



ACUB Fact Sheet

Fort Lewis



Background

Fort Lewis is located in the Pacific Northwest on Puget Sound, adjacent to McChord Air Force Base. Fort Lewis is home to the I Corps, 2d Cavalry Regiment, the Madigan Army Medical Center, and the Army's first two Stryker Brigades. Fort Lewis supports live fire events up to platoon level for Stryker units, as well as combat support and combat service support units. Maneuver exercises are routinely conducted up to Stryker battalion and occasionally brigade levels.

In the mid-19th century, prairies covered 150,000 acres in the southern Puget Lowland. Today, only 20,000 acres remain, with two-thirds of them on Fort Lewis. These native prairies are disappearing due to development, conifer forest invasion in the absence of fire and exotic plant invasion. Many species of plants and animals occur only in these prairies making Fort Lewis a true island of biodiversity. In 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) added four Puget Lowland prairie species to its candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act. To protect important habitat and prevent further population declines, the USFWS could impose training restrictions on large portions of Fort Lewis' open training lands. If imposed, restrictions would apply to activities that destroy native vegetation or cause soil disturbance, such as digging, bivouacking, and off-road vehicle maneuvers. As a major power generation platform, Fort Lewis must maintain its ability to train troops in a realistic natural environment. These potential training restrictions would be a severe detriment to Fort Lewis readiness if imposed.

Objective

The Fort Lewis ACUB program preserves some of the last remaining prairies in the Puget Lowlands. Their preservation addresses several encroachment issues at Fort Lewis. The prairie preservation will act as a conservation safety net for the prairie and associated species, deter incompatible development and prevent future training restrictions at Fort Lewis.

Partners

The Nature Conservancy, The Washington Chapter

The Washington Chapter of The Nature Conservancy endeavors to protect diverse natural communities through the purchase of land. They purchase the lands and easements from the private landowner with Army and other partnership funds. For further information call 360-956-9713 or visit <http://www.nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/washington/>.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The mission of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife is to promote sound stewardship of the state's fish and wildlife resources, and a primary goal is to protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife populations. For further information call 360-902-2534 or visit <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>.

Washington Department of Natural Resources

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources has two primary missions: to manage state-owned land to generate revenue in support of public institutions and to provide stewardship of the state's lands, natural resources, and environment. For further information call 360-902-1600 or visit <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/>.

Installation ACUB POC

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