

Key Issue



Noise

Alpena Community Council

WHAT

The greatest impact from noise on the surrounding area is from low-flying aircraft and firing from rifle ranges and artillery impact. Low-level aircraft operations — ones that would create the greatest noise issues for residents — occur throughout the area, near launch and recovery sites like airports and airfields, and along specially designated aircraft routes called military training routes (MTRs). Proximity to these locations increases the level of noise and subsequent disruption including shockwave vibrations.

Well-established flight paths help the military reduce confusion between pilots and controllers, and they also streamline training activities, which improves safety, economy, and efficiency. The Camp Grayling/Alpena CRTC training area encompasses a vast airspace both horizontally and vertically which is utilized by a number of entities including governmental, commercial, and private users. It also has an impact on landowners at lower altitudes.

WHY

These activities are inherent in military training and are a vital component of the U.S. defense, which is why these activities are typically established in locations far separated from residential neighborhoods.

WHERE

Areas around Lake Winyah, portions of the Thunder Bay River, and south of M-32 along Indian Reserve Rd. the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center and Alpena Regional Airport. Runway 01/19 are the most impacted areas by this. See the map below for specific noise areas.

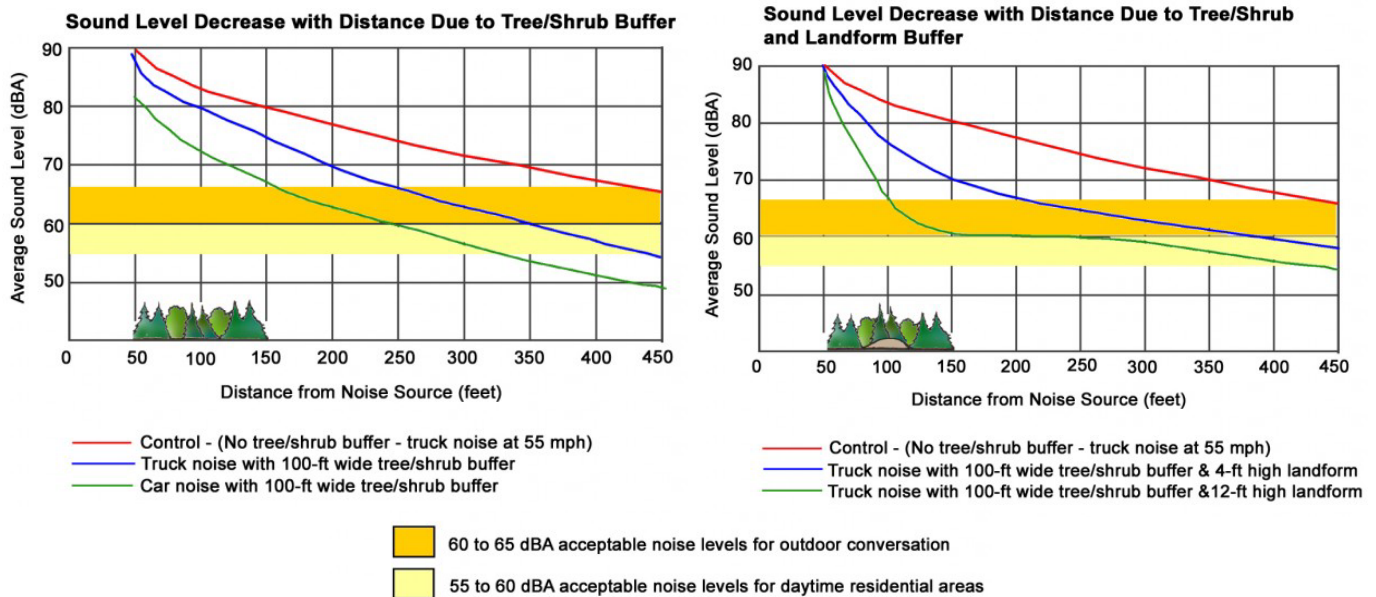


WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Noise circulation is a complex phenomenon that can be influenced by wind, temperature, cloud cover, fog, topography, and man-made barriers such as homes and other buildings. Cloud cover can even cause a perceived increase in noise level. Weather has a large impact on the noise associated with explosions. Low pressure systems with high precipitation increases the noise from explosions.

Tree Buffers: The most effective way of buffering sound is to plant trees near the residences that are most impacted. Trees and thick vegetation are good tools to help reduce noise and shockwave vibrations emanating from the range. Mixed broadleaf plantings at least 25 feet thick can reduce noise levels by up to 10 decibels. Conifers would be needed for the same effect in the winter months.

Plant Trees Near the Home, not the Sound Source! These assets are most effective when located around the home rather than nearer the noise source, as the noise from a bomb blast or artillery fire does not hug the ground; rather, it radiates up into and through the atmosphere. Placing vegetation near the impact area is inconsistent with safe range management because of the high potential for wildfires ignited from munition blast. It also degrades the usefulness of the range in visual targeting and scoring. Vegetation near firing points could slightly reduce sound vibration at lower levels. See the image below more information on noise buffering using only trees and trees with a landform (i.e. berm). *Image from: Conservation Buffers: USDA National Agroforestry Center*



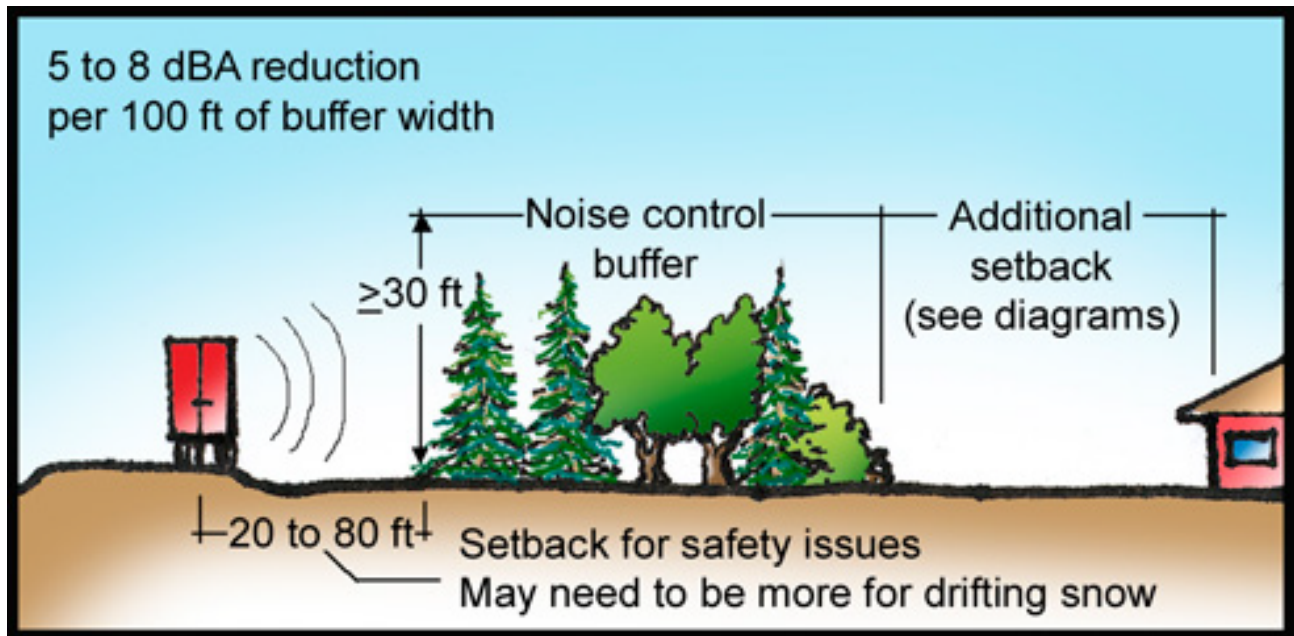


Image from: Conservation Buffers: USDA National Agroforestry Center

Insulate Homes: Residents can improve insulation values in their homes to reduce the noise & shockwave effect.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Tree Buffers: Contact the Michigan DNR to learn the best ways to buffer noise on your property using vegetation. For information contact DNR-Forestry@Michigan.gov

Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC)

For information on gate closures and base activity, contact Alpena CRTC General Assistance at 989-354-6203.

Information on Alpena County Regional Airport Flight Schedule can be found on the following website - <https://alpenairport.com/homepage-zeusslider/flight-info/>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Military ranges that have high concentrations of air activity and those that fire live munitions have protected airspace above them referred to as a Restricted Area (RA). These are established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to protect these activities from non-participating aircraft and to protect ground activities from falling debris, wayward munitions, or accidental aircraft failure.

This information is provided by the Alpena Community Council. For more information, please see the following website:

<https://www.nemimilitarycommunity.org/alpena.asp>