

# 2021 Fall Public Briefing

Natural Resources Branch USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia





# Safety





#### Fort Gordon Directorate of Emergency Services

The Director of Emergency Services 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, (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 checkin 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

- ✓Please 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 (Current Acting)
CPT Anthony M. Rivera
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)

- 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

- Prescribed Burn 6,155 acres of ranges and impact area
- Forest management actions to support military Field Training
- 3. Prescribed Burn ~9,000 acres for endangered species habitat
- Restore and improve ~1,200 acres of RCW & Gopher Tortoise habitat
- 5. Maintain ~9,000 acres of RCW & Gopher Tortoise habitat
- 6. Monitoring of Flora and Fauna
- 7. Game species hunting and fishing management





**Total** 

# NRB 2021 Fall Public Briefing

**17** 

#### Threatened & Endangered Species Management

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



<sup>\*\*</sup>Gopher Tortoise Federal Candidate species



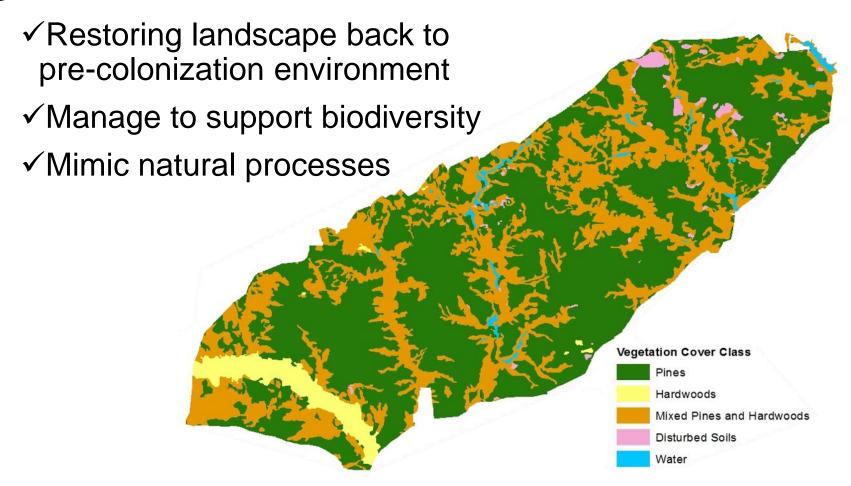




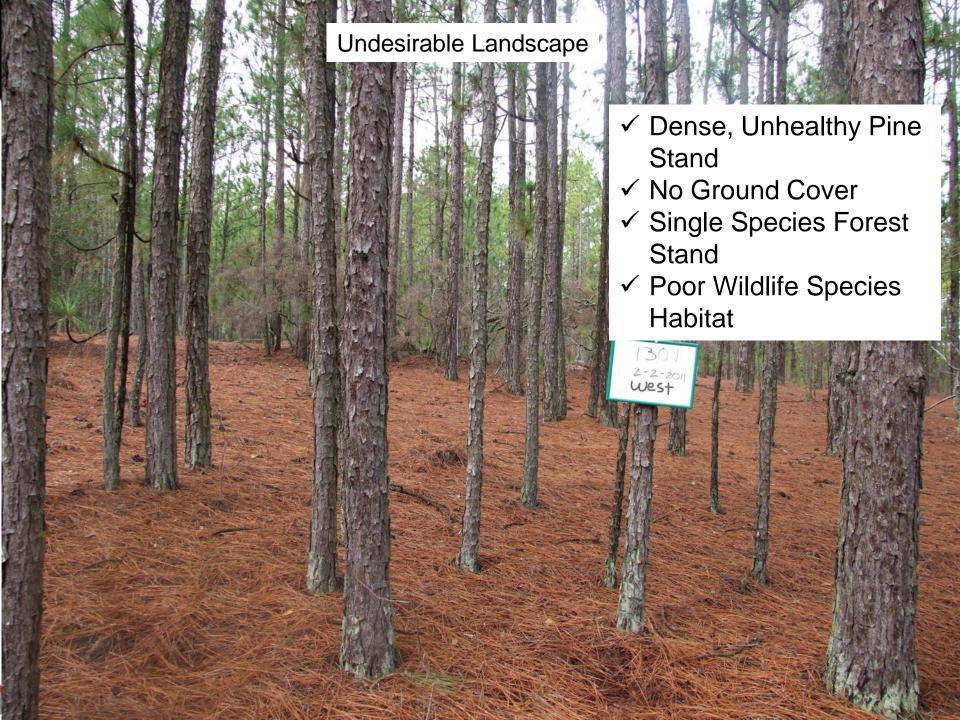




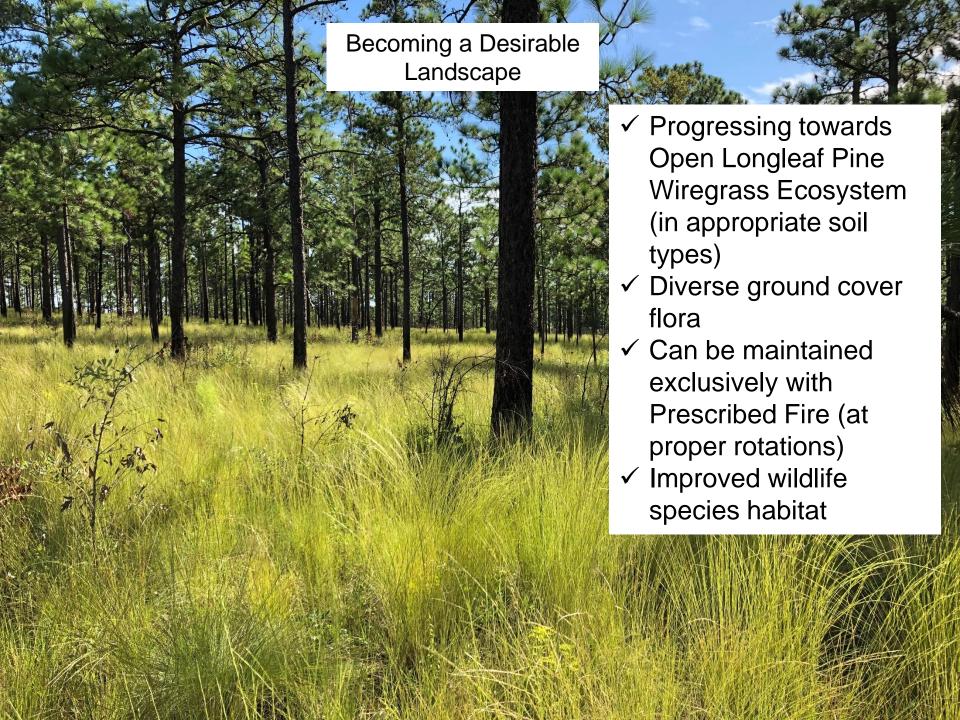
#### Ecosystem Management Strategy













#### 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 (19 Aug 15) for RCW management
- Wildlife Forage Enhancement
  - Many native forage species require fire
  - Soil fertility enhancement
  - Herbaceous groundcover enhancement



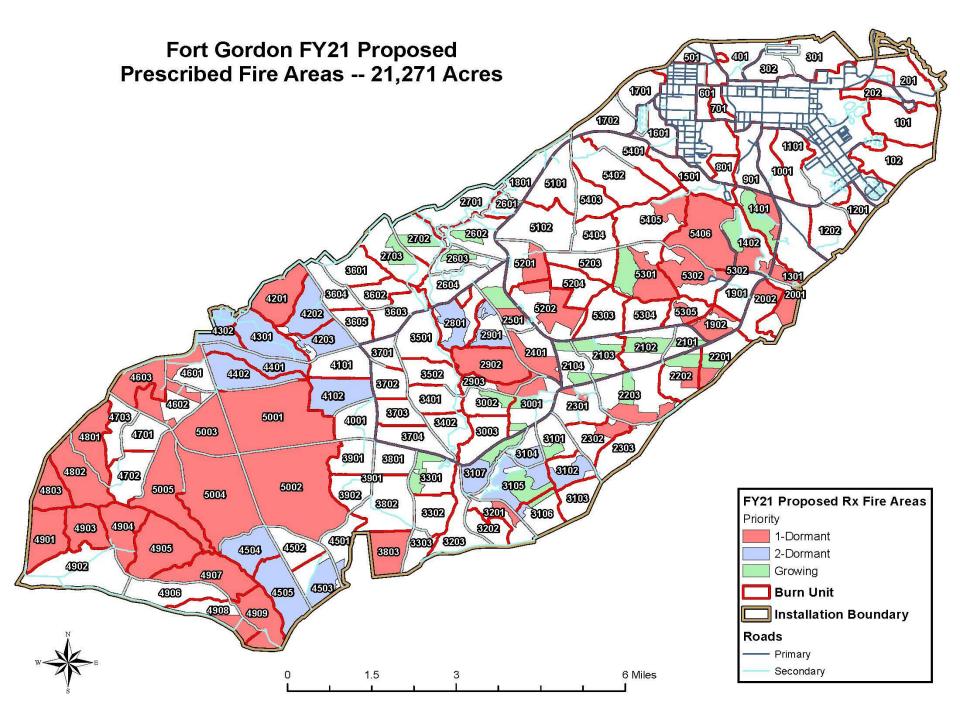


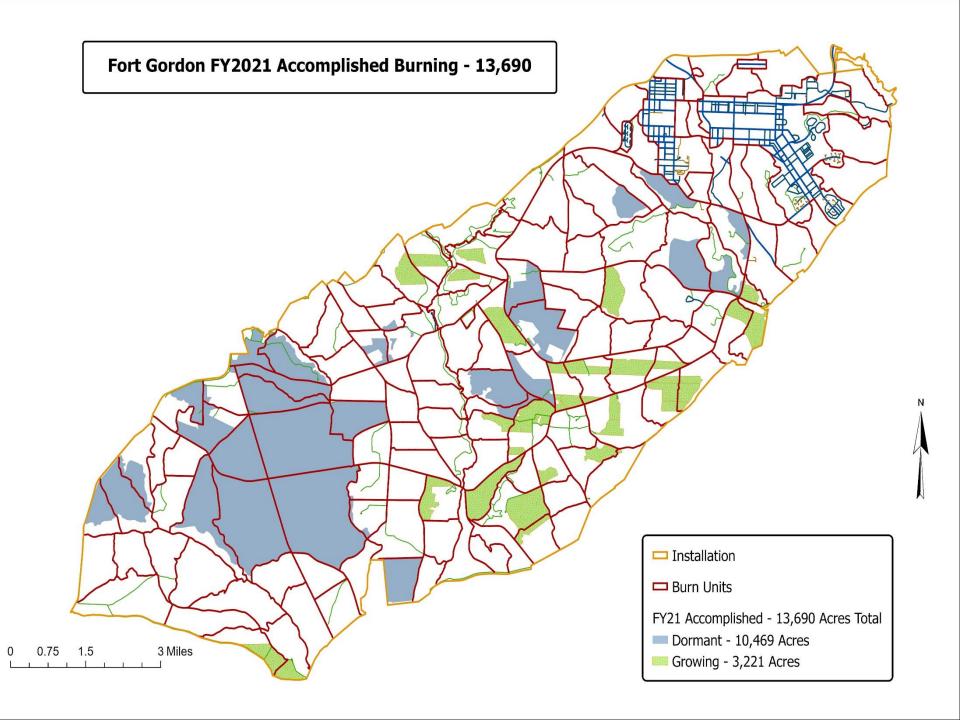




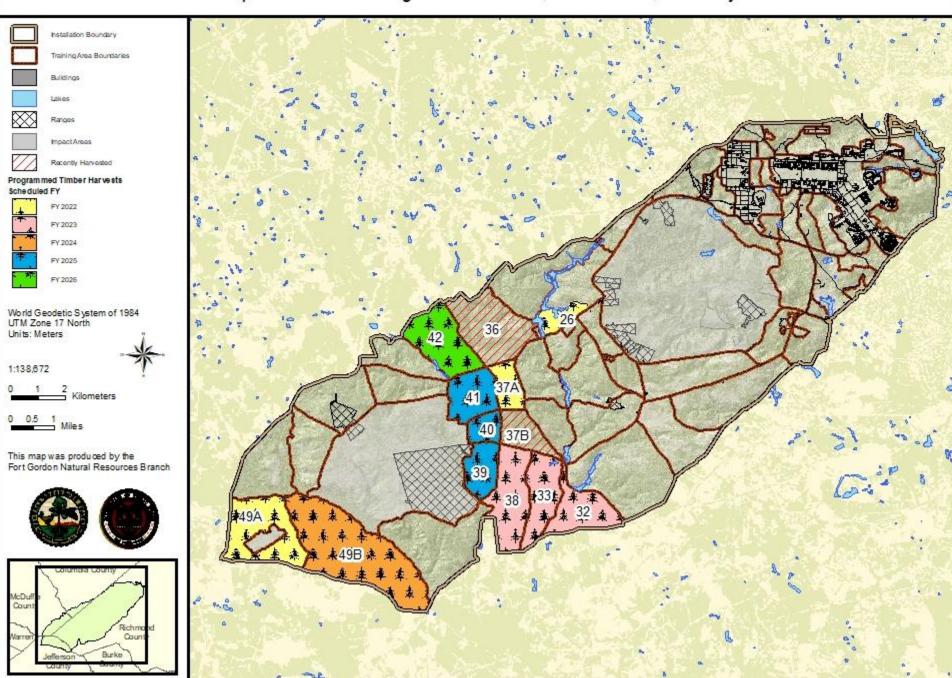








#### Proposed Forest Management Activities, Fort Gordon, US Army





#### Timber Marking and Harvesting





USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia





#### Mechanical Midstory Removal





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

USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia







#### Herbicide



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









# Game and Fish Management



# U.S.ARMY

# **Game Management**



USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia



#### 2020-2021 Game Harvest Summary

#### √White-tailed Deer

- Total- 304
  - Bucks- 172
  - Does- 132
  - Fawns- 38 (12.5% harvest)

#### ✓ Wild Turkey

• Total- 29

#### **✓ Small Game**

- Mourning Dove- 2025
- Gray Squirrel- 38
- Waterfowl- 219
- Northern Bobwhite- 161

#### **√Other**

- Rabbits- 4
- Coyotes- 7



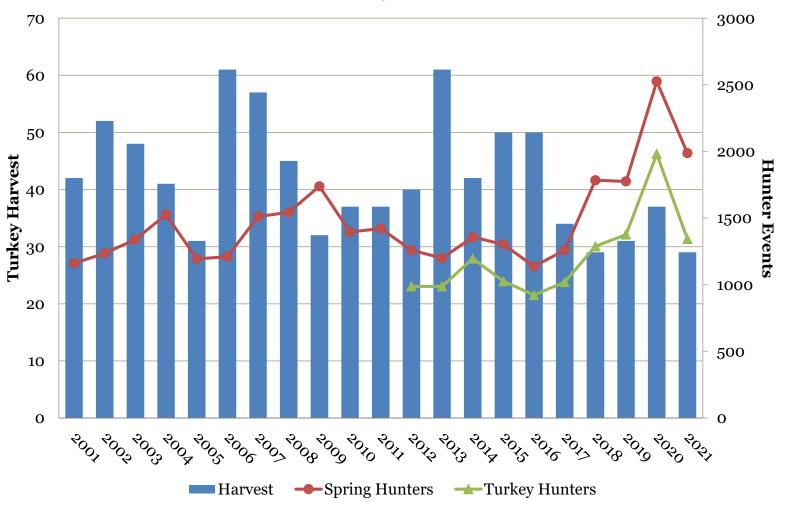








#### 20-Year Turkey Harvest Trend



USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia

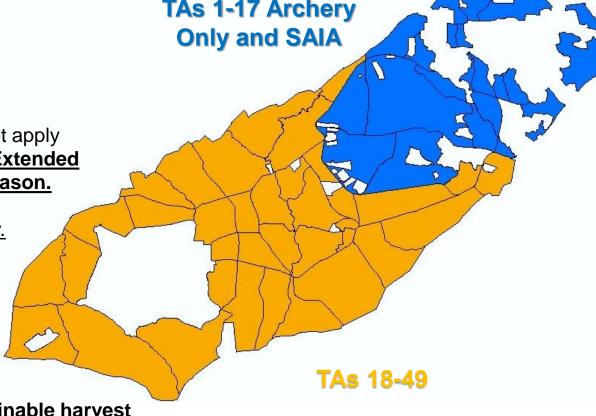




#### Deer Management Goals

#### ✓ Archery Only & SAIA

- Population reduction
- Either sex all season
- State bag limits apply
- · Antlerless quota does not apply
- <u>TA's 1-17 will have an Extended</u> Archery Season this season.
- SAIA trophy antler restrictions no longer apply.



#### ✓ TAs 18-49

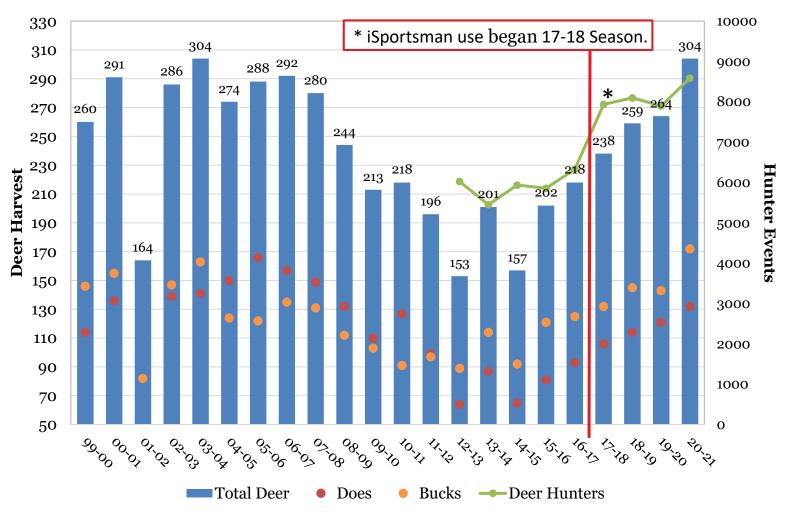
- Maximize annual sustainable harvest
- Antlerless quota applies (<u>75</u>)
- Either sex until quota is met
- Each hunter limited to 2 antlerless deer until quota is met
- State bag limits apply for antlered deer



USAG, Fort Gordon, GA



#### 20-Year Deer Harvest Trend



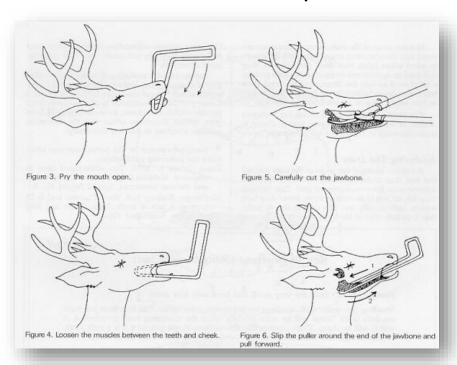
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#### **Deer Check Station**

- ✓ Checked 18 does and 45 bucks in 2020-2021.
- √99% jawbone submission rate (poor samples, 13.5% of submitted jawbones).
- ✓ Check station requirements have not changed.











#### Antler Data

✓ Last season we had 13 deer measured over 120 inches Gross B&C and 4 of those where greater than 130 inches Gross B&C. The actual number of "trophy" deer harvested could likely higher since not all deer were measured (37% of harvested bucks were measured last season).













#### Antler Data

2020-2021 Notable Bucks							
Age	Points	Inside Spread	Rt. Main	B&C Score	Live Wt.	TA	
4.5	10	22.125	15.625	136.875	145	12	
4.5	9	21.875	19.125	134.375	138	22	
4.5	15	21	13.5	132	168	3	
5.5	11	21.375	14.75	131.375	165	SAIA-D	
5.5	9	21.75	17.25	129.75	190	30	
4.5	12	18	15.25	128.125	149	12	
4.5	11	20.75	17.5	127.75	166	26	
	8	20.125	17.25	127.75	165	1	
4.5	9	20.25	18.875	126.875	178	45	
4.5	8	22.625	18.375	125	170	43	
4.5	10	19	16	124.875	138	9	
3.5	10	18	13.25	123	166	47	
7.5	8	20.375	17	120.25	153	42	



\*NRB Biologists appreciate those hunters who allow them to measure their bucks.





#### Antlerless Deer Harvest Quota and Regulation Reminders

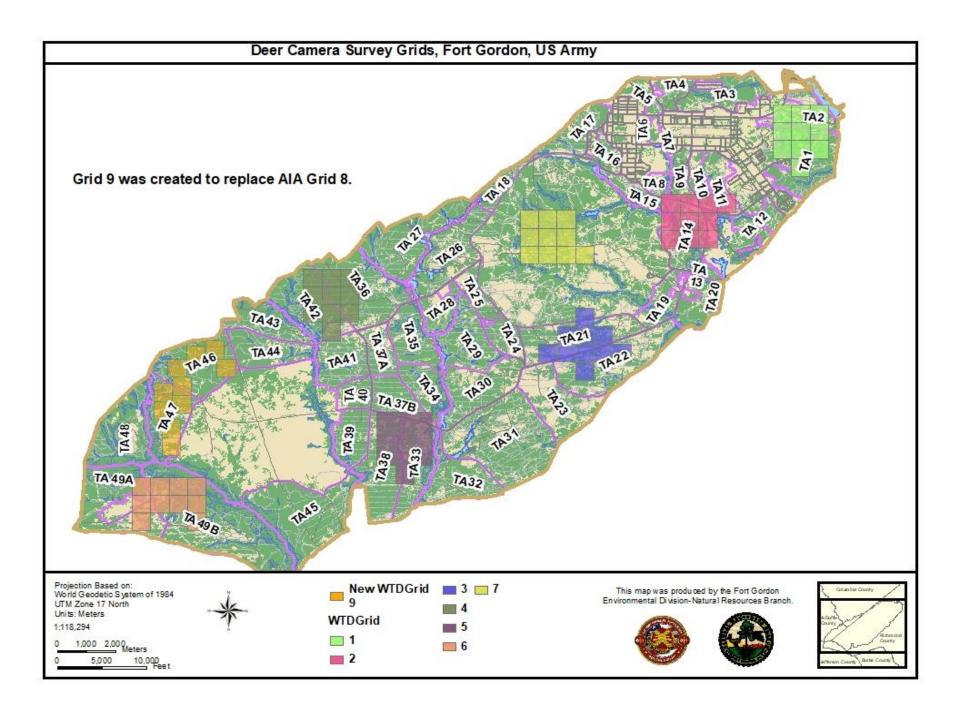
- √ 2020-2021 Antlerless quota (50) for TAs 18-49 was met on 09 November. Extended to 100 (met on 10 January).
- ✓ 2021-2022 Antlerless quota for TAs 18-49 is set at 75.
- ✓ Limit is 2 antlerless per hunter in TAs 18-49 until quota is met.
- ✓ GADNR buck-only season does not apply on Fort Gordon.
- ✓ 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 15-inch outside antler spread to be legal.

✓ Archery areas (TAs 1-17) have been approved by GADNR to fall within their Extended

Archery Season.









### 2021 Fall WTD Camera Survey Photos







**UNCLASSIFIED//FOUO** 

# NRB 2021 Fall Public Briefing 2021 Fall WTD Camera Survey Photos 08/23/2021

USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia



CAMERA 85

24 AUG 2021 08:45 am





2021 Fall WTD Camera Survey Photos





2021 Food Plots









### **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).
- ✓ 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.).



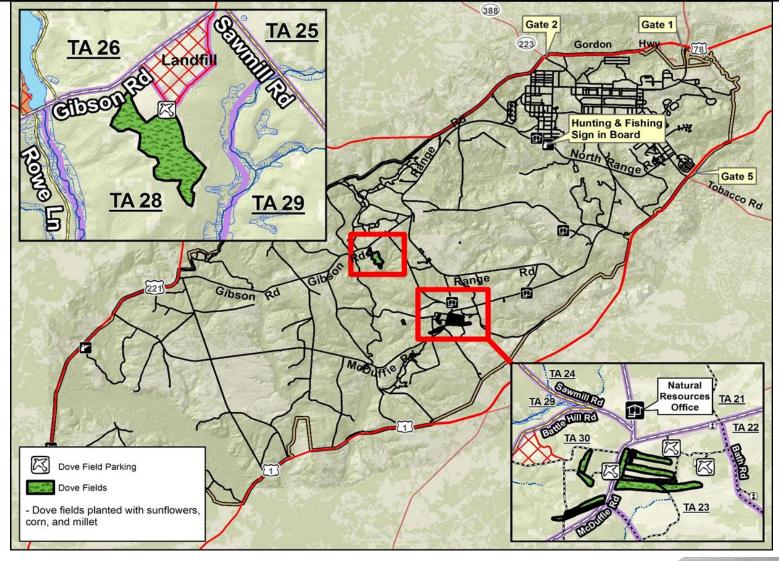


### **Dove Fields**





















### Fisheries Stocking to Date

Lake	Date	# Fish	Species
Little Beaver	Jan. 2021	800/5000	11"+ Rainbow Trout/Bluegill
Whittimore	Jan. 2021	800	11"+ Rainbow Trout
Mirror	Apr. 2021	5000	Bluegill
Rachel I	Apr. 2021	10,000	Bluegill
Rachel II	Apr. 2021	8000	Bluegill
Rachel III	Apr. 2021	5000	Bluegill
Rachel IV	Apr. 2021	1300	Bluegill
Fettig	Apr. 2021	5000	Bluegill
Howard	Apr. 2021	5000	Bluegill
Big Smoak	Apr. 2021	5000	Bluegill
Clay Pit 1	Apr. 2021	6000	Bluegill
Clay Pit 2	June 2021	900	Catfish
Clay Pit 3	June 2021	300	Catfish





### ✓ Threadfin Shad added:

- Big Smoak (2 Loads)
- Upper Leitner (2 Loads)
- Butler Reservoir (4 Loads)
- Union Mill (2 Loads)
- Lower Leitner (2 Loads)
- Leitner (2 Loads)







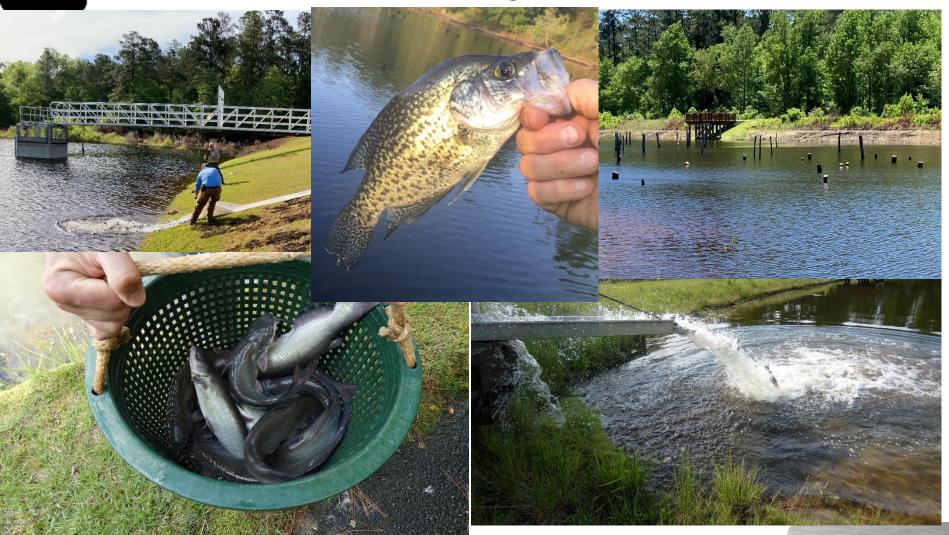


Lake Management





Lake Management



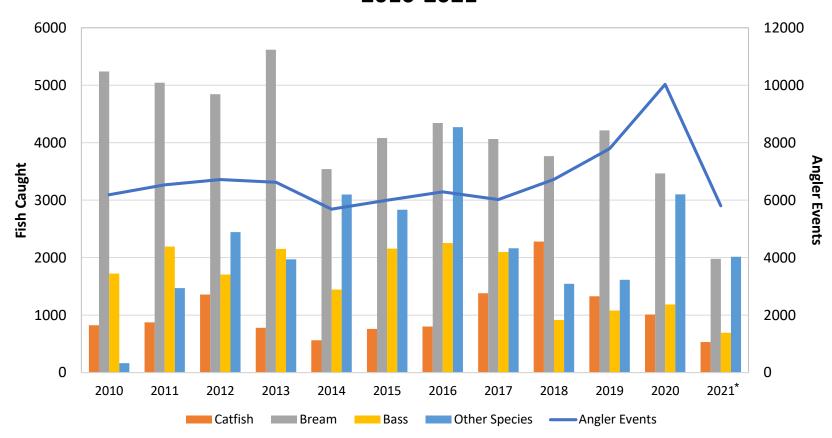






### Fish Harvest & Fishing Participation Trend

# Fish Harvest Trend 2010-2021



\*2021 Numbers were generated from 01 Jan. – 31 July





### Other Fisheries Notes

✓ Wilkerson Pond is open. It will be closed on 1 January 2022 and will open again on 5 February 2022 for trout fishing.

### ✓ Trout Fishing 2021

- Whittimore and Little Beaver lakes were stocked with 1,600 11-16 inch rainbow trout in January 2021.
- Fishing opened on the first Saturday in February (Feb. 6).
- 666 trout were caught during opening weekend.

### √Trout Stocking 2021

 Trout will be stocked in designated ponds again in January 2022.











### Kids Fishing Derby

# **KIDS' FISHING DERBY**& SHOOTING DAY

Sept. 18, 2021



- 81 Kids signed up
- 42 Weighed in fish
- ~25 "First Timers"
- 334 Fish weighed in totaling 404 lbs





Rachel I & II Lakes

√ Water control structures have been replaced.

**✓ Tentative Reopening: Spring 2023** 







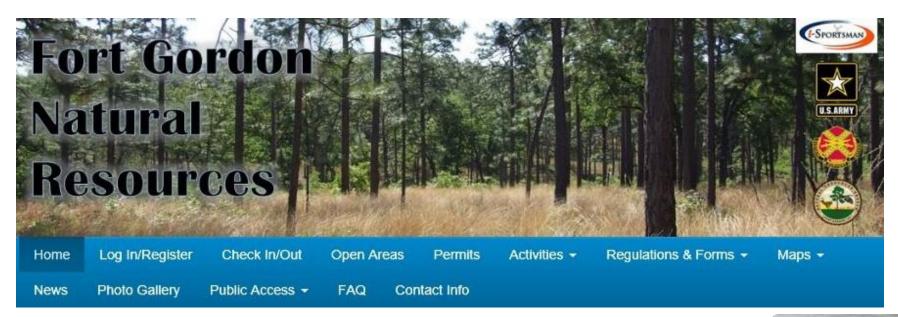
# iSportsman





### iSportsman

- √ <a href="https://ftgordon.isportsman.net">https://ftgordon.isportsman.net</a>
- ✓ 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.







### 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)



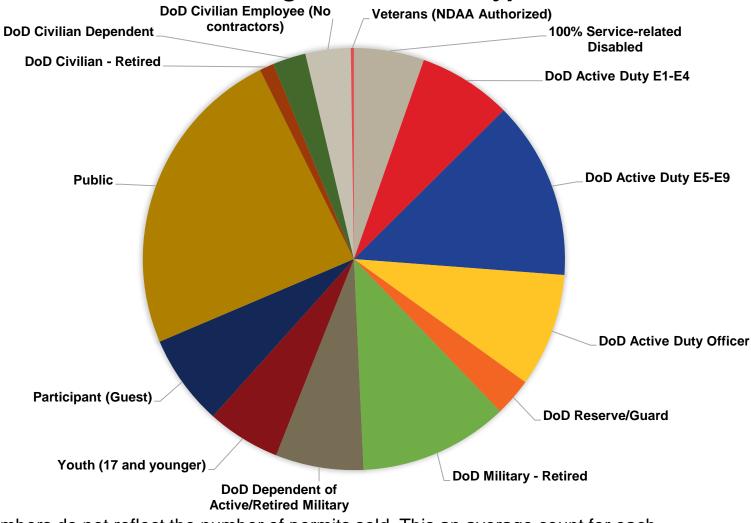
### iSportsman- Common Problems

- ✓ 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. Two failures to check out within a 6-month period will result in suspension of privileges.





### 3 Year Avg. of Customer Types



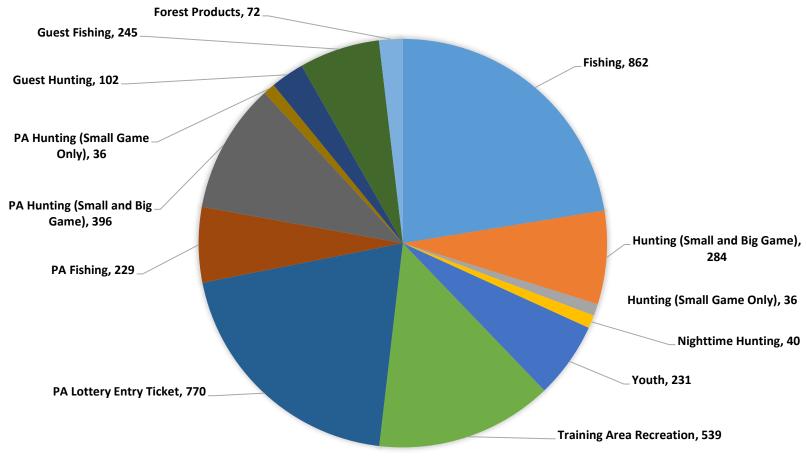
<sup>\*</sup>These numbers do not reflect the number of permits sold. This an average count for each Customer Type category.







### **Permit Sales**



3,970 total permits sold to all Customer Types from 01 July 2020 to 30 June 2021







### **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

### ✓ 2020-2021 Public Access Lottery

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

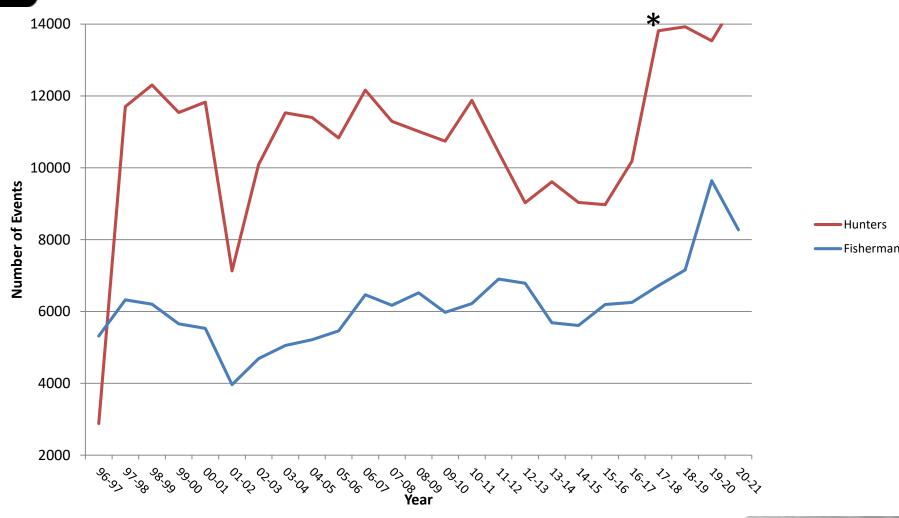
### ✓ 2021-2022 Public Access Lottery

- 689 sportsmen entered and selected
- 494 sportsmen purchased permits (as of 31 Aug 2021)





### **Hunter and Fishermen Events Trend**



\*Began using iSportsman, hunter events are not directly comparable to previous years







### 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. Weekend visitors need to 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).
- ✓ 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.





### Changes to Regulation 420-5

- ✓ Certain Veterans and their caregivers that qualify under section 621 and 626 of the NDAA, H.R.5515, 115<sup>th</sup> Congress are now authorized to purchase any iSportsman recreational pass under the Veterans customer type.
- √ Small game hunters hunting at night must be checked out by 11:30.
- ✓ All deer stands, blinds, and cameras left on the installation must be marked with the owner's Fort Gordon iSportsman permit number.
- ✓ Lawfully possessed silencers/suppressors may be used for hunting.
- ✓ An unpaved/dirt bicycle route (Bicycle Course 3) has been created on Hugh Camp Road.





### **Natural Resources Contact Information**

Natural Resources Branch (Business Hours) (706) 791-6135/2397/9983 Biologist (Asst w/ Jawbone Extraction) (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

