

Range Revegetation Pilot Project for Fort Hood, TX

2K3

Federal Initiative Accomplishments

Purpose:

To determine the effects of composted dairy manure on restoration of military training lands and to develop scientifically based best management practices (BMPs) for restoring and revegetating tank trails and other training lands.

Accomplishments/Impacts:

- Established a 100-acre study site and implemented a large best management practices pilot area that will be extrapolated to other sites.
- Selected a separate severely eroded site, on which the slopes had little or no topsoil, for compost application activities. Achieved revegetation on this site.
- Treated a third site of 100 acres with 15 cubic yards per acre of compost, along with gully plugs and check dam BMPs to reduce storm water runoff and sediment losses. Implemented compost and seeding BMPs to further improve erosion control and enhance vegetation establishment.
- Chose a fourth site and implemented revegetation practices, including compost applications and reseeding. Provided a cross-section of regions and conditions to allow prescriptive measures based on need.
- Approximately 230 acres were treated with compost and seeding applications in the winter and spring of 2004. Vegetation monitoring and water quality monitoring were implemented in all treated areas, with encouraging early results.
- Seed mix recommended by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) was used on all seeding areas.
- Implications to date suggest establishment and growth of vegetation, with a reduction in erosion, accomplished while solving an issue of animal waste in the Cross Timbers dairy region.



Lead Agency:

Texas Agricultural
Experiment Station

Partners:

Natural Resources Conservation
Service; U.S. Department of
Defense, Fort Hood, Texas;
Texas Cooperative Extension

