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Army Range Sustainability

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Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Environment, Safety and Occupational Health)

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Agenda

- Why a range sustainability initiative?
- Major land management pressures
 - Encroachment
 - Environmental Requirements
 - Evolving Operational Requirements
- What is the Army doing about it?
 - Four Major Thrust Areas



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Why A Range Sustainability Initiative?



The Army must train as it fights...

...because we will surely fight as we have trained.

The first time soldiers experience realistic battlefield conditions must not be in combat.



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Range Sustainability

...a condition in which ranges and training lands are capable, available, and accessible to support doctrinal training and testing requirements, mobilization, and deployments under normal and surge conditions.

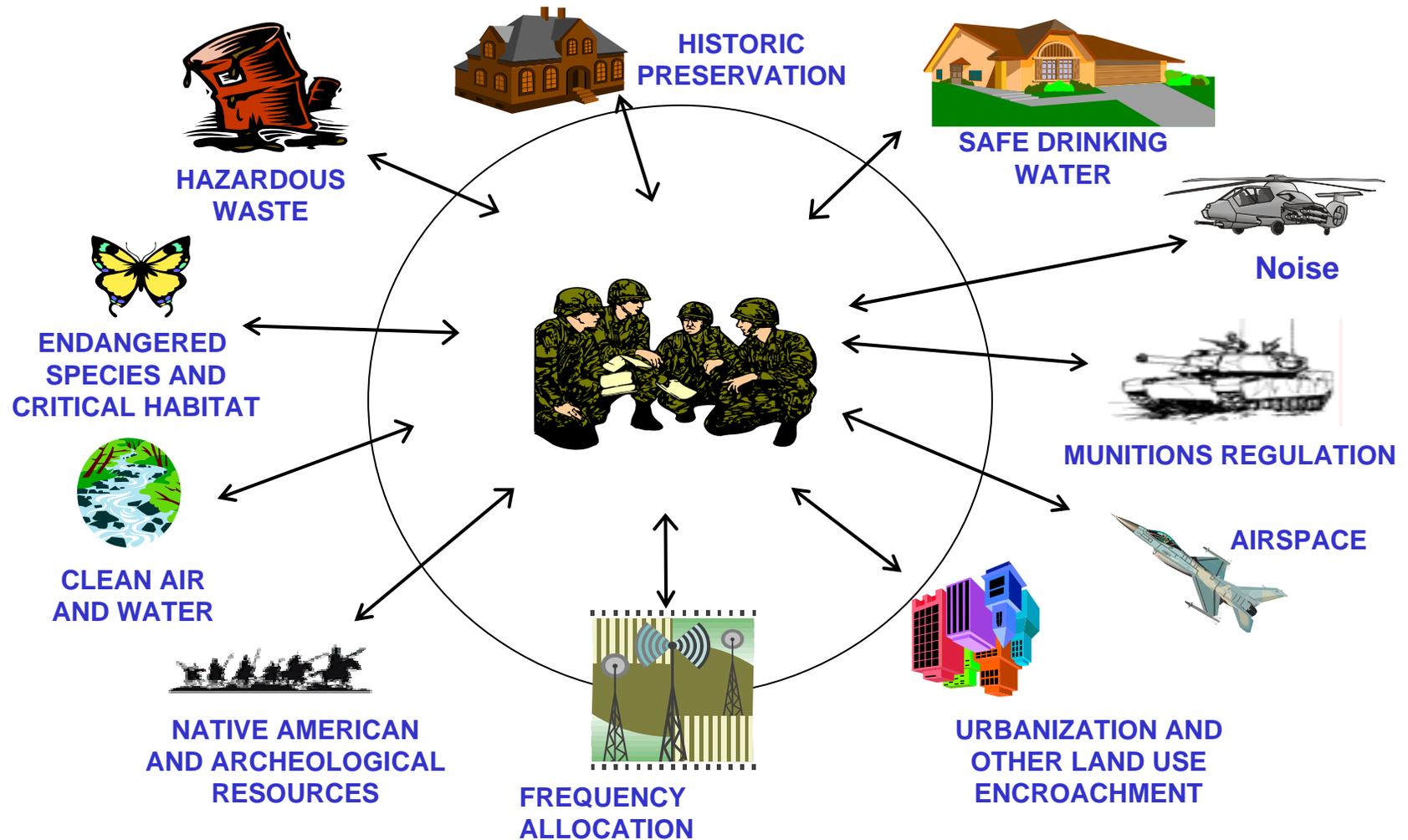




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Increasing Pressures on Training and Testing





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Land Management Pressures -- Encroachment Trends

- Loss of training or testing space
- Increasingly unrealistic training options
- Disproportionate compliance burden
- Evolving legal interpretations raise future concerns

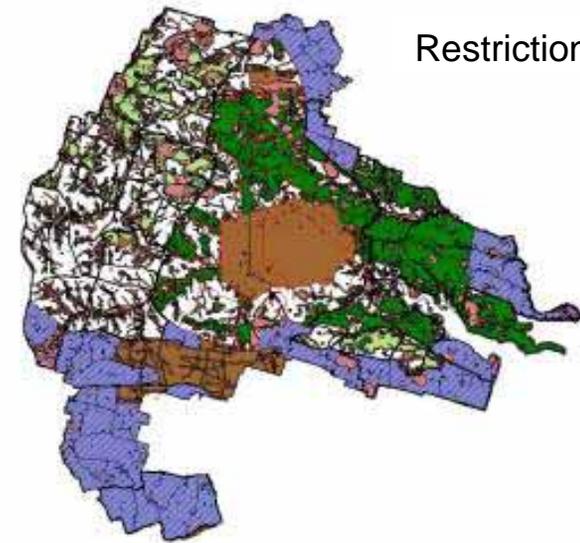
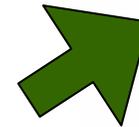
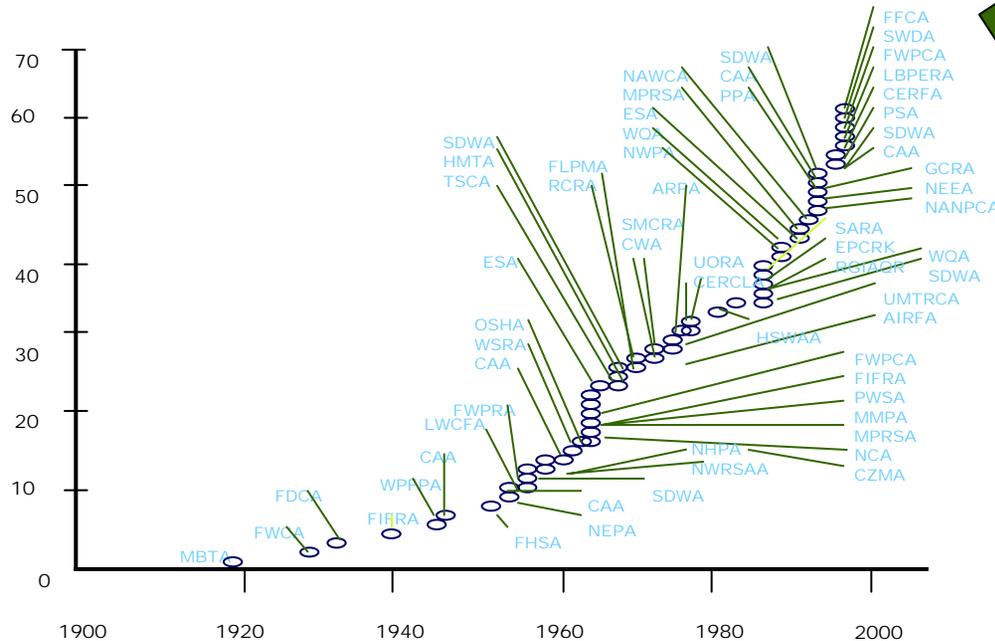


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Land Management Pressures -- Environmental Requirements

There has been a tremendous growth in environmental legislation



Restrictions

Inside the fence line constraints continue to impact training.



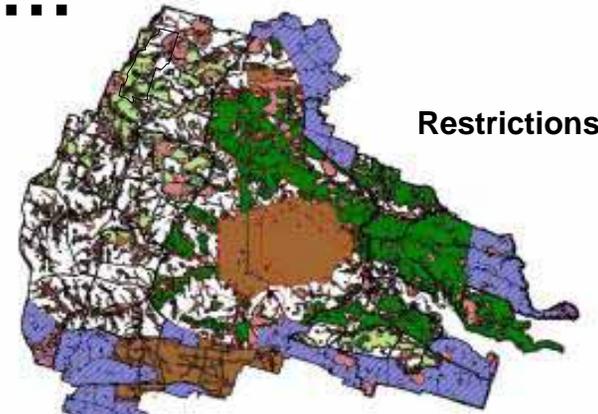
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Land Management Pressures – What it means...

Decreasing Land Assets – Encroachment

Constraints on Army Live Training



Restrictions

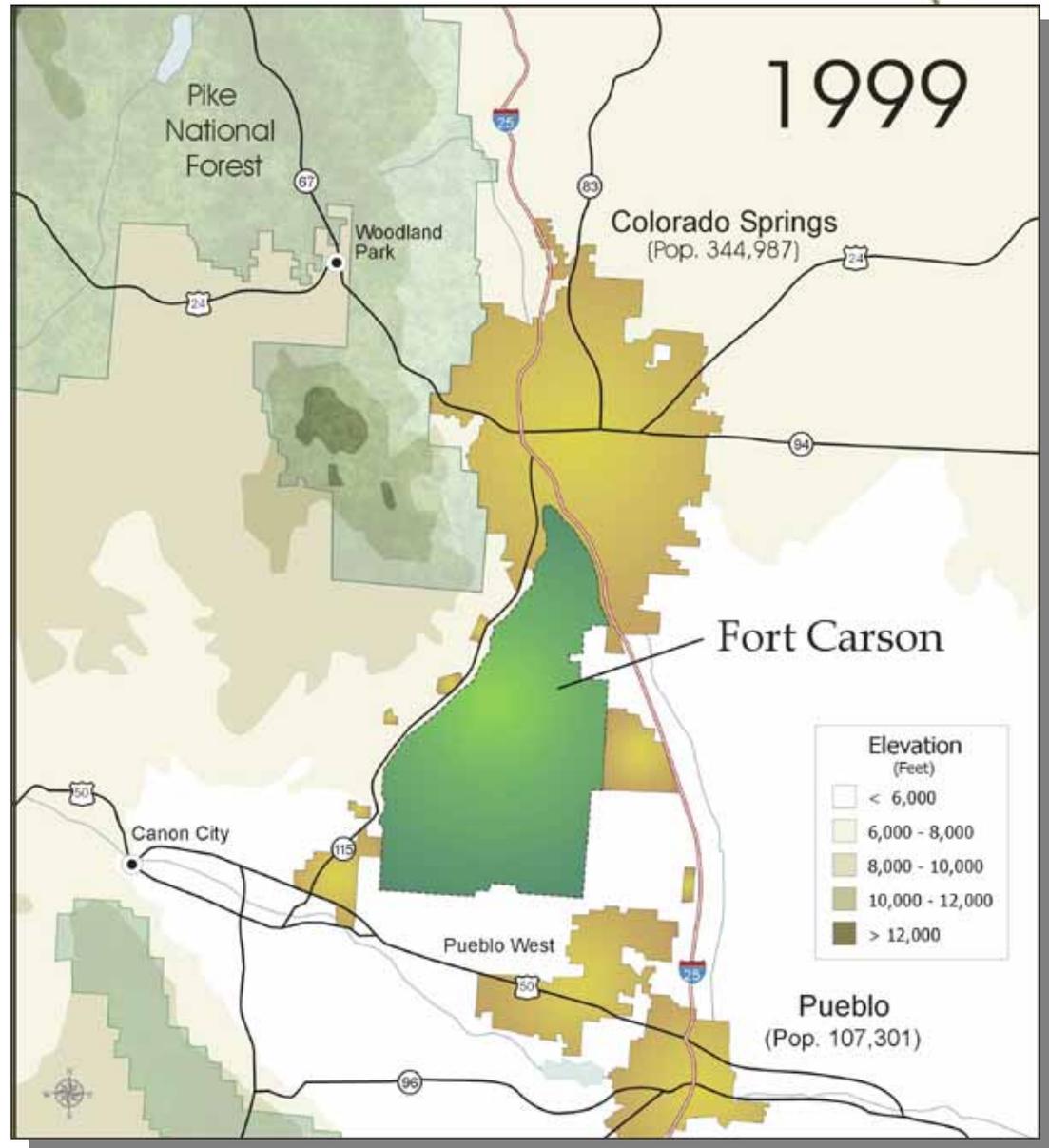
The Brigade Battlefield



Increasing Doctrinal Land Requirements



Urban Growth at Fort Carson





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Urban Growth at Fort Benning



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The Army Commitment

- The Army is fully committed to be an environmental leader.
- We are working with Federal, state and local regulators to raise awareness of military needs as they relate to environmental requirements.
- In parallel, we are building partnerships that benefit both the military mission and the environment.



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Army Range Sustainability

Four Major Thrust Areas

- **Information Excellence –**
 - What is “really” on Army ranges?
- **Policy/Legislation –**
 - Clarify policies or legislation or both
- **Outreach –**
 - Community awareness/participation in installation sustainability
- **Science and Technology –**
 - Investing in the future

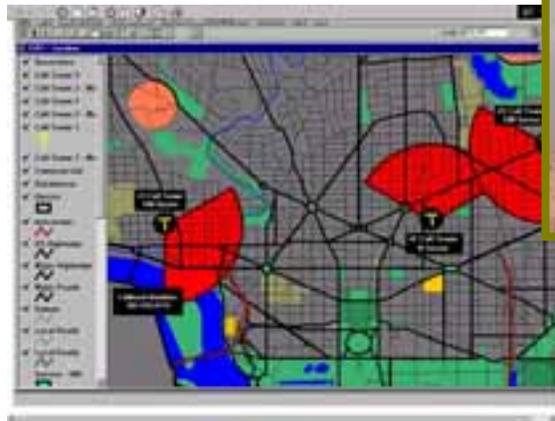


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Information Excellence: Range Inventories

The Army is conducting Regional Range Assessments to collect data on the environmental impacts of live fire training/testing under a variety of climatic, geologic and ecological settings.





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Information Excellence: Characterization Initiative for Munition Emissions

Purpose: to provide scientifically defensible munitions emissions data and decision-making tools to enable the Army to continue live fire training and testing.





Information Excellence:

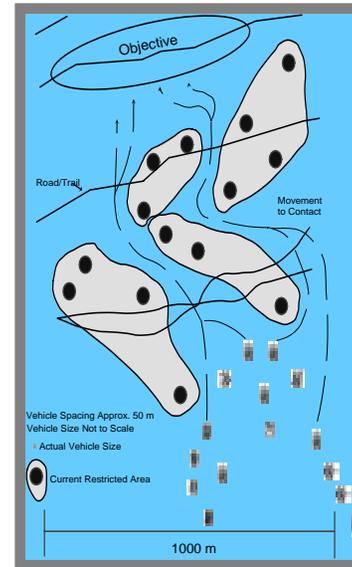
Threatened & Endangered Species Management

Challenges

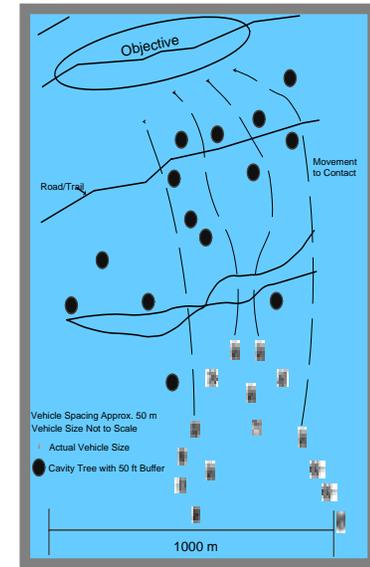
- T&E species limit access to lands
- Limited knowledge of impacts on species
- 170 species on over 94 Army installations
- Cost-effective techniques to survey or monitor these species

Initiatives

- Protocols for the impacts of activities
- Dose-response models for maneuver, noise, and smokes and obscurants
- Risk assessment protocols

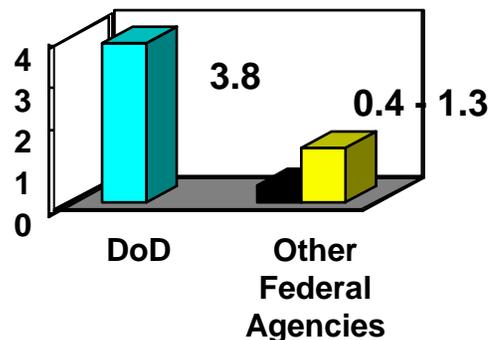


Former Restrictions



Current Restrictions

TES Species / Million Acres



Benefits

- Improved access to training land
- Credibility of management decisions
- Mission compatible T&E species management
- Cost Avoidance in manpower and dollars due to risk avoidance



Legislative Clarification

- Recent efforts have focused on narrowly tailored legislative proposals to address range/training “encroachment.”
 - It is an on-going effort to clarify Congressional intent
- Allows us to continue to meet our mission and environmental requirements
 - strike the balance.
- Only applies to military training and testing.
 - No effect on industrial, civil, or facility management.
- Codify existing regulatory procedures/policies.
 - Curb expansion and novel application of environmental laws through civil suits.



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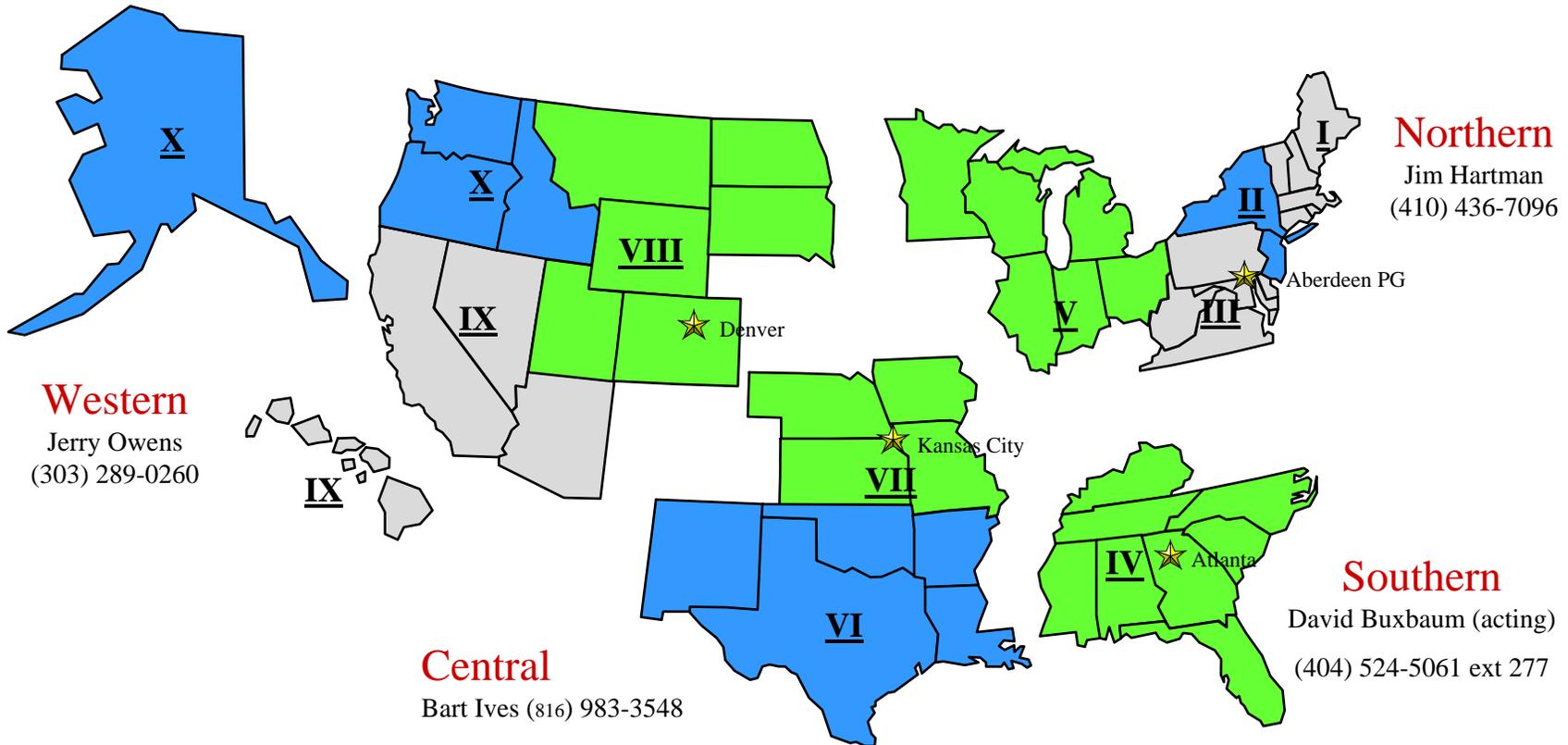
Legislative Clarification

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE CLARIFICATION	AREA OF LEGISLATION
Define "Solid Waste"	Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA)
Define "Release"	CERCLA
Confirm that Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMP) are more effective for recovery than designation of critical habitat	Endangered Species Act (ESA)
Define "harassment"	Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
Extends timelines for certain provisions	Clean Air Act (CAA)



Army Regional Environmental Offices

Support the Army/DoD mission through coordination, communication, and facilitation of regional environmental issues and activities to strengthen community relations.



Western

Jerry Owens
(303) 289-0260

Northern

Jim Hartman
(410) 436-7096

Southern

David Buxbaum (acting)
(404) 524-5061 ext 277

Central

Bart Ives (816) 983-3548





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OUTREACH

- **Objective - To Clearly Articulate:**
 - Live Training and Testing is Essential for Ready Forces
 - Army is a Good Steward of the Lands Entrusted to its Care
- **Building Relationships with:**
 - Government Officials
 - Key State and local Officials
 - Non-Governmental Organizations and Public
- **Combined Approach:**
 - Bridge National, Regional, State, and Local
- **Bottom- Line:**
 - Effective Outreach Requires the Support and Effort of Senior Army Leaders at all levels





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Science & Technology in Range Sustainment

The Goal: Training Realism for the Warfighter

- **Minimize Risk to Training**
- **Increase Usability of Military Training Lands**
- **Ensure Cost-Effective Land Management**
- **Minimize Land Encroachment Impacts**
- **Sustainable Weapon Systems**





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Science & Technology in Range Sustainment

Erosion Control Technologies

Challenges

- Deterioration of training land
- \$25M annual cost of land maintenance and repair
- Loss of training realism
- Compliance violations from runoff

Technology

- Revegetation guidance
- Terrain analysis and erosion prediction capability
- Heavy use site erosion control
- Land rehabilitation potential prediction

Benefits

- More land available for training
- Increase land carrying capacity
- Stretch maintenance dollars by 10% to 20%
- Compliance fine avoidance





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Science & Technology in Range Sustainment

Operational Noise Management

Challenges

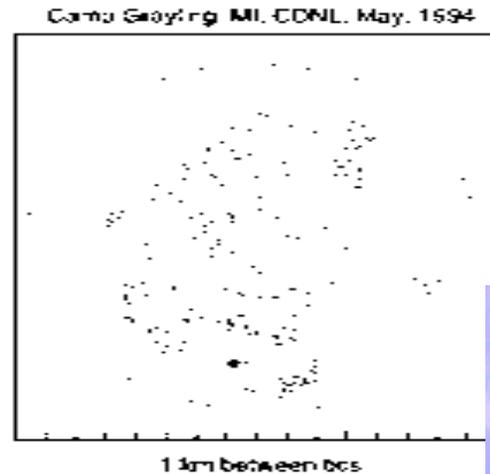
- Reduced night operational schedules
- Modified training procedures (size of weapons charge)
- \$60M in damage claims over 5 years
- Delays in implementing plans (NEPA)

Technology

- Improved noise monitoring and assessment
- Blast and small arms noise prediction
- Automated noise management tools
- Noise mitigation techniques

Benefits

- Improved access to training land
- Noise complaint management
- Reduced encroachment problems





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Key Range Sustainability Messages

- **The first time soldiers experience realistic battlefield conditions must not be in combat.**
- Live-training is critical to a ready force
- Must maintain access and capabilities of ranges and training land – move, shoot, and communicate.
- Encroachment-induced restrictions are limiting realistic preparations for combat
- Targeted legislative, regulatory and administrative Strategies are needed – to balance both military needs and environmental protection
- Army's outstanding environmental stewardship will continue

America entrusts the Army with her two most valuable assets; her sons and daughters and pieces of the country itself. We are sworn to protect them both.



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Installation Sustainability

“Installation Sustainability moves us beyond simply solving today’s problems. A sustainable Army is one that wins today’s battles while laying the foundation for our future success. It connects today to tomorrow with sound business and environmental practices... Sustainability enables today’s Army to empower the Future Force.”

Dr. Mario P. Fiori
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Installations & Environment)
September 2003





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What is the Ideal Age?

18-24	27
25-29	31
30-39	37
40-49	40
50-64	44
65 & Older	59



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<u>FEEDBACK</u>	<u>ENCOURAGED</u>	<u>ACTIONS TO IMPROVE</u>
<i>Neither +/-</i>	42%	16%
<i>Only -</i>	37%	15%
<i>Only +</i>	68%	22%
<i>Both +/-</i>	67%	61%