

Minnesota Army National Guard Environmental Conservation



Josh Pennington	Environmental Supervisor	320-616-2720
Craig Erickson	GIS Manager	320-616-2716
Lee Anderson	GIS Specialist	320-616-2717
Jake Kitzmann	Natural Resource Manager	320-616-2722
Katie Retka	Natural Resource Specialist	320-616-6416
Patrick Neumann	Cultural Resource Manager	320-616-2719
Brian Sanoski	ITAM Coordinator	320-616-2789
Jason Linkert	LRAM Coordinator	320-616-2723
Adam Thompson	RTLA Coordinator	320-616-3199
Tim Notch	Training Area Coordinator	320-616-3135
Brian Dirks	DNR Animal Survey Coordinator	320-616-2718
Nancy Dietz	DNR Animal Survey Specialist	320-616-2721
Mary Lee	AHATS Environmental Protection Specialist	651-282-4420

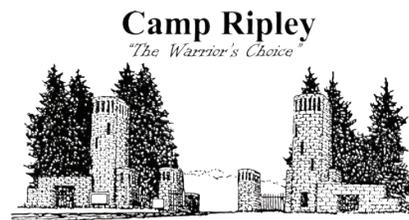




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Introduction



Congress established the Sikes Act (16 U.S.C. 670a) in 1960 to ensure the Department of Defense (DoD) conserves and protects the natural resources they use. Because military lands often are protected from human access and impact, they contain some of our nation's most significant remaining large tracts of valuable natural resources. In 1997, Congress amended the Sikes Act to require DoD to develop and implement Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs).

Natural resource planning is an integral part of the conservation program for the Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG). The INRMP serves as the guidance document for implementing the conservation program. The planning process used in developing the INRMP focuses on using key stakeholders from the MNARNG, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other organizations that have an interest in the MNARNG's conservation program.

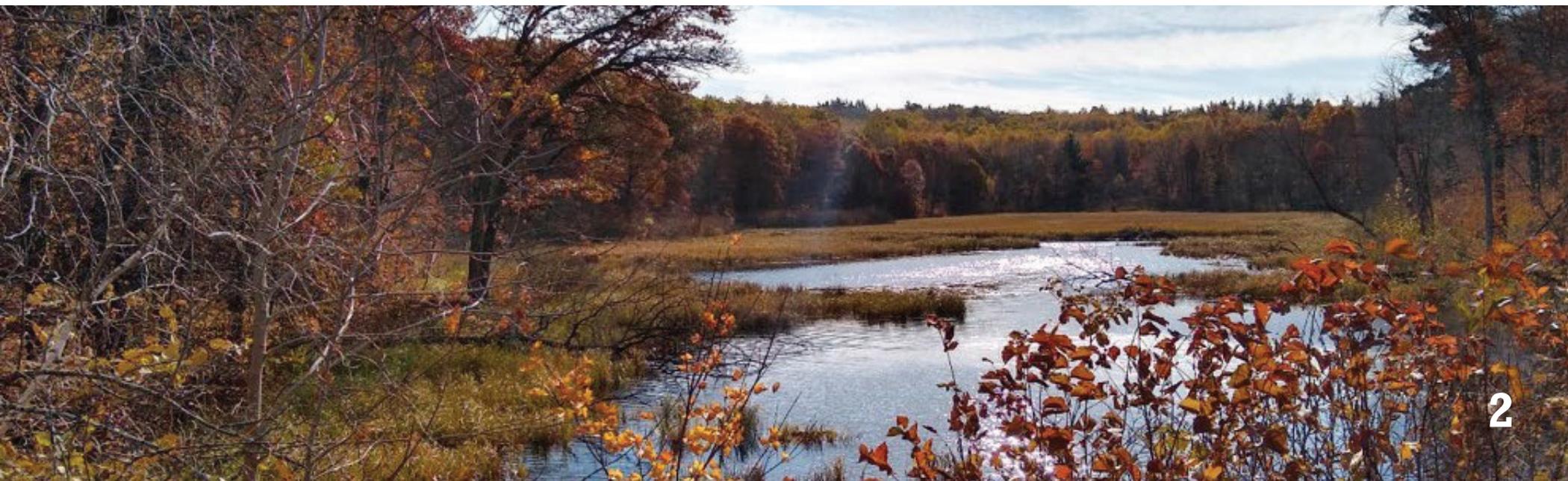
“In addition to providing resources enabling customers to train in a realistic environment, Camp Ripley remains committed to environmentally-sound stewardship throughout Central Minnesota to include its 18 miles of undeveloped Mississippi River shoreline.”

Brigadier General Lowell Kruse: Camp Ripley Senior Commander

Guiding Principles

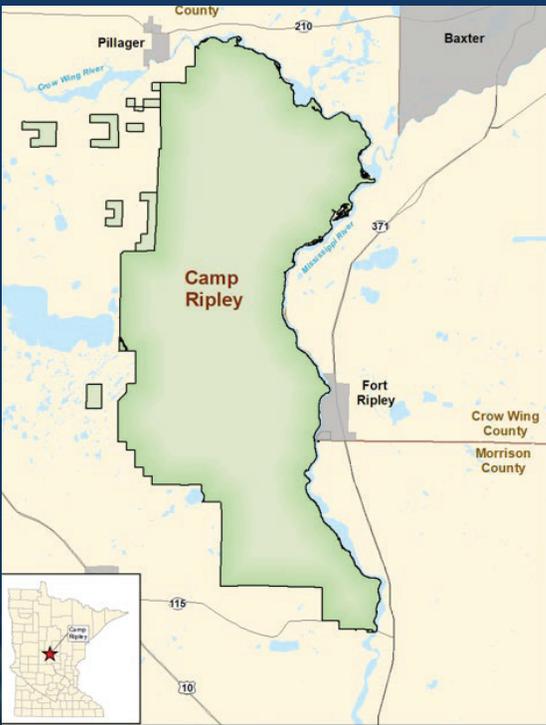
The ability to achieve the goals and objectives of the INRMP depends directly on the health and condition of the natural resources under the MNARNG's purview. Protecting the ecological and biological integrity of its training lands ensures that those lands will continue to provide the vegetation, soil and aquatic resources necessary for sustainable military training. The MNARNG has two primary training installations at Camp Ripley Training Center and Arden Hills Army Training Site.

In the interest of sound conservation, the MNARNG has developed partnerships with a variety of organizations and resource agencies. The MNARNG relies on expertise of staff from state and federal agencies and organizations who contribute significantly to the support of the MNARNG conservation program including Central Lakes College; Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District; Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District; the Minnesota Departments of: Agriculture, Corrections, Health, Natural Resources, Transportation; the Board of Water and Soil Resources; Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; St. Cloud State University; The Conservation Fund; The Nature Conservancy; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other partners include the Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota, Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, and Minnesota State Archery Association.



Camp Ripley Training Center

Camp Ripley is located in Central Minnesota and occupies 52,758 acres (approximately 82 square miles) within Crow Wing and Morrison Counties. Nearly 30 miles of pristine, undeveloped Crow Wing and Mississippi River frontage form Camp Ripley's eastern and northern borders. Land ownership is 98% state land under the administration of the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs with the remainder under lease from Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE, Inc.



Camp Ripley's landscape was sculpted during the last glacial period, the Late Wisconsinan. Because the glaciers receded along the northern two-thirds of the installation, a sharp contrast is evident from north to south, both topographically and biologically. The high diversity of life forms (over 600 plant species, 233 migratory and resident bird species, 51 mammal species, and 23 reptile and amphibian species) is a result of Camp Ripley's location along the forest transition zone in Central Minnesota. Forest dominates the landscape, covering approximately 55% of the installation. The remainder is almost equally divided between dry open grasslands, shrublands and wetlands.



Arden Hills Army Training Site

The Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant was one of six government-owned contractor-operated plants built to produce small arms ammunition during World War II. The MNARNG began leasing its current facility in 1972 and the organizational maintenance shop buildings were constructed in 1973. In September 2000, the MNARNG acquired accountability for a portion of the 2,347-acre installation. That portion of the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant is now known as the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) and consists of 1,500 acres, which is available for military training and environmental management.

AHATS is located in Ramsey County, in the northern portion of the city of Arden Hills, approximately eight miles north of St. Paul and six miles northwest of Minneapolis. Historically, oak savanna was the predominant habitat type in the uplands with wetland complexes in the lowlands. Mardsen Lake, situated along the western portion of AHATS is one of the largest undisturbed wetlands in Ramsey County. Rice Creek, a tributary to the Mississippi River, traverses through the northwest corner of the installation. AHATS is part of an ecologically important network of natural areas and open spaces in a metropolitan region surrounded by extensive urban development, extending north along Rice Creek to the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area. AHATS provides the largest area of intact wildlife habitat for a variety of wildlife species and critical habitat for the state-threatened Blanding's turtle and ghost tiger beetle and state-endangered Henslow's sparrow.



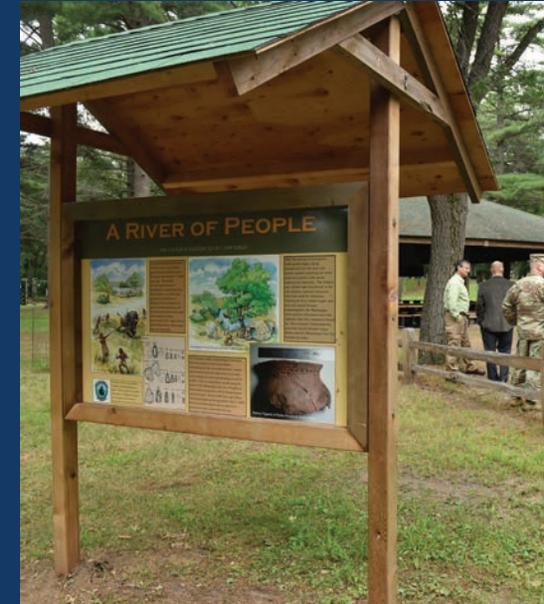


Cultural resources under the stewardship of the MNARNG can consist of archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, documents, buildings, and structures; American Indian sacred sites and properties of traditional, religious, and cultural significance.

Annual consultations are held between federally recognized tribes of Minnesota as well as tribes that have a historical interest in properties now maintained by the MNARNG. Dialogue at tribal consultations unveiled a need to increase outreach to American Indian youth about opportunities to serve in the National Guard as well as providing soldiers with greater understanding of American Indian culture.

In response to input from tribal leaders, Camp Ripley hosted an event named Planting for the Future. Members of the Minnesota National Guard united with students from the Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, Onamia Public Schools and Nay Ah Shing School to share in a cultural exchange participating in harvesting sage, planting prairie plants and sharing information about each other.

CULTURAL RESOURCES



Cultural resource management encompasses identifying and protecting culturally, historically, architecturally and archaeologically significant properties. The management of those properties is conducted in a manner that is consistent with applicable state and federal laws and Army regulations.

Cultural resource management is identified in the INRMP to streamline management opportunities. An example of this approach is utilizing prescribed fire to maintain grasslands at the Fort Ripley Historic Site and discourage encroachment of woody vegetation, shrubs and trees. Updates to the Fort Ripley site include an improved parking area, walking trail and interpretive signs.

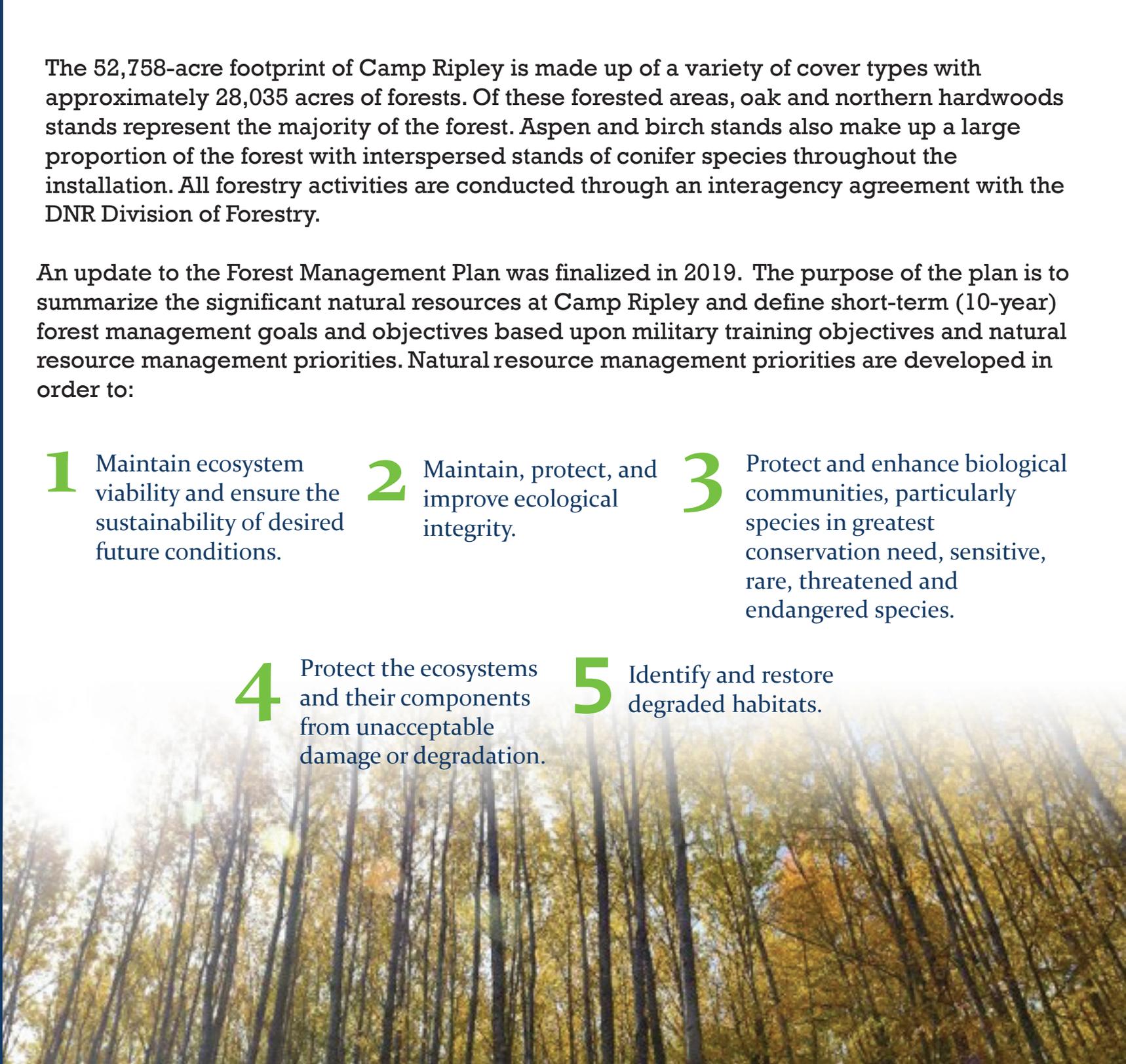


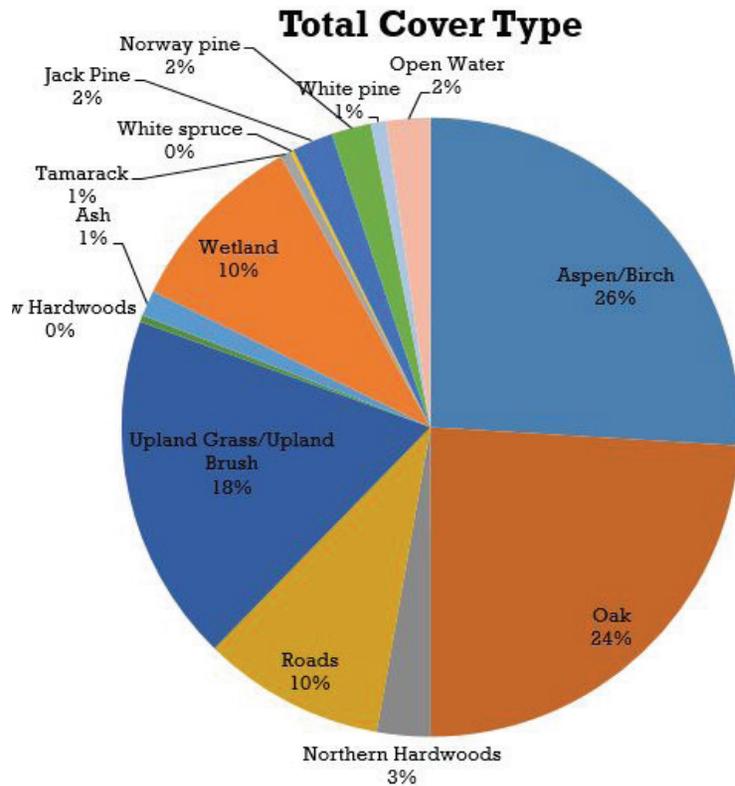


The 52,758-acre footprint of Camp Ripley is made up of a variety of cover types with approximately 28,035 acres of forests. Of these forested areas, oak and northern hardwoods stands represent the majority of the forest. Aspen and birch stands also make up a large proportion of the forest with interspersed stands of conifer species throughout the installation. All forestry activities are conducted through an interagency agreement with the DNR Division of Forestry.

An update to the Forest Management Plan was finalized in 2019. The purpose of the plan is to summarize the significant natural resources at Camp Ripley and define short-term (10-year) forest management goals and objectives based upon military training objectives and natural resource management priorities. Natural resource management priorities are developed in order to:

- 1** Maintain ecosystem viability and ensure the sustainability of desired future conditions.
- 2** Maintain, protect, and improve ecological integrity.
- 3** Protect and enhance biological communities, particularly species in greatest conservation need, sensitive, rare, threatened and endangered species.
- 4** Protect the ecosystems and their components from unacceptable damage or degradation.
- 5** Identify and restore degraded habitats.





Source: Minnesota Department of Natural Resource Forest Stand Inventory

Pre-settlement vegetation at Camp Ripley was dominated by mixed pine-hardwood forests of white pine, red pine or red oak, with floodplain forest along the Mississippi River. Oak and jack pine barrens occurred on glacial outwash and alluvial sands deposited by the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers. Conifer swamps, marshes, fens and wet prairies were interspersed within the knob and kettle topography.

Land cover significantly changed following Euro-American settlement of the area. An estimated 50% of the original forest cover was converted for agricultural use. Current land cover at Camp Ripley reflects past land use history, subsequent regrowth of native vegetation in some areas, and current land use for military training activities.





9 GRASSLANDS



Camp Ripley is located at the northern tip of the Anoka Sandplain, a transitional region of upland prairies, oak savannas and shrublands interspersed with kettle lakes and prairie wetland complexes. This region was historically shaped by fire and supports fire-dependent native plant communities.

There are approximately 12,000 acres of open grasslands at Camp Ripley. These areas are essential for various species of flora and fauna, including critical pollinator habitat. Each fall, native grass seed is harvested, dried and stored for future use to rehabilitate disturbed training areas. This management practice has both ecologic and economic benefits in support of the installation's training mission. Open grasslands are used for a variety of military training activities such as artillery firing points, bivouac sites and maneuver operations.



Encroachment of woody vegetation, shrubs and trees into these areas is managed with mechanical, chemical and fire treatments throughout the year to maintain open grassland habitats.

**12,000 acres
of grasslands**



White-tailed Deer



**Northern
Small
Yellow
Lady's
Slipper**



Porcupine

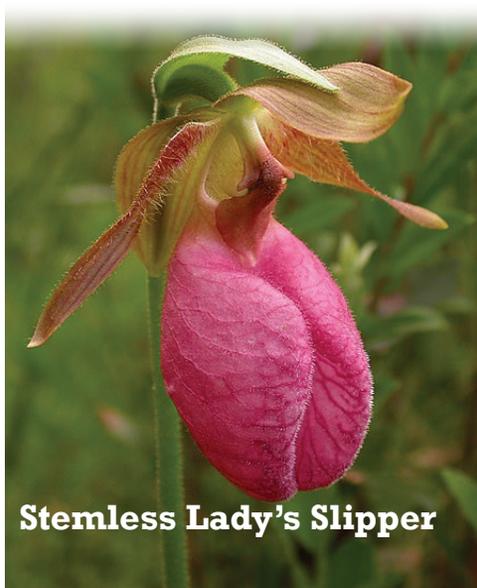
Twenty-five terrestrial invasive plant species have been identified at Camp Ripley. Three of these species – leafy spurge, common tansy and spotted knapweed – are categorized as prohibited noxious weeds and are the priority for control treatments due to their ecological impact on native biodiversity. Additional invasive species targeted for treatment included European buckthorn, baby's breath, plumeless thistle, bull thistle, Canada thistle and Siberian elm.

An interagency agreement was established with St. Cloud State University (SCSU) for invasive species management. Graduate and undergraduate interns work closely with conservation staff in combating terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.

European buckthorn and glossy buckthorn have been identified at AHATS. Both are prolific forest invaders that outcompete and prevent regeneration of native species such as oak in the forest understory. A contract with the Minnesota Department of Corrections Community Work Crew program has been established to target dense monocultures of buckthorn.

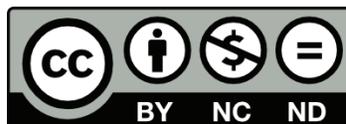


**Tuberled
Rein Orchid**



Stemless Lady's Slipper

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**Rattlesnake
Plantain**



**Common
Milkweed**



AQUATIC RESOURCES

Located at the confluence of the Crow Wing and Mississippi Rivers, Camp Ripley intersects three major watersheds: the Crow Wing River, Long Prairie River and Mississippi River – Brainerd. Sound management of the forested lands surrounding the Mississippi River and its tributaries protects water quality.

An outstanding array of small inland lakes, wetlands and streams make up 1,054 acres of the installation's 52,758-acre footprint. These water bodies provide quality habitat for a diversity of aquatic species. A water quality monitoring program has been established at 12 of Camp Ripley's interior lakes to track long-term trends related to environmental or land use changes over time.

Most of Camp Ripley's aquatic resources are not subject to active management, however water control structures and mitigation have been conducted at select locations while others are managed for recreational access.



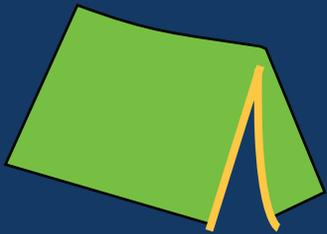


Prescribed fire is used as a management tool to enhance the military training environment and to enhance and restore fire dependent native plant communities. Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plans outline strategies and methods for implementing prescribed fire at Camp Ripley and AHATS.

Prescribed fire objectives include:

- 1 Enhancing native prairie grasses.
- 2 Preventing woody encroachment.
- 3 Producing native seed.
- 4 Brush control.
- 5 Reducing hazardous fuels.
- 6 Managing forests.
- 7 Improving habitat for species in greatest conservation need.

PRESCRIBED FIRE



The Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape includes 34 minor watersheds grouped into seven sub-watersheds, 40 miles of the Mississippi River, and the Crane Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Thousands of acres of public and private conservation lands converge on the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape, which is also one of the state’s most important source water protection areas for drinking water. While coordination across county and city boundaries has long been necessary to protect the quality of cross-border watersheds, the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Partnership is leveraging broader support to protect and improve the quality of the region’s soil and water resources. The Minnesota Forest Resource Council is working with landowners to implement forest stewardship plans within the Sentinel Landscape, while the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service work with private landowners to restore and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, wetlands and pollinator habitat. These efforts are also resulting in additional opportunities for the community, including expanded trail, water, and natural area access for hunting, fishing and recreation.

The Sentinel Landscape partnership at Camp Ripley will continue to coordinate and leverage the resources of the Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service with state and local partners to advance the goals of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape. Together, these actions will sustain area agriculture, protect the Mississippi River headwaters, and preserve a unique landscape that will allow Camp Ripley to continue to effectively train National Guard members for decades to come.

Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Landowner Opportunities

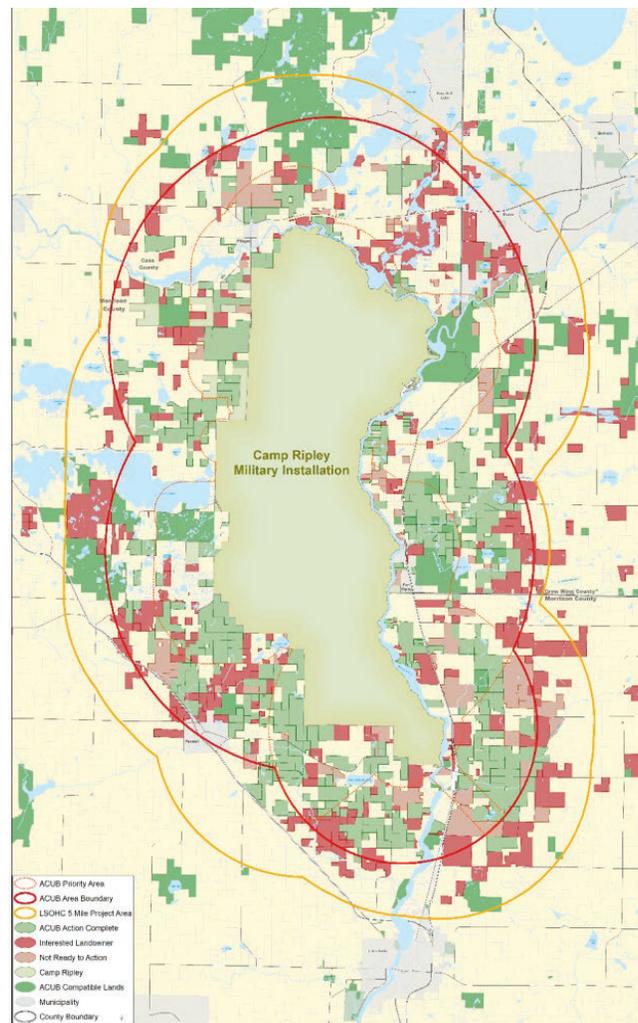
<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=e37aa74abdbc415983cb5f29d7582078>

Sentinel Landscape Strategy					ACUB Strategy		
EDUCATE		IMPROVE / MANAGE			ACQUIRE		
#1 General Advice & Assistance Factsheets Posters / Mailers Workshops Website / Social Media	#2 Specific Advice & Assistance Site Visits Forest Stewardship Plans Project Plans	#3 Grants / Cost-share Projects Clean Water Fund EQIP CSP	#4 Land Use Controls Storm water Buffers BMPs County Water Plan County Zoning	#5 Incentive Programs to Enroll Land SFIA CRP Coops Forest Banks CREP III	#6 Donated, Land & Easements NGOs Public Agencies	#7 Purchased Easements LSOHC ACUB RIM FFF NGOs ACEP HFRP	#8 Fee Title Acquisition LSOHC ACUB Public Agencies
Lower Costs, Less Permanent					Higher Costs, More Permanent		

The purpose of the Camp Ripley Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program, known locally as the Central Minnesota Prairie to Pines Partnership, is to create and enhance a natural undeveloped buffer around Camp Ripley by taking advantage of available opportunities to prevent encroachment and enhance conservation and land management. By securing a buffer, Camp Ripley can continue to offer and provide critically important, high-quality military training and operations to ensure combat readiness. Through implementing the ACUB program, Camp Ripley also contributes to preserving the local heritage and enhancing a regional conservation corridor.

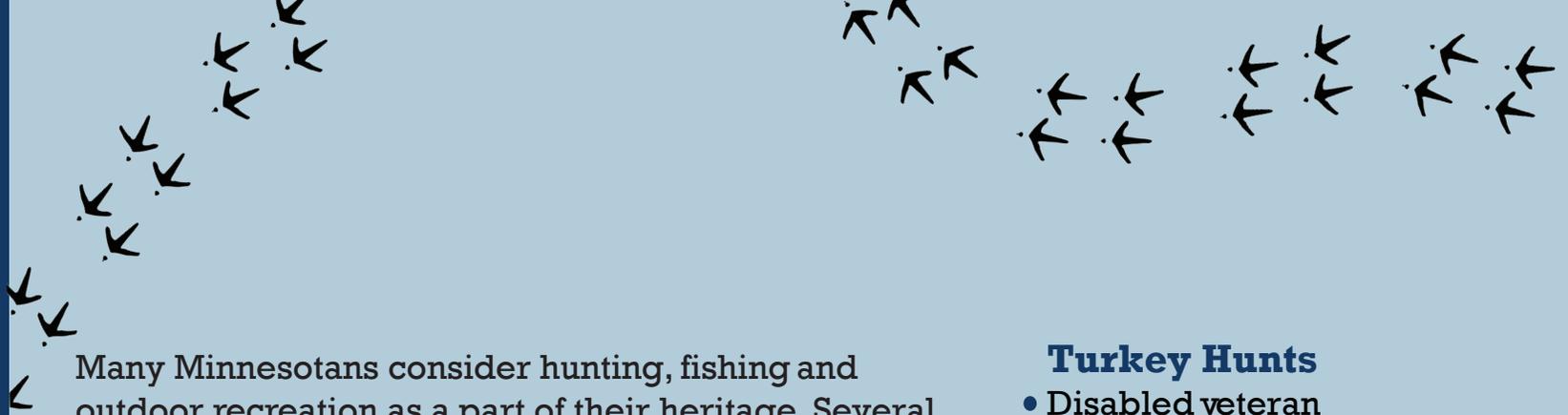
Approximately 29,000 acres have been protected through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Reinvest in Minnesota easement program. Combined with other areas protected by local, state and federal partners, the compatible use buffer around Camp Ripley totals more than 49,000 acres.

The ACUB program is implemented through federal cooperative agreements between the National Guard Bureau, BWSR and The Conservation Fund. Morrison Soil and Water Conservation District works in conjunction with Camp Ripley and BWSR to complete conservation easements for the ACUB program.





HUNTING PROGRAMS



Many Minnesotans consider hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation as a part of their heritage. Several organized hunting events are provided each year that provide veterans, service members and the general public recreational opportunities at Camp Ripley and AHATS. A fishing event is also held annually with the help and support of partner organizations, pairing professional fishing guides with active service members, retired service members and veterans.

Turkey Hunts

- Disabled veteran
- Service members

White-tailed Deer Hunts

- Disabled veteran
- Public
- Service members archery
- Service members muzzleloader
- Youth

MNARNG Hunting & Fishing Opportunities

<https://minnesotanationalguard.ng.mil/camp-ripley-hunting-and-fishing/>

Annual Hunting Averages

Turkey Hunts	Permits	Hunters
Disabled veteran	36	32
Service members	81	49
White-tailed Deer Hunts		
Disabled veteran	48	45
Public	4,216	3,399
Service members archery	122	69
Service members muzzleloader	71	51
Youth	160	110





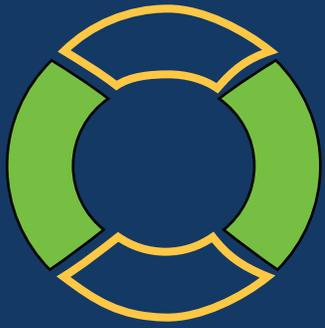
Several factors create a healthy deer population including the presence of large predator populations, high-quality, intact, and diverse habitats with relatively low levels of human activity or encroachment. Through natural mortality and limited annual harvest, deer populations are maintained below the over-winter carrying capacity. This keeps the deer population in good physical condition and reduces potential adverse effects of high deer densities on habitat quality, military training, adjacent private property and public transportation.

Public Hunt: Held at Camp Ripley since 1954, this continues to be one of the largest archery white-tailed deer hunts in the United States. There are currently two hunts held in late October, each spanning a two-day time period with 2,000 permits sold for each. The hunt is administered by the DNR with assistance from Camp Ripley conservation staff and Central Lakes College Natural Resources instructors and students.

Disabled Veteran Hunt: Sponsored by multiple service organizations, this event has been held at Camp Ripley since 1992. Hunters are accompanied by volunteers, and escorted to semi-permanent blinds established throughout the southern third of the installation.

Youth Hunt: The first youth archery hunt for white-tailed deer was hosted at Camp Ripley in October, 2002. Youth ranging from ages 12 – 17 are selected for the hunt. Each youth hunter is required to have along an adult mentor.





17 EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Adding value to neighboring communities is central to the Minnesota National Guard's mission. Camp Ripley and AHATS provide opportunities for the public to participate in events that extend the reach of environmental stewardship into the greater community.

The Martin J. Skoglund Environmental Classroom is visited annually by more than 2,000 people, introducing K-12 students to Central Minnesota's flora and fauna and the wildlife research taking place through the MNARNG conservation program.





Educational outreach activities are held in coordination with staff, partner organizations, and volunteers, including Earth Day and National Public Lands Day. These events help engage people, connecting them in improving the environment by clearing trails, picking up litter, and planting forbs, grasses and trees at restoration sites. The Morrison County Water Festival is an annual event that gives local sixth-grade students the opportunity to learn about water resources, water quality and various conservation topics from natural resource professionals.



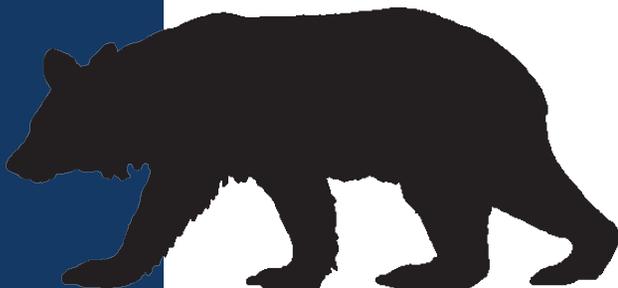


Camp Ripley provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife including Minnesota's largest carnivores, black bear and gray wolf.

Camp Ripley lies along the southern edge of bear range in Minnesota. A radio-telemetry based study of black bears was initiated at Camp Ripley in 1991. The current study is part of a statewide research project conducted by the DNR designed to monitor:

- 1 Continued monitoring of reproduction and cub survival.
- 2 Additional (improved) measurements of body condition, heart function and wound healing.
- 3 Examination of habitat use and movements with GPS telemetry.
- 4 Investigation of female dispersal near the southern fringe of the expanding bear range.
- 5 Monitoring the incidence of nuisance bears and in particular any conflicts with soldiers and military training.

Researchers from the University of Minnesota's Visible Heart Laboratory (<http://www.vhlab.umn.edu/bear/index.html>) and Medtronic, Inc. collaborate with DNR bear researchers to gather additional information during den visits. This additional research is designed to understand black bear behaviors, physiological functions, such as heart function and wound healing, and to develop applications for human medical treatments.





Wolves have been documented at Camp Ripley since 1993. Camp Ripley provides habitat for wolves on the southern edge of the Minnesota gray wolf range. In the past 22 years, 51 wolves have been radio-collared and/or ear tagged to determine pack size, movements, causes of mortality and possible effects of military training.

Research has demonstrated that military training activities at Camp Ripley do not negatively affect wolves and the presence of wolves has not resulted in any loss of training capabilities. In fact, evidence obtained from research confirmed that wolves who travel outside the installation boundary are moving into a more hostile environment where they are exposed to illegal or accidental mortality.

Aerial white-tailed deer surveys are conducted about every five years to determine population size and trends, a recent survey estimates a winter population of 17 white-tailed deer per square mile.





Camp Ripley provides important breeding and migratory habitat for 65 bird species in greatest conservation need (SGCN). Thirty-two SGCN birds including water birds, raptors and songbirds are known to breed at Camp Ripley. Of these SGCN birds 16 are often heard during point count surveys.

Breeding bird surveys have been conducted on permanent plots throughout Camp Ripley since 1991. The full breeding bird survey includes 90 plots that are surveyed as part of long-term population monitoring. The number of plots surveyed each year varies according to military training, weather and survey strategy.

As a natural oasis in a mostly metropolitan area, AHATS provides important breeding and migratory habitat for SGCN birds. Forty-four SGCN birds have been identified on 13 permanent plots since 2001.

American kestrels, a SGCN, have been observed on AHATS for many years and were listed as common in a 1991 assessment conducted by the U.S. Army. However, in recent years, substantial population declines have occurred in Minnesota and across their range. Artificial nest boxes have been installed at AHATS to enhance kestrel populations. Recently a study was implemented to examine reproductive success, nest box fidelity and if individuals return to their natal area.

Bald eagles are also closely monitored at Camp Ripley and AHATS. Since 1991, two to eleven territories have been monitored within Camp Ripley and one at AHATS. Territory sizes are variable but are spaced apart to ensure sufficient food resources for chicks and to raise young with minimal disturbance from other eagles. Eagle pairs can have more than one nest within a territory.





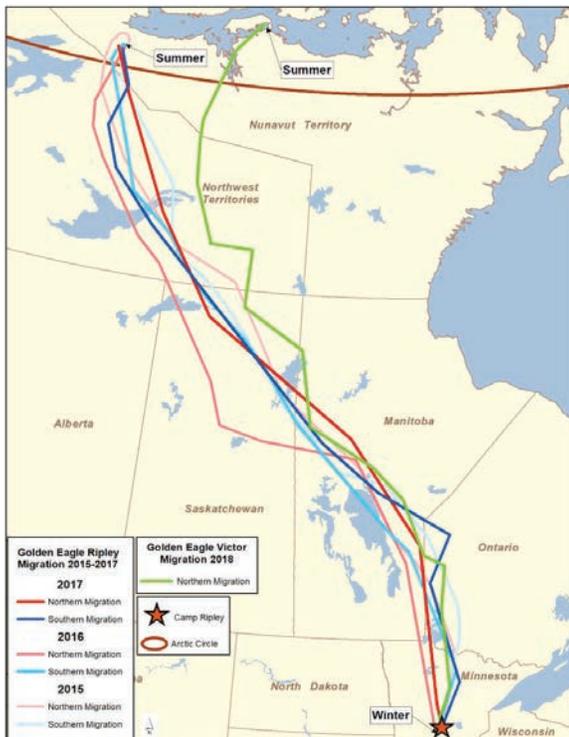
In 1991, three bald eagle breeding territories occurred at Camp Ripley, that number has since grown to 11 territories. Bald eagle productivity is monitored annually and averages 1.06 eaglets per territory. AHATS has recently been home to one bald eagle territory.

Golden eagles in North America are primarily found in Western States and Western Canada. Golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Golden eagles do not breed in Minnesota and in the past have not been considered regular winter occupants. In Minnesota, there have been occasional reports of golden eagles in spring, fall and winter from most counties.

Since 2015, Camp Ripley has captured and radio-transmitted golden eagles to learn about habitat use, distribution, breeding locations, migratory routes and timing of these uses.

The goals of this research are:

- 1 Better understand the numbers, distribution, and habits of wintering golden eagles along the Mississippi River.
- 2 Identify the breeding origins and migratory routes of these birds and the timing of their use.
- 3 Begin the process of developing appropriate conservation and management strategies for these birds.
- 4 Educate the public about golden eagles.





PROTECTED SPECIES



Protected species are federal- and state-threatened and endangered species and species in greatest conservation need.

The northern long-eared bat is a federally-listed threatened species due to the impact of white-nose syndrome. Camp Ripley and AHATS participated in a statewide northern long-eared bat study with the University of Minnesota Duluth, Natural Resources Research Institute to conduct emergence counts and observe roosting patterns. (<https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/188473>)

The Blanding's turtle is a state-listed threatened species and candidate species for federal listing as a threatened/endangered species. It depends upon riparian areas and a variety of wetland types, and is frequently associated with sandy upland soil for nesting. Camp Ripley and AHATS both contain high-quality habitat for Blanding's turtles.

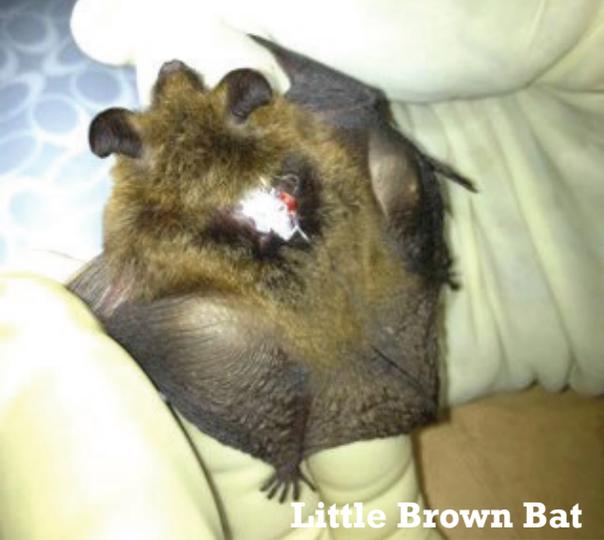
Since the early 1990s, Blanding's turtle management practices have been used to conserve the species. Recent graduate research has examined survivability and habitat selection of hatchlings.

Management practices include:

- 1 Soldier education and outreach regarding the conservation of the Blanding's turtle.
- 2 Blanding's turtle crossing signs in high concentration areas.
- 3 Mark recapture of females during nesting season via road surveys.
- 4 Nest protection with the use of metal cages. After nest emergence, hatchling turtles are direct released into the nearest wetland known to support adult turtles.

Camp Ripley is home to Minnesota's largest population of tubercled rein orchid. A state-listed threatened plant, its populations have been declining due to destruction of its prairie and wetland habitat.

Recently the ghost tiger beetle, a state-listed threatened species, was rediscovered at AHATS. It is an extremely rare species in Minnesota that prefers sand plains with little vegetation.



Little Brown Bat



Blanding's Turtle



Monarch Caterpillar



Butterfly-weed

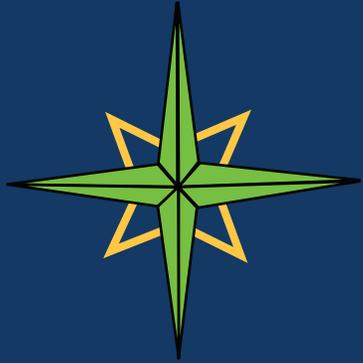


Ghost Tiger Beetle



Monarch Butterfly



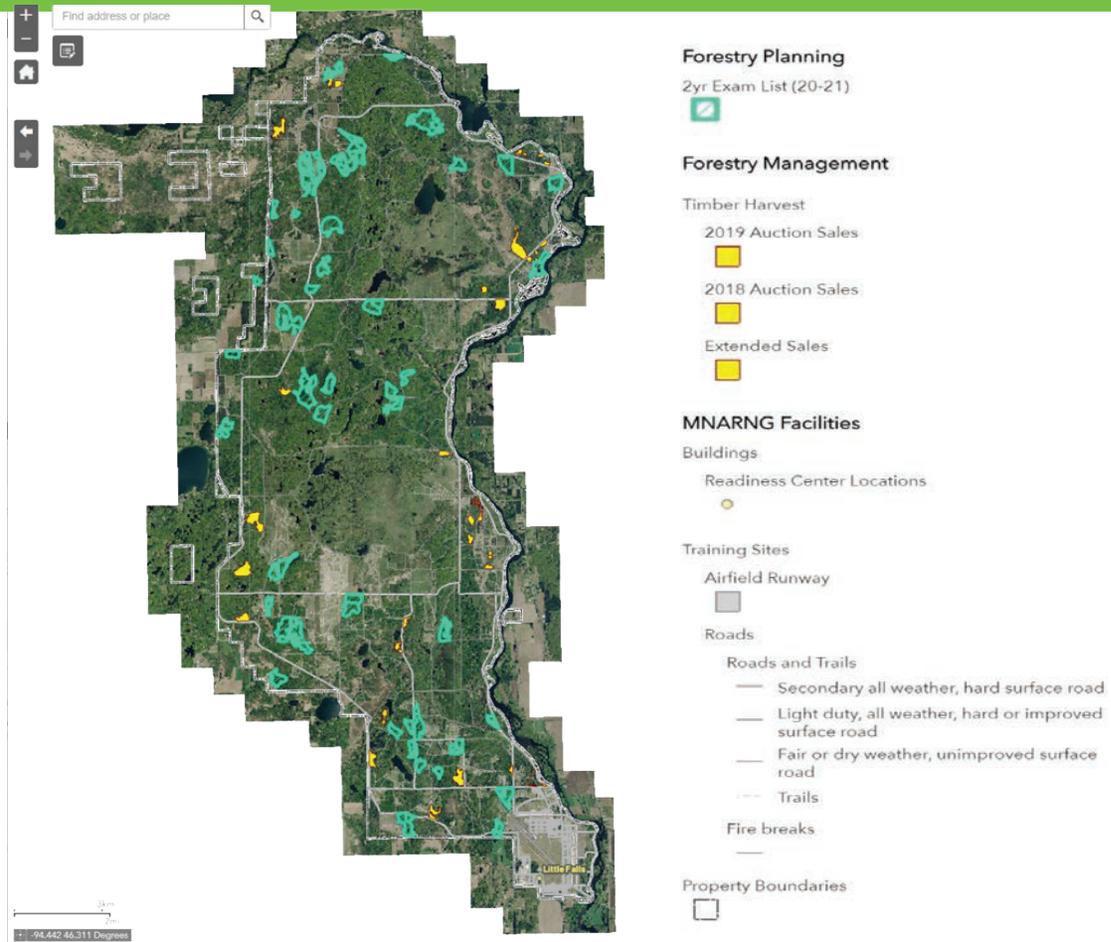


25 GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

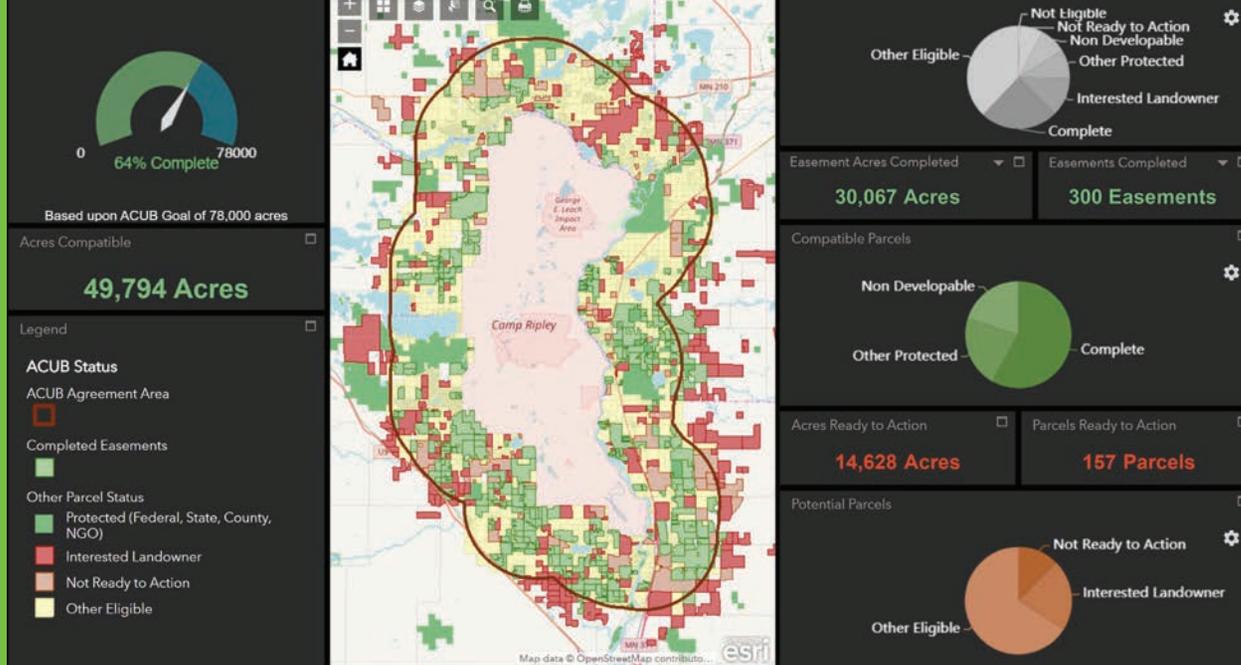
As a component of the conservation program, a geographic information system (GIS) is used to support planning and implementation of resource management goals. This decision support tool is maintained to adapt with end user needs whether used for data development, maintenance, analysis, display or cartographic production. Continuous coordination with program support staff, other directorates, departments and external entities is required to ensure the most accurate and complete geospatial data is available.

The ACUB dashboard, a new web-based GIS management tool was developed to allow ACUB administrators simplified access to site specific parcel information within the ACUB agreement area surrounding Camp Ripley. The map interface allows for manual inspection of parcels which are symbolized based upon an ACUB status. Specific parcels can also be located using the search tool and a

Forestry Viewer



standardized map can be exported based upon the current map extent. In addition to mapping capabilities, summarized program metrics are automatically tallied to show current status of key program measures. The capability to monitor near real-time updates has allowed ACUB administrators to expedite investigations of individual target areas as well as maintain a more comprehensive understanding of the landscape.



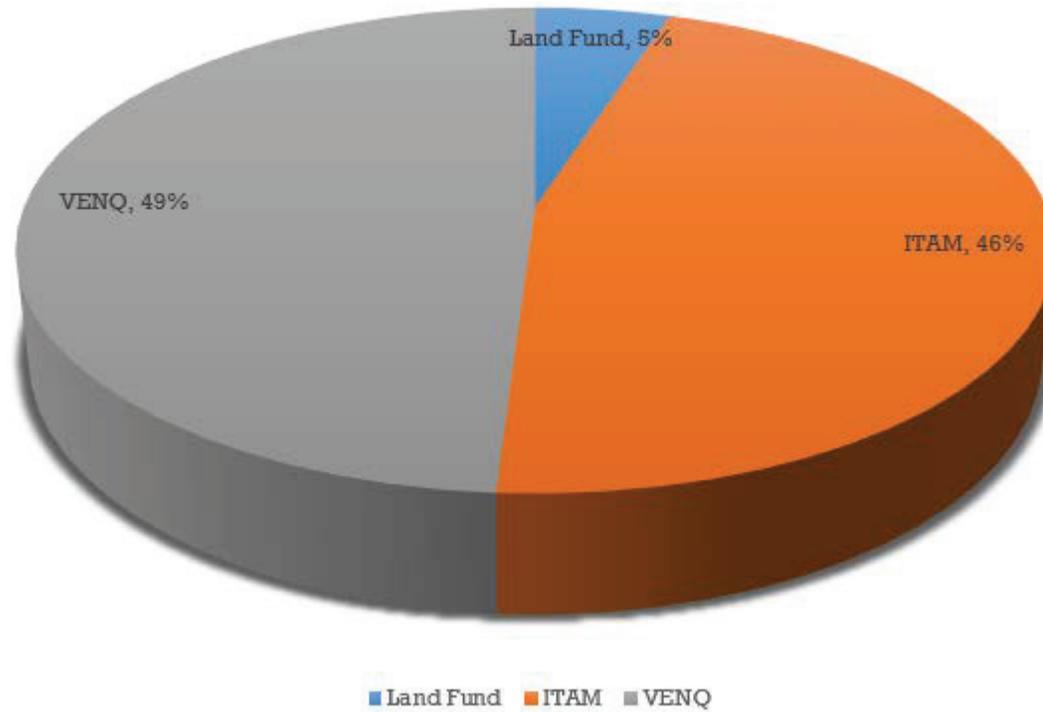
ACUB Dashboard

A new web-based GIS tool has been developed internally to support forestry management and planning. This effort was prompted to address two specific goals:

- 1 Support the two-year stand review process and supplemental reviews as needed by providing environmental staff a consistent current reference of applicable layers necessary to conduct reviews of the stand exam list.
- 2 Provide a quick simplified reference of current active timber sales.

The resulting application hosts 35 flora and fauna related map layers which are routinely maintained by Department Military Affairs and DNR staff. In addition, comments regarding proposed timber cuts from on-site management personnel (military training, integrated training area management, ecological, wildlife, and cultural resources) can be entered directly through an accompanying forest management editor application to ensure a more informed planning process.

Conservation Program Budget



The MNARNG conservation program is primarily funded through two federal sources from the National Guard Bureau and a state land fund.

VENQ: National Guard environmental funds for natural resource management.

ITAM: National Guard training funds for training area management.

Land Fund: Proceeds from Camp Ripley timber sales revenue to be utilized for forestry management activities at Camp Ripley.

Other funding not listed and varies year to year includes grants from funding opportunities such as the Department of Defense Legacy Funds, Minnesota Outdoor Heritage Funds, Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the National Environmental Education Foundation.

Collaboration is the critical enabler of the MNARNG conservation program. Successful implementation of program goals require the assistance and support from many internal directorates, external agencies and organizations. Listed below are the planning documents used within the conservation program and the partners that are involved to assist in meeting the goals and objectives of each plan.

	INTERNAL DIRECTORATES						EXTERNAL PARTNERS					
	CRE	FME	OPS	RC	DPW	FES	MSWCD	TNC	TCF	BWSR	USFWS	DNR
Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan	○	○	○	○	○	○						
Forestry Management Plan	○	○	○			○					○	
Integrated Wildland Fire Management Plan	○	○	○	○		○						
Range Complex Master Plan			○	○		○						
Integrated Training Area Management		○	○	○		○						
Army Compatible Use Buffer				○		○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Sentinel Landscape					○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

CRE Camp Ripley Environmental
 FME Facilities Management Office Environmental
 OPS Camp Ripley Operations
 RC Range Control
 DPW Department of Public Works
 FES Camp Ripley Fire & Emergency Services

DNR Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 USFWS U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 BWSR Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
 TCF The Conservation Fund
 TNC The Nature Conservancy
 MSWCD Morrison Soil Water Conservation District



Department of Military Affairs
Camp Ripley Environmental Office
Camp Ripley Training Center
15000 Highway 115
Little Falls, Minnesota 56345