Abstract ID: 9986
Title: “No Mow” – Yes, Please!
Category: Environment
Sub-Category: Pollution Prevention
Abstract Text: In response to budget cuts, Fort Bragg initiated a new program in the spring of 2009 to reduce mowing areas within the installation in order to conform to Common Levels of Support (CLS) funding objectives. Along the way, they reduced pollution emissions, reduced fuel usage and increased wildlife habitat areas – and saved approximately $100,000 per year. The initial test areas comprised about 50 acres for the first phase in 2009 and the Fort Bragg Arbor Board has been tasked with identifying new areas of reduced mowing within the installation for reforestation with mitigation tree plantings (to compensate for trees removed in construction project sites) or planting wildflower plots in 2010. For ranges with high visibility needs, they will treat bahia grass with herbicide to reduce mowing frequency. This presentation will demonstrate the process involved in this effort and illustrate the triple bottom line benefits for: Mission-Any project that saves money and man power (soldier or government), makes that much more money and man power available for mission-related projects. Environment- This project not only improves air quality but also improves wildlife habitat. Community- Reducing mowing can be aesthetically pleasing if done properly by reforestation or wildflower plantings, and will benefit the community by adding more natural green space.