

CULTURAL RESOURCES

History

Archaeological investigations indicate that the first inhabitants were probably wandering bands of hunters and gatherers that followed mammoth, giant bison, ground sloth, and in later years the buffalo. There were several Native American tribes that seasonally camped in the area including the Apache, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Pawnee Indians. Archaeological digs have unearthed only a few significant artifacts (i.e. petrified wood projectile points) implying sparse and limited size of campsites.

The base came into existence just prior to World War II and was used as an auxiliary field for Lowry Air Field. Buckley was temporarily inactive after the war resulting in the sale of 1,100 buildings on the site and commissioned as a Naval Air Station. Under their leadership, several major construction projects were undertaken including Hangar 801 and Hangar 909. In 1960, ownership was transferred to the Air Force who licensed the base to the Colorado Air National Guard. Security issues resulting from the Cold War brought about the construction of the satellite communication ground station. In 2000, Buckley was realigned as an Air Force Base transforming itself from a minimally developed installation designed for weekend influxes of Reserve and National Guard personnel into a fully developed active-duty base. Since then Buckley has seen a surge in both the population and number of buildings on the base.

Cultural Significance

Cultural Resources can include buildings, structures, and archaeological sites. There are six buildings that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, two Maintenance Hangars (Buildings 801 and 909) and four Satellite Communications Ground Terminals (Buildings 402, 403, 404, and 405).

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Federal agencies are mandated to account for the effect of their actions on historic properties. Information on each project is provided to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requesting their review and comment before commencing on any activity. *If during construction or digging any bones, rock walls, fire pits, Indian relics or other such items are found, stop the excavation immediately and contact the 460 CES Environmental Element at 720-847-7592.*



GENERAL INFORMATION

Dig Permits

You must get a Dig Permit before you do any digging or trenching on the installation. Your project will be evaluated to determine if it has a significant effect on the Base wildlife, potential archaeological artifacts, environmental areas of concern, or utilities. *Contact CE Customer Service at 720-847-9913 for an AF Form 103, Base Civil Engineering Work Clearance Request.*

GIS Resources

Buckley has a comprehensive inventory of animals, vegetation, and man-made structures on the base. This information has been incorporated into a GIS database called Geobase that is accessible through the AF Portal. The maps are available to anyone on the network to assist in planning projects. For questions or problems concerning Geobase, contact technical support at 720-847-9309.

Important Environmental Issues to Remember During Your Duty at Buckley AFB:

- Conserve water.
- Keep pollutants out of the storm drains, ditches and creeks.
- Recycle.
- Respect wildlife.
- Do not disturb prairie dogs, burrowing owls, or occupied bird nests.
- Do not go near a prairie dog that is dead or ill. Report it to CE Customer Service 720-847-9913.
- Call CE Customer Service for removing pest animals from buildings.
- Get a Dig Permit before any digging or trenching on the installation.

Points of Contact

Natural and Cultural Resources
460CES_CEVCulturalResources@us.af.mil
460CES_CEVNaturalResources@us.af.mil

Water Program
460CES.CEVWater@us.af.mil

NEPA Program
460CES_CEVNEPA_EIAP@us.af.mil

Hazardous Material Program
460CES.CEVHazmat@buckley.af.mil

Toxics Program
460CES.CEVtoxic@us.af.mil

Air Program
460CES_CEVAir@us.af.mil

Hazardous Waste Program
460CES.CEVHazwaste@buckley.af.mil

IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR BUCKLEY AFB



NATURAL RESOURCES

Buckley Air Force Base (AFB) is located in a semi-arid, short grass prairie region of the western Great Plains. Average annual precipitation is approximately 16 inches. Grass is normally short, sparse, and brown much of the year. **Water is in short supply in the Front Range and should be conserved.** Irrigated turf grasses should be minimized in landscaping and watered only sufficiently to keep the grass alive and green.

Few trees are found growing naturally except along creek bottoms. The Base is planting new trees around buildings and along streets to enhance the appearance of the Base and create shade during the hot summer months. The shelterbelts also act as a buffer against noise, wind, dust, and drifting snow.

Clean Water

Buckley has two stormwater permits which require that we keep pollutants out of the storm drains, ditches and creeks. All construction projects must prevent erosion. The base is served by the City of Aurora Water Dept. for water and sanitary sewer and the sanitary waste is treated by Metro Wastewater District (Metro). See WWW.Auroragov.org for water quality information. Buckley is required to notify Metro of any unusual discharges. *For questions, call the Water Program Manager at 720-847-4655.*

Wildlife

Buckley is home to many species of wildlife common to the Great Plains including coyotes, badgers, skunks, cottontail and jackrabbits. Several species of hawks and other prairie birds can be found here. Golden and Bald Eagles may be present during the winter months. *For removal of a pest animal in your building call CE Customer Service Office at 720-847-9913.*

Black-Tailed Prairie Dogs

Black-tailed prairie dogs are burrowing mammals related to ground squirrels.

Bubonic Plague is a contributing factor to the decline of the prairie dog. The plague is carried by a specific species of flea that can infect prairie dog populations. **Do not go near a prairie dog that is found dead or seems to be ill. Report it to the CE Customer Service Office at 720-847-9913.**



Burrowing Owls

The burrowing owl is listed as Threatened in Colorado. This small owl lives in prairie dog burrows and can be seen around the Base during the summer. It is also a migratory bird that is protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. **Do not disturb burrowing owls or their nests.**



Hunting and Fishing

There is currently no hunting or fishing on Buckley AFB.

Migratory Birds

Prairie, meadow, riparian, and wetland habitats attract a variety of bird species. Most of these species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Occupied bird nests should not be disturbed or removed. Furthermore, no vehicles should be driven

off-road unless in direct performance of a job and there is no other way to reach area. *Anyone interested in developing a bird-watching program or participating in the National Audubon Society Christmas Count, should contact the Natural Resources at 720-847-6937.*

Invasive Weeds

Large tracts of open spaces area are dominated by non-native grasses or weeds. There are twelve state-listed noxious weeds and at least seven other weedy exotics that have been documented on the base including Canada thistle, field bindweed, Dalmatian toadflax, and leafy spurge. Two different methods are currently being used to remove the weeds: pesticides and biological controls (i.e. introducing beetles).

AIR RESOURCES

Air – Ground Level Ozone

Unlike the good, protective ozone layer in the stratosphere, ground level ozone is a harmful air pollutant that affects all of us. It's formed when emissions from everyday items combine with other pollutants and "cook" in the heat and sunlight (ie.such as gas-powered vehicles and equipment, household paints, stains and solvents). The highest ozone levels are in summer months when temperatures approach the high 80s and 90s and the wind is stagnant or light.

At ground level, ozone is a health hazard for all of us. Those who are active and exercising outdoors may experience breathing difficulties and eye irritation. Prolonged exposure may result in reduced resistance to lung infections and colds. Ozone can also trigger attacks and symptoms in those with pre-existing conditions, like asthma or other respiratory infections. Ozone Action Alert days occur

when ozone levels are reach unhealthy levels. Visit: <http://ozoneaware.org/alerts/> or call the 24-hour hotline number 303-758-4848.

OzoneAware (www.ozoneaware.org) asks you to be a clean air warrior and use alternative methods of transportation, don't drive during high ozone days, don't idle, refuel in the evening and mow the lawn in the evening.

Air -Self-Certification for Vehicle Emissions

The Clean Air Act requires all federal employees (military and civilian) to certify their vehicles being used on a federal installation meet the local emission standards. Buckley AFB is in Arapahoe County, which requires vehicle emissions testing.

The Air Force uses Vehicle emissions and Employee-Certification and Reporting System (ECARS) to document compliance with emission testing requirements. ECARS (<https://apims.af.mil/apims/ecars>) sends out emails notifying personnel their emissions status. The emails are sent to personnel using the Air Force Directory Services (AFDS - <https://imp.afds.af.mil/>) email lists.

Vehicle emission testing is required for vehicles driven by federal employees on Buckley AFB 60-days or more and/or vehicles parked on Buckley AFB, to include vehicles registered in counties or States not requiring vehicle emission testing. Air Care Colorado emission testing centers can be found by calling 303-456-7090, or using the following website that also indicates the wait times. <http://aircarecolorado.com/index.php/locations-and-maps>.

Air Program Manager: 720-847-9077 or email 460ces_cevair@us.af.mil