

# Flying Green

[www.fortrucker-env.com](http://www.fortrucker-env.com)

The Flying Green is designed to help keep you informed on what is happening in the Environmental world at Fort Rucker. Please send comments or questions to [melissa.g.lowlavar3.civ@mail.mil](mailto:melissa.g.lowlavar3.civ@mail.mil).



## Celebrate Spring at Lake Tholocco!

Outdoor Recreation is located on the West Beach side of Lake Tholocco, Fort Rucker. Lake Tholocco is a 676.8-acre lake that offers numerous recreational activities. Boating, skiing and swimming are some of the favorite sports at the lake. Facilities include four fishing piers, beaches, pavilions, spacious cabins, and clean restrooms. Outdoor Recreation is also EFMP (Exceptional Family Member Program) Friendly!



## ★ Reminder ★

During the last quarter's Environmental Compliance Assistance visits, numerous findings related to incorrect documentation were noted. Please ensure that your organization is using the latest version of all required forms. The three most common findings are:

- Unsigned, old, or incorrect version of the Site Specific Spill Plan (USAACE Form 2719)
- Environmental Officer orders on expired version of form (USAACE Form 2729)
- 90-HWAS Manager orders on expired version of form (USAACE Form 2733)

All DPW-ENRD forms can be found on the Sustainable Fort Rucker website at <https://www.fortrucker-env.com>. All forms were updated in October 2017. USAACE Form 2711, SPCC Plan Container Inspection Checklist was updated in January 2018.

### Upcoming Training Schedule

10 JUL 18	0800-1700	Environmental Officer (1 day)
11 JUL 18	0800-1000	SPCC Plan (2hr)
11 JUL 18	1200-1400	HWSAP Manager (2hr)
12 JUL 18	0800-1000	90-DAY HWAS (2 hr)
17 JUL 18	0800-1000	90-DAY HWAS (2 hr)
18 JUL 18	0800-1700	Environmental Officer (1 day)
19 JUL 18	0800-1200	HWSAP Manager (2hr)
19 JUL 18	1200-1400	SPCC Plan (2hr)



"Nature is impersonal, awe-inspiring, elegant, eternal. It's geometrically perfect. It's tiny and gigantic. You can travel far to be in a beautiful natural setting, or you can observe it in your backyard" G Rubin

Remember to check the Sustainable Fort Rucker website for more information! <https://www.fortrucker-env.com>

# Compliance Corner

The Compliance Corner is focusing on **Natural Resources** this quarter. Let us know if you would like information about a particular topic, and we will include it in the next issue.

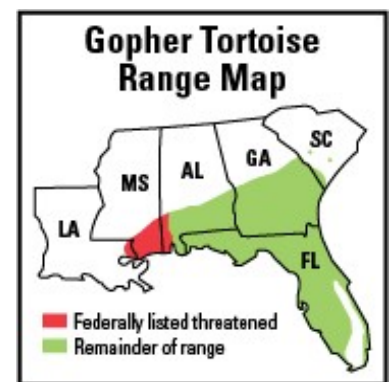
The Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is a topic of discussion among landowners in south Alabama and on all public lands. As a state protected species, it appears that Federal Listing of the species in this area may be imminent unless identified communities are documented on private lands very soon. Known populations on state and federal lands are routinely surveyed; however, private lands in SE Alabama may be the wild card in making the final determination.



Fort Rucker completed a formal survey in 2011 and appears to have a healthy population with well managed habitat; however, the known numbers are not adequate to keep the species from being listed. Natural Resource Managers have requested funding to conduct a new formal survey in 2018 with hopes of clarifying the population estimates. Fort Rucker is currently working under a Candidate Conservation Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that identifies practices and protections in managing habitats and ecosystems.

The Gopher tortoise may be found in most any upland sandy location on the Installation and in most cases is left undisturbed and encouraged to thrive. There are occasions on planned construction sites and urban areas where the tortoise must be relocated to a new and protected environment. Natural Resource Managers will trap the tortoise and release into preselected Prime Habitat on the Installation that will be managed for their longevity.

Until the USFWS is aware of population densities meeting a certain threshold, the chance of a Federal Listing remains imminent. The bulk of needed population numbers remain on private lands throughout the South East. Sandy soils and grassy vegetation as present in Long Leaf Pine ecosystem are primary identifiers in locating their prime habitat. As the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on private lands has grown throughout the South East for more than 30 years, the Gopher tortoise populations have also grown and expanded; however, those population numbers are unknown and are not reflected in the total population existence. Private landowners are encouraged to participate in Gopher tortoise surveys and to make their lands accessible for survey in an effort to keep the Gopher tortoise from being Federally Listed. If Federally Listed, conservation measures to all lands would become mandatory rather than encouraged. To read more about the CRP or sign-up to participate, go to <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/conservation-programs/conservation-reserve-program/index>.



## ENVIRONMENTAL IQ

**LAST QUESTION:** What is the name of the first national park, signed into law by President Ulysses S. Grant in 1872. Hint: This park spans three states and features a caldera from a volcanic eruption 640,000 years ago.

**ANSWER:** Yellowstone

**NEW QUESTION:** How many threatened and endangered species occur on Fort Rucker?