



Longleaf Plantation

Longleaf Pine Benefits:

Longleaf produces high quality lumber; it is noted for strength, durability and appearance. Longleaf produces our prime, high quality utility poles within 40-50 years. Well managed stands of longleaf pine can exist for 300-400 years and was the original forest cover within the southeast.

Ecosystems & Biodiversity:

Diversity within a well managed longleaf pine ecosystem provides for all aspects of complete environmental sustinment and longevity. Efforts are underway on Ft Rucker to convert and restore most upland habitats back to the original longleaf ecosystem. This ecosystem is the most suitable on Ft Rucker as it is the original home range of the longleaf species. This habitat provides all support systems needed for sustained longevity.



Loblolly Plantation

Loblolly Pine Benefits:

Loblolly pine is more desired in industry and pine production because of a faster growth and maturity rate. Natural mortality is usually recognized in 80 years; however, income generation is quicker realized than the longleaf.

The Installation's INRMP (Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan) prioritizes Ft Rucker's upland woodlands for conversion to the Longleaf ecosystem. This requires the maximum use of prescription fire and has many long term benefits for our training lands.

Poor Hardwood Site Needing Regeneration



Un-usable, Poor Production



**Longleaf Plantation &
Native Grasses**

The Original Ecosystem



Mature Hardwood Bottom

Bottom Land

Hardwoods are protected on the Installation.

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Natural Resources Branch Fort Rucker, Alabama



Timber Sales On Training Lands



Healthy Forests Are Sustainable Training Lands



Military Objectives :

- Sustainable Resources
- Future Training Environments
- Biodiversity



Balanced Ecosystem = Healthy Forest

Young Plantation



Mature Plantation



Forestry is a Renewable Resource

Pine Beetle Infestation



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- Lost Revenue
- Fire Hazard
- Inaccessible for Training

Pine Plantation in need of Thinning



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- Poor Condition
- Loss of Revenue
- Fire Hazard
- Inaccessible for Training

Row Thinned Pine



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Thinning:

- Income Production
- Wildlife Benefits
- Training Access
- Open Understory

Select Cut Thinned Pine



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Acreage may be available for training but it may not be accessible by ground troops.



Wildlife Habitat and Native Grasses After Thinning and Fire



Benefits:

- Longevity of training areas
- Erosion Control
- Filter System for Surface Water
- Future income for installation
- Wildlife Habitat