

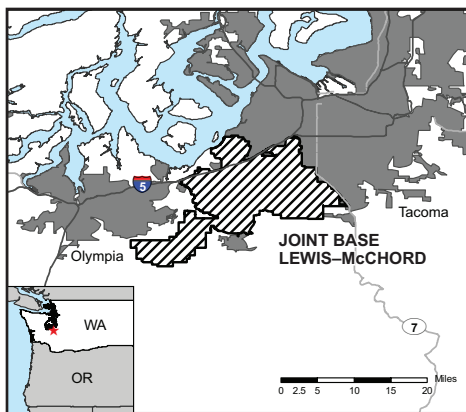


U.S. ARMY - U.S. AIR FORCE :

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD : WASHINGTON



Located on the Puget Sound, Joint Base Lewis-McChord is the third largest Army installation and combines artillery and maneuver training missions with airlift operations and training. However, live-fire exercises, Stryker Brigade Combat Team training, and airlift missions carrying personnel, vehicles, and supplies around the world are threatened by incompatible development and habitat loss. Since Joint Base Lewis-McChord hosts the majority of the remaining prairie habitat in the South Puget Sound, loss of prairie outside the



base can lead to increased restrictions to protect the remaining habitat and its imperiled species, thereby threatening Army activities.

One of two REPI projects at the base aims to restore habitat on southern Puget lowlands and sustain the Army training mission. As the first designated Sentinel Landscape—an area that supports the military mission, working lands, and

conservation—partners including conservation organizations, federal agencies, state and local governments, and individual landowners are working together to protect, restore, and manage prairie habitat. This allows for species recovery, research, and planning to reduce and avoid restrictions on training.

A second REPI project leveraged contributions from the state and local governments to protect the McChord Field runway. Buffers prevent new commercial development and allow for the removal of buildings that violate runway safety zone requirements. Pilots can now use a previously unavailable precision-guidance instrument landing system, while ecological assets are preserved before they are endangered, benefiting the entire region.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Supports the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership
- Supports new and existing regional planning objectives
- Provides habitat for candidate, threatened, and endangered species
- Preserves working lands that benefit the local economy
- Provides recreational opportunities

MILITARY

- Preserves on-installation live-fire and maneuver training capability
- Reduces the need for less-realistic workarounds
- Provides for future mission growth and multi-Service missions



Joint Base Lewis-McChord's ranges contains some the only remaining south Puget Sound prairie habitat (top), which supports rare animal species and live-fire training exercises (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Center for Natural Lands Management
- City of Lakewood
- City of Tacoma
- Evergreen State College
- Northwest Rangeland Trust
- Oregon Zoo
- Pierce County
- Sustainability in Prisons
- The Nature Conservancy
- Thurston County
- University of Washington
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Washington Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State University Extension
- Washington Veterans Conservation Corps
- Wolf Haven International

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

- » Acres preserved: **2,026**
- » Transactions conducted: **16**
- » Total funds expended: **\$33.0 million**
- » Project status: **In Progress**

CONTACT

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