REPI READINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION PROGRAM
STATE PROFILE | GEORGIA

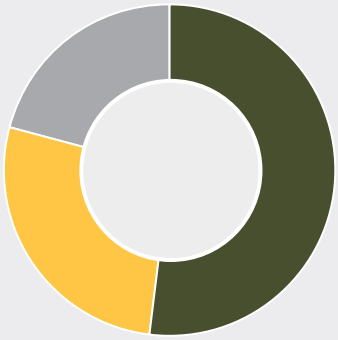
OVERVIEW

Georgia received $13.7 billion in Defense spending in Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, which provides direct funding for DoD personnel salaries, defense contracts, and construction of military facilities in the state. This spending by DoD personnel, contractors, and their families creates significant economic activity, attracts related industries and investment, and generates important state and local government tax revenues.

The Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is a key tool used by DoD and its partners to protect the military's ability to train, test, and operate in the state. DoD created the REPI Program in response to the development of lands and loss of habitat in the vicinity of or affecting its installations, ranges, and airspace that can lead to restrictions or costly and inadequate training and testing alternatives. Through REPI, DoD works with state and local governments, conservation organizations, and willing private landowners to address these challenges to the military mission and the viability of DoD installations and ranges. The REPI Program has enjoyed broad bipartisan support both in the U.S. Congress and among groups representing state and local officials. Through FY 2019, DoD and its partners have spent over $300 million on 7 REPI projects in Georgia.

DOD IN GEORGIA

DoD Personnel (as of 30 Sep 2018)

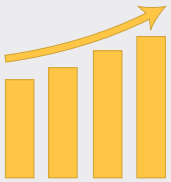


- **Active Duty:** 65,348
- **Civilians:** 34,606
- **Reserve/National Guard:** 26,756

Total DoD Personnel: 126,710

Federal Defense Spending and Economic Impact
(in FY 2018)

$13.7 billion in Federal Defense spending



2.3% of state GDP

$6.4 billion in payroll contributed
$7.3 billion in contracts awarded

Acres of DoD Managed and State-Owned National Guard Land (as of 30 Sep 2017)

DoD Managed Land	State-Owned National Guard Land	Total DoD Managed and State-Owned National Guard Land
589,060	806	589,866

REPI PROJECTS* IN GEORGIA

Funding Summary (through FY 2019)

- **REPI Expenditures:** $93,556,974
- **Military Service Expenditures:** $82,052,848
- **Partner Expenditures:** $124,542,590

Total Expenditures: $300,152,412

** REPI projects refer to any action authorized by 10 USC §2684(a) to include the acquisition of interests in land from willing landowners to prevent incompatible development and protect habitat or any other natural resources management. REPI projects involving the Army or Army National Guard are also termed Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) partnerships. Those involving the Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force, are also termed encroachment partnering agreements. Eligible partners include conservation organizations and state and local governments.*

Total Acres Protected (through FY 2019): 137,632

MILITARY PRESENCE

- Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay encompasses approximately **16,000 acres, and supports more than 9,000 military, civilian, and contract personnel**, as well as a variety of threatened and endangered species.
- Fort Stewart encompasses 285,000 acres, including the **Army's longest East Coast runway** at Hunter Army Airfield. Tank, field artillery, helicopter gunnery, and small arms ranges operate simultaneously year round at this Army installation. Fort Stewart's annual economic impact is between $4-5 billion for the State of Georgia.
- Fort Benning is a self-sustaining military community that encompasses **182,000 acres and supports over 120,000 military, civilian, and retired military citizens**.
- Robins Air Force Base is home to Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, the 78th Air Base Wing, and over 60 other units that contribute to the Air Force war fighting team. It is the **largest industrial complex in Georgia**, employing a work force of over 23,000 civilian, contractor, and military personnel and with an economic impact of $3.15 billion in FY 2018.
- More REPI funding has been spent in Georgia than in any other state.

Project Installation	County	Congressional District
Fort Benning	Chattahoochee, Muscogee	2nd
Fort Gordon	Richmond	12th, 10th
Fort Stewart	Chatham	1st
Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay	Camden	1st
Robins AFB	Bibb, Houston, Peach	8th
Southeast Regional Army Project	Irwin	8th
Townsend Bombing Range	McIntosh	1st

For all REPI Project Profiles visit: http://www.repi.mil/BufferProjects/ProjectList.aspx

Habitat in and around Townsend Bombing Range (top and left) helps preserve the range's training capability.

For more information about the REPI Program, visit ***www.repi.mil***

Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability (SERPPAS)

- The REPI Program supports regional partnerships such as SERPPAS to identify common issues and solutions for mutual benefit.
- SERPPAS partners work to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions, and improve coordination among regions, states, communities, and military services. For more information, visit www.serppas.org.
- Georgia is a member of SERPPAS, along with the states of Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Key REPI Partners

- Alabama Forest Resource Center
- Alabama Land Trust
- Altamaha Riverkeeper
- Bibb County
- Central Georgia Joint Development Authority
- Central Savannah River Land Trust
- Chatham County
- Chattahoochee Fall Line Conservation Partnership
- Chattahoochee Valley Land Trust
- City of Savannah
- Columbus Consolidated Government
- Ducks Unlimited
- Environmental Resources Network
- Georgia Conservancy
- Georgia Land Trust
- Georgia Ornithological Society
- Georgia Wetlands Trust Fund
- Houston County
- Knobloch Family Foundation
- Middle Georgia Regional Commission
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Wild Turkey Foundation
- Peach County
- St. Simons Land Trust
- State of Alabama
- State of Georgia
- The Conservation Fund
- The Longleaf Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- USDA-NRCS
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

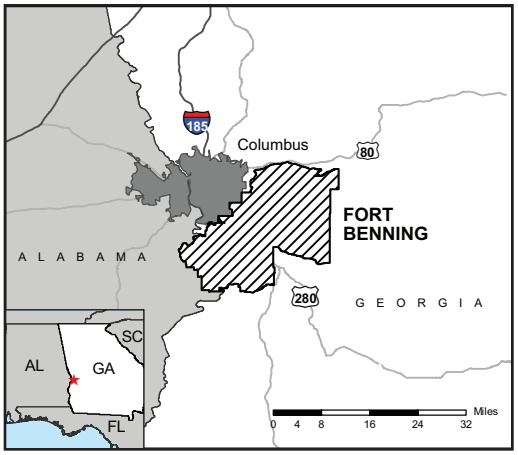
Data Sources

- **For Economic Impact Information:**
  - Robins AFB 2018 Economic Impact Statement: https://www.robins.af.mil/Portals/59/documents/2018%20Economic%20Impact%20Statement/2018%20Economic%20Impact%20Statement.pdf
  - For Fort Stewart Impact Information: http://www.savannahchamber.com/economic-development/military
- **For Federal Spending and personnel Information:** Office of Economic Adjustment: "Defense Spending By State Fiscal Year 2018": https://www.oea.gov/sites/default/files/defense-spending-rpts/FY2018-Defense-Spending-by-State-Report_0_0.pdf
- **For Land Information:** Department of Defense: "Base Structure Report – Fiscal Year 2018 Baseline": https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/Downloads/BSI/Base%20Structure%20Report%20FY18.pdf
- **For REPI Projects Information:** "2020 REPI Report to Congress": https://www.repi.mil/Portals/44/Documents/Reports_to_Congress/REPI2020RTC.pdf
- **For Kings Bay Information:** https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/navsubbase_kings_bay/about/interesting_facts_about_kings_bay.html
- **For Fort Benning Information:** https://www.benning.army.mil/common/Content/PDF/MCoE%20Overview%20Brief.pdf

U.S. ARMY :

FORT BENNING : GEORGIA

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 post is one of the country's most important installations. However, the growth of nearby towns and the increasing population size of the post have led to incompatible development and loss of critical wildlife habitat.



Training exercises on Fort Benning's 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 post is working with a variety of partners, who are acquiring titles to parcels that will prevent incompatible development 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. This project also helps anchor the north end of a broad regional longleaf pine habitat corridor spanning Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands
- Supports regional planning objectives, including a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Provides recreational opportunities
- 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 Land Trust
- Knobloch Foundation
- State of Georgia
- State of Alabama
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

» Acres preserved:
34,410

» Transactions conducted:
41

» Total funds expended:
$95.3 million

» Project status:
In Progress

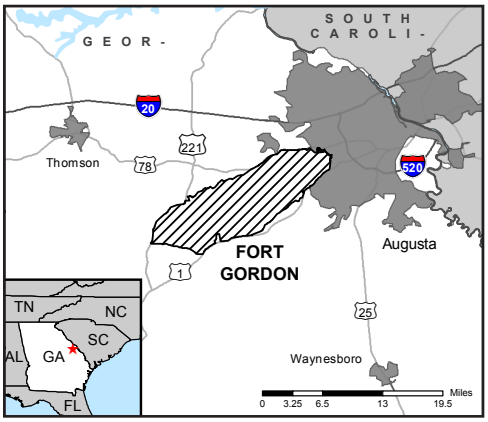
CONTACT

Community Relations
(706) 545-8970

U.S. ARMY :

FORT GORDON : GEORGIA

Fort Gordon, located in Augusta, Georgia, is the largest communications training facility in the Armed Forces and is the focal point for the development of tactical communications and information systems with the Signal Corps and Signals Intelligence. The post also has a new National Security Agency facility, which recently added new jobs—bringing with it development pressures to house a growing population. Additionally, Fort Gordon supports various light to heavy maneuver and live-fire training activities on its training ranges.



Meanwhile, Fort Gordon is surrounded by highways inviting sprawl emanating from Augusta to continue closing in around the post. This leads to complaints about noise and vibrations from artillery and other live firing, as well as air quality issues from the smoke of training obscurants and prescribed burning of longleaf pine habitat and underbrush. So Fort Gordon is working with its partners to protect the remaining large parcels of undeveloped forest land near its ranges in hopes of alleviating the risk of encroachment further impacting training capabilities.

An important aspect of this project is the opportunity to preserve and restore the longleaf pine ecosystem that supports species like the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker and the candidate species gopher tortoise. Preventing the gopher tortoise and others from becoming listed species will protect Fort Gordon's training mission from new restrictions. Another benefit is the protection of high priority water areas, helping to sustain aquatic biodiversity.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Supports regional planning efforts, including implementation of a Joint Land Use Study
- Preserves habitat for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species
- Protects water supply
- Protects working lands

MILITARY

- Preserves live-fire, maneuver, and aviation training that produces significant noise
- Prevents workarounds that would reduce training realism
- Allows for mission growth

Medical personnel practice loading simulated casualties onto a HH-60M Blackhawk helicopter (top). Some training occurs near the longleaf pine ecosystem near Fort Gordon (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Central Savannah River Land Trust
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

» Acres preserved:
114

» Transactions conducted:
1

» Total funds expended:
$205.4 thousand

» Project status:
In Progress

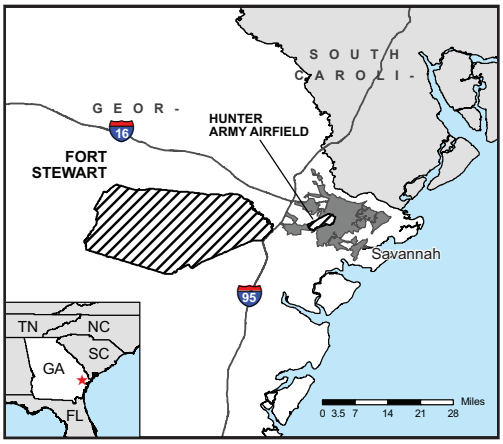
CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
(706) 791-7003

U.S. ARMY :

FORT STEWART : GEORGIA

The largest Department of Defense installation east of the Mississippi, Fort Stewart's 279,000 acres are home to the 3rd Infantry Division. Able to train up to 50,000 soldiers annually, the installation's live-fire facilities support the full range of Army weaponry. Together with local and national non-profit partners, as well as the state of Georgia, Fort Stewart is working on an ambitious project to protect large swaths of rural land near the installation.



Preventing incompatible development around Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield is safeguarding the continued use of the installation's controlled airspace—important for unmanned aerial vehicle operations and integrating close air support—as well as drop zones for paratrooper training.

The open space buffer is also allowing the installation to conduct activities that produce noise, dust, and smoke, such as live-fire training, maneuver training, and controlled forest burns. Controlled burns prevent live ammunition from causing unplanned fires while also allowing native longleaf pine forests to thrive by restoring the natural balance of underbrush growth and suppressing undesirable hardwoods. Fort Stewart's longleaf pine forests support red-cockaded woodpeckers, flatwoods salamanders, and other rare species. These REPI efforts will help ease on-post management duties by permanently protecting surrounding off-post forests, as well as agricultural and water resources.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Preserves working lands that benefit the local economy
- Supports regional planning objectives
- Alleviates safety concerns
- Protects habitat for wildlife
- Maintains local character

MILITARY

- Preserves live-fire, operational airspace, and maneuver training capacity that generates noise, vibration and dust
- Prevents workarounds that would reduce training realism or effectiveness

Maneuver training at Fort Stewart (top). Habitat and water supplies protected by Fort Stewart REPI projects (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Chatham County
- City of Savannah
- The Conservation Fund
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Land Trust
- Knobloch Foundation
- The Longleaf Alliance
- 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

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

» Acres preserved:
39,645

» Transactions conducted:
74

» Total funds expended:
$89.6 million

» Project status:
In Progress

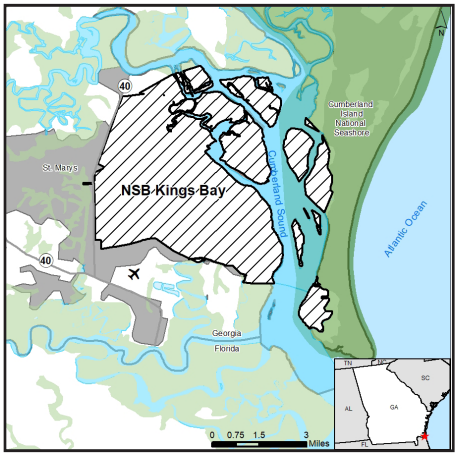
CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
(912) 435-9874

U.S. NAVY :

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE KINGS BAY : GEORGIA

Located on the southeastern coast of Georgia, Naval Submarine Base (NSB) Kings Bay serves as an east coast homeport to Ohio-Class ballistic missile submarines and guided missile submarines and will be the first Navy base readied for the Columbia-Class submarine. The primary mission of NSB Kings Bay is to service and refit these submarines for deployment into the Atlantic, where they serve as a vital component of the U.S. strategic defense deterrence.



The area surrounding NSB Kings Bay contains some of the largest undeveloped waterfront properties in the state of Georgia, increasing development pressure around the installation. Incompatible development adjacent to or opposite NSB Kings Bay could alter tidal effects, sedimentation, and storm surge, exacerbating existing challenges in this flood-prone area all of which will threaten installation's shoreline based mission. Additionally, failure to preserve habitat for threatened, endangered, and at-risk species—such as the gopher tortoise, eastern indigo snake, and flatwood salamander—could result in mission restrictions for NSB Kings Bay.

In order to combat these threats, NSB Kings Bay has partnered with numerous conservation organizations to purchase easements that will preserve the coastal wetlands for threatened and endangered species, while protecting the invaluable mission at NSB Kings Bay. As part of the Georgia Sentinel Landscape and a participating member of the Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability, NSB Kings Bay has been successful in leveraging multiple partners' priorities and resources to achieve large-scale land protection immediately adjacent to the base.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Provides habitat for notable species including the gopher tortoise and eastern indigo snake
- Protects water resources
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including a Compatible Use Plan and encroachment action plan

MILITARY

- Protects on-installation operational capacity
- Provides for future mission growth

NSB Kings Bay serves as the only east-coast homeport to Ohio-class submarines such as the USS Alaska and USS Georgia, pictured above.

KEY PARTNERS

- Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Open Space Institute Land Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The Nature Conservancy

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

» Acres preserved:
0

» Transactions conducted:
0

» Total funds expended:
$0

» Project status:
Initiated

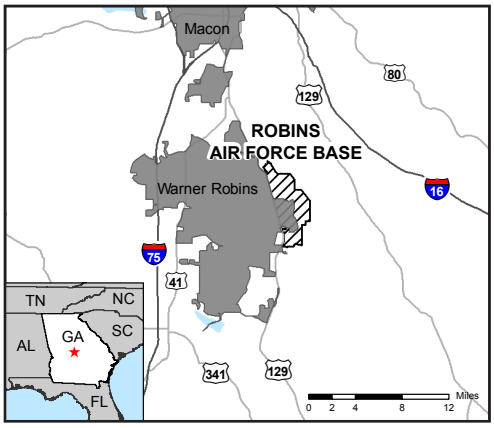
CONTACT

Community Plans & Liaison Officer
(912) 573-1675

U.S. AIR FORCE :

ROBINS AFB : GEORGIA

Robins Air Force Base (AFB) hosts multiple flying missions and performs depot-level maintenance and avionic overhaul for aircraft, weapons systems, and missiles. Located in central Georgia, Robins AFB is the largest industrial complex in the state and economically vital to Houston, Bibb, and Peach counties. To protect the base's ability to carry out post-maintenance test flights from current and future incompatible development, the three counties are working together as a part of the Middle Georgia Regional Commission with the state's Central Georgia Joint Development Authority.



These partners are acquiring parcels near the base's aircraft approach and departure corridor to ease mission restrictions, such as nighttime flying restrictions. This project stems from a 2004 Joint Land Use Study recommendation and includes the removal of buildings on protected parcels that violate safety and noise zone compatibility recommendations. The partnership is protecting a valuable economic engine that provides a $4.1 billion annual impact.

To date the project has rectified incompatible development in Accident Potential Zone (APZ) I by 90%, APZ II by 75%, and high level noise contours by 90%. Once complete, the project will have near 100% compatibility within these three areas. The project also will benefit agricultural and habitat uses around the base. These parcels offer strategic preservation of significant wetlands and recreational opportunities along the Ocmulgee River, and the sale of state- or county-owned parcels for agricultural or limited industrial use puts the land back into the local tax base.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Supports coordination with existing regional planning efforts
- Supports implementation of a Joint Land Use Study
- Protects lands that provide economic benefit
- Protects public health, safety, and welfare

MILITARY

- Protects maneuver capabilities
- Provides for future mission growth

Robins AFB provides depot-level maintenance, such as aircraft repairs and upgrades (top). A B-1B Lancer bomber lands at Robins AFB after a post-maintenance flight (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Bibb County
- Central Georgia Joint Development Authority
- Houston County
- Middle Georgia Regional Commission
- Peach County
- State of Georgia

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

» Acres preserved:
737

» Transactions conducted:
216

» Total funds expended:
$19.7 million

» Project status:
In Progress

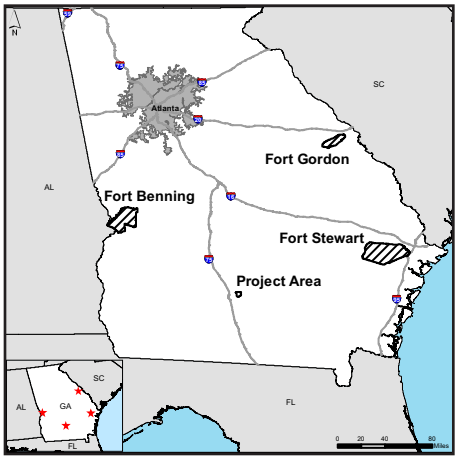
CONTACT

Public Affairs Office
(478) 926-2137

U.S. ARMY :

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ARMY PROJECT : GEORGIA

The Southeastern United States is home to a complex of vital National Defense assets, including some of the Army's largest and most important training installations. Fort Benning, Fort Gordon, and Fort Stewart are all located in Georgia alone. These installations support the full gamut of training and operations, including the infantry school; primary flight training; tracked and armored vehicle maneuver; artillery; small to large caliber arms; and airborne drop zones.



The Southeast was also once a vast regional ecosystem of longleaf pine forests supporting rich biodiversity. As these forests dwindled, military installations increasingly became a home for many rare species. Such species' reliance on DoD lands presents a conflict with the need to meet training requirements. For example, mechanized maneuver training can compromise burrows where the gopher tortoise lives. The gopher tortoise is a candidate species that if listed as threatened or endangered could restrict training missions across the region. Preventing its listing and preemptively mitigating impacts to training requires a creative response.

The Army is piloting a solution by partnering with the State of Georgia and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect some of the most important habitats based on gopher tortoise counts within the state, regardless of distance to an installation. While the goal is to preclude a listing of the gopher tortoise, the partners are developing a conservation crediting process to benefit Army installations in case a listing is ultimately warranted. This crediting process, once completed, will serve as a model that can be applied to other at-risk species and DoD installations across the United States.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects habitat for multiple threatened, endangered, and candidate species
- Preserves working agricultural land
- Supports regional planning objectives

MILITARY

- Protects multiple installations' live-fire, maneuver, and aviation capabilities
- Supports multiple Service missions
- Helps avoid and reduce workarounds and restrictions on training

Controlled burns help maintain a healthy forest ecosystem for the longleaf pine across the Southeastern U.S. (top). The Army is seeking to avoid future restrictions on training by protecting this habitat and the gopher tortoises that live there (bottom).

KEY PARTNERS

- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Knobloch Family Foundation
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

» Acres preserved:
6,990

» Transactions conducted:
1

» Total funds expended:
$17.9 million

» Project status:
In Progress

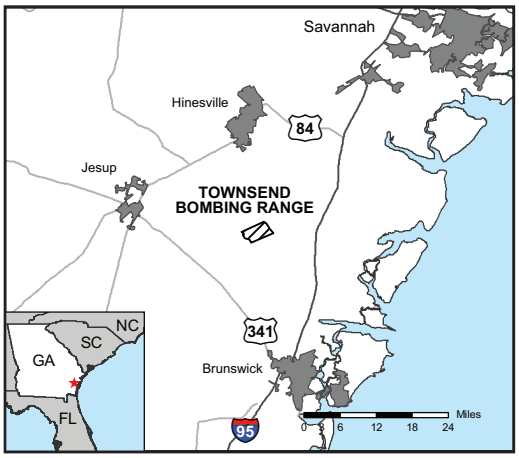
CONTACT

Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management ACUB Coordinator
(571) 256-9731

U.S. MARINE CORPS :

TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE : GEORGIA

A vital air-to-ground range used by the Marine Corps and the other three Military Services, Townsend Bombing Range is increasingly supporting the use of precision-guided weapons and other advanced weaponry in training. Meanwhile, Townsend is also a key East Coast hub for Joint Tactical Air Controllers (JTACs) training. JTACs represent 80 percent of bombing calls overseas, providing critical air support to the ground forces that need it most.



Bringing together state, federal, and other partners, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program, the Townsend Range partnership has been able to reap the benefits of the protection of numerous conservation lands. The public is shielded from noise and potential safety risks and the military can perform large force exercises and take full advantage of airspace that spans 10 counties for more realistic training at all altitudes.

Townsend and its partners are also adding major pieces to the conservation puzzle in an ecologically sensitive area. Located within the Altamaha watershed, the surrounding land boasts the highest documented number of rare plants and animals in Georgia. The area's wetlands, longleaf pine forests, and sandhills are home to the gopher tortoise and other rare species. Preventing habitat fragmentation and increasing the Townsend Wildlife Management Area will also provide the public with recreational opportunities.

BENEFIT SUMMARY

COMMUNITY

- Protects working lands and local character that benefit the economy
- Supports existing regional planning efforts, including the development of a Joint Use Land Study to better coordinate planning efforts
- Protects species and habitat

MILITARY

- Protects live-fire bombing, vehicle maneuver, helicopter, and night flying training that produces significant amounts of noise or requires minimal light pollution
- Prevents the loss of training days and the use of less-realistic workarounds
- Provides for future mission growth and multi-service efforts

Habitat in and around Townsend Bombing Range (top and bottom) helps preserve the range's training capability.

KEY PARTNERS

- Altamaha Riverkeeper
- Ducks Unlimited
- Georgia Conservancy
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Georgia Forestry Commission
- Georgia Ornithological Society
- Georgia Wetlands Trust Fund
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- St. Simons Land Trust
- The Environmental Resources Network
- The Nature Conservancy
- U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

FAST FACTS THROUGH 30 SEP 2019

» Acres preserved:
55,738

» Transactions conducted:
13

» Total funds expended:
$77.5 million

» Project status:
In Progress

CONTACT

Community Plans & Liaison Officer
(843) 228-7119