

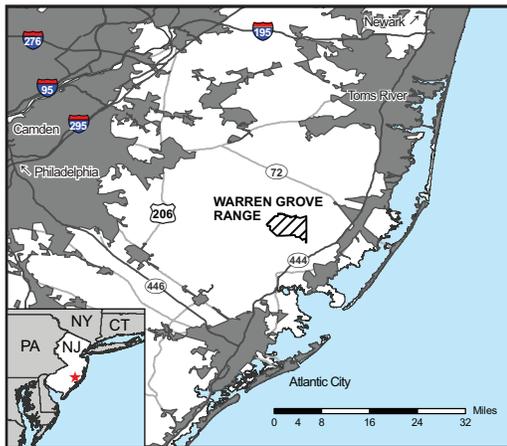


U.S. AIR FORCE :

WARREN GROVE RANGE : NEW JERSEY



One of the most heavily utilized Air National Guard training ranges in the U.S., Warren Grove Range is a key Northeast training asset for all four Services, with its remote location providing unique operational capabilities. However, its location in the New Jersey Pinelands is also one of the most flammable areas in the country. Every year training activities ignite one fire every 10-14 days, which are suppressed on-site.



When wildfires occur, the range must be totally shut down until the fires are suppressed. To reduce the wildfire danger, controlled burns are necessary to manage forest undergrowth. Without buffer lands to properly address undergrowth and fire concerns, the military mission at the range is endangered. In May 2007, the range shut down entirely for more than a year.

Now, REPI efforts to establish buffer lands surrounding the range are protecting the viability of continued training missions, including use of conventional freefall bombs and munitions and future weapon systems training.

Targeting the acquisition of thousands of acres of forest, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation will help the Air Force protect surrounding residents from the constant threat of wildfire and conduct prescribed fire management. Additionally, better forest management will support the many federally and state-listed animal and vegetative species found in the Pinelands area. Altogether, this project allows the continued operation of Warren Grove Range and maintains a quality training environment.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Coordinates with existing regional planning efforts, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects habitat for notable species
- Provides recreational benefits for area residents

MILITARY

- Protects on-installation training capacity
- Prevents the loss of available training days



Controlled burns help prevent wildfires, which reduce visibility for air exercises (top and bottom).
Bottom photo credit: Dr. Walter Bien, Laboratory of Pinelands Research

KEY PARTNERS

- New Jersey Conservation Foundation
- New Jersey Green Acres Program
- New Jersey Pinelands Commission

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2015

- » Acres preserved: **179**
- » Transactions conducted: **5**
- » Total funds expended: **\$0.4 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

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