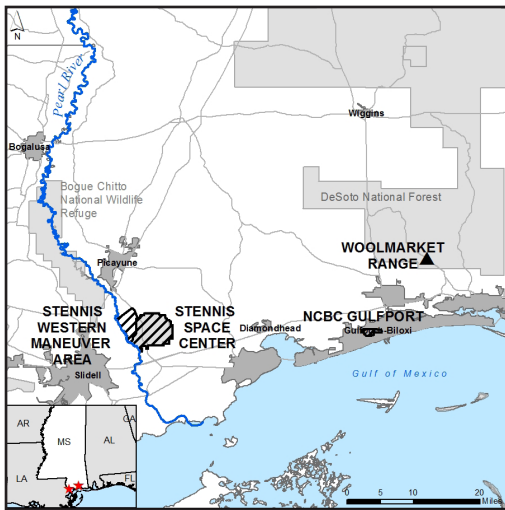




NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER GULFPORT WITH STENNIS WESTERN MANEUVER AREA

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport is the industrial complex home of the Atlantic Fleet Seabees, which are the Navy’s construction battalions.

Also associated with NCBC Gulfport is Woolmarket Range, where Seabees can practice rifle and handgun marksmanship. Located some 40 miles east of NCBC Gulfport is one of DOD’s relatively new range areas, the Stennis Western Maneuver Area (WMA). Located adjacent to NASA’s Stennis Space Center, Stennis WMA provides riverine training for Navy Special Forces in a jungle training environment. There is no other live-fire range in similar habitat for Navy Special Forces.



The unique type of training at Stennis WMA requires a specifically tailored approach to preventing development pressures. Lands protected by the Mississippi Land Trust provide the necessary buffers to reduce accident potential and decrease riverine traffic, while also expanding the live-fire training options at Stennis WMA. Meanwhile, at the main installation, buffers will prevent development north of Gulfport in areas subject to noise from engineering and construction training, field exercises, and land navigation activities.

The buffers protected by NCBC Gulfport’s REPI project also provide opportunities for the Navy’s partners to restore native bottomland hardwood forests and upland longleaf pine forests. Long-term management of these habitats will support three threatened species, the ringed map turtle, gulf sturgeon, and the western range populations of the gopher tortoise.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Provides habitat for threatened species
- Protects water resources
- Brings together new partners

MILITARY

- Protects live-fire and maneuver training, including air operations
- Improves operational security and reduces trespassing on military lands
- Provides for future mission growth



Members of Special Boat Team-22 and other Navy Special Forces and military units from other nations use the riverine training environment at the Stennis Western Maneuver Area (top). The surrounding habitat is also home to threatened species like the ringed map turtle (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Mississippi Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Mississippi Land Trust
- State of Mississippi
- The Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Wildlife Mississippi

CONTACT

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND LIAISON OFFICE:
 (228) 871-2157

FAST FACTS FROM FY 2019 THROUGH FY 2023 | Project Status: Initiated

Authority	Transactions	Acres Protected, Managed, or Improved	Total Funds Expended
10 U.S.C. § 2684a	–	–	\$9,500

Subtotals may not sum to combined totals due to rounding. | This project has expended REPI funds to support the ongoing management or improvement of lands outside the installation.