



# USACE, SAVANNAH DISTRICT

## MITIGATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES & PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT

*Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall, North Carolina*

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### CLIENT PROFILE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Savannah District oversees various programs at 11 military installations in Georgia and North Carolina and manages the water resources of the Coastal Georgia region. The District provides expertise and management for a broad variety of disciplines including engineering, architecture, design, construction, master planning, subsurface exploration, hydropower, and environmental stewardship.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

As prime contractor for this task order, MSE provided services for endangered species protection and restoration activities within approximately 130,000 acres of Fort Bragg and Camp Mackall. Protection and restoration of habitat for endangered species is a requirement of the Endangered Species Branch at these military installations. All treatment areas are designed to enhance good quality foraging habitat (GQFH) as defined by the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) Recovery Plan.

Dense midstory vegetation shades out native grasses and legumes that make up the understory within a longleaf pine ecosystem. In addition, undesirable vegetation impedes endangered RCW flyways and may attract other wildlife, including species that prey on or compete with the RCW. The use of mechanical means (mowing, racking, etc.), prescribed burns, and herbicide application are three commonly used methods in the protection of endangered species and restoration of habitat at Fort Bragg/Camp Mackall.

### CHALLENGES

- Dense midstory vegetation that shades out native grasses and legumes
- Undesirable vegetation impeding endangered RCW flyways
- Protecting nest cavity trees

### THE MSE GROUP APPROACH

Under this task order, MSE provided protection to nest cavity trees of the endangered RCW by clearing pine needles and other vegetation from the base of the trees. In addition, old-growth trees were marked and protected by raking and/or burning around the base prior to conducting prescribed burning activities. MSE exceeded the scope of work by developing and obtaining full approval of a consolidation work plan and accident prevention plan (APP) within 45 days of project award.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Habitat management, protection, and conservation in support of the endangered RCW
- Midstory and brush removal on 228.8 acres using mechanical equipment
- Raking and burning pine needles and woody vegetation surrounding cavity trees and old-growth pine trees to protect them from prescribed burns
- Herbicide application to 140 acres to eradicate midstory and facilitate habitat improvements

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Threatened and endangered species evaluations
- Nuisance flora/fauna control
- Habitat restoration



*Endangered red-cockaded woodpecker*