

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM

PROJECT PROFILES U.S. ARMY | GEORGIA

FORT BENNING

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 installation contains several missions critical for national security.



However, the growth of nearby towns and the increasing population size of the installation have led to development pressures and loss of critical habitat.

Training exercises on Fort Benning 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 installation

is working with a variety of partners, who are acquiring titles to parcels that will prevent development pressures 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.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands
- Protects habitat for threatened and endangered species
- 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 Forestry Commission
- Georgia Land Trust
- Knobloch Foundation
- State of Georgia
- State of Alabama
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

CONTACT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: (706) 545-8970

FAST FACTS FROM FY 2008 THROUGH FY 2024 | Project Status: In Progress

Authority		Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	45	36,706	\$108.7 million
Other (e.g., Sikes Act, IGSA)	-	_	\$2,700
TOTAL	45	36,706	\$108.7 million

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding

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