

## Our Sustainability Challenges

**Water** – The Pikes Peak Region receives an average of 10 to 16 inches of rain per year, usually in intense, short bursts. This means that one of the fastest growing areas in the country receives very little water to support that growth, and pollutants that build up on surfaces such as pavement are concentrated when flowing into rivers and creeks. Water that

is transported from other areas for use in the Pikes Peak Region may have existing pollutants.

The challenges are to conserve more water with an ever-growing human population, protect watersheds for wildlife and training, and prevent pollution from entering the region's waterways and aquifer systems.

**Air Quality** – The State of Colorado is concerned about air quality along the Front Range

because it is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. Decreases in carbon monoxide and particulate matter that have occurred over the past 15 to 20 years will be offset

in the future by the increased automobile use, industrial activities, and fuel burning for heat

and electricity that will accompany the increasing number of people moving into the area. As

regional air quality deteriorates, Fort Carson's allowable emission limits on air permits will

be tightened. How can Fort Carson sustain the military mission, minimize administrative and

operational costs due to air permitting, and help protect regional air quality?

**Energy** – Energy is an essential resource for Fort Carson's training and deployment missions, and its availability and cost affect the quality of life for soldiers and families. Energy sources at Fort Carson are primarily non-renewable; therefore availability will decrease over the long-term. Inefficient energy use increases operational cost, and increases

environmental degradation from resource extraction, climate change, and air pollution.

Finally, the cost of energy has doubled over the past decade. How can Fort Carson ensure a

reliable supply of energy and reduce costs and environmental impacts, such that the mission

is not compromised?

**Transportation** – The use of petroleum fuels for transportation contributes to regional air

quality degradation. Further, the cost of fuel fluctuates and depends on its availability from

foreign sources. How does Fort Carson reduce its transportation-related impacts on the air

while meeting transportation needs?

**Lands** – Sustaining Fort Carson’s training areas is critical to the mission and long-term viability of Fort Carson as a power projection platform. How can Fort Carson provide realistic training areas through environmental stewardship? How can Fort Carson continue to

use its training lands while being a good neighbor to a growing community?

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**Materials** – The large volume of products used at Fort Carson is the result of ingrained practices and habits relating to purchasing and use. Disposal of solid and hazardous materials

is getting more expensive. The purchase and use of products add to environmental degradation through harvesting of natural resources, manufacturing, transportation emissions,

and disposal. How can the Installation use less, purchase less, substitute more environmentally friendly products, and enhance recycling efforts while still maintaining the

core mission of Fort Carson?

**Wildlife** – How can Fort Carson maintain habitat diversity for native fish and wildlife, while using the land for training and cantonment activities? What can Fort Carson do to help

the surrounding community protect the wildlife that inhabits ecosystems surrounding the Installation borders?

**Noise** – How can Fort Carson sustain its mission of training combat-ready forces in realistic

settings that promote soldier survivability and meet defense needs of the United States, while

minimizing noise issues with an ever-growing population moving close to its boundaries?

**Cultural** – How can Fort Carson protect significant cultural resources while maintaining

the largest possible area for military training? How can Fort Carson maintain sensitivity to

all cultures with traditional ties to lands currently used by the Installation while continuing its

use of the land for military training purposes?