BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: Texas A&M University & Department of Defense

Fort Hood, TX & Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

COOPERATORS:
Texas Water Resources Institute (Dr. Allan Jones)
Blackland Research & Extension Center (Dr. William Dugas)
III Corps & Garrison Command (Gen. Thomas Metz & Col. William Parry)
Fort Hood Directorate of Public Works (Col. Randall Butler)
Integrated Training Area Management (Mr. Billy Piper)
Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (Dr. Robert Whitson)
BE SINCERE!
BE BRIEF!
BE SEATED!
LOCATION

- Northern edge of the Texas Hill Country
- Characterized by rolling hills, shallow soils, woodlands, prairies and rocky streams.
HISTORY

- 60 years of training activities has disturbed ecosystems
- Actions have elevated issues of soil erosion and water quality.
TAMU/FT. HOOD STUDIES

• Water Quality & Soil Erosion
  – Assessing Nutrient & Sediment Loading of Waterbodies

• Training Area Restoration
  – Soil Amendments & Seeding Activities

• Endangered Species Conservation Banking
  – Private/Public Partnership

• Vegetation Survey
  – Monitoring Vegetation Production

• Entomology Studies
• Others
FORT HOOD: WESTERN RANGE

- Composed of 67,000 acres within the military base
- Training and maneuvering area for two armored divisions.
- Restoration serves to provide a two-fold benefit:
  - 1) maintenance and improvement of the natural resource base, and
  - 2) maintenance of quality training lands for military personnel.
INDICATORS OF IMPACT

Delta formation on Cowhouse Creek, 1995

Delta formation on Cowhouse Creek, 1999
Rangeland Restoration Pilot Project

Through the leadership of Congressman Chet Edwards, the Rangeland Restoration Pilot Project was funded and is currently in progress.

RRPP Goal: Develop, implement, and evaluate Best Management Practices (BMPs) appropriate to restoring damaged Fort Hood training areas while limiting interference with military training functions and activities.
WEST RANGE LANDSCAPE
ACTIONS

Project Managers
Dr. William Fox
Dr. Dennis Hoffman
Projected Tons of Compost Removed from N. Bosque River Watershed for Fort Hood Revegetation Pilot Project (Jan. 03 - Sept. 04)
PLANT COVER CHANGE
MAY '03 - SEPTEMBER '03

Low Compost Treatment - Plant Cover Change from May 03 - Sept. 03

Medium Compost Treatment - Plant Cover Change from May 03 - Sept. 03

High Compost Treatment - Plant Cover Change from May 03 - Sept. 03
COMPOST RATE STUDY REPLICATED THREE TIMES

Monitored Variables:
- Plot Scale Water Quality
- Point Scale Water Quality
- Point Scale Soils Data
- Vegetation Data

- Treatment Plot 1 (30 yd³/ac)
- Treatment Plot 2 (60 yd³/ac)
- Treatment Plot 3 (90 yd³/ac)
- Control Plot
- Earthen Berm
- Runoff Water Collection

Scale: 150m × 65m
BUILDING THE PARTNERSHIP

- BRINGING THE PARTNERS TOGETHER
- DEVELOPING A HOLISTIC STRATEGY
- INTEGRATING PRACTICES
- EVALUATING THE OUTCOMES
- IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAMS
FUNDING

• Funding Provided for Rangeland Restoration Pilot Project through federal earmark provided by Congressman Edwards and administered by:

THANK YOU!