



Fort Irwin, California

ACUB Approval Date: 17 October 2008

Status: Inactive; no cooperative agreement

Installation Description: The National Training Center (NTC) at Fort Irwin is one of three Combat Training Centers for the Army and allows military leaders and Soldiers to train in an environment that most closely replicates the current and future battlefield. Since its inception, the NTC mission has been to provide challenging, realistic combined arms training under conditions that our military is likely to face in actual combat. Fort Irwin’s size, remoteness, and training infrastructure make it the only place worldwide where the Army has the capability to conduct joint service instrumented, live training with unit equipment, and tactical systems for a full brigade combat team, including all of its supporting elements. In addition to training active Army units, the NTC conducts training with the Army Reserve, National Guard, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Special Operations Forces, other federal agencies, and foreign military services.

Challenge: Two species on the NTC, the endangered Lane Mountain Milk-vetch (*Astragalus jaegerianus*) and the threatened Mojave population of the Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), have been awarded federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. The installation also hosts a number of sensitive species, such as the Mohave ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*), Gila Woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*), and Least Bell’s Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). To ease training restrictions and maximize use of training land on Fort Irwin, internal encroachment due to sensitive species must be mitigated.

ACUB Objective: The advances in military technology and the need to address those advances safely in a realistic training environment are the driving factors for Fort Irwin’s ACUB program. Fort Irwin’s goal is to partner with eligible entities to acquire the Ord Mountain fee holdings with voluntary relinquishment of the associated grazing allotment, and agreement from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) not to reissue the permit/lease. By accomplishing this, Fort Irwin can maintain Soldier readiness by reducing training restrictions and protecting valuable habitat for sensitive species located on and around the installation.

Cooperative Agreement Partner: Although Fort Irwin has an approved ACUB proposal and have identified groups who are in support of the program, they have not established a cooperative agreement partnership or protected any land through the ACUB program.

Irwin	Funds Obligated	Acres Protected	Military Funds Expended	Partner Funds Expended	Total Expended
In FY12	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Through FY12	\$0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0