

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington



ACUB Approval Date: 21 October 2005

Installation Description: Live-fire exercises and maneuver training events are conducted by units stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), as well as by units mobilizing or deploying from the installation. JBLM currently supports live-fire events up to the platoon level for Stryker units, as well as combat support and combat service support units. Maneuver training is routinely conducted up to Stryker battalion and occasionally brigade-level size. Units also conduct parachute operations and field operations for logistical, engineering, transportation, medical, and military police training.

Challenge: The most imminent and severe challenge to JBLM training is the presence of four prairie species: the Mardon skipper butterfly (*Polites mardon*), Taylor's checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha taylori*), Streaked Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), and Mazama pocket gopher (*Thomomys mazama*). Each of these species inhabits the unique prairie ecosystem found in and around the installation. Listing of any or all of these species could impose considerable military training restrictions. The Taylor's checkerspot and Streaked Horned Lark have been proposed to be listed under the Endangered Species Act as endangered, the pocket gopher is proposed as threatened, and the Mardon skipper has been taken off the candidate list in part due to habitat protection through ACUB.

ACUB Objective: The primary objective of the JBLM ACUB program is to preserve some of the last remaining prairies in the Puget Lowlands. Only 20,000 acres remain today in comparison to 150,000 in the mid-19th century, with about two-thirds of the remaining lands within the installation boundaries. The goal is to prevent future military restrictions on JBLM by taking proactive, regional conservation actions for this diminishing land and its species at risk. The prairie preservation will act as a conservation safety net for the prairie and associated species while deterring incompatible development and preventing future training restrictions on JBLM.

Cooperative Agreement Partner: Center for Natural Lands Management

Partner Mission: The Center for Natural Lands Management (CNLM) was founded in 1990 to protect sensitive biological resources through professional, science based stewardship of mitigation and conservation lands in perpetuity. In FY12, the cooperative agreement partner transitioned from The Nature Conservancy to CNLM.

JBLM	Funds Obligated	Acres Protected	Military Funds Expended	Partner Funds Expended	Total Expended
In FY12	\$1,500,000	0	\$708,062	\$1,195,169	\$1,903,231
Through FY12	\$8,238,865	1,025	\$3,024,269	\$8,637,842	\$11,662,111