

## Fort Polk, Louisiana



**ACUB Approval Date:** 14 June 2006

**Installation Description:** Fort Polk is one of the Army's premier training installations with a mission to train and deploy combat and combat support units. The Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) is located at Fort Polk and focuses on improving unit readiness by providing realistic, stressful, joint, and combined arms training across the full spectrum of conflict. The JRTC is one of the Army's three "dirt" Combat Training Centers (CTC) used to train infantry brigade task forces and their subordinate elements in the Joint Contemporary Operation Environment. Fort Polk is unique in the Army as it serves a dual role as both a CTC and a power projection platform (PPP).

**Challenge:** Range and training lands at Fort Polk provide essential habitat for many species, including the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW, *Picoides borealis*) and the Louisiana pine snake (LPS, *Pituophis ruthveni*). The RCW is currently protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the LPS is a candidate species. Use and development of Fort Polk range and training lands is presently constrained by RCW habitat and population recovery requirements. If the LPS becomes listed under the ESA as well, additional restrictions on land-use and off-road vehicle movement will likely be imposed to protect the species and associated habitat.

**ACUB Objective:** The primary objective of Fort Polk's ACUB program is to support Soldier training by maintaining flexibility for use and development of Army land inside the installation boundaries by protecting key ESA listed and candidate species habitat on lands outside the installation. Target lands for RCW habitat protection are industrial timberlands located in Vernon Parish, south of the installation. By managing these lands for the RCW, Fort Polk will increase flexibility for Soldier's land use needed to support key training activities. Lands targeted for protection of the LPS habitat are industrial timberlands located in Bienville Parish, approximately 75 miles north of the installation. Protecting this area, which contains the highest known density of LPS, will improve the likelihood of survival of the species and reduce the need to list it under the ESA, thereby avoiding training restrictions at Fort Polk.

**Cooperative Agreement Partner:** The Nature Conservancy

**Partner Mission:** 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."

<b>Polk</b>	<b>Funds Obligated</b>	<b>Acres Protected</b>	<b>Military Funds Expended</b>	<b>Partner Funds Expended</b>	<b>Total Expended</b>
In FY12	\$1,866,000	201	\$2,343,579	\$204,187	\$2,547,766
Through FY12	\$6,393,100	201	\$2,343,579	\$204,187	\$2,547,766