

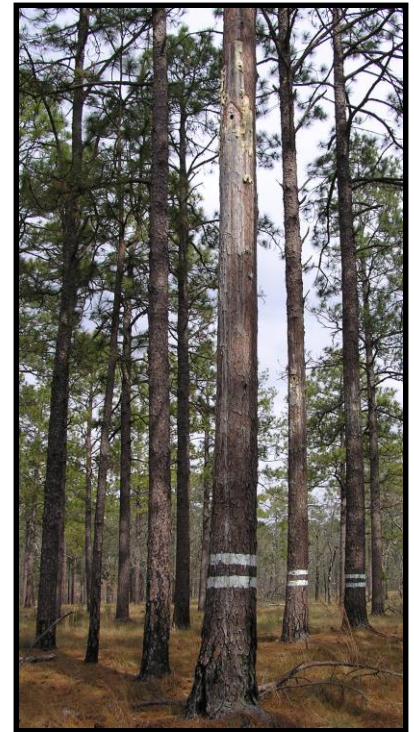
Endangered Species on Fort Bragg

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER (*Leuconotopicus borealis*)



DESCRIPTION:

- A small woodpecker, slightly larger than a bluebird.
- It has a black head with large white patches on its cheek.
- Numerous white spots in horizontal rows on back give it a 'ladder-like' appearance.
- Males and females look alike, except the adult male has a small tuft of red feathers above the cheek.
- Health 'indicator species' of the endangered longleaf pine ecosystem.



HABITAT AND RANGE:

- Prefer open longleaf pine forests with trees at least 80 years old.
- Only animal that excavates cavities in old, living pine trees. Abandoned cavities provide shelter for numerous species, i.e., wood duck, fox squirrel, kestrel, bats, etc.
- Currently populations are found in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.
- Fort Bragg and surrounding lands are home to the third largest population in the world.

THREATS AND PROTECTION:

- Primary threat is loss of habitat.
- Another threat is lack of fire. Fire removes woody plants, like oaks, leaving open pine forests.
- Fort Bragg paints trees used by the woodpecker with either two white bands or a single green band. A protective 200 ft. buffer marked with signs surrounds groups of white banded trees. Human activity, including military training is limited within these sites

