

FORT LEWIS WASHINGTON IS THE FIRST U-S ARMY BASE TO HAVE ITS FORESTRY PROGRAM CERTIFIED, BY THE FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL CORRESPONDENT JAVIER HERNANDEZ REPORTS.

“IF YOU LOOK UP THE TREE THERE....”

MEET GARRY MCCAUSLAND. HE RUNS THE FORESTRY PROGRAM HERE AT FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON. THE PROGRAM WAS JUST “GREEN CERTIFIED” BY THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL. OLD GROWTH TREES LIKE THIS ARE ONE REASON WHY.

“WE FOUND THAT FORT LEWIS IS TAKING A REAL LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ADOPTING NEW FOREST PRACTICES THAT TEND TO, THAT ATTEMPT TO, MIMIC OLDER TYPES OF FOREST STRUCTURE...” - LARRY NUSSBAUM, NORTHWEST FORESTRY GROUP

“THAT MEANS WE WANT LARGER TREES WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DAMAGE THAT CAN BE USED FOR HABITAT FOR BOTH ANIMALS AND BIRDS ... (CUT) WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE (CUT) A LOT OF DIVERSITY IN THE STAND BOTH IN SPECIES AND STRUCTURE IN THE STAND.” – GARRY MCCAUSLAND

THAT’S BECAUSE DIVERSITY IS THE NUMBER ONE INDICATOR OF A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM.

“WHEN YOU LOOK AT A FOREST STAND ITS LIFE EXPECTANCY IS WELL OVER A HUNDRED YEARS. AND SO WHAT WE ARE LOOKING AT IS TRYING TO PROVIDE A TRAINING SCENARIO FOR THE TROOPS TO USE NOW AND A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW.” GARY MCCAUSLAND

SOLDIERS AREN'T THE ONLY ONES BENEFITING FROM THE FORESTRY PROGRAM. FT LEWIS OWNS 40-THOUSAND ACRES OF FOREST AND SOLD FOUR MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF TIMBER LAST YEAR. SOME OF THAT INCOME FUNDS THE FORESTRY PROGRAM, BUT MORE THAN 800-THOUSAND DOLLARS WAS PUMPED BACK INTO THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

THE NORTHWEST FOREST GROUP FEELS THAT FT LEWIS'S PROGRAM CAN SERVE AS A MODEL TO OTHER FEDERAL LAND OWNERS, AND SHOW HOW THEY CAN GENERATE INCOME, CONSERVE NATURAL RESOURCES AND STILL SUPPORT THE WARFIGHTER, JAVIER HERNANDEZ, FORT LEWIS, WASHINGTON.