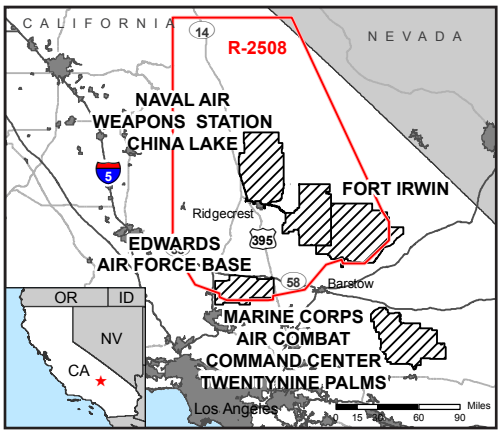
U.S. NAVY :

NAWS CHINA LAKE : CALIFORNIA

WITH R-2508 COMPLEX

The R-2508 Complex in the upper Mojave Desert is the largest single area of overland special use airspace in the United States. A key national military asset, the complex consists of multiple flight corridors, including high and low-level supersonic flight corridors, low altitude high speed maneuver areas, and weapons ranges. The restricted airspace is critical for Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) China Lake and Edwards Air Force Base (AFB), which are working together to protect targeted land underneath the complex. NAWS China Lake is the Navy's largest single landholding, vital for weapons and armaments research, development, test and evaluation. Edwards AFB is home to the Air Force Flight Test Center.



This REPI project helps protect diverse environments with varied terrain, a desert climate, and relative remoteness essential for realistic military training and weapons research and development. However, residential development and renewable energy projects are becoming more prevalent in the Mojave region. Residential uses cause conflicts with noise generated by aircraft, especially sonic booms, while wind towers present height conflicts and cause radar turbulence and interference.

Restrictive easements on land underneath the R-2508 airspace avoid these incompatible uses and also help sustain habitat for the threatened desert tortoise. Preserving these lands protects operational safety for the military's important test mission, especially for less stable unmanned aerial systems. The R-2508 REPI project also takes a regional approach to sustaining habitat as part of ongoing coordinated planning efforts among DoD, other federal agencies, and the state.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands that benefit the economy
- Provides habitat for notable species
- Provides recreational benefits for area residents

MILITARY

- Preserves maneuver training capacity through the buffering of high-noise areas
- Reduces electromagnetic interference
- Provides for future mission growth and supports the ability to test and train for multiple Service missions

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

The weapons test ranges at the R-2508 Complex includes test of missiles (top), and other new technologies, including micro air vehicles (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- California Department of State Parks and Recreation
- Conservation Resources
- National Audubon Society
- State of California
- The Nature Conservancy
- Transition Habitat Conservancy

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

» Acres preserved:
8,565

» Transactions conducted:
22

» Total funds expended:
$6.7 million

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

Community Plans & Liaison Officer
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