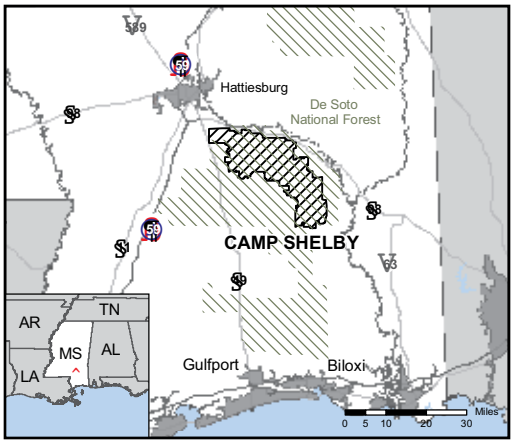
U.S. ARMY :

CAMP SHELBY : MISSISSIPPI

Camp Shelby is the largest state-owned and operated field training site in the U.S. at 134,000 acres and is currently used as a mobilization center for the Reserve Component. The camp is located largely in the DeSoto National Forest, while the U.S. Forest Service manages a special use permit for military activities. Camp Shelby hosts the Joint Forces Training Center, Navy Seabee construction battalion field training exercises, and training for other Services.

Located near two highways, the city of Hattiesburg's primary industrial park, and a municipal airport, Camp Shelby is threatened by development that would impact its readiness mission. To protect an assault landing airstrip, tank range maneuver sites, and artillery and other weapons firing ranges, the post has a unique partnership with The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Mississippi State University Foundation. Protecting surrounding land addresses potential conflicts with airspace, safety, noise and smoke, while supporting an important forest ecosystem.



Under the partnership to protect Camp Shelby, the U.S. Forest Service will own and manage the acquired properties as part of the DeSoto National Forest, one of the largest complexes of longleaf pine in the southeast. This habitat also supports numerous notable and rare species, such as the gopher tortoise and other flora and fauna. Together, the partnership is working as part of a broader effort across the region to preserve this imperiled ecosystem and benefit military readiness.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands and maintains local character
- Supports coordinated planning efforts, including implementation of a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects water resources

MILITARY

- Protects live-fire and maneuver training that produces significant amounts of noise
- Prevents workarounds that would have otherwise limited training capacity

Camp Shelby offers a variety of training, including practice medical evacuations (top) and defensive operations in a tactical environment (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Forest Service
- Mississippi State University Foundation
- Compatible Lands Foundation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- EKO Asset Management Partners

FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 13

» Acres preserved:
611

» Transactions conducted:
5

» Partner cost share:
11%

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
(601) 558-2271

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