



ARMY FORESTRY

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Forest management activities are carried out on Army installations by on-site professional foresters. These activities include forest improvement, prescribed burning, reforestation, forest protection, and maintenance and creation of forest access roads. The main objective of the Army forestry program is to support the military mission by enhancing the training landscape and creating more realistic training areas. Installation forestry activities also support threatened and endangered species management, wildland management, and wild fire control.

BACKGROUND

The Army's forestry program has supported military readiness and efficient land management for over 100 years. In the past, the role of Army foresters was to manage and develop forest resources for the commercial production of forest products. Over the years, the Army's forestry program has evolved in response to mission needs, land management philosophies, and environmental stewardship requirements. In 1961, legislation was passed that established the Army's reimbursable forestry program, allowing installations to use proceeds from timber sales to support forestry activities. Today, Army foresters manage approximately 4.2 million acres of federally owned forestland nationwide. These lands provide short and long term forested conditions that are conducive to the wide range of military training exercises that occur on installations, as well as creating environmental conditions that support compliance with federal mandates such as the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Over 45 installations representing active Army, National Guard Bureau, and Army Material Command components participate in the program.

Benefits of the forestry program to the Army mission and the natural environment include:

- Realistic training environment
- Ecosystem and biodiversity sustainability
- Habitat for threatened and endangered species

For more information

U.S. Army Environmental Command
Public Affairs Office
1-800-USA-3845 or 1-800-872-3845

email: imcom-usaecpublicaffairsoffice@conus.army.mil

<http://aec.army.mil>

- Reduced risk of lost training days due to wildfire
- Carbon sequestration and water purification
- Reduced soil erosion
- Visual and noise buffer for installation neighbors
- Space for outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, hiking, and bicycling

Over the past ten years, between 40 and 65 installations participated annually in the Army's forestry program, and have generated an average of \$20 million per year from the sale of forest products.

Approximately \$17 million of these annual revenues are used by installations to cover their forestry expenses. These revenues are used to offset appropriated dollars that are typically used for natural resource management projects and allow overall increased program execution capabilities for the installation. After expenses are paid, each installation returns 40 percent of net proceeds from their timber sales to support local public schools and roads. The remaining proceeds are deposited into the Department of Defense's Forestry Reserve Account, to be used for natural resource management or held for the event of a natural resources emergency.

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management is the Army's forestry program manager, and receives support from the U.S. Army Environmental Command.

