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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM

PROJECT PROFILES

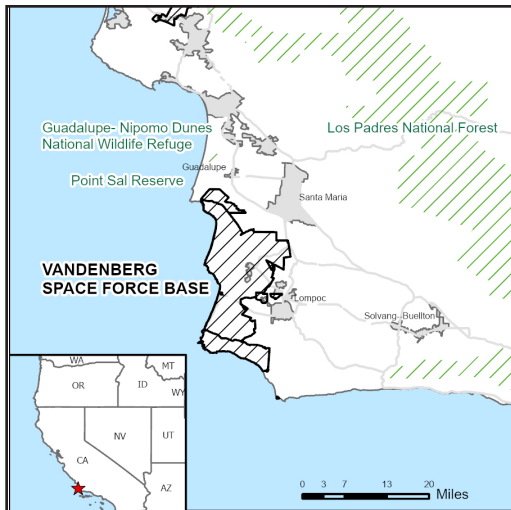
U.S. AIR FORCE | CALIFORNIA



VANDENBERG SPACE FORCE BASE

Vandenberg Space Force Base is one of the primary west coast tactical Air Force locations.

Operated by Space Launch Delta 30, Vandenberg houses silos and launch sites to test and launch Minuteman nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles, Delta rockets, and government and commercial satellites. With launches coming at a



cost of \$500 million, the base supports a valuable testing and operational mission. Located along the coast north of Santa Barbara, Vandenberg is surrounded by grazing lands and open beaches, providing compatible uses under the base's special use airspace.

In partnership with The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County and others, Vandenberg is protecting land within the base's airspace and within the Impact Limit Line

(ILL) for rocket launches. A conservation easement in the Dangermond Preserve will protect areas within the ILL, secure current and increasing future missions, and pave the way to expand the ILLs for larger launches. Currently, non-launch-essential personnel and the general public are evacuated from the area for launches, and any delays resulting from the presence of nearby incompatible uses could cost as much as \$1 million a day.

Limiting development in the Dangermond Preserve will also ensure the maintenance of a near-pristine natural landscape and enhance Vandenberg's ability to protect the 18 threatened and endangered species identified on the base. As part of this project, The Nature Conservancy is looking to build off these efforts to create a collaborative hub of international research and further local and regional conservation efforts.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Protects water resources
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Maintains local character

MILITARY

- Improves operational safety
- Prevents costly workarounds that would otherwise limit test and training capacity
- Paves way to expand ILLs for larger launches



The Delta IV Heavy rocket stands 235 feet tall and is America's most powerful liquid-fueled rocket (top). Photo of Dangermond Preserve, provided by The Land Trust for Santa Barbara County (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- California State Coastal Conservancy
- Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo
- Land Trust for Santa Barbara County
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—Coastal Estuarine and Land Conservation Program
- Santa Barbara County
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2022

- ACRES PRESERVED:
951
- TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED:
2
- TOTAL FUNDS EXPENDED:
\$5.2 million
- PROJECT STATUS:
In Progress

CONTACT

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