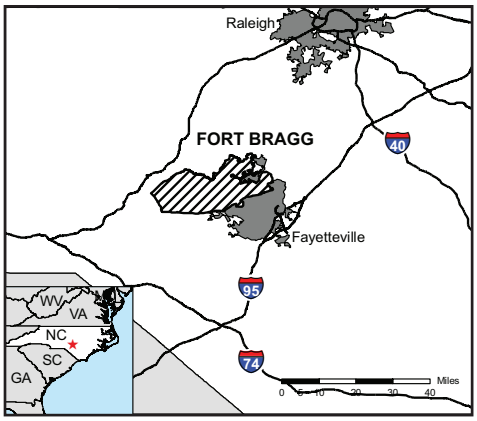
U.S. ARMY :

FORT BRAGG : NORTH CAROLINA

Fort Bragg is one of the Army's premier installations and among the most actively used military complexes in the world, home to the 82nd Airborne and U.S. Army Special Operations Forces. Fort Bragg is also home to rare, mature longleaf pine habitat for the federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW). Meanwhile, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure realigned up to 40,000 troops and their families—along with the resulting economic growth—to the post, increasing the challenges of managing growth in the North Carolina Sandhills area.



When habitat-destructive residential development occurred years ago immediately adjacent to Fort Bragg's training areas, particularly along the southern installation border, the Army was compelled to set aside training land exclusively to protect dwindling RCW habitat. Fort Bragg has since helped pioneer conservation buffer partnering by creating the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership.

Fort Bragg's efforts with The Nature Conservancy and other stakeholders helped achieve the recovery target for the sandhills RCW population segment, the first such documented recovery of a RCW sub-population. Restrictions related to RCW placed on training at Fort Bragg are being virtually eliminated as the population recovers. The preserved habitat has provided other additional benefits including expanding Cumberland County's only state park. Fort Bragg continues to build upon its partnership efforts to bolster protection from incompatible development in the rapidly growing areas adjacent to the installation. Ongoing projects target lands that benefit partner organizations, protect additional RCW habitat, and focus on limiting development incompatible to critical military training at the installation already being impacted by growth in Moore and Hooke counties.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands for forestry, benefiting the local economy
- Provides habitat for endangered species
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Helps preserve water quality
- Augments regional planning objectives

MILITARY

- Preserves live-fire and maneuver training capacity
- Prevents workarounds that would reduce training realism or effectiveness

Development adjacent to the installation perimeter (top). Landowner Julian Johnson values the protection of longleaf pine on his property (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- North Carolina Department of Agriculture
- North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation
- North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Sandhills Ecological Institute
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

» Acres preserved:
21,747

» Transactions conducted:
79

» Total funds expended:
$74.9 million

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
(910) 643-2741