

Media Advisory



CONTACT:

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From Conflict to Collaboration

On June 7, 2006, the U.S. Army and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will celebrate the recovery of Fort-Bragg's population of Federally-Endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers five years earlier than anticipated. The recovery—the first ever documented for this bird species—was possible because of strong partnerships developed over more than 10 years of progress on mutual goals for recovery of red-cockaded woodpeckers in the Sandhills.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 7, 2006

WHERE: McKellar's Lodge, Fort Bragg

EVENT OUTLINE:

9:30 a.m. Exhibits Open

9:45 to 10:15 a.m. Media opportunity with spokespeople and species experts

11:00 a.m. Ceremony begins

Welcome: Colonel Al Aycock—Installation Commander

Remarks: Dale Hall—Director, Fish and Wildlife Service

Addison Davis—Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army Addison Davis

Mike Andrews, Chief Operations Officer, The Nature Conservancy

Award Presentation

11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Lunch McKellar's Lodge, Fort Bragg

Musical Performance by the 82nd Airborne Division All American Band

BACKGROUND:

The Army achieved its goal for recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker population at Fort Bragg ahead of schedule with the help of many partners involved in the management of the red-cockaded woodpecker in the North Carolina Sandhills. Recognizing the importance of the region's unique ecosystems to both military training and to the nation's endangered species, the North Carolina Sandhills Conservation Partnership (NCSCP) was created to reach common conservation goals. The NCSCP consists of federal, state and non-profit organizations including: Fort Bragg, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Environmental Center, The Nature Conservancy, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the North Carolina Division of Parks and Recreation, the Sandhills Ecological Institute, the Sandhills Area Land Trust and several other regional stakeholders.

Wildlife biologists have validated more than 350 potential breeding groups of red-cockaded woodpeckers, the recovery target for the Sandhills East recovery population, on and around Fort Bragg. Agreements forged through the NCSCP have resulted in the addition of 23 RCW breeding groups toward the installation's recovery goal. The recovery of the Sandhills East red-cockaded woodpecker recovery population will also result in relaxation of selected training restrictions on Fort Bragg. In addition and because of the excellent management of the Sandhills Game Land by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the Sandhills West recovery population has also met its recovery goal of 100 red-cockaded woodpecker potential breeding pairs. Not only do birds from this population contribute to the Sandhills East population's health and stability, the military also trains on the Sandhills Game Land.

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