bears, wolverines, and other wide-ranging species can migrate between the U.S. and Canada. Conserving the rangelands and watershed around Fort Harrison and Limestone Hills serves to protect the Crown of the Continent from becoming an island ecosystem isolated from other conserved regions while helping to sustain national defense capabilities.

## BENEFIT SUMMARY

### COMMUNITY

- Preserves the largest intact ecosystem in the United States
- Supports existing regional planning efforts
- Preserves working lands and local character

### MILITARY

- Preserves maneuver and live-fire training capabilities through the buffering of high-noise areas.
- Increases operational safety
- Prevents workarounds that would otherwise limit training capacity



Marines provide security as their teams beach their Zodiac reconnaissance crafts during a patrol operation at Limestone Hills (top). REPI-protected lands will add to a local network of parks and trails that links to Glacier National Park and the rest of the Crown of the Continent ecosystem located along Fort Harrison's western boundary (bottom).

## KEY PARTNERS

- Lewis and Clark County
- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, Parks
- Montana Fish and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Prickly Pear Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service

## FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

- » Acres preserved: **0**
- » Transactions conducted: **0**
- » Total funds expended: **\$0**
- » Project status: **Initiated**

## CONTACT

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