

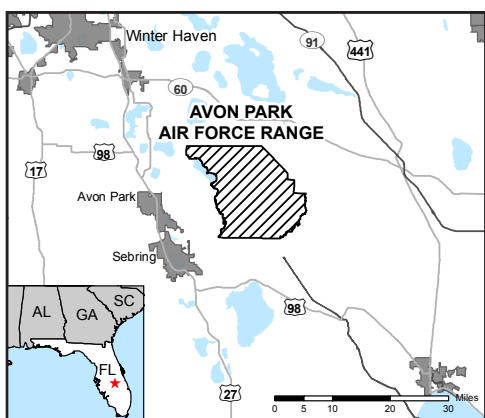


U.S. AIR FORCE :

AVON PARK AFR : FLORIDA



Avon Park Air Force Range (AFR) is a 106,000-acre bombing and gunnery range located near the center of the state of Florida. The primary training range for Homestead Air Reserve Base, Avon Park AFR is used extensively by all four Services. The range hosts numerous squadron and unit-level deployments from across the country in addition to nearby Air Force bases with its large restricted airspace and operating area offering a critical training space. The range’s importance may increase with future missions, possibly including F-35 training.



The range’s location in central Florida also connects it with important ecosystems as part of the northern Everglades, as well as working agricultural lands. Restrictive easements on these lands will limit incompatible development and buffer the range in one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Protecting Avon Park AFR allows the range

to maintain existing capabilities and keep pace with increasing requirements of new aircraft. Limiting potential development also avoids noise complaints and prevents light pollution that may impact night training.

The Avon Park AFR REPI project benefits stakeholders and industries important to the Florida economy, such as agriculture, recreation, and ecotourism. Protected lands will preserve water resources and wetlands, including lands important to the Everglades—one of only three designated wetland areas of global importance—and the entire southern Florida water supply. Large landscape-scale protection in this region provides opportunities to better align federal resources and strengthen locally-led conservation initiatives.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects water resources

MILITARY

- Preserves aviation maneuver and night flying training that produce significant noise or require minimal light pollution
- Provides for future mission growth



Avon Park AFR hosts exercises that simulate close air support targeting under real urban area conditions (top), and integrated air-ground battle tactics for all Department of Defense Services (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Florida Defense Alliance
- Florida Defense Support Task Force
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Forest Service
- Highlands County
- Highlands County Economic Development Commission
- Polk County
- South Florida Water Management District
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

- » Acres preserved: **10,756**
- » Transactions conducted: **9**
- » Total funds expended: **\$20.8 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

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