



Front Range Eco-Regional Partnership

Project #
5-249

Background:

The Front Range Eco-Regional Partnership was established in 2000 to formalize the relationship that developed between Army, Air Force, and BRAC installations along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and Southern Wyoming. The Partnership includes Fort Carson, Pinyon Canyon Maneuver Site, Pueblo Chemical Depot, Rocky Flats, HQ Air Force Space Command, Schriever AFB, Cheyenne Mountain AFS, Peterson AFB, Buckley AFB, The US Air Force Academy, Farrish Recreation Area, and Francis E. Warren AFB. The purpose of the Partnership is to ensure effective and efficient management of natural and cultural resources and to prevent encroachment on DoD Installations. The Partnership is a cooperative effort whereby DoD installations can share manpower, equipment, and contract mechanisms; and reduce administrative and operational costs by developing a professional resource pool, increasing the region of influence, and improving the overall effectiveness of management activities. As a result, the Partnership's region of influence is approximately 433,800 acres of military lands.

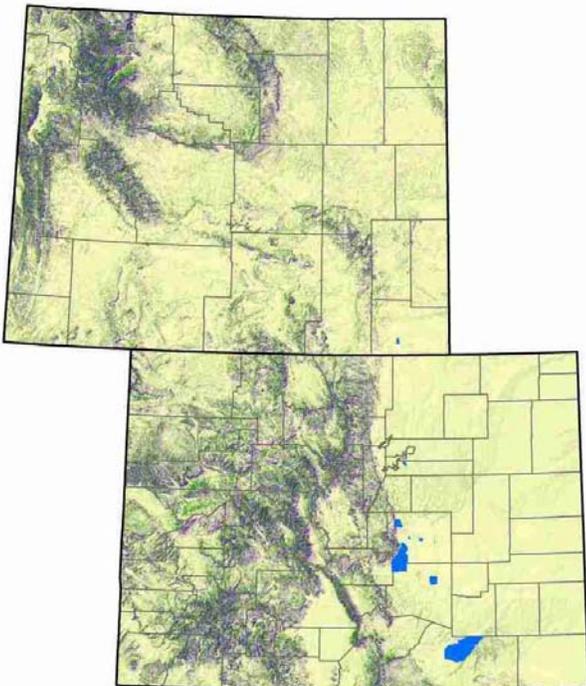


Figure 1. Military Installations along the Front Range of the Rockies

Objective:

The primary goal of Legacy-funded Project was to expand existing contracts and cooperative agreements to exhibit

an eco-regional area of influence. The two main objectives were (1) to implement biological controls on all Front Range installations to control noxious and invasive plant species, and (2) to develop a regional invasive species control strategy.

Summary of Approach:

Introduction of biological controls was accomplished by expanding an existing cooperative agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fort Carson, the U.S. Air Force Academy and Texas A&M.

The Partnership also employed the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) at Colorado State University to develop a regional strategic plan and to host a website to support outreach and serve as a data repository. www.cnhp.colostate.edu/projects/dod/index.html

Benefit:

The project has enhanced the natural infrastructure that supports military readiness and training activities and native habitats by controlling the spread of invasive species.

As a result of controlling invasive species on a regional scale using biological controls, ballooning operations and maintenance (O&M) costs for restoration of habitat and natural infrastructure are avoided.

Accomplishments:

The FY2005-FY2007 effort resulted in the development of a regional strategic plan for control of invasive species, a Front Range Eco-Regional Partnership website, and expansion of existing biological control methods to other installations in Colorado and Wyoming. These accomplishments will serve as the baseline for future, regional management efforts through the Partnership.

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