Within Vehicle Track Vegetation Recovery Rates As A Function Of Level Of Disturbance. (A02-anderson122054-Poster)

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Abstract:

Use of military vehicles on installation training lands results in soil disturbance and vegetation loss that can result in increased erosion rates. The capacity of installation lands to support training activities is a function of not only the initial impact but also of the rate of recovery. The purpose of this study was to quantify vegetative recovery rates within vehicle tracks as a function of the type and severity of initial impact. Recovery rates were estimated for several vehicle types at several installations. Recovery rates were estimated for three vehicles, Blazer (M1009), Duece and Half (M35A3), and Tank Recovery Vehicle (M88) in a tall grass oak savanna site in Indiana. Recovery rates were also estimated for a M109 self-propelled howitzer for a mixed prairie/short grass steppe site in Colorado. Studies such as the one presented provide a better understanding of the rates and types of vegetative recovery that occur following vehicle impacts. These data support land management decision support systems like the Army Training and Testing Area Carrying Capacity (ATTACC) methodology.

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