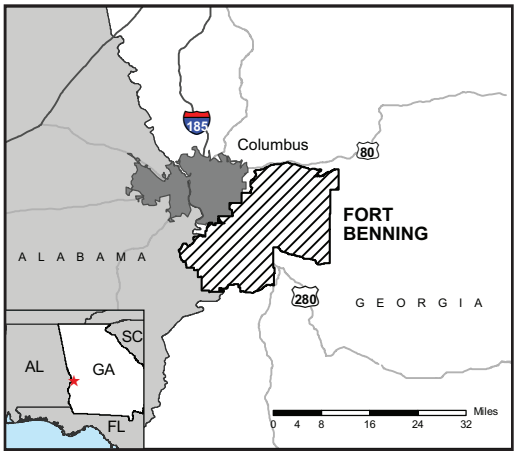
U.S. ARMY :

FORT BENNING : GEORGIA

Fort Benning is the home of the Maneuver School of Excellence, which combines the Army's premier Infantry Training Center and the Armor School in one location. With five types of infantry—mechanized, light, airborne, air assault, and ranger—the post is one of the country's most important installations. However, the growth of nearby towns and the increasing population size of the post have led to incompatible development and loss of critical wildlife habitat.



Training exercises on Fort Benning's ranges and maneuver corridors face numerous obstacles, as threatened, endangered, and other rare species (red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise) habitat, streams, and wetland sites restrict construction and training flexibility. However, the post is working with a variety of partners, who are acquiring titles to parcels that will prevent incompatible development and protect contiguous stretches of longleaf pine benefiting the red-cockaded woodpecker, gopher tortoise, and the ecosystems that support them.

Fort Benning's partners will be restoring habitat while simultaneously marketing to conservation buyers who may be interested in purchasing the land for recreational uses. This project also helps anchor the north end of a broad regional longleaf pine habitat corridor spanning Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands
- Supports regional planning objectives, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Protects water supply

MILITARY

- Preserves live-fire, maneuver, helicopter, and night flying training that produces significant noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Prevents workarounds that would reduce training realism
- Allows for future mission growth and multi-Service missions

Longleaf pine at Fort Benning provides habitat for threatened and endangered species (top). Soldiers undergoing basic training (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Alabama Forest Resource Center
- Alabama Land Trust
- Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership
- Chattahoochee Valley Land Trust
- Columbus Consolidated Government
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Land Trust
- State of Georgia
- State of Alabama
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

» Acres preserved:
27,312

» Transactions conducted:
39

» Total funds expended:
$70.8 million

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
(604) 545-4585

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