

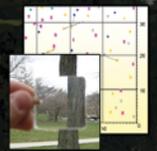
THE MEASURE OF THE LAND

RANGE & TRAINING LAND ASSESSMENT PROVIDES KNOWLEDGE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Training area sustainability depends on complete information on land condition. Range & Training Land Assessment (RTL) draws from multiple methods and technologies to provide a clear picture of a training area's condition. Using this knowledge, installation staff can make informed decisions about training land use and enhancement. RTL ensures training and testing lands meet mission standards now and in the future.

Prism Sampling

Viewing tree stands through a small prism helps measure size and density. This cost-effective method helps workers determine the suitability of an area for both mechanized and dismounted maneuver training.



Assessing tree density with a prism.

RTL is a component of the Integrated Training Area Management (ITAM) Program. As part of the Sustainable Range Program (SRP), ITAM supports training area design, management, and rehabilitation to ensure long-term training area sustainability.

LAND ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

RTL gathers information from many sources, including historical photographs, on-the-ground assessments and remote sensing.

Remote Sensing

Remote sensing is used to assess, map, and monitor sites to support current and future training and testing activities. Remote sensing is useful for assessing the condition of training lands over very large areas.



Tracking rotor wash and dust production in a drop zone.

Monitoring gullies and washouts in an improved maneuver corridor.

Photo Monitoring

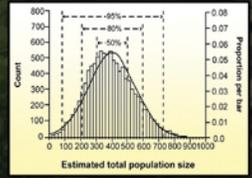
Permanent photo stations are used to document change in land condition over time.

RTL evaluates the relationship between land use and condition by collecting physical and biological resource data from multiple sources.

MANAGEMENT AND EVALUATION

RTL standardizes data gathering procedures from one year to the next, allowing accurate assessment of conditions and trends. Designed to be clear to both land managers and trainers, RTL data is integrated into the ITAM Geographic Information System (GIS) and used to:

- Store, analyze, and report data related to training and testing land use;
- Analyze and describe impacts on specific parcels of land;
- Assist in identifying land restoration and rehabilitation priorities; and
- Combine the priorities of environmental stewardship and the Army's training mission through improved planning for training and testing activities.



Managers use RTL information as they determine intensity of use and rehabilitation for training and testing lands.

INTELLIGENCE ON THE GROUND

RTL serves as the Army's knowledge center for training land resources. RTL information can support:

- Installation Status Report
- Range and Training Land Planning
- Long-range Land Management Planning
- Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance Best Management Practices
- Training Area Siting and Design
- Internal Encroachment Documentation and Mitigation
- Training Area Rehabilitation and Management Project Evaluations



Monitoring bare ground and vegetation cover in an open maneuver area.



Plot-Based Monitoring

Plot-based monitoring provides a detailed perspective on the condition of an area. Plot methods can be used to assess plant density, cumulative effects of disturbance, and the soil's erosion susceptibility.

Plot ID	Area (m ²)	Plant Species	Plant Density (plants/m ²)	Soil Erosion Susceptibility
P1	100	Grass	0.05	Low
P2	100	Grass	0.05	Low
P3	100	Grass	0.05	Low
P4	100	Grass	0.05	Low
P5	100	Grass	0.05	Low
P6	100	Grass	0.05	Low
P7	100	Grass	0.05	Low
P8	100	Grass	0.05	Low
P9	100	Grass	0.05	Low
P10	100	Grass	0.05	Low

For More Information:

- Visit the Sustainable Range Program Web Portal at <https://srp.army.mil>
- Contact the Range and Training Land Assessment component manager at APGR-USAEC-RTL@conus.army.mil, (410) 436-7380.