

**Fort Carson, Colorado**



**ACUB Approval Date:** 3 August 2004

**Installation Description:** As one of the premier training facilities in the Army and a power projection platform (PPP), Fort Carson trains, mobilizes, deploys, and sustains combat-ready forces. Some units on the installation include the 4th Infantry Division, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, 71st Explosive Ordnance Group, and 10th Special Forces Group. Fort Carson can accommodate a wide variety of training including extensive maneuver training (both mounted and dismounted), airborne training, and weapons training. Numerous vehicle maintenance facilities and a complete tank engine depot maintenance and dynamometer testing facility are used to support the installation’s demanding training mission. The Butts Army Airfield is an active runway and hanger facility used primarily by Army rotary-wing aircraft.

**Challenge:** An increase in suburban sprawl in close proximity to Fort Carson could cause limitations on the installation’s ability to effectively train Soldiers in the future. Located adjacent to the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains, south of Colorado Springs and north of Pueblo, Fort Carson hosts a valuable “view shed” that is attracting development to its borders. As local residential housing increases and habitat decreases, species are forced to seek refuge on Fort Carson. The Mountain Plover (*Charadrius montanus*) and Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) are two of the sensitive species that are found on and around the installation. In addition to potential protected species restrictions, the installation must address dust and noise impacts to neighboring communities, as well as the affects of ambient light pollution on Soldier training.

**ACUB Objective:** The objective of the ACUB program at Fort Carson is to support Soldier training through the partners’ purchase of conservation easements and land from willing sellers adjacent to the installation along the southern and eastern boundaries. Protection of lands adjacent to Fort Carson is concurrently preserving habitat for protected species as well as buffering the installation from training generated noise and dust impacts to the surrounding communities. Restricting incompatible development is also mitigating the impacts of ambient light pollution on the training mission.

**Cooperative Agreement Partners:** The Nature Conservancy and El Paso County

**Partner Missions:** The mission of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is to “preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.” The objective of El Paso County (EPC) is to support Fort Carson’s mission by reducing or eliminating the development or use of property adjacent to or near Fort Carson.

<b>Carson</b>	Funds Obligated	Acres Protected	Military Funds Expended	Partner Funds Expended	Total Expended
In FY12	-\$23,144	0	\$586,087	\$0	\$586,087
Through FY12	\$41,542,069	24,190	\$40,558,069	\$292,706	\$40,850,775