

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Fisheries and Wildlife Program Support, Fort AP Hill, Virginia

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Project Discipline: Natural

Funding Agency: Department of Defense

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Effective Dates: 9/27/2012 - 9/30/2013

Funding Amount: \$75,837.00

Investigators and Agency Representative:

Agency: Ben Fulton, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Lead, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Environmental Natural Resources Division, Fort A.P.Hill, (804) 633-8984/8750

Investigator: Bob Brozka, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; (970) 491-7190; Robert.Brozka@ColoState.EDU

Project Abstract: Fort A.P. Hill encompasses approximately 76,000 acres of land in Caroline County, Virginia and provides military training in explosives, combat, navigation and orienteering, demolition, engineering, parachuting and equipment drops. In accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 200-1, Natural Resources - Land, Forest, and Wildlife Management, Fort A.P. Hill requires the development and implementation of a wildlife enhancement area management plan, an open areas management plan, review of the Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), biological data collection, GIS support, and support for other fisheries and wildlife projects.

Technical assistance will focus on the following objectives:

1. Conservation Projects. Participates in the layout of fish, wildlife, soil and water conservation projects, recommends improvements of methods and techniques, and is fully responsible for compliance with safety rules and regulations. Develop sites, schedules and implements wildlife habitat improvements such as conservation plantings, soil amendments and vegetation management. Assist in the execution of projects such as fish stocking, prescribed burning, soil sampling, water level management, maintenance of hunting blinds, clearings, trail maintenance, invasive and nuisance species controls, and signage. Operates equipment commonly used in conservation and land management such as boats, chain saws, weed and brush cutters, agricultural tractors, front-end loader, soil tillage and planting implements, off-road vehicles, and trucks. Assists with routine first echelon maintenance on conservation equipment.
2. Biological Data Collection. Assists in the collection of data on fish and wildlife populations, threatened and endangered species, invasive species, and habitat conditions. Recommends appropriate adjustments to both indirect and direct survey methods as directed. Conducts surveys in both night-time and daytime conditions. Auditory and visual count methods are used. GPS and GIS tools, trail cameras, and a variety of methods are used to conduct resource inventories. Have a thorough professional understanding of fish and wildlife surveys and implication of results. Supports research activities through establishment and maintenance of research sites and capture equipment. Identifies native and non-native species. Compiles data and updates spreadsheets, databases, and websites concerning outdoor recreation programs, biological surveys, volunteer programs, and property inventories. Weigh, age and record important biological data from hunter harvested deer and turkeys. Assembles information for the development of planning documents. Maintains accountability for conservation supplies and equipment.
3. Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). Assist in the five year revision of the Fort A.P. Hill INRMP. Provide input for setting game species harvest regulations based on biological data available and the desired management objectives. Assist in the development of other specific management plans. Coordinate efforts with other disciplines in order to best meet the installations overall objectives as well as specific program area objectives.
4. Data Management. Assist wildlife section with file management. Assemble, maintain and update data layers. Tabulate hunter and wildlife survey results. Produce hard copy results with tables and graphs.
5. GIS Support. Provide GIS support and assist in converting data collected in wildlife and fisheries activities to GIS compatible format.

Outcomes with completion dates: 9/30/2013

Keywords: Fisheries, Wildlife, Program Management, Technical Assistance, Fort AP Hill, Virginia, Colorado State University, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands

