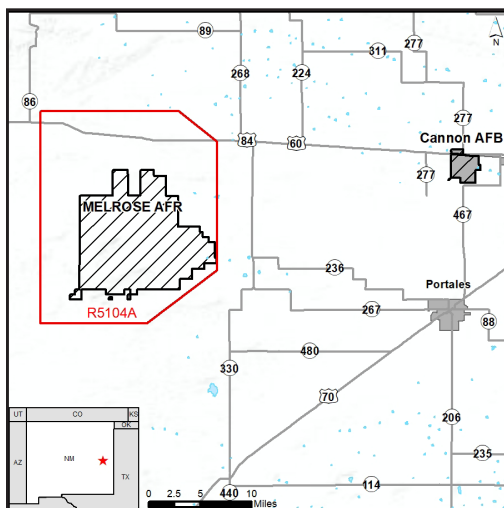




MELROSE AIR FORCE RANGE

Melrose Air Force Range (MAFR) provides more than 4,500 training hours for Special Operations Forces each year.

These hours consist of strike, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, mobility, battlefield support, special tactics, and ground force mission training for Special Operations Forces. In addition, the integrated nature of this range allows for combined air and ground training operations in settings very similar to those found in current areas of conflict, yielding greater success on the battlefield.



Although MAFR is located in rural eastern New Mexico, the elevation of the surrounding topography is very appealing to wind energy developers. MAFR is a relatively small range, therefore construction of turbines in the area would create vertical hazards and light-pollution capable of rendering 50% of training activities impracticable. With the support of the state, partner and REPI funding, this project will secure restrictive use easements to provide buffer protection at MAFR to mitigate the impacts of potential development pressures.

The land surrounding MAFR is currently used compatibly as rangeland, farmland, and grasslands. The grassland environment also serves as habitat to the critically endangered lesser prairie chicken and other ground nesting species. By protecting this land from development, historical agricultural operations will be sustained, and rangelands and grasslands will be preserved, benefiting the local wildlife and the military mission.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands
- Maintains existing land use patterns
- Preserves habitat for endangered species

MILITARY

- Ensures that existing compatible areas remain compatible
- Ensures the ability to conduct operations and training activities



A conservation easement adjacent to Melrose Air Force Range consists of 30,493 acres (top). An AC-130W Stinger II fires its weapon over Melrose Air Force Range, N.M (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- The Conservation Fund
- The New Mexico Land Conservancy
- State of New Mexico

CONTACT

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE:
(575) 784-4131

FAST FACTS FROM FY 2019 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	1	30,493	\$1.9 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding