



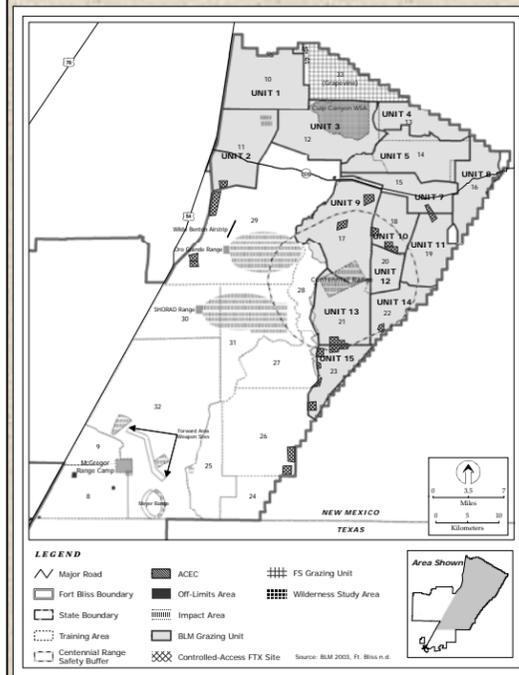
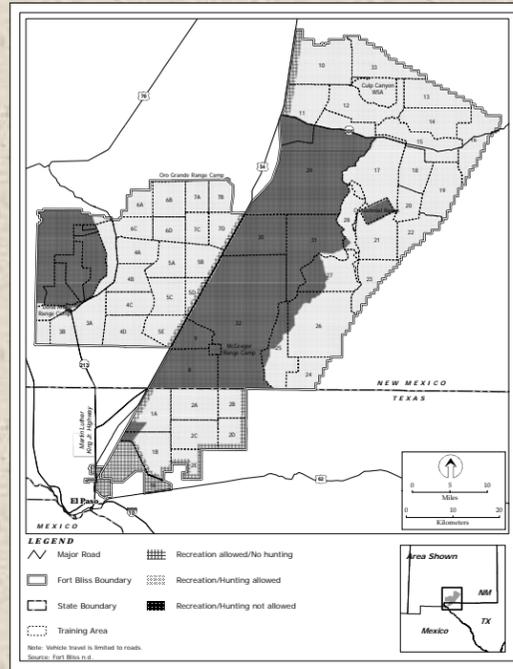
# Fort Bliss Mission and Master Plan Supplemental Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

## The Fort Bliss Environment



### LAND USE

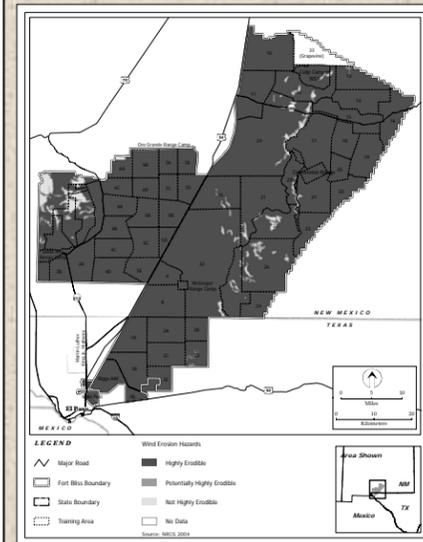
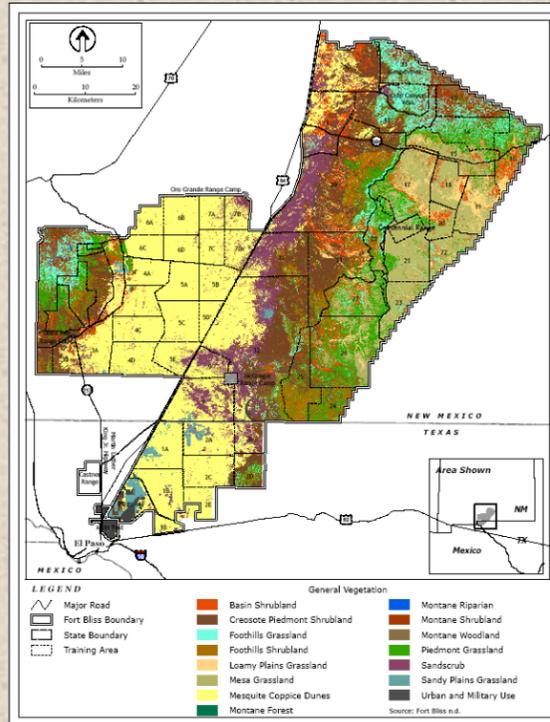
- Land use in the North and South Training Areas currently supports off-road vehicle maneuver training.
- Live-fire training is concentrated at Doña Ana Range and southern McGregor Range.
- Most of the Fort Bliss Training Complex continues to be open to public access and hunting, consistent with public safety and when not being used for military training.



- McGregor Range is managed jointly by the Army and Bureau of Land Management (BLM).
- BLM leases out portions of McGregor Range for grazing.
- The Army works to minimize closures on roads that provide access through McGregor Range to local communities and Grapevine Canyon.
- Activity in Culp Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) is limited to training on foot.

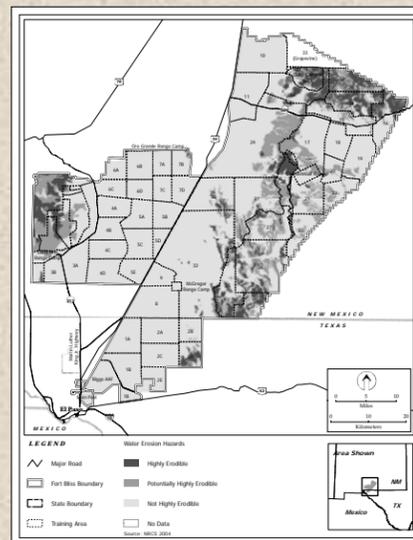
### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Fort Bliss has active, award-winning cultural and natural resources programs.
- Vegetation in the Tularosa Basin portion of the Fort Bliss Training Complex is predominantly Mesquite Coppice Dunes, which would not change with increased off-road vehicle maneuver.
- Maneuvers in Sand Scrub and Creosote Piedmont Shrublands would create more bare ground.
- Most grasslands are on Otero Mesa, which is not proposed for off-road vehicle maneuver.
- Areas with high species diversity and most sensitive species remain off-limits to off-road vehicle maneuver.



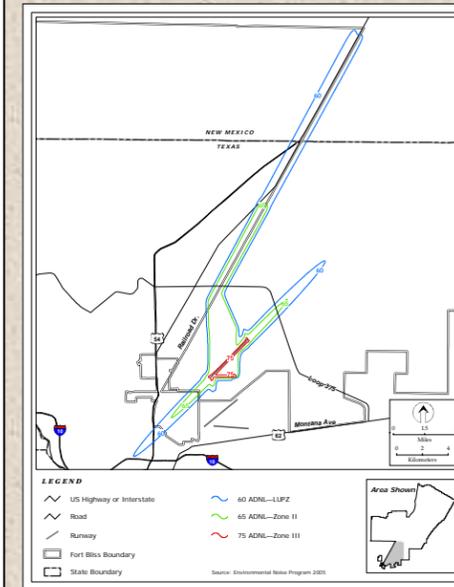
- The soils most susceptible to water erosion are concentrated in areas with higher slopes and less off-road vehicle maneuver training.

- The wind erosion hazard on most of the Fort Bliss Training Complex is high.
- Sandy soils are susceptible to dust generation and dune formation.



### TRAINING NOISE

- Helicopter operations by up to two new Combat Aviation Brigades would increase noise levels near Biggs AAF and along the flight path to the Fort Bliss Training Complex.



- Soldiers need live-fire and aviation training to prepare them for combat.
- The noisiest new ranges are being located away from population centers.
- Increased large caliber live-fire training at Doña Ana and McGregor Ranges would generate noise in areas near the installation boundary.
- With up to five Heavy BCTs training, noise levels immediately north and south of Doña Ana Range could be incompatible with residential land use.
- Peak noise levels could result in more noise complaints.
- Noise from off-road vehicle maneuvers drops off approximately 800 feet from maneuver areas.
- Military vehicle convoys could generate elevated noise levels as far as 2,000 feet from roads.
- Projected noise levels can assist affected communities in planning for compatible land use.

