

University Cooperative for Readiness and Conservation

The University Cooperative for Readiness and Conservation (UCRC) is a partnership between Texas A&M University (TAMU) and NC State University (NCSU). This partnership has come together to create and implement forward-looking, innovative solutions to sustaining military readiness and conserving our nation's natural resources in the face of unplanned development and encroachment of incompatible land uses around our military bases. The UCRC brings the resources of these two land grant universities together to deliver research, teaching, and outreach to military services in support of conservation, working lands, and national defense. By partnering, the universities are able to bring together multiple leading scientists, policy innovators, and Extension professionals to provide a consolidated resource with the interdisciplinary support that military installations need. The UCRC provides the following:

- A centralized resource for educational programs in natural resource planning and policy for military land managers and senior installation officers through university military courses and certificates,
- Regional and multi-disciplinary expertise to develop innovative long-term solutions for military readiness and natural resource stewardship using the concept of Sentinel Landscapes partnerships, which link military readiness, working lands, and conservation of natural resources, and
- Research, education, and outreach expertise necessary to meet regulatory requirements (e.g. integrated natural resource management plans, threatened and endangered species, climate change, sustainability).

These focus areas support natural resource management in ways that ensure national military readiness, while benefiting landowners and communities with economical, sustainable land management.

As a result of this partnership, TAMU and NCSU have implemented the following:

- A graduate certificate in military land sustainability
- Network and linkages between conservation, military, and community goals for Sentinel Landscapes
- Outreach and education in implementing the Comprehensive Strategic Plan For Prescribed Fire to Restore Longleaf Pine
- Implementation of a Prescribed Fire Work Group within the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability
- Support for the America's Longleaf Restoration Initiative Partnership Council,
- Wildlife research on installations such as Camp Bullis, Lackland, and Fort Sill

The UCRC will continue to support similar and related projects providing co-benefits to the military and local communities, such as living shoreline projects.

Contact

For more information on how the UCRC can help your installation, contact:

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