

2020 Fall Public Briefing

Natural Resources Branch USAG, Fort Gordon, Georgia

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Wildlife Biologist Fort Gordon DPW



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 putting 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 area, lake/pond, and bicycle routes available for recreation.
- ✓ Please ensure you print out and place in view, a completed Training Area Parking Pass, 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 # :
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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 and accurate-to include vehicle and emergency contact 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 emergency (Answer the phone!). Your emergency contact's phone number should not be the same as yours! Let your emergency contact know your plans, i.e. "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 checkout 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 Richard E. Anderson 706-791-4871

Deputy Chief of Police William S. Russ 706-791-0086 Conservation Law Enforcement
Supervisor
CPT Michael F. Porreca
706-791-2896





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
- Prescribed Burn ~9,000 acres 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 2020 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



^{**}Gopher Tortoise Federal Candidate species



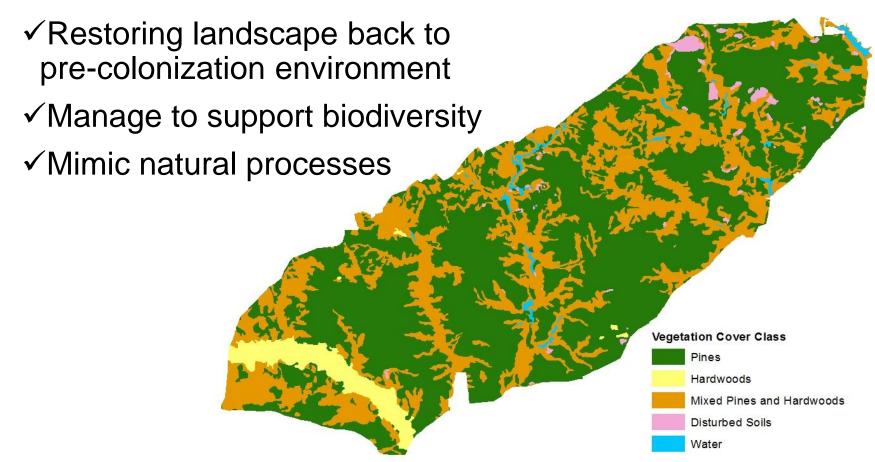




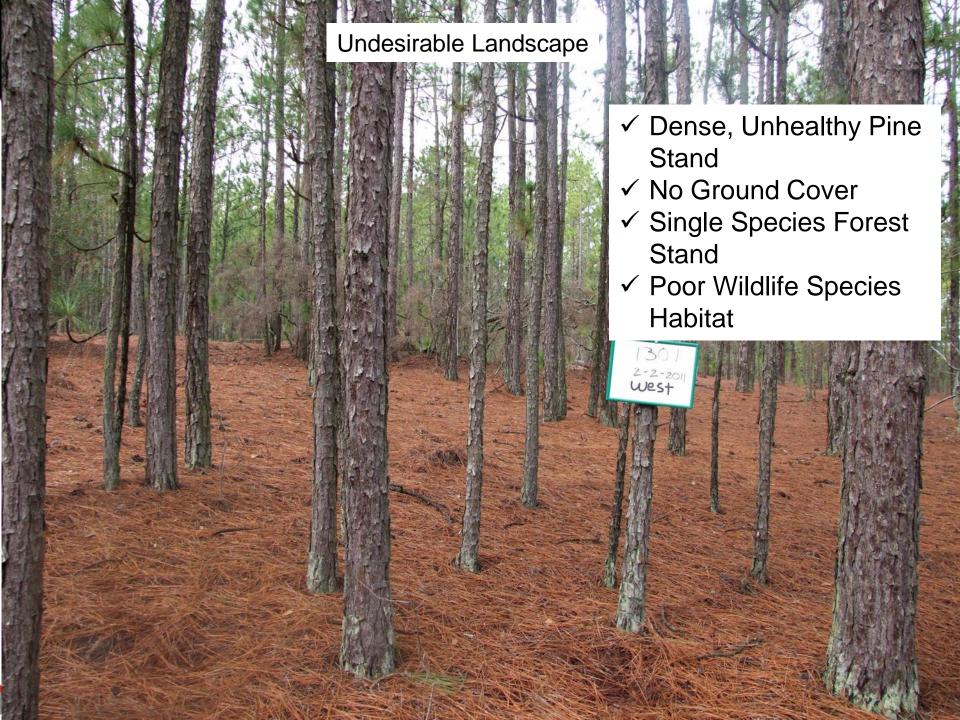




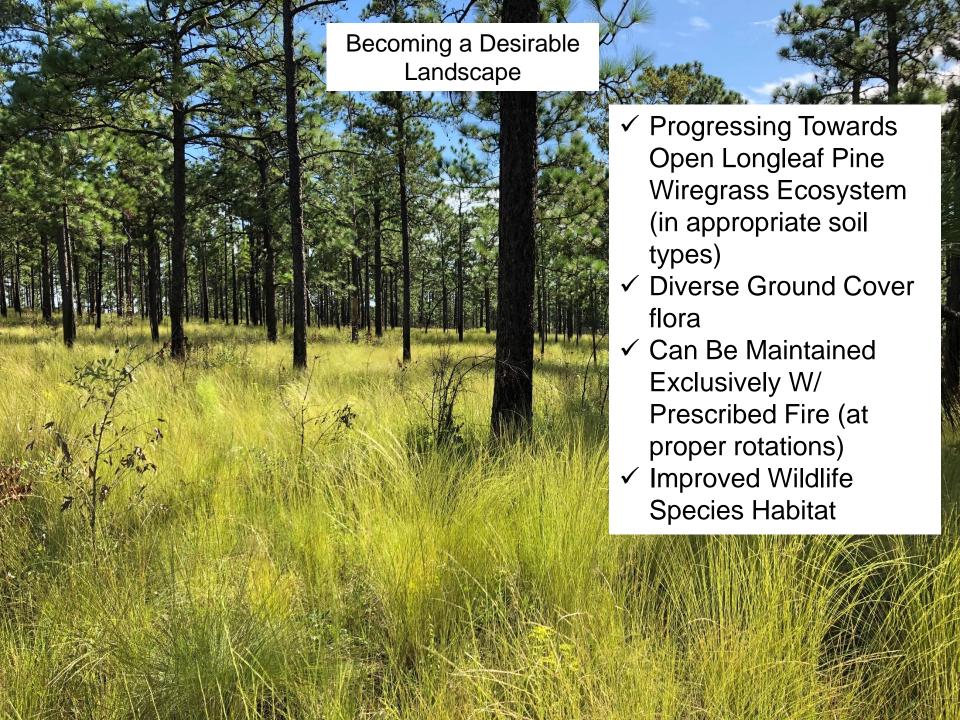
Ecosystem Management Strategy













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 military training within the forest
 - Reduces loss of training time due to fire control
- Wildfire danger
 - Reduces the risk, number, and size of wildfires
 - Reduces the damage resulting from wildfires because the 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



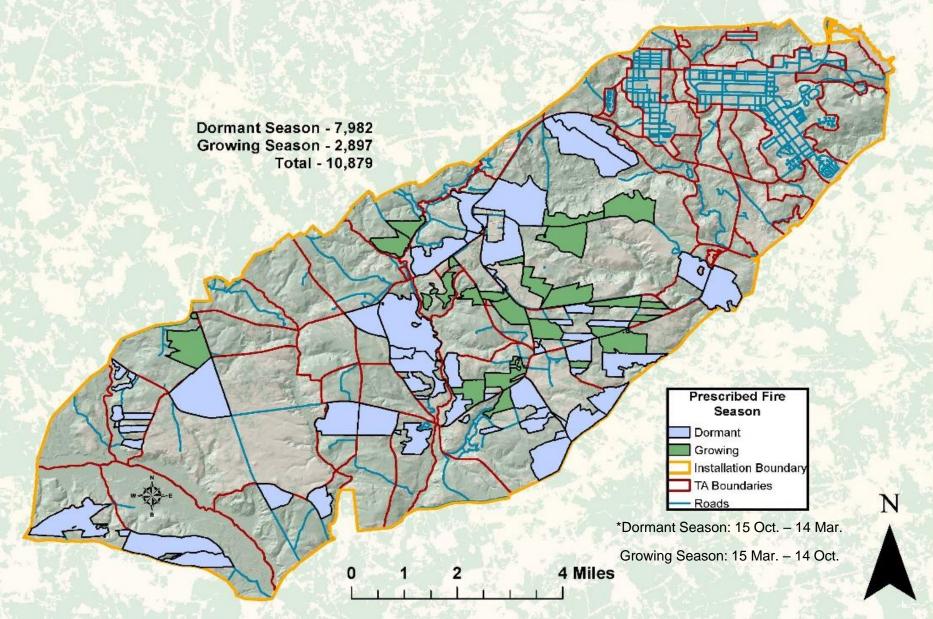


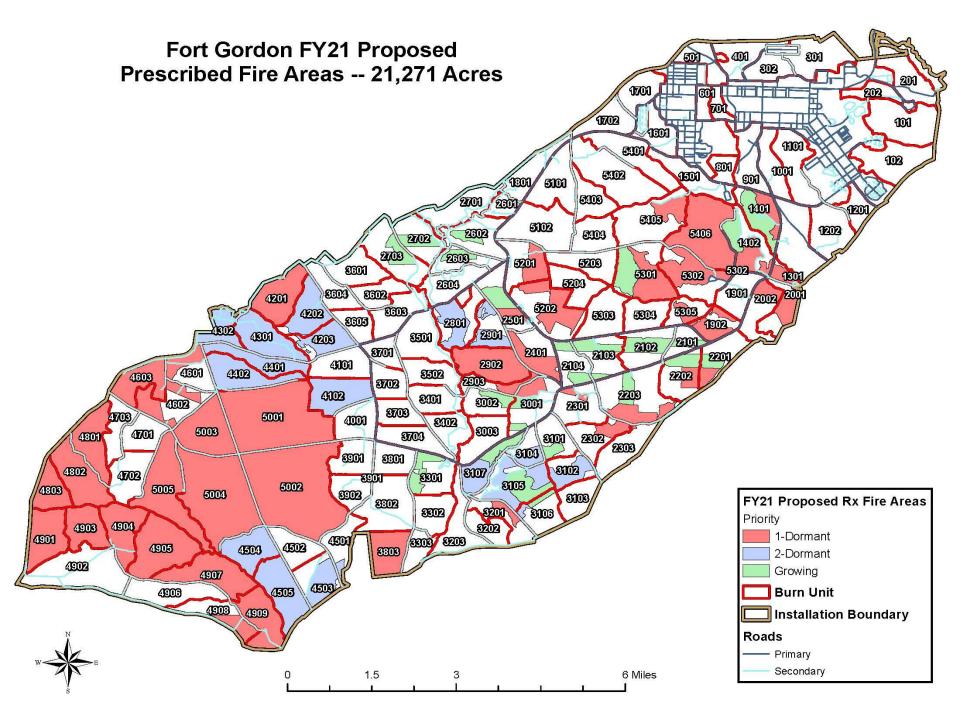


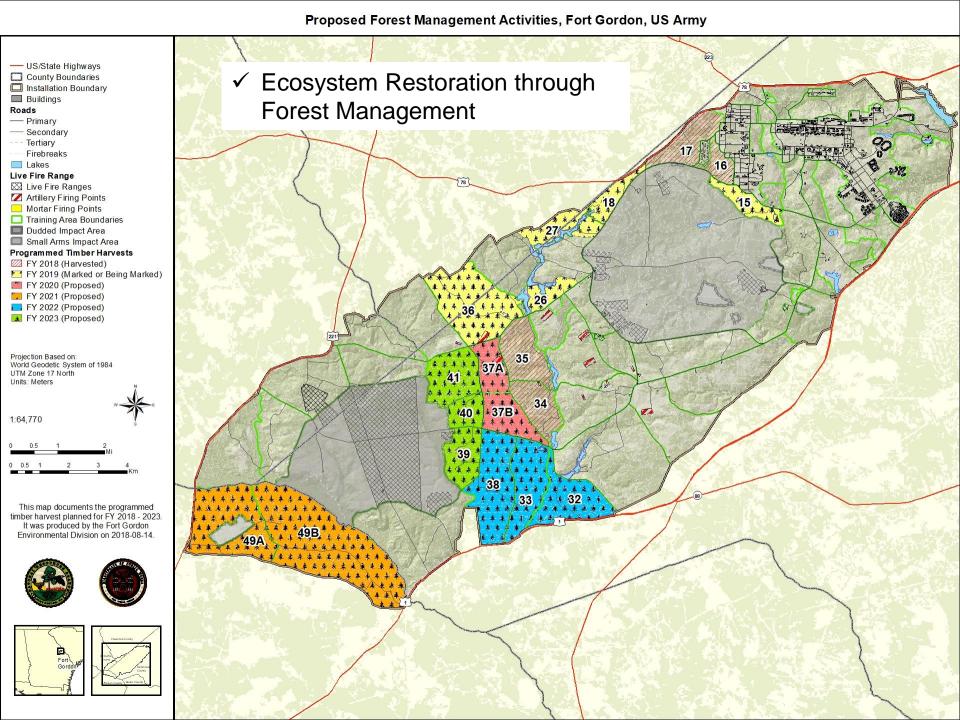




FY20 Prescribed Fire Accomplished









Timber Marking and Harvesting









Mechanical Midstory Removal





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





Herbicide



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



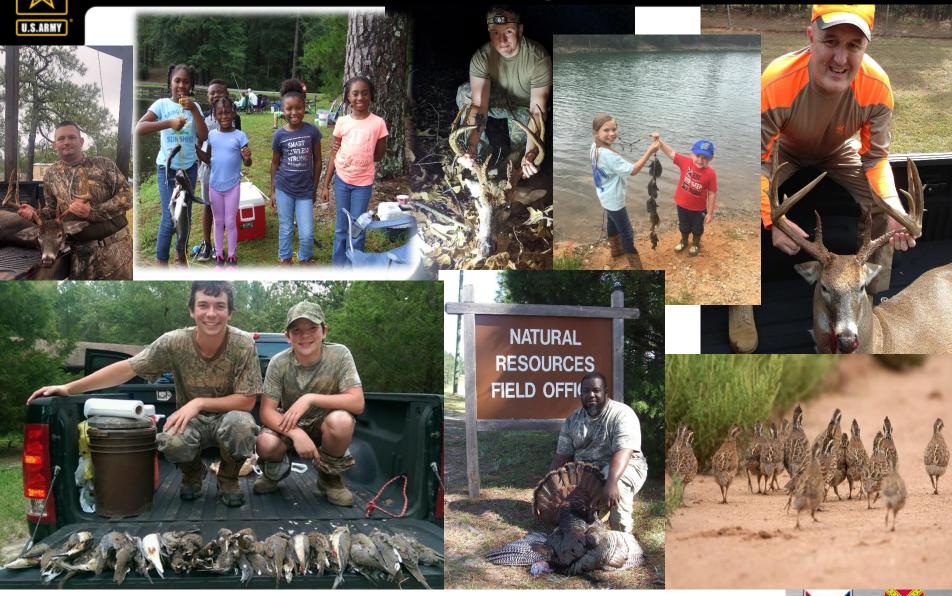




Game and Fish Management



Game Management







2019-2020 Game Harvest Summary

√ White-tailed Deer

- Total- 264
 - Bucks- 139
 - Does- 111
 - Fawns- 14 (5.3% harvest)

✓ Wild Turkey

• Total- 37

✓ Small Game

- Mourning Dove- 1916
- Gray Squirrel- 11
- Waterfowl- 91
- Northern Bobwhite- 136

✓ Other

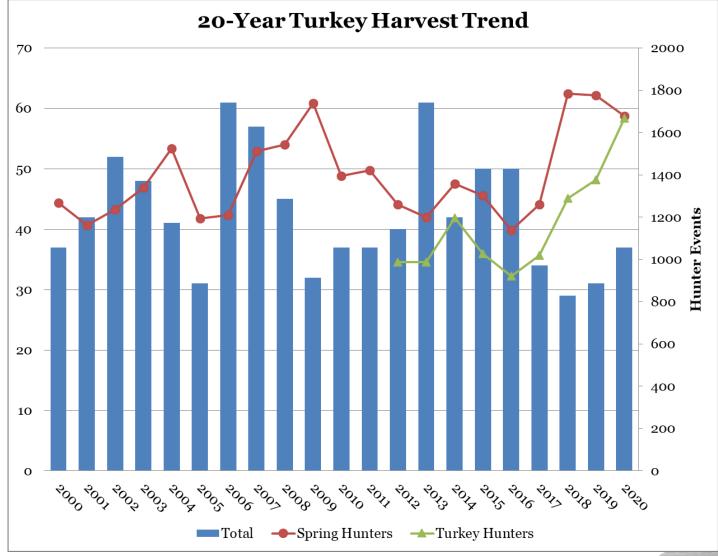
- Rabbits- 3
- Coyotes- 8









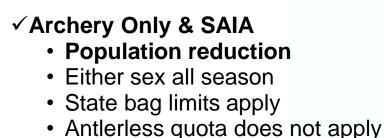






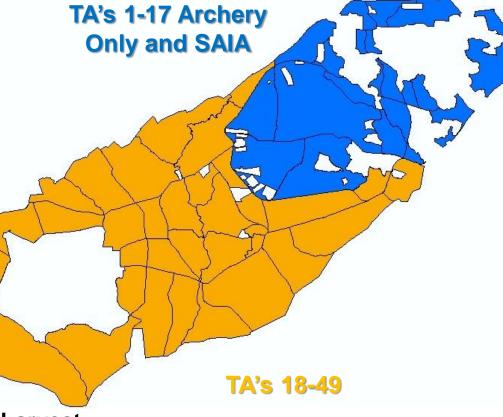


Deer Management Goals



• SAIA trophy antler

restrictions no longer apply.



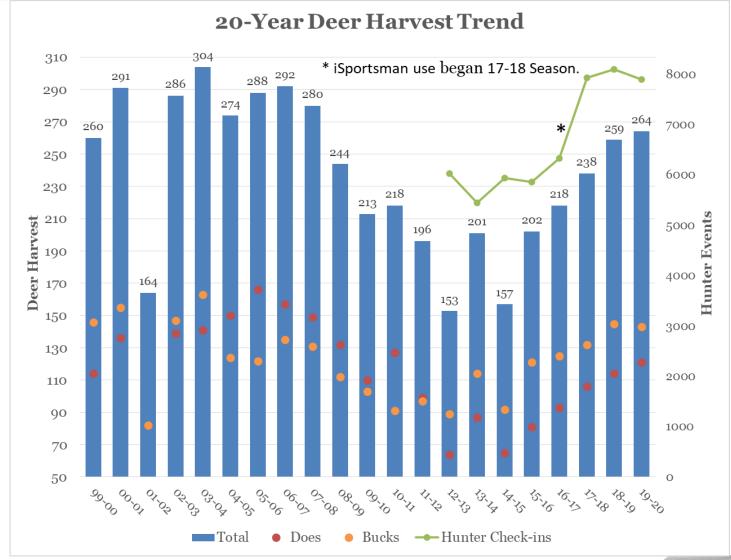
√18-49

- Maximize annual sustainable harvest
- Antlerless quota applies (<u>50</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







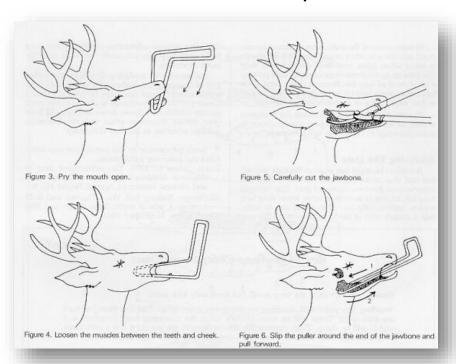






Deer Check Station

- √ Checked 24 does and 41 bucks in 2019-2020
- √99% jawbone submission rate (several poor samples, 20% of submitted jawbones)
- ✓ Check station requirements have not changed with iSportsman









Antler Data

✓ Last season we had 9 deer measured over 120 inches Gross B&C and 5 of those where greater than 130 inches Gross B&C. The actual number of trophy deer harvested is likely higher since not all deer get measured (38% of harvested bucks were measured last season).













Antler Data

2019-2020 Notable Bucks Harvested							
		Inside Spread	Rt. Main	B&C Score	Live Wt.		
Age	Points	(in.)	Beam (in.)	(in.)	(lbs.)	TA	
4.5	13	16.5	22.5	156.625	164	28	
3.5	10	17.875	22.5	147.375	205	32	
5.5	9	15.375	21.25	134.625	164	47	
5.5	10	16.125	19.125	134	150	37B	
3.5	10	13.375	19.875	131	144	1	
3.5	11	12.125	17.625	123.25	155	47	
3.5	9	13.5	19	123.25	138	29	
3.5	10	13.5	18.375	122.75	120	SAIA-D	
3.5	8	14.125	19.75	120.125		42	



^{*}NRB Biologists appreciate those hunters who allowing them to measure their bucks.







SAIA Rule Change

✓ SAIA buck antler restrictions no longer apply.

- Buck/Doe ratio is skewed
- Antler measurements of the bucks harvested over the years have not shown a significant difference to those bucks harvested outside the SAIA.
- In addition, SAIA access is limited. To increase harvest opportunities and assist with the improvement the sex ratios within the area NRB biologists have decided to remove antler restrictions.





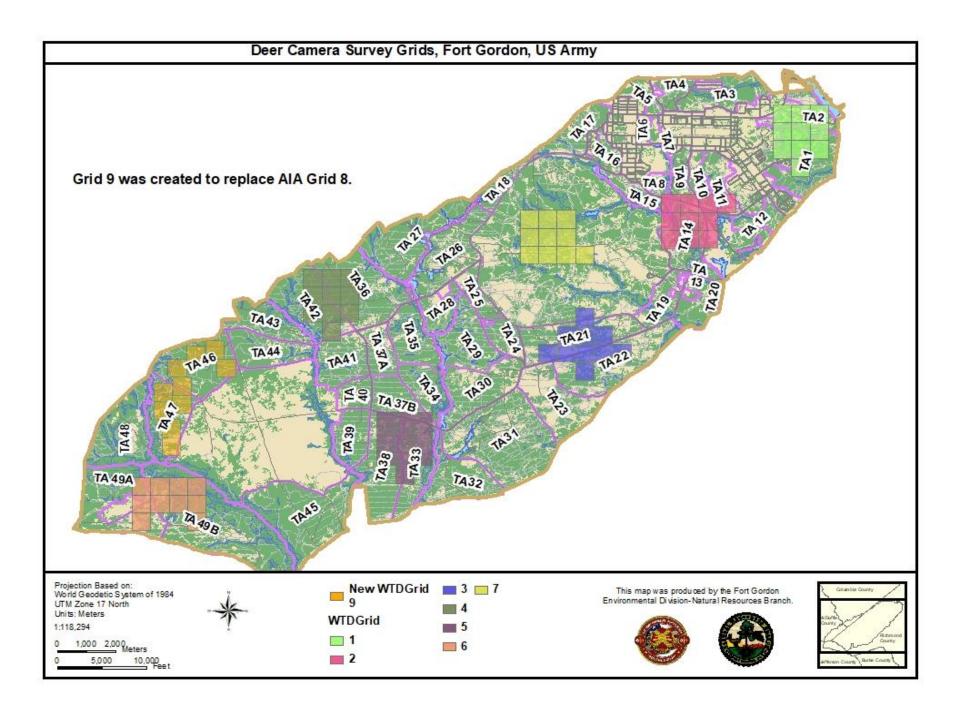
Antlerless Deer Harvest Quota and Regulation Reminders

- ✓2019-2020 Antlerless quota (50) for 18-49 zone was met on 11 November. Extended to 30 more (met on 2 January).
- √2020-2021 Antlerless quota for 18-49 is set at 50
- ✓ Limit is 2 antlerless per hunter in 18-49 until quota is met
- ✓ GA DNR buck-only season does not apply on Fort Gordon
- ✓ State bag limit in Archery and SAIA zones











2020 Fall WTD Camera Survey Photos





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. (does not replace GA DNR game check requirements)





Dove Fields

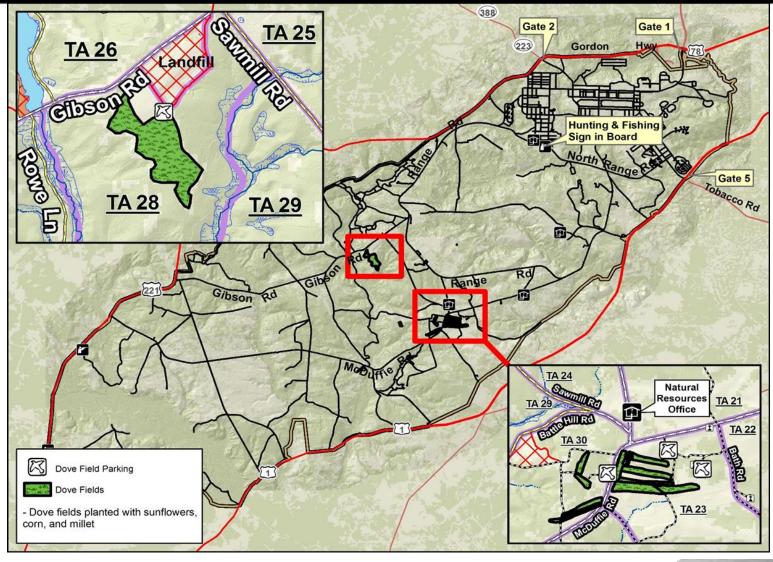




















Fisheries Stocking to Date

Lake	Date	# Fish	Species
Whittimore	Jan. 2020	525	Rainbow Trout
Little Beaver	Jan. 2020	525	Rainbow Trout
Whittimore	Jan. 2020	225	Rainbow Trout
Little Beaver	Jan. 2020	225	Rainbow Trout
Mirror	Feb. 2020	2000	4 -8" catfish
Boardman	Aug. 2020	300	catfish
Clay Pit 2	Aug. 2020	500	catfish
Clay Pit 3	Aug. 2020	300	catfish





✓ Threadfin Shad added:

- Big Smoak (2 Loads)
- Upper Leitner (2 Loads)
- Butler Reservoir (6 Loads)
- Union Mill (3 Loads)
- Lower Leitner (2 Loads)
- Leitner (2 Loads)











Fisheries Stocking to Come

Species	Lake	Quantity	Total Quantity	
(4-5") Black Crappie	Leitner	3,000		
	Lower Leitner	2,800	7,800	
	Union Mill	2,000]	
(3-4") Bluegill	Little Beaver	6,000		
	Fetting	8,000		
	Big Smoak	14,000		
	Upper Leitner	6,000	53,600	
	Soil Erosion	8,500		
	Howard	5,100		
	Mirror	6,000		







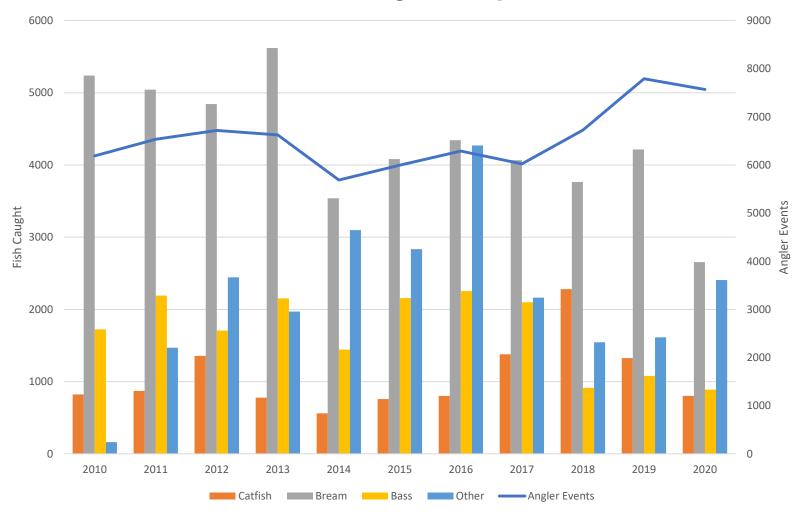


Lake Management





Fish Harvest & Fishing Participation Trend



*2020 Numbers were generated from 01 Jan. – 01 Sept.





Other Fisheries Notes

✓ Wilkerson Pond still closed due to road construction.

✓ Trout Fishing 2020

- Whittimore and Little Beaver lakes were stocked with 1,500 10-15 inch rainbow trout in January 2020.
- Fishing opened on the first Saturday in February (Feb. 1).
- 391 trout were caught during opening weekend.
- On opening day, Wilkerson was open to families (with children) only.

✓ Trout Stocking 2021

 Trout will be stocked in designated ponds again in January 2021.











FALL 2020

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

KIDS' FISHING DERBY & SHOOTING DAY

SEPTEMBER 19, 2020 | 8AM-4:30PM





Kids' Fishing Derby at **Claypit Lakes**



Shooting Day for Kids at the TASC/Range 14

Archery, Rifle, Pistol & Skeet Shooting are available.



















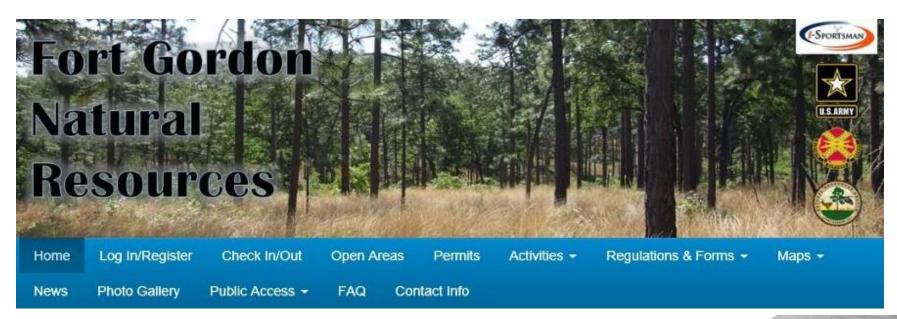
iSportsman





iSportsman

- √https://ftgordon.isportsman.net
- ✓ 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 Hub for Natural Resources (news, regulations, forms)







Permit Fee Schedule

Permit	Туре	Price
100% Disabled Hunting/Fishing Permit	100% Disabled	\$5.00
Fishing Permit	Fishing	\$20.00
Hunting Permit (Small Game Only)	Hunting	\$20.00
Hunting with Big Game Permit	Hunting	\$40.00
Nighttime Hunting Permit	Hunting	\$10.00
1-Day Guest Hunting Permit (includes Big Game)	Guest	\$10.00
1-Day Guest Fishing Permit	Guest	\$5.00
7-Day Guest Hunting Permit (includes Big Game)	Guest	\$50.00
7-Day Guest Fishing Permit	Guest	\$25.00
2019-2020 Public Access Lottery Entry Ticket	Lottery Entry	\$10.00
Fishing Permit (2019-2020 Public Access)	Lottery Winner	\$15.00
Hunting Permit (Small Game Only) (2019-2020 Public Access)	Lottery Winner	\$15.00
Hunting with Big Game Permit (2019-2020 Public Access)	Lottery Winner	\$35.00
Youth Hunting Permit (17 years old and under)	Youth	\$0.00
Youth Fishing Permit (17 years old and under)	Youth	\$0.00
Outdoor Recreation (bicycle riding, bird watching, hiking, pet walking, etc.)	Other Recreation	\$5.00
Firewood Cutting Permit	Forest Products	\$10.00
Pine Straw Raking Permit (N/A at this time)	Forest Products	\$10.00
Other Forest Products Permit (berry, fiddle head, pecan picking, etc.)	Forest Products	\$5.00





Important iSportsman Info

- ✓ Safety briefing and quiz is required annually
- ✓ Permits cannot be renewed until your current permit (of the same type) expire
- ✓ Customer Types (authorized users)
 - ✓ Choose/update appropriate customer type, they are confirmed by Conservation 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

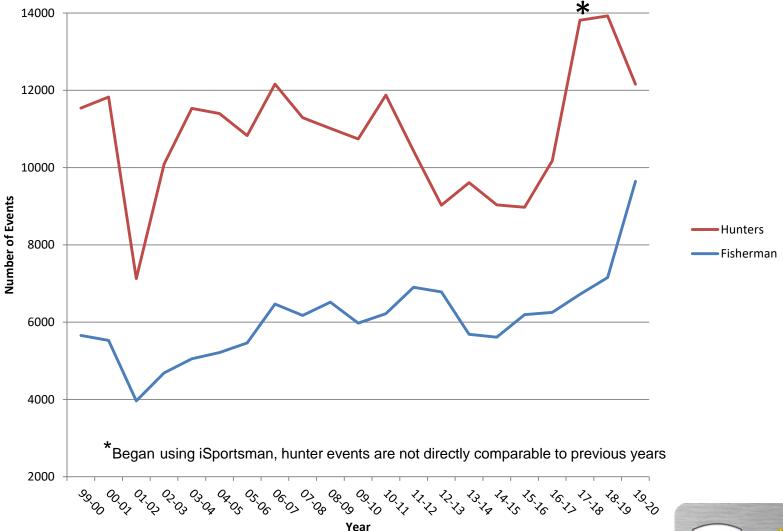
- √ Failure to Check Out Regulation states that you must be checked out when finished with your activity regardless of the iSportsman required check out time
- ✓ Make sure contact phone # (mobile phone), emergency contact #, email, and vehicle info is updated and correct in your profile
- ✓ Make sure 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 months period will result in suspension of privileges.





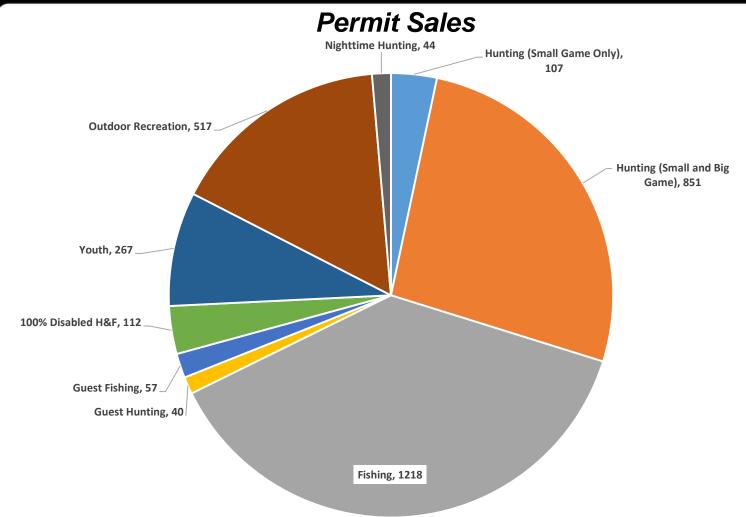


Hunter and Fishermen Events Trend









√ 3,856 permits sold to all Customer Types from 7 July 2019 to 30 June 2020







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
- 491 sportsmen purchased permits (as of 14 Sept. 2020)
- 64% purchased permits





Installation Access Reminders

- ✓ Everyone bringing a firearm onto the installation is required to have an approved FG Form 9243 on their person
- ✓ 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)
 - VCC hours Mon.- Fri. 0600 1400, weekend visitors need to obtain visitors pass ahead of time.





Gate Access

- ✓ Gate Hours (Hours adjusted due to COVID-19)
 - Gate 1 24/7, Monday Sunday
 - Gate 1 VCC 6 am 2 pm, Monday Friday
 - Gate 2 4:45 am 8 pm, Monday Friday
 - Gate 3 Commercial use only
 - Gate 5 6 am 6 am, Monday Sunday
 - Any person with a long-term AIE pass may use any of these gates.





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. Free from NRB Field Office or print 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





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

