

2022 Fall Public Briefing

Natural Resources Branch USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia



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NRB 2022 Fall Public Briefing

Safety





Fort Gordon Directorate of Emergency Services

The Director of Emergency Services (DES) and Conservation Law Enforcement Program encourages any person to report violations of Federal, Georgia state, and Fort Gordon laws, rules, or regulations to include, but not limited to: poaching, any act of disturbing threatened or endangered wildlife species, damage or destruction of critical habitat or archaeological sites, illegal taking of forestry products, etc.

Individuals who witness violations are encouraged to immediately notify the Law Enforcement Center (LEC), (706) 791-4380. Immediate reporting will significantly increase the ability of Law Enforcement to initiate an investigation and take steps to an appropriate action with the suspected violator.

If you wish, you may remain anonymous.

In case of an emergency: Dial 9-1-1 (Tell them you are on Post)





Fort Gordon Directorate of Emergency Services

- It is imperative that you do not confront any person you feel or suspect is violating the law, thus not put yourself in danger. A Conservation Law Enforcement Officer or Military/Civilian Police officer will be dispatched to your calls.
- ✓ iSportsman will be checked daily by the Law Enforcement Center for any check-in and check-out violations.
- Check iSportsman for training areas, lakes/ponds, and/or bicycle routes available for recreation.
- Please ensure you print out a completed Training Area Parking Pass and place it in view on the dash of your vehicle. Pass is required for all recreational activities and is available on the iSportsman website: (look under "Regulations and Forms").





Fort Gordon Training Area Parking Pass

iSportsman Permit # :___

Expiration Date :

Cell Phone # :

Emergency Contact # : _

MUST BE VISIBLY DISPLAYED ON DRIVER'S SIDE DASH OF VEHICLE







Fort Gordon Directorate of Emergency Services

- Promptly answer/return all calls, texts, and messages you receive during and after completing recreation on Post. It could be the Law Enforcement Center making sure you are safe.
- ✓ Ensure all personal information in your iSportsman profile is completely filled out, accurate, and up-to-date. This includes vehicle info, emergency contact info, and physical address info. Be sure to inform your emergency contact that they are listed as such and make sure they understand they may need to be reached in case of an emergency (Answer the phone!). Your emergency contact's phone number should not be the same as yours! Let your emergency contact know your plans, e.g., "I'm going hunting today and plan to be back home at noon."
- Hunters tracking game: Hunters must call the Law Enforcement Center before mandatory check-out time in iSportsman for further instructions. Upon finding game or ending the search, you must call the Law Enforcement Center verifying you are out of the training area and checked out of iSportsman.







Contact List for Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement Center (LEC) 675 Rice Road, BLDG# 32422 706-791-4380 /4537 / 2681

> Chief of Police Kevin R. Pugh 706-791-4871

Deputy Chief of Police William S. Russ 706-791-0086 Conservation Law Enforcement Supervisor CPT Michael F. Porreca 706-791-9290





Natural Resources Priorities





- DOD/Army Priorities for Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMP)
- 1. INRMP impact on installation mission
- 2. Ecosystem integrity
- 3. Federally listed species and critical habitat
- 4. INRMP implementation
- 5. Partnership effectiveness
- 6. Team adequacy
- 7. Fish and Wildlife management and public use









Fort Gordon Annual Priorities

- 1. Prescribed Burn 6,155 acres of ranges and impact area
- 2. Forest management actions to support Military Field Training
- Prescribed Burn ~10,000 acres for endangered species habitat
- Restore and improve ~1,600 acres of RCW & Gopher Tortoise habitat
- Maintain ~,000 acres of RCW & Gopher Tortoise habitat
- 6. Monitoring of Flora and Fauna
- 7. Game species hunting and fishing management





Threatened & Endangered Species Management

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Federally Endangered Species	# of Species
Birds	2*
Reptile\Amphibian	1**
Species at Risk and Rare Species	
Birds	3
Fish	1
Reptile\Amphibian	1
Mammals	1
Plants	8
Total	17

*Wood Stork has transient presence (Summer/Migration) **Gopher Tortoise Federal Candidate species







Ecosystem Management Strategy

 ✓ Restoring landscape back to pre-colonization environment
 ✓ Manage to support biodiversity
 ✓ Mimic natural processes







- ✓ Dense, Unhealthy Pine Stand
- ✓ No Ground Cover/Forage

west

- ✓ Single Species Forest Stand
- ✓ Poor Wildlife Species Habitat



Poor Quality Landscape







- ✓ Dense Scrub Oak
- ✓ Little to No Ground Cover/Forage
- ✓ Poor Species Diversity Habitat



Becoming a Desirable Landscape

- Progressing towards
 Open Longleaf Pine
 Wiregrass Ecosystem
 (in appropriate soil
 types)
- Diverse ground cover flora
- Can be maintained exclusively with Prescribed Fire (at proper rotations)
- Improved wildlife species habitat/forage



Most Important Tool: Prescribed Fire

✓ Goals

- Approximately 20,000 acres annually
- Artillery Impact and Ranges every year
- Most Training Areas on 3-year rotation

✓ Benefits

- Military training
 - Improves maneuver and visibility for training within the forest
 - Reduces loss of training time due to fire control
- Wildfire danger
 - Reduces the risk, number, and size of wildfires
 - Reduces damage resulting from wildfires because wildfires don't burn as hot
- Ecosystem Management
 - Longleaf/wiregrass are fire-dependent species;
 USFWS Biological Opinion (March 2019) for RCW management
- Wildlife Forage Enhancement
 - Many native forage species require fire
 - Soil fertility enhancement
 - Herbaceous groundcover enhancement





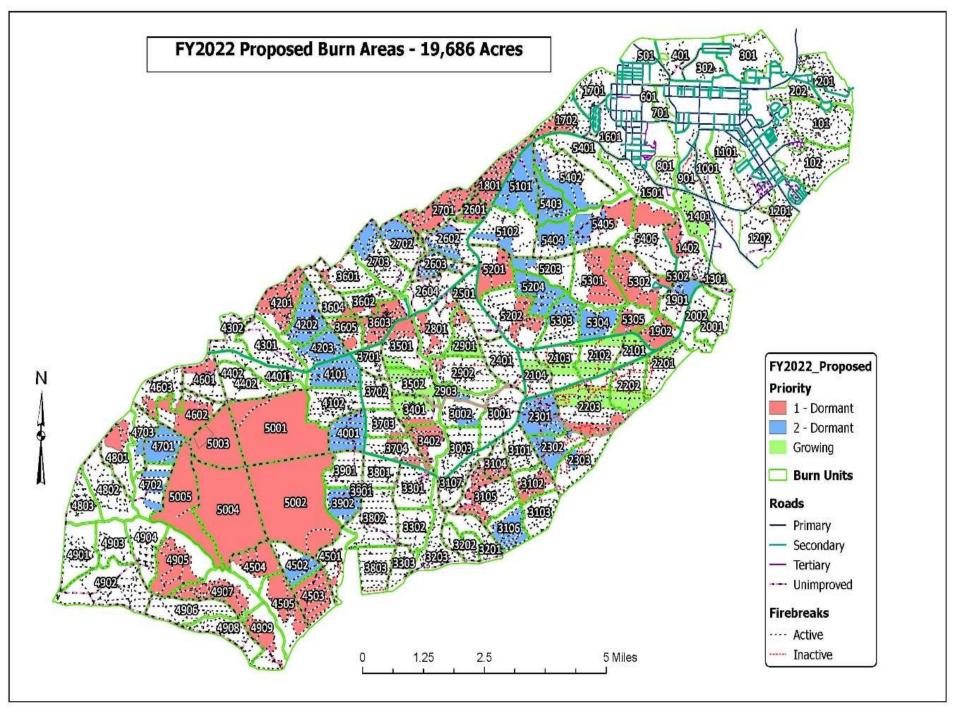


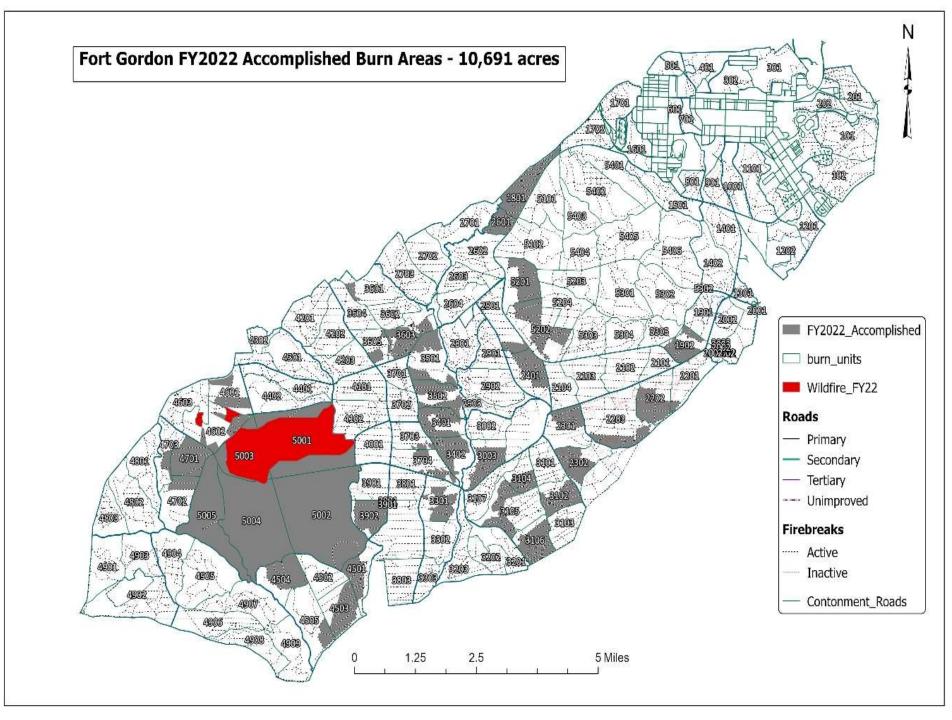




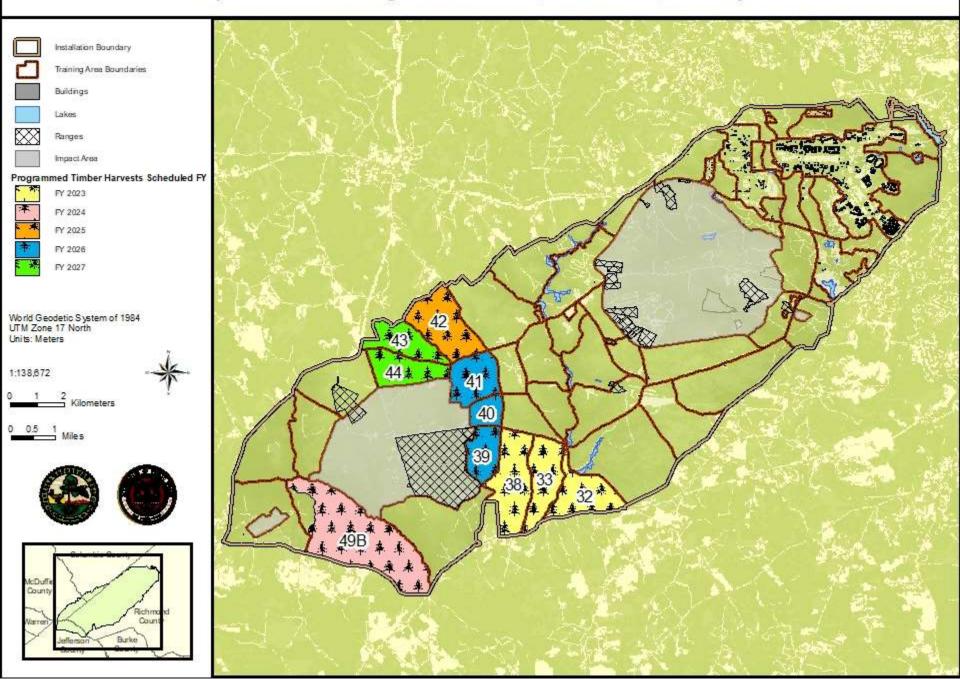
March 17 – 6 Weeks Post-burn







Proposed Forest Management Activities, Fort Gordon, US Army





Timber Marking and Harvesting









Mechanical Midstory Removal



- ✓ Opening the canopy to encourage groundcover renewal.
- ✓ Regain control over areas suffering from hardwood intrusion.





Herbicide



- To regain control of undesirable hardwood species and competitor species.
- ✓ Reforestation preparation.
- ✓ To increase forest ecosystem productivity.







Open canopy allows sunlight to reach the forest floor > Promoting diverse groundcover regeneration > Enhancing wildlife forage and cover & fuel for prescribed fire to promote landscape maintenance



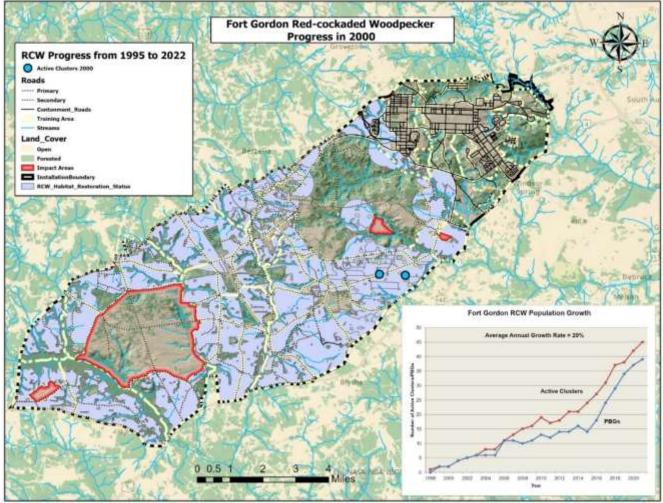
Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW)



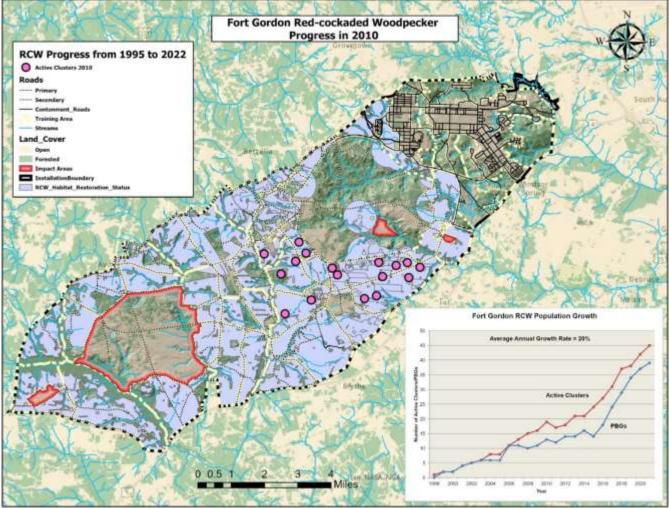






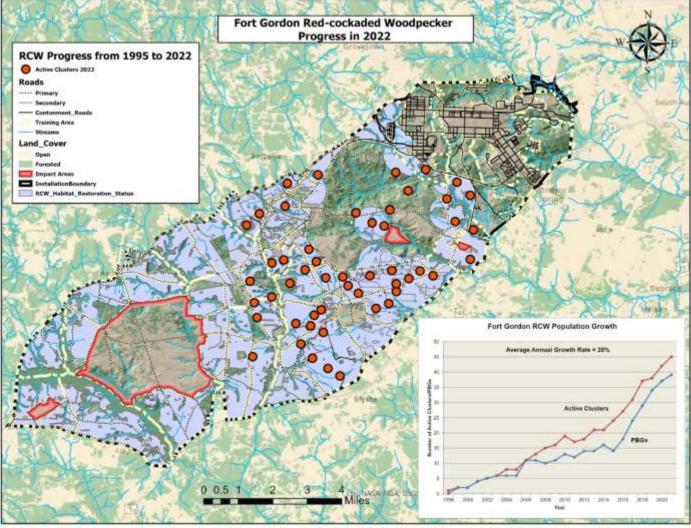






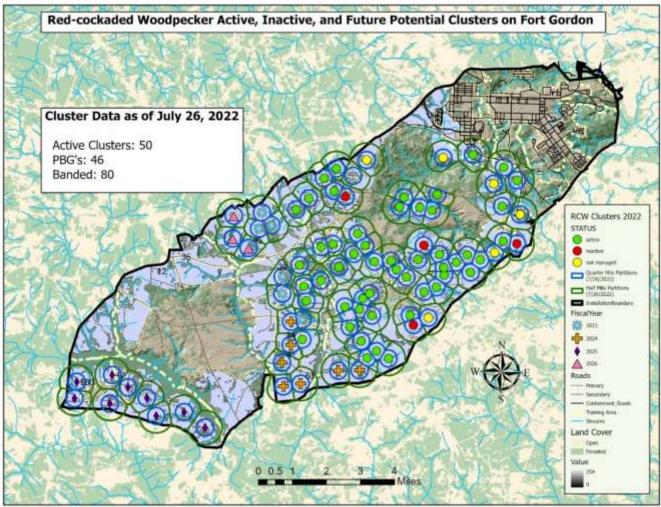
















Gopher Tortoise Management

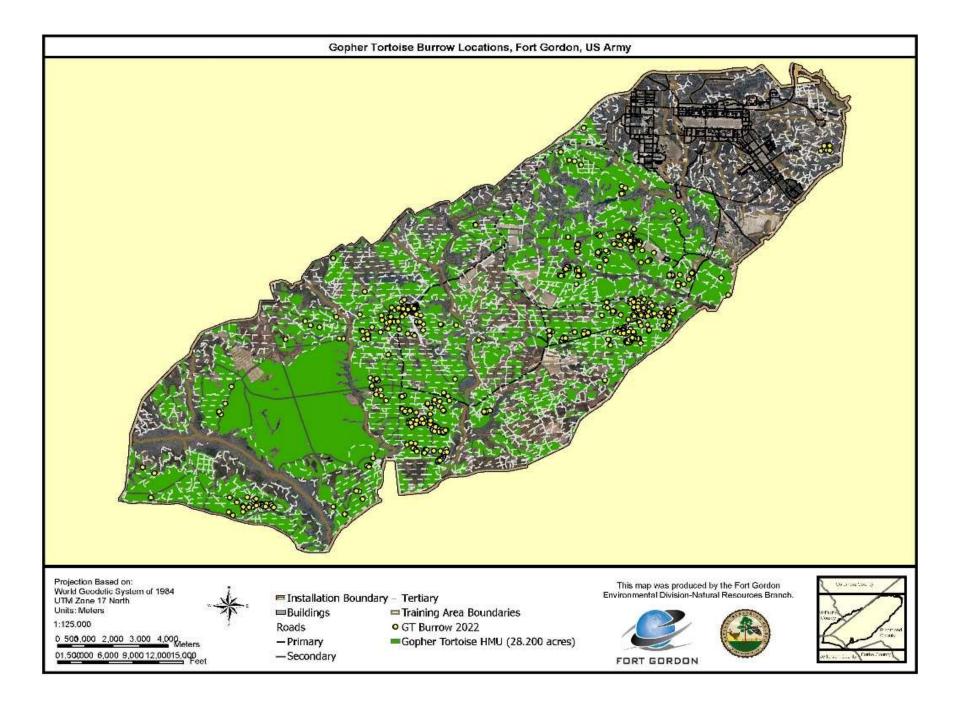
100% HMU Population Survey

- ✓ 32,415 acres surveyed (line transect distance sampling)
- ✓ Found 163 "useable" and 64 "unuseable" burrows
- ✓ Observed 40 tortoises
- ✓ Estimated population = 280 (95% CI = 191-410)
- \checkmark Estimated tortoise density = 0.085 tortoises/acre (95% CI = 0.006 0.013)











Game and Fish Management





Game Management





2021-2022 Game Harvest Summary

✓White-tailed Deer

- Total- 284
 - Bucks- 159
 - Does- 125
 - Fawns (taken from the above numbers)- 21 (7% harvest)

✓Wild Turkey

• Total- 27

✓Small Game

- Mourning Dove- 1511
- Gray Squirrel- 4
- Waterfowl- 24
- Northern Bobwhite- 165

✓Other

- Rabbits- 1
- Coyotes- 3







Hunter and Fishermen Events Trend

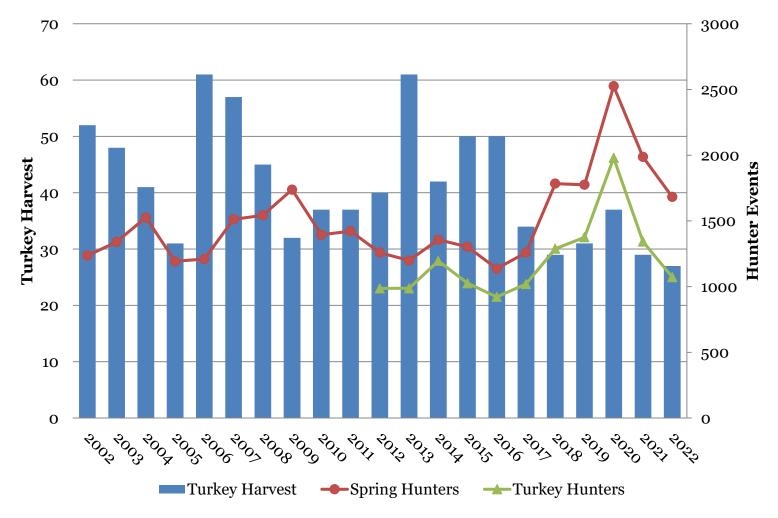


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20-Year Turkey Harvest Trend

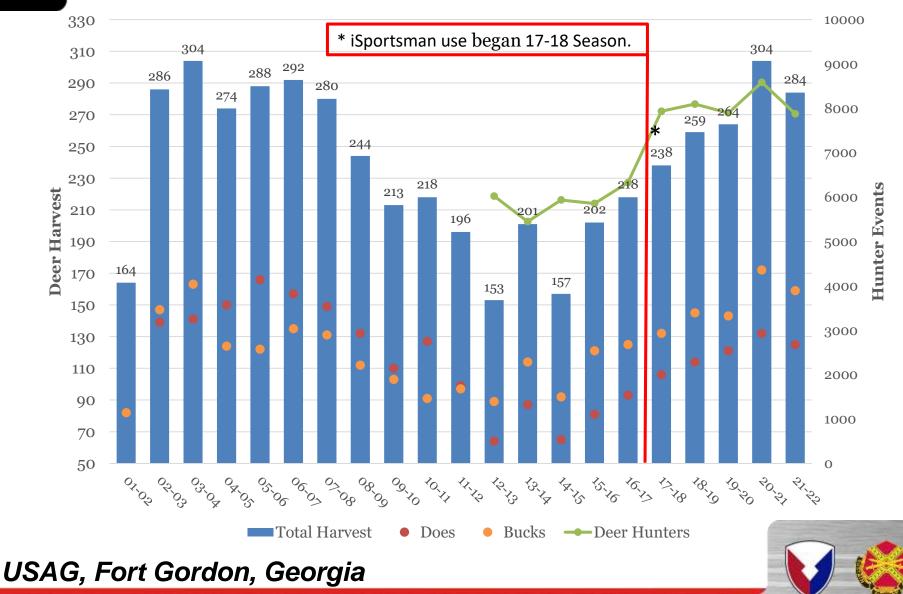


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20-Year Deer Harvest Trend

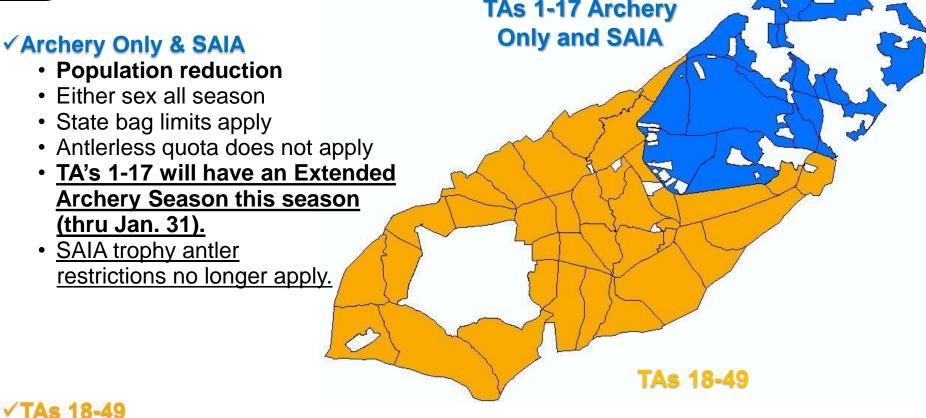


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Deer Management Goals



✓ TAs 18-49

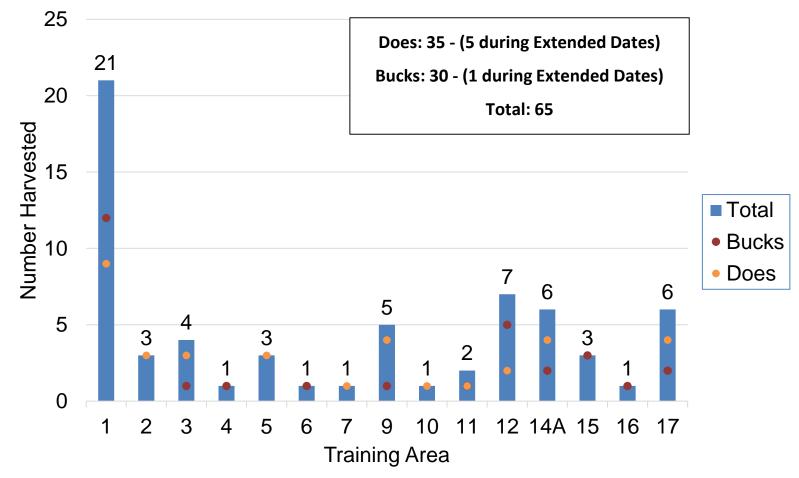
- Maximize annual sustainable harvest
- Either sex
- Each hunter limited to 2 antlerless deer (*No Quota)
- State bag limits apply

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Deer Harvested by Area in Archery Zone, 2021-2022

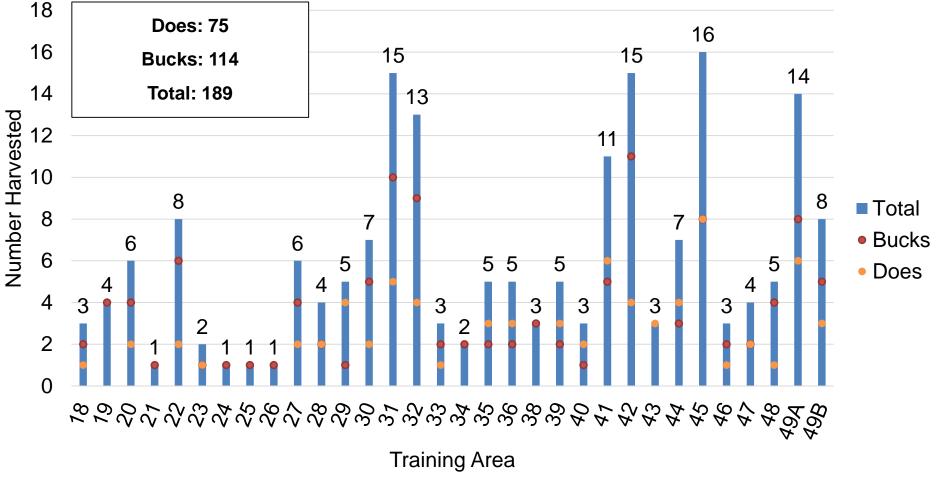


Training areas not show had no harvest.



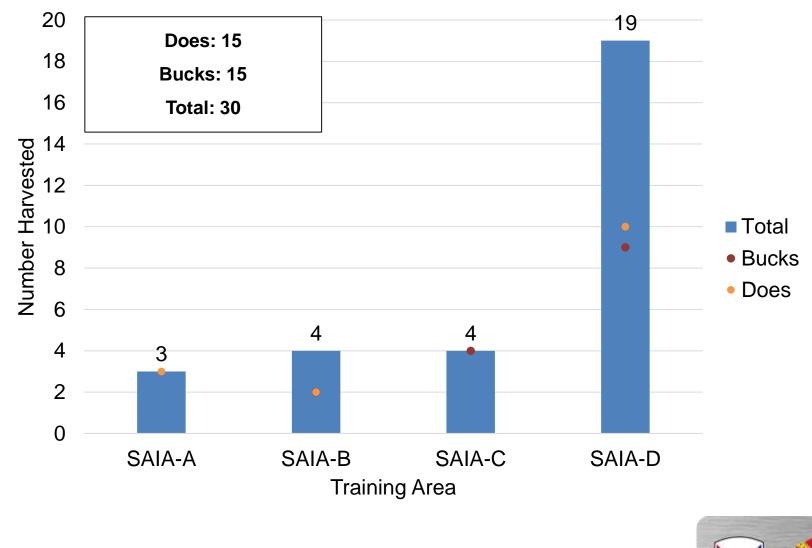


Deer Harvested by Area in 18-49 Zone, 2021-2022



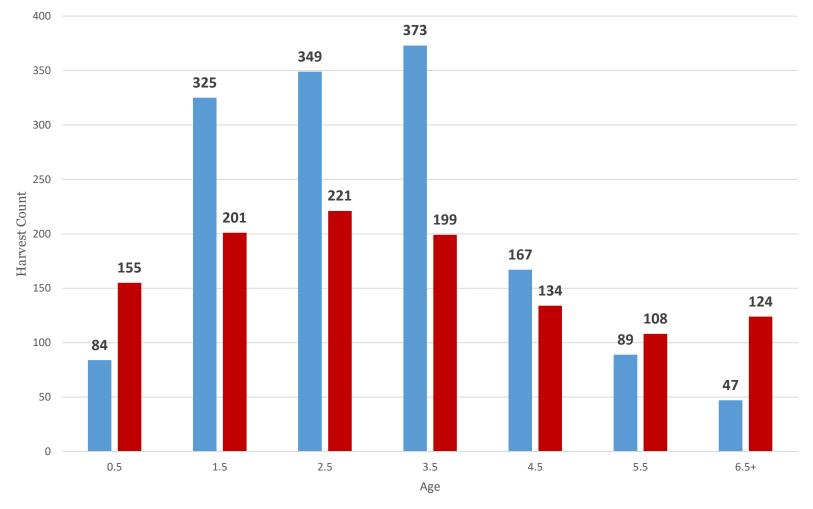


Deer Harvested by Area in SAIA Zone, 2021-2022





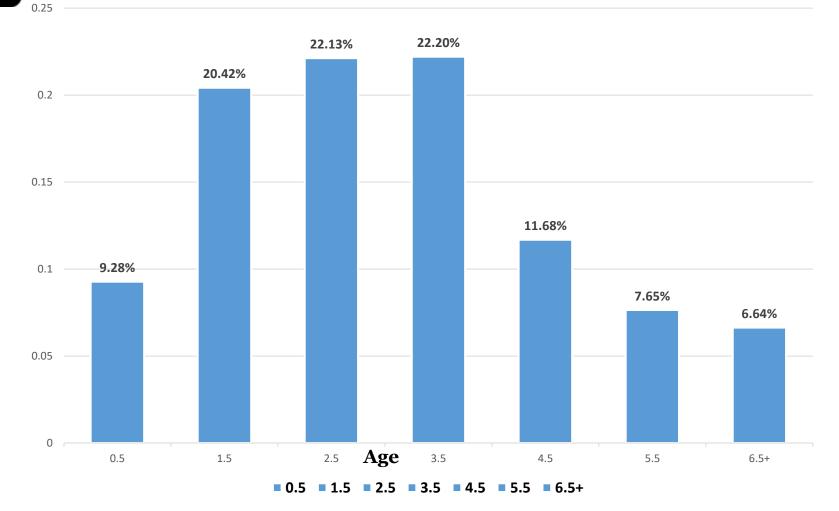
2009-Current: Deer Harvest Count by Age Class



Bucks Does



2009-Current: Deer Harvest Percentage Distribution by Age Class

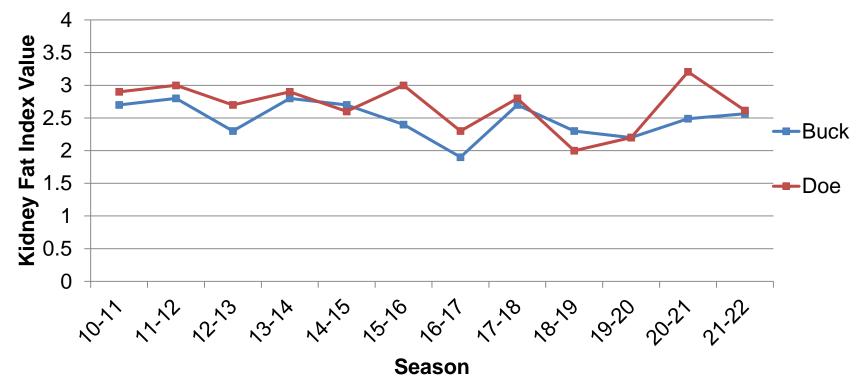






Annual Trends

Average Kidney Fat Index

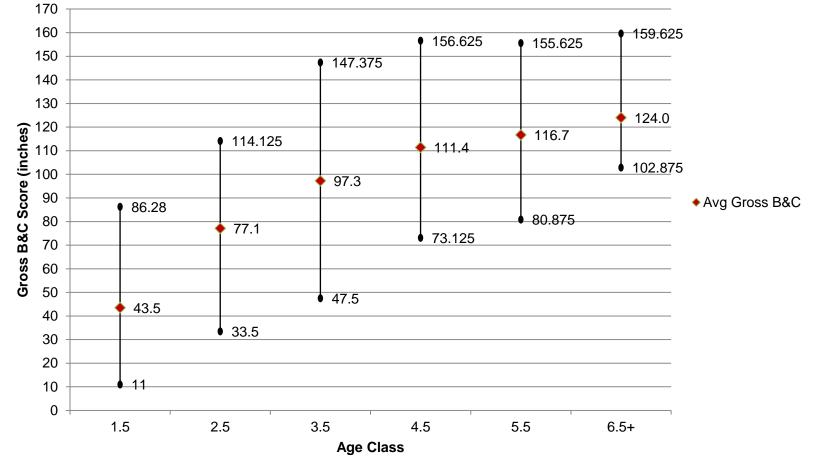


While many factors such as pregnancy, lactation, rut, habitat, etc. can effect a deer's kidney fat, having a stable KFI trend between 2.5 - 3 shows that overall herd health is good.



Antler Data

Average Gross B&C Score by Age Class (2009-Current)



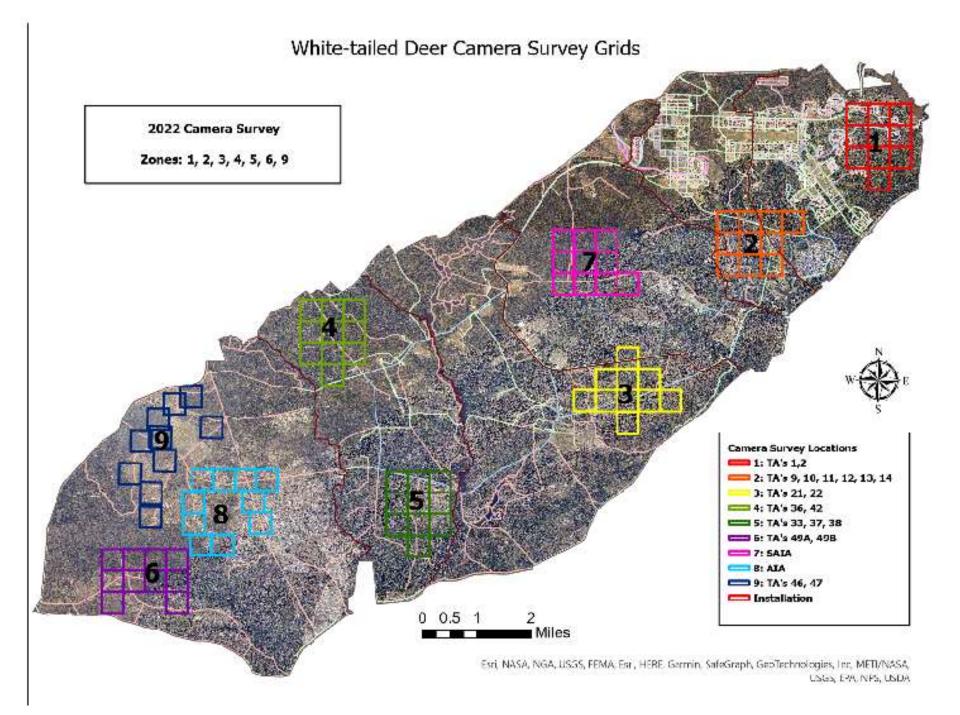


Antlerless Deer Harvest Quota and Regulation Reminders

- ✓ The 2021-2022 Antlerless quota for TAs 18-49 was set at 75. It was removed after the NRB received the camera survey results. Total antlerless harvest was 79 with 17 hunters harvesting 2.
- ✓ 2022-2023 Antlerless quota for TAs 18-49 has been removed.
- ✓ However, the Limit of 2 antlerless deer per hunter in TAs 18-49 is still in effect.
- ✓ GADNR buck-only season does not apply on Fort Gordon (Either-Sex all season).
- ✓ State bag limits in Archery and SAIA zones.
- Statewide, the antler restrictions on one of the bucks are: One of the two antlered bucks must have a minimum of 4 points, 1-inch or longer, on either antler or a minimum 15inch outside antler spread to be legal.
- Archery areas (TAs 1-17) have been approved by GADNR to fall within their Extended Archery Season. Last year 5 does and 1 buck were harvested during this extended season.









2021 Camera Survey Results

Total number, density, and demographic estimates for white-tailed deer on Ft. Gordon in fall 2021 at the											
camera cluster level.											
	Estimate										
Zone	Cluster	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Total	Fawn/Doe	Buck/Doe	Density			
								(Deer/mi ²)			
Archery	1	16.65	75.33	23.24	115.22	0.31	0.22	73.74			
Archery	2	25.53	56.56	21.59	103.68	0.38	0.45	66.35			
18-49	3	49.95	12.14	3.81	65.91	0.31	4.11	42.18			
18-49	4	26.64	46.64	11.42	84.69	0.24	0.57	54.20			
18-49	5	21.09	24.04	14.54	59.67	0.60	0.88	38.19			
18-49	6	26.64	67.21	34.76	128.61	0.52	0.40	82.31			
18-49	9	38.85	8.75	6.11	53.71	0.70	4.44	34.37			
SAIA	7	31.08	15.55	3.33	49.96	0.21	2.00	31.97			







2021 Camera Survey Results

Total number, density, and demographic estimates for white-tailed deer on Ft. Gordon in fall 2021 at the zone										
and installation level.										
	Estimate									
Zone	Area (mi2)	Density	Fawn/Doe	Buck/Doe	Bucks	Does	Fawns	Total		
		(deer/mi2)						Deer		
Archery	8.51	70.05	0.34	0.32	105.05	328.49	111.63	545.16		
18-49	48.97	50.25	0.44	1.03	1037.92	1010	449.35	2497.27		
SAIA	10.51	31.97	0.21	2	209.08	104.6	22.38	336.06		
Installation Total	67.99	52.92	0.39	0.77	1285.97	1665.6	646.11	3597.68		





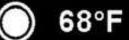
2021 Camera Survey Results

A comparison of the white-tailed deer density estimates on Ft. Gordon at the zone and installation level for fall 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.									
	Density (deer/mi2) Estimate								
Zone	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Archery	65.61	56.92	77.51	51.07	52.25	58.95	58.61	70.05	
18-49	24.09	25.3	33.2	34.07	36.54	39.37	43.76	50.25	
SAIA	17.25	34.02	38.94	30.02	31.28	36	39.73	31.97	
AIA	65.84	86.39	58.24	61.02	59.25	52.37	_	-	
Installation Total	38.83	41.93	48.13	41.18	42.65	45.47	47.43	52.92	

























MFDC3720 (79 of 95)











18 AUG 2022 04:23 pm





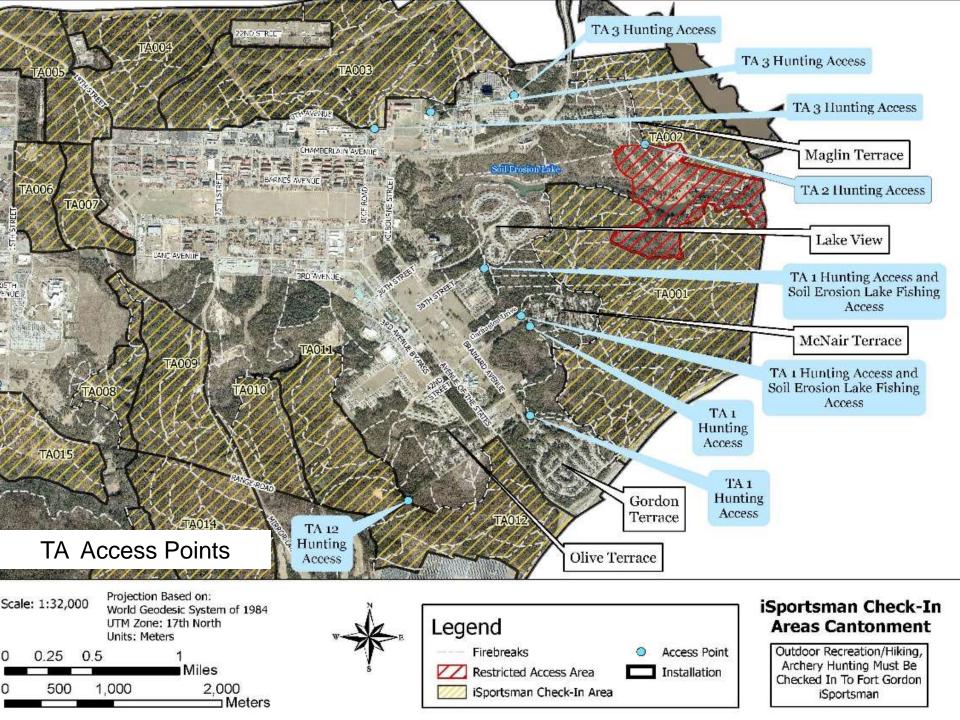
Check Station Reminders

 Hunters must submit a jawbone from every deer harvested on the installation

✓All deer harvested during normal duty hours must be checked by Fort Gordon NRB Personnel (Mon-Thurs: 0800-1600 & Fri: 0800-1500). However NRB would still like to measure any bucks with at least 4 points on one side at your convenience.

✓ Deer and turkey kill card information should be submitted through iSportsman during the check-out process BEFORE leaving the installation (This is IN ADDITION TO GADNR game check requirements.).





REMINDER: No driving "cross-country" in TA's. Stay on maintained firebreaks.

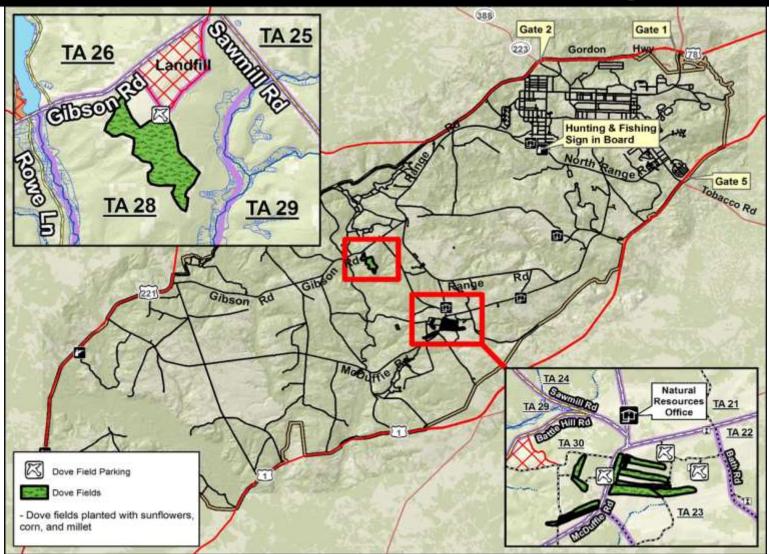
REMINDER: NO CUTTING LIVE TREES!

Dove Fields 2020

Dove Fields 2022

Dove Fields 2022



















All Training Areas are subject to change at any time by Range Control for Training or other

events.

2022 Dove Field Schedule

training area	Saturday 3 Sept.	Sunday 4 Sept.	Monday 5 Sept.	6-9 Sept.	10-11 Sept.
23	Open 12:00	Closed	Open	Closed	Open
28	Open 12:00	Open	Closed	Closed	Open
30	Open 12:00	Closed	Open	Closed	Open

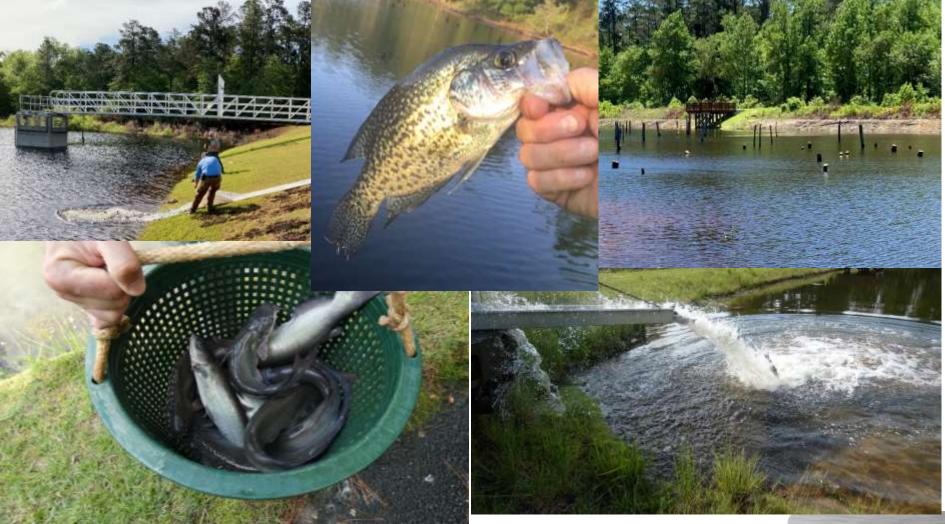
It is each hunter's responsibility to check in to iSportsman before entering any training area.

- •Hunting Starts at 12:00 on Saturday 3 Sept. and ends at sunset
- •Hunters may enter the fields no earlier than 10:00 on Saturday to choose stand location
- Dove hunting on all other days is 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset
- •Hunters should position themselves at least 70 yards apart while hunting
- Hunters should never shoot at low flying birds
- •Limit is 15 doves per day





Lake Management







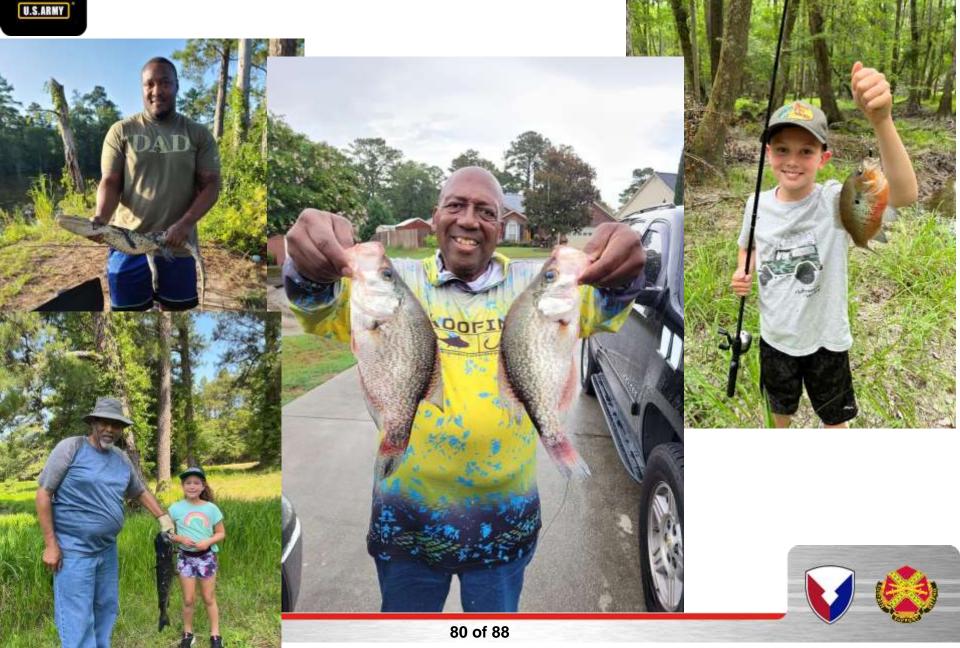
Largemouth Bass













Fisheries Stocking to Date

Lake	Date	# Fish	
Whittimore	Jan. 2022	600	
Whittimore	Jan. 2022	200	
Wilkerson	Jan. 2022	600	
Wilkerson	Jan. 2022	200	
Clay Pit 2	June 2022	700	
Clay Pit 3	June 2022	500	
Rachel I	Sept 2022	650	
Rachel I	Sept 2022	650	
Rachel II	Sept 2022	450	
Rachel II	Sept 2022	450	



Crappie











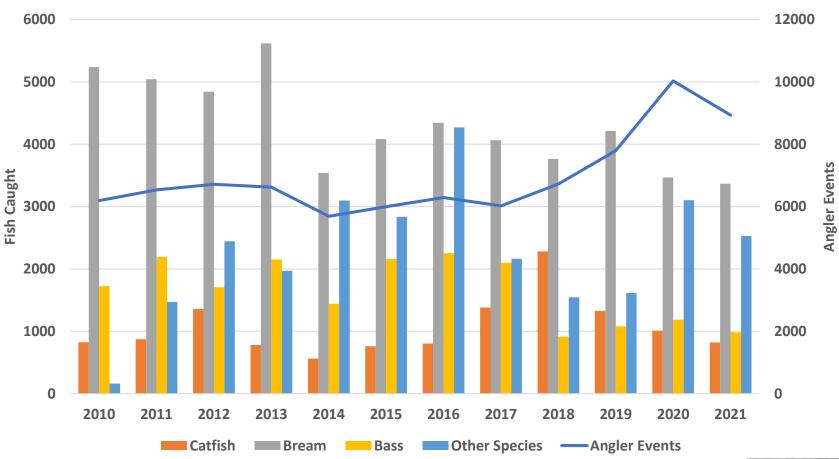
Lake Management





Fish Harvest & Fishing Participation Trend

Fish Harvest Trend 2010-2021





Other Fisheries Notes

✓Wilkerson and Whittimore Lakes were stocked with trout in Jan 2022.

✓Trout Fishing 2022

- Whittimore and Wilkerson lakes were stocked with 800 each 11-15 inch rainbow trout in January 2022. \$6055.00
- Fishing opened on the first Saturday in February (Feb. 5).
- 254 fishermen checked in 597 trout during opening weekend.

✓Trout Stocking 2023

 Plans are to close these lakes on 1 January 2023 and will open on 4 February 2023 for trout fishing.









Kids Fishing Derby

Sportsman's Club Organized: Held June and September Annually.



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Rachel I & II Lakes

✓ Water control structures have been replaced. ✓ Tentative Reopening: Spring 2024







iSportsman





iSportsman

✓<u>https://ftgordon.isportsman.net</u>

- ✓ Purchase permits online
- ✓ Sign In/Out via phone or internet (smart phone, PC, tablet)
- ✓ Training Area status (with occupancy)
- ✓ Public Access lottery drawing
- ✓ Game harvest check-in
- Information & Resource Hub for Natural Resources (news, regulations, forms)







SCHEDULE OF INSTALLATION PERMIT FEES

PERMIT	COST	TERM
Hunting (Small Game Only)	\$30.00	1 year from date of purchase
Hunting (Small and Big Game)	\$50.00	1 year from date of purchase
Fishing	\$30.00	1 year from date of purchase
1-Day Participant Hunting (Small and Big Game)	\$10.00	1 day
7-Day Participant Hunting (Small and Big Game)	\$50.00	7 days (consecutive)
1-Day Participant Fishing	\$5.00	1 day
7-Day Participant Fishing	\$25.00	7 days (consecutive)
Training area recreation	\$20.00	1 year from date of purchase
Youth Hunting or Fishing (Age 17 and under, required for check in on iSportsman)	Free	1 year from date of purchase
100% Service-Disabled Hunting and Fishing (See chapter 3-1 for specific requirements)	\$20.00	1 year from date of issuance (validation has no expiration)
Nighttime Hunting (required to check in for night hunting on iSportsman)	\$20.00	1 year from date of purchase
Public Access Lottery Entry Fee	\$10.00	1 lottery drawing
Public Access Hunting (Small Game Only)	\$25.00	1 year from date of purchase, but not to exceed Aug 1 of year following drawing
Public Access Hunting (Small and Big Game)	\$45.00	1 year from date of purchase, but not to exceed Aug 1 of year following drawing
Public Access Fishing	\$25.00	1 year from date of purchase, but not to exceed Aug 1 of year following drawing

NOTE: Installation hunting, fishing, and training area recreation permit fees are included in this regulation for information purposes only and are subject to change at any time.





21X Account

- Money generated between August 2020 August 2021 from the sale of Fort Gordon iSportsman permits (Hunting, Fishing, Outdoor rec) = \$69,700 going into the 21X account.
- ✓ All money (100%) collected into the 21X account is spent on Fort Gordon to support the hunting and fishing program.
- ✓ \$23,000 spent on fisheries Management: Fish food(\$4500)(\$6240), feeders, docks, fish structure(\$4000), fish(trout, catfish, shad, bluegill \$10,000)(\$13,464), chemicals(\$4500).
- ✓ \$38,177 spent on Game management: seed (\$14,727) fertilizer(\$11,450)(\$12,600), Chemicals(\$4000), lime(\$7000), oak trees(\$1000).
- ✓ \$8523 spent on equipment, repairs, supplies, camera survey, prescribed fire, etc.
- ✓ In 2022 IMCOM is requiring \$20,000 for iSportsman, Approximately 29% of annual budget.





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Species Forage	Number of Plots (#)	Area (acres)
Spring Mix	12	19 (\$855)
Chufa	87	60 (\$3900)
Fall Mix	174	127 (\$7975)
Dove Fields	13	103 (\$2000)
Total:	286	309 (\$14727)

Fiscal Year 2021 Food Plot Management

The Natural Resources Branch office manages a total of 476 acres across 505 total food plots for supplementing the diets of fauna species such as White-tailed Deer, Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, and Bobwhite Quail through their forage. In 2021, 12 plots were planted with spring mix totaling 19 acres, 87 plots planted in chufa totaling 60 acres, 174 plots planted with fall mix totaling 127 acres, and 13 plots planted for dove fields totaling 103 acres.

*In addition to forage species, the NRB also planted mast species such as Saw-tooth oak, Swamp-Chestnut Oak, and White oak across 26 of these food plots to provide acorns from late fall through mid-winter.







2022 Fall Food Plots











Basic iSportsman Website Information

- ✓ Safety briefing and quiz are required annually after 15 June.
- Permits cannot be renewed until your current permit (of the same type) expires.
- ✓ Customer Types (authorized users)
 - Choose/update appropriate customer type they are confirmed by Conservation Law Enforcement Officers.
- ✓ Participant/guest permits
 - Review Tutorial on the iSportsman homepage to familiarize yourself with how to properly check in participant/guests and guests if you are not familiar with how to execute the steps.
- ✓ Youth Hunting and Fishing Permits (free, required for all youth 17 and under)





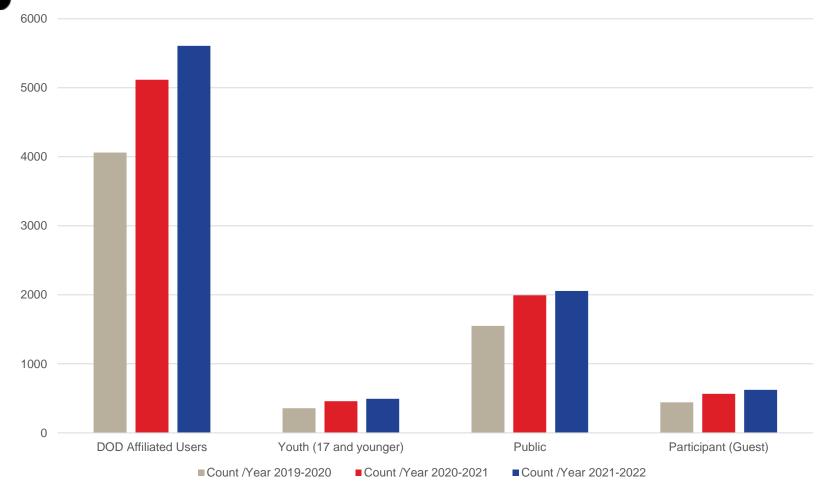
iSportsman- Common Problems

- Failure to Check Out Regulation states that you must be checked out when finished with your activity regardless of the iSportsman required check-out time.
- Make sure contact phone # (mobile phone), emergency contact #, email, and vehicle info is updated and correct in your profile.
- Make sure you select "Yes" to allow texting so you can be contacted for important matters (failure to check out, area closing, emergency info, etc.).
- ✓ If text is allowed, you should receive text 30 minutes before check out time as a reminder to do so. <u>Two failures to check out within a 6-</u> <u>month period will result in suspension of privileges.</u>
- USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia





Customer Types

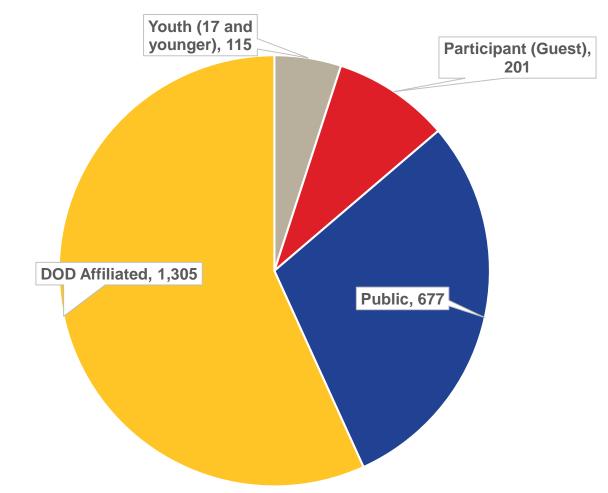


*These numbers do not reflect the number of permits sold. This is a representation of customer type distribution over the last 3 years.





Permit Sales by Customer Types

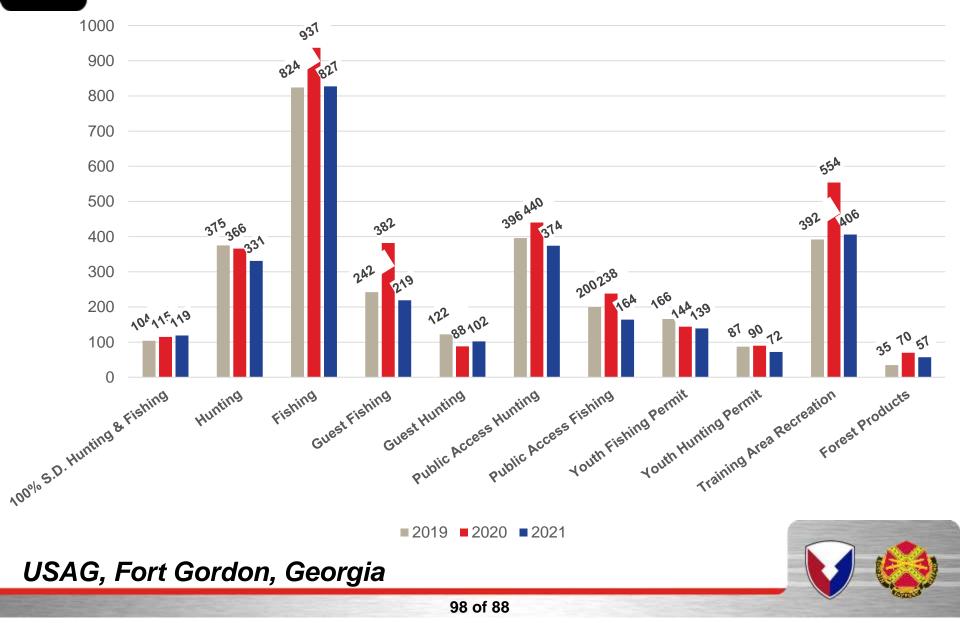


2,298 total permits sold to all Customer Types from 16 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

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Annual Permit Sales by Type





Public Access Lottery

✓ 2017-2018 Public Access Lottery

- 485 sportsmen entered and selected
- 336 sportsmen purchased
 permits
- 69% purchased permits

✓ 2018-2019 Public Access Lottery

- 536 sportsmen entered and selected
- 391 sportsmen purchased
 permits
- 73% purchased permits

✓ 2019-2020 Public Access Lottery

- 638 sportsmen entered and selected
- 442 sportsmen purchased
 permits
- 69% purchased permits

ery ✓2020-2021 Public Access Lottery red • 770 sportsmen entered

- 770 sportsmen entered and selected
- 496 sportsmen purchased permits
- 64% purchased permits

✓ 2021-2022 Public Access Lottery

- 689 sportsmen entered and selected
- 496 sportsmen purchased permits
- 72% purchased permits

✓ 2022-2023 Public Access Lottery

 696 sportsmen entered and selected





Installation Access Reminders

- Everyone bringing a firearm onto the installation is required to have an approved FG Form 9243 on their person. Participant (Guest) and their permitted sponsor may fill out a Form 7160 for temporary firearms usage during hunting seasons.
- ✓ Public Access can get a long-term AIE pass (good for 1 year from date background check (Form 9243)) was completed.
- Participants/Guests must enter through the installation access gates in the same vehicle as sponsor (may be required to stop at VCC)
 - For VCC hours contact: (706) 791-3788/3071. It is recommended that weekend visitors obtain visitors pass ahead of time.





Regulation Reminders

- ✓ Participants must have a daily or weekly permit. Sponsor and participant must also have a completed NAF form 7160 or 9243.
- ✓ All hunters, regardless of age, must have a hunter education certificate to hunt.
- ✓ All sportsmen need to display a Fort Gordon Training Area Parking pass. They can be printed from iSportsman (under Regulations & Forms).
- Be sure you understand the check-in/out procedures (especially for participants, guests, and youth).
 - Tutorial for using iSportsman is available on the websites homepage (slides 18-20 & 31).
 - Participants and youth will check-out themselves.
- ✓ ATV use on the installation is prohibited unless authorization is given by DES.
- ✓ Air bows and air rifles are NOT permitted on Fort Gordon even though they are permitted by the state of Georgia.
- ✓ All firearms must be transported in a zippered or lockable case and transported separate from the ammo.





Natural Resources Contact Information

Natural Resources Branch (Business Hours) (706) 791-6135/2397/9983 Biologist (706) 832-7661, (706) 726-0098

iSportsman Check-in (Automated) (855) 252-6110 Sportsman's Club (Range 14) (706) 791-5078/3317

iSportsman Questions (706) 791-2397/9983/6135

Military Police/Game Warden (706) 791-4380/4537

In case of an emergency, call 911. If you reach a county 911 office, ask to be transferred to Fort Gordon 911.





INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND



SUSTAIN, SUPPORT, DEFEND

USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia



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