

Military Wildland and Prescribed Fire Programs

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: Since 1987 NA's Military Working Group has provided Forest Service assistance in wildland fire and prescribed fire to military installations throughout the U.S. and overseas. This has included: providing assistance on wildfires, conducting prescribe burns, sponsoring fire training, developing fire management plans, and providing advice on Army and Air Force wildland fire, prescribed fire, and fire qualification policies. In accordance with the National Fire Plan this has resulted in the improvement of fire protection and preparedness on military installations and their surrounding communities, the protection of military training areas and watersheds, and the reduction of fuels on installations and adjacent to local communities. Funds for Military Working Group personnel and projects are provided by the Department of Defense.

Key Issues:

- Military lands must be managed sustainably to provide realistic training and conserve ecosystems.
- Proper wildland and prescribed fire policies implemented by the military services help promote sustainable forest management, reduce the loss to training ranges from wildfire, protect watersheds and help to improve homeland security.
- NA has the expertise in these areas to assist the military in the development of wildland and prescribed fire policies that meet military sustainability and training needs.

Accomplishments:

- Provided wildland and prescribed fire policy, qualification, and training guidance to the Army and Air Force that is consistent with Forest Service and National Wildfire Coordinating Group policies.
- Prepared prescribed fire management plans and conducted prescribe burns and fuel reduction projects on over 25,000 acres of military installations including: New Boston Air Force Station (AFS), NH; Westover Air Reserve Base, MA; Cheyenne Mountain AFS, CO; Tyndall Air Force Base (AFB), FL; Ft. Drum, NY; Avon Park Air Force Range, FL; and Columbus AFB, MS.
- Completed Fire Management Plans for over 105,000 acres at Clear AFS, AK; Cannon AFB, NM; the Air Force Academy, CO; and for the Missouri and Nebraska National Guard.
- Assisted on over 2,500 acres of wildfires on Tyndall AFB and Avon Park AFR, FL.
- Provided wildland fire training at Fort Riley, KS; New Boston AFS, NH; and at the US Army Environmental command in Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.
- Assisted with the development of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between Eglin AFB, MacDill AFB, and Tyndall AFB, FL, and the Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center in Tallahassee, FL, to conduct prescribed burns on the installations. Also working on MOUs with Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral AFS, FL.
- Developed MOU with the Virginia Interagency Coordination Center to provide a review of wildland fire training and experience and issue incident qualification cards to the installations for approval for all civilian Air Force personnel.
- Provided direction to USMC Camp Butler in Okinawa, Japan, for the completion of their first prescribed fire on the installation.
- Prepared fuel inventories for Anniston Army Depot, AL, and the Air Force Academy, CO.

Future Direction:

- Continue to provide support to the military services in meeting military readiness challenges.
- Expand assistance to the military in wildland and prescribed fire management.
- Vigorously pursue the promotion of wildland fire qualifications and safety training to the military to meet National Wildfire Coordinating Group Standards.

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