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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM

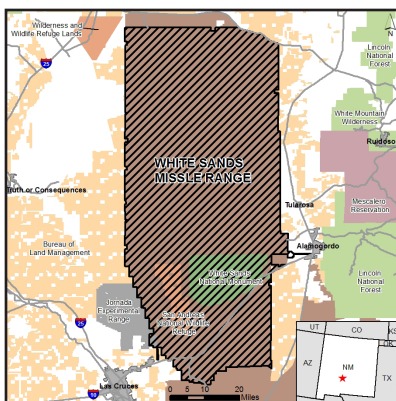
PROJECT PROFILES
U.S. ARMY | NEW MEXICO



WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE

In addition to being the largest military installation in the United States, White Sands Missile Range (WSMR) is the DOD's largest fully instrumented open-air range and was named the 2nd most important all-overland test range in the United States by the 2005 BRAC Commission.

WSMR hosts 100% of the military's Remote Pilot Aircraft training (RPA), 70% of F-22 and F-16 pilot training, and most training for nearby Holloman Air Force Base. The northernmost part of WSMR, called the "Northern Call-Up Area" (NCUA),



provides invaluable airspace for the DOD and its partners.

Encroachment is of critical concern to the NCUA, as it presents risks to low-flying missile operations and may affect the use and choice of radar locations. Development along NCUA's borders would lead to issues related to radiation, noise, air quality degradation, and dust. Projected population growth and recent land sales indicate that the likelihood of this threat will only increase

with time. WSMR has partnered with local stakeholders and hopes to purchase easements near the NCUA to mitigate encroachment. Purchasing easements will allow training to continue in a realistic manner and also benefit local ranching communities that are also vulnerable to development. Ranching is an important and long-standing tradition in southern New Mexico, and its preservation is a high priority for WSMR.

WSMR's partnerships with local stakeholders will generate benefits that extend far beyond military readiness. Purchasing easements surrounding NCUA will give WSMR the opportunity to become a leader in archeological preservation and an ally who supports the surrounding area's economic and recreational interests. The land adjacent to NCUA has a high density of prehistoric archeological sites. WSMR's partnerships will reduce development pressures on those sites and encourage traditional rural use of the land that will generate local revenue through ranching and hunting.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands and local charter
- Protects water supply
- Provides recreational activities

MILITARY

- Reduces electromagnetic interference
- Provides for mission growth
- Reduces lost training days and the need for workarounds that would reduce training realism or effectiveness



Soldiers conduct sling-load operations by loading an M777 Howitzer using cables attached to the underside of a CH47 Chinook helicopter, which transported the weapon to another location (top). Soldier monitors input from the Tactical Operations Center (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Bureau of Land Management
- Compatible Lands Foundation
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- New Mexico Land Conservancy
- New Mexico Military Base Planning Commission
- New Mexico State Lands Office
- Socorro Agricultural Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2022

- ACRES PRESERVED:
362,163
- TRANSACTIONS CONDUCTED:
6
- TOTAL FUNDS EXPENDED:
\$39.7 million
- PROJECT STATUS:
In Progress

CONTACT

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