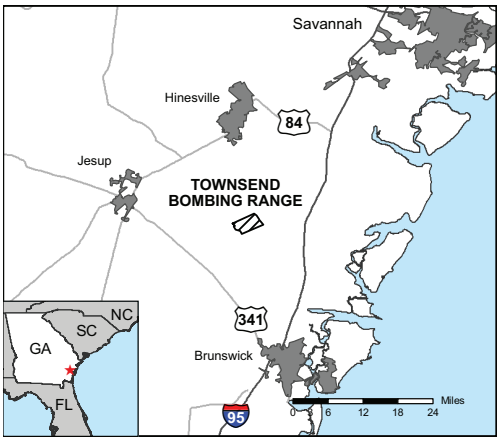
U.S. MARINE CORPS :

TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE : GEORGIA

A **vital air-to-ground range** used by the Marine Corps and the other three Military Services, Townsend Bombing Range is increasingly supporting the use of precision-guided weapons and other advanced weaponry in training. Meanwhile, Townsend is also a key East Coast hub for Joint Tactical Air Controllers (JTACs) training. JTACs represent 80 percent of bombing calls overseas, providing critical air support to the ground forces that need it most.

Bringing together state, federal, and other partners, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, the Townsend Range partnership has been able to reap the benefits of the protection of numerous conservation lands. The public is shielded from noise and potential safety risks and the military can perform large force exercises and take full advantage of airspace that spans 10 counties for more realistic training at all altitudes.



Townsend and its partners are also adding major pieces to the conservation puzzle in an ecologically sensitive area. Located within the Altamaha watershed, the surrounding land boasts the highest documented number of rare plants and animals in Georgia. The area's wetlands, longleaf pine forests, and sandhills are home to the gopher tortoise and other rare species. Preventing habitat fragmentation and increasing the Townsend Wildlife Management Area will also provide the public with recreational opportunities.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands and local character that benefit the economy
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including the development of a Joint Use Land Study to better coordinate planning efforts
- Protects species and habitat

MILITARY

- Protects live-fire bombing, vehicle maneuver, helicopter, and night flying training that produces significant amounts of noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Prevents the loss of training days and the use of less-realistic workarounds
- Provides for future mission growth and multi-service efforts

For more information about REPI, please see <http://www.repi.mil>.

Habitat in and around Townsend Bombing Range (top and bottom) helps preserve the range's training capability.

KEY PARTNERS

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Georgia Wetlands Trust Fund
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- U.S. Forest Service

FAST FACTS AS OF 30 SEP 12

» Acres preserved:
22,841

» Transactions conducted:
4

» Partner cost share:
59%

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

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