Army Compatible Use Buffer Program

End of Year Report FY05

Prepared by US Army Environmental Center

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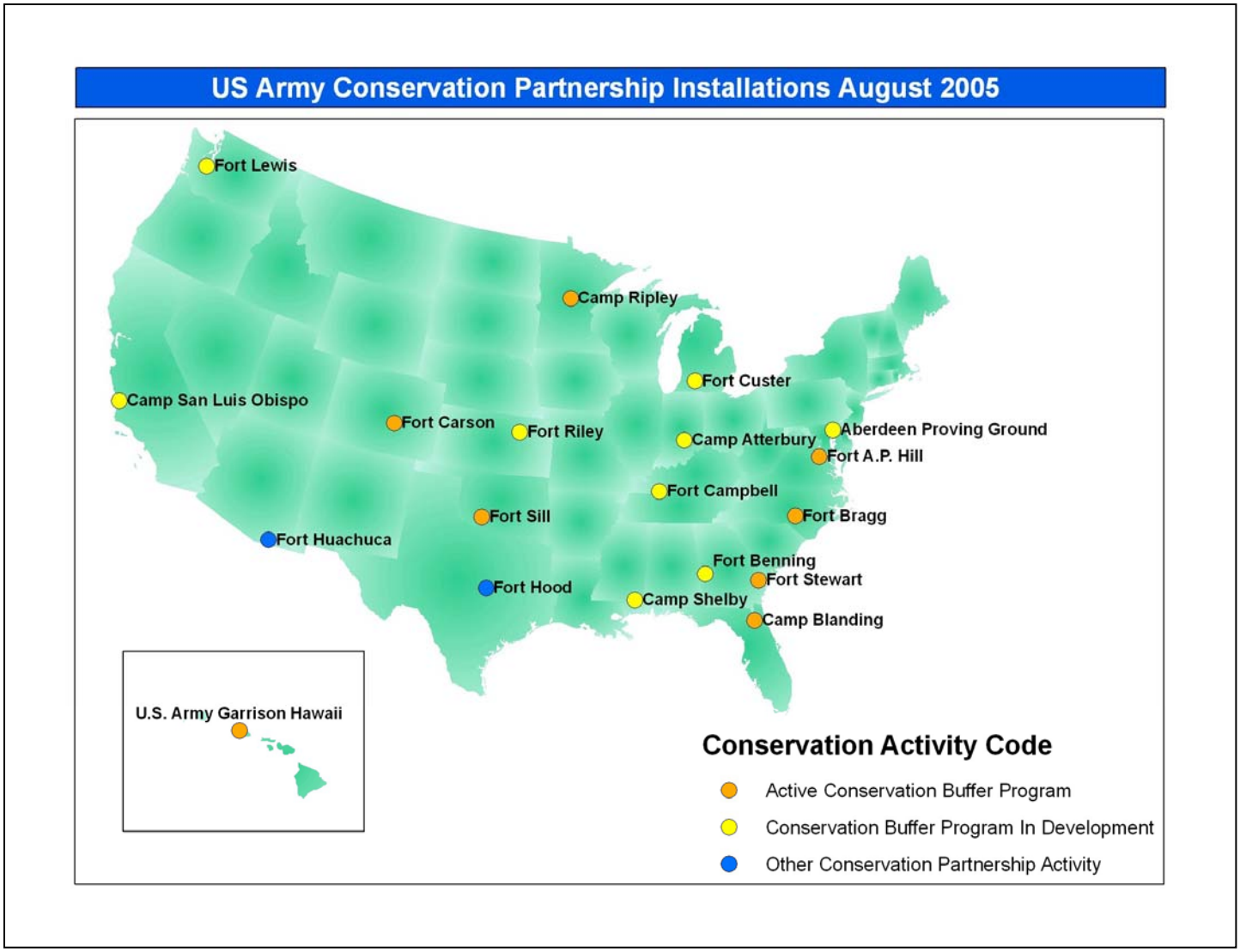
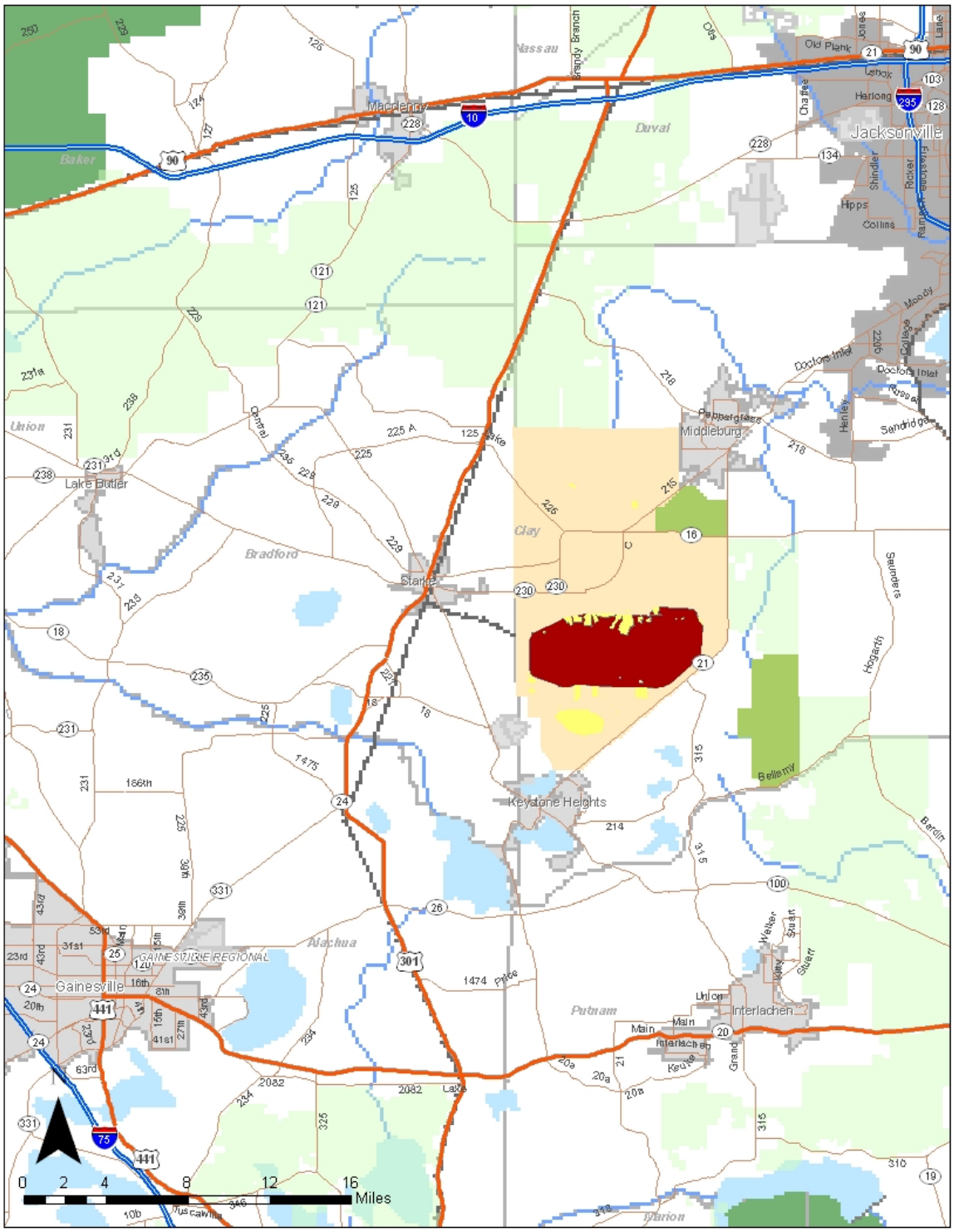
Army Compatible Use Buffers (ACUBs) were defined in an Army issued memorandum based on the 10 U.S.C. §2684a legislation "Agreements to limit encroachments and other constraints on military training, testing, and operations" in 2003. This legislation was based on the Private Lands Initiative at Fort Bragg, NC established to recover the red-cockaded woodpecker (1995). ACUBs involve a legally binding agreement between an Army installation and another party (non-governmental, state or local government) that enables the other party to acquire land or interest in land from a **willing** private landowner in the vicinity of Army training areas. In addition to the signers of the cooperative agreement, there are often many other government and nongovernmental agencies that aid in funding and decision-making. Through ACUBs, The Army avoids suburban sprawl on its borders and/or reduces the likelihood of being the only refuge for endangered species (with associated restrictions), which leads to greater training flexibility and a continuance of responsible environmental stewardship. Subsequently, Partners meet their organizational objectives such as natural resource protection, hunting, agriculture, public recreation, cultural preservation and other Army compatible interests.

This document summarizes Department of Army approved ACUB projects across the country and the current level of success thus far. Many other installations have begun the process of establishing Army Compatible Use Buffer programs and will be added to this report yearly. The installations involved in these initiatives share a common goal of protecting the military mission and natural resources from the rapidly increasing development of residential communities through cooperative agreements enabling nonprofit entities to acquire titles and/or easements with funds from the Army and other organizations.

Each map includes an "ACUB focus area". This does not propose the entire area will be protected through the program. It means parcels within the area that become available and meet other organizational objectives within the partnership qualify for ACUB funding.



Current Army Compatible Use Buffer efforts across the country.



Camp Blanding ACUB initiative

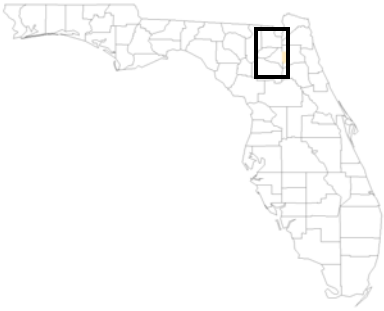
Legend

- Cantonement
- Dudded Impact
- Firing Range
- Non-dudded Impact
- Other Range
- ACUB 2005
- Protected Area
- Other ACUB focus area

Urban Areas (Regional)

POP2000

- 719 - 241866
- 241867 - 1008509
- 1008510 - 2985722
- 2985723 - 8299353
- 8299354 - 17340042



Camp Blanding, Florida

- The first installation to submit a proposal under the 10 U.S.C. §2684a legislation that enabled the Army Compatible Use Buffer guidance.

- This ACUB protects military training for light infantry and special operations exercises through direct buffering of training land and protection of endangered species. All branches of service, the Coast Guard, and federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies use Camp Blanding and it serves as a federal/state logistical support site for emergencies such as hurricanes and wildfires.

- Part of the Florida Forever state wide initiative to protect the state's unique natural resources which encompasses a wide range of goals, including: protection of endangered species habitat including the red-cockaded woodpecker and Florida Panther, restoration of damaged environmental systems, water resource development and supply, increased public access, public lands management and maintenance, and increased protection of land by acquisition of conservation easements.

- The Florida Department of Environmental Protection funds more than 90% of the project with the remaining costs contributed by The Army National Guard Bureau, The Nature Conservancy, Acquisition & Restoration Council, St. Johns River Water Management District, Suwannee River Water Management District, Clay & Bradford Counties, Greenways and Trails and other nonprofit and government organizations.

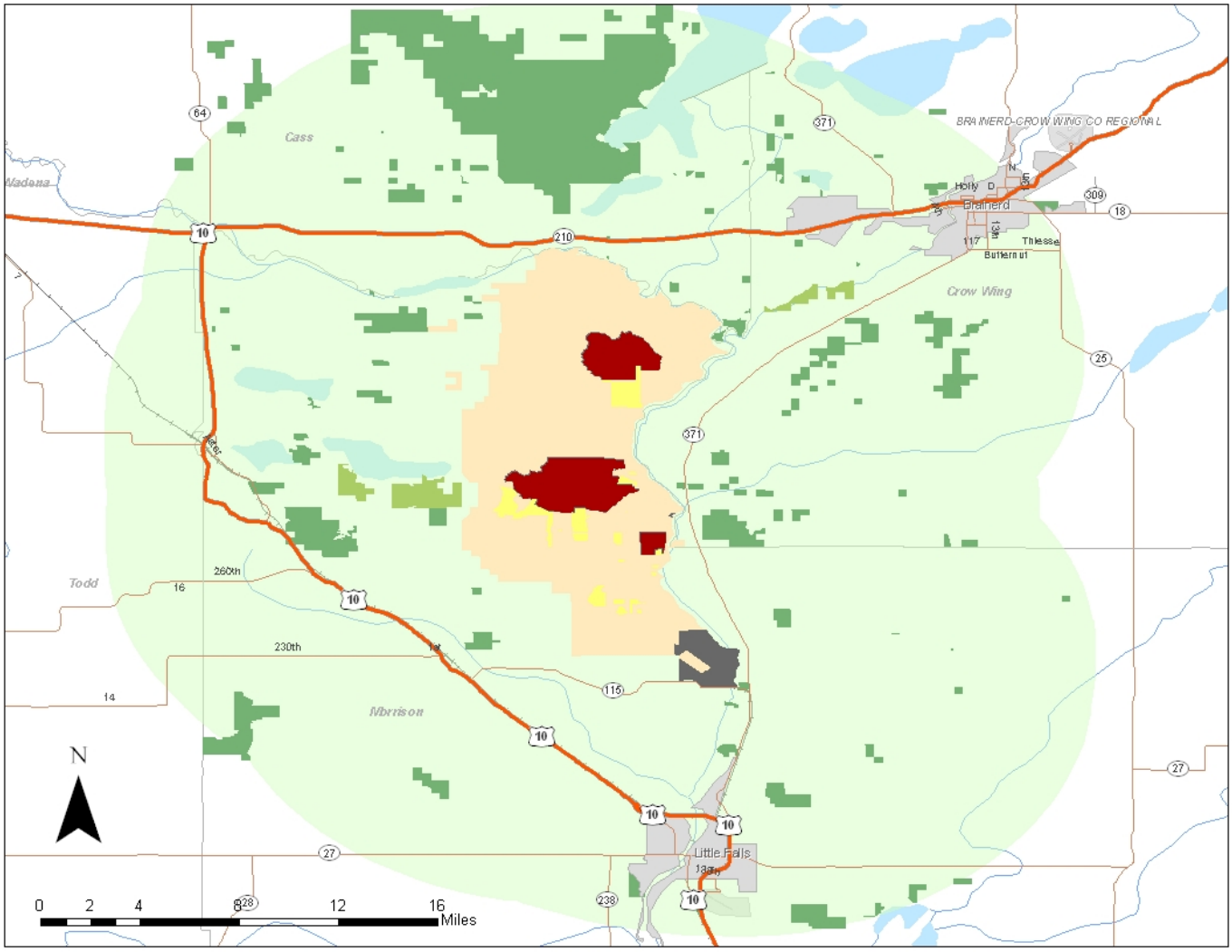
ACUB Proposal Approval Date: September 23, 2003

Funding History:

Fiscal Year	DoD	Partner(s)
FY03	$0.5M	$12.5M
FY04	$0.5M	$19.0M
FY05	$0.0M	$0.0M
Totals	**$1.0M**	**$31.5M**

Parcel History:

Fiscal Year	Number of Parcels	Acres
FY03	1	8,666
FY04	1	4,000
FY05	0	0
In Progress	2	15,000
Totals	**4**	**27,666**



Camp Ripley ACUB initiative

Legend

- Cantonement
- Dudded Impact
- Firing Range
- Non-dudded Impact
- Other Range
- ACUB 2005
- Protected Area
- Other ACUB focus area

Urban Areas (Regional)

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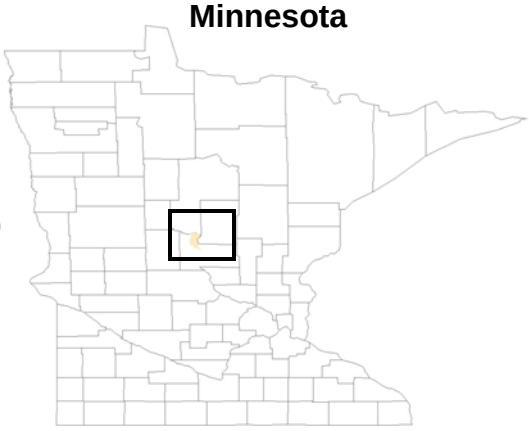
Minnesota



Camp Ripley, Minnesota

- The “Prairie to Pines Initiative” that this installation is a part of, has unprecedented voluntary support and involvement from many surrounding private landowners.

- All branches of the military and many foreign military units have trained at Camp Ripley since 1994 as well as federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

- The Prairie to Pines Initiative protects the wildest areas of central Minnesota, which include large populations of gray wolves and bald eagles.

- The surrounding county has contributed over 95% in protected land to this program with other resources contributed by the Army National Guard Bureau, the Office of the Secretary of Defense, The Nature Conservancy, the state of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Water and Soil Resources, The City of Baxter, and other nonprofit and government organizations.

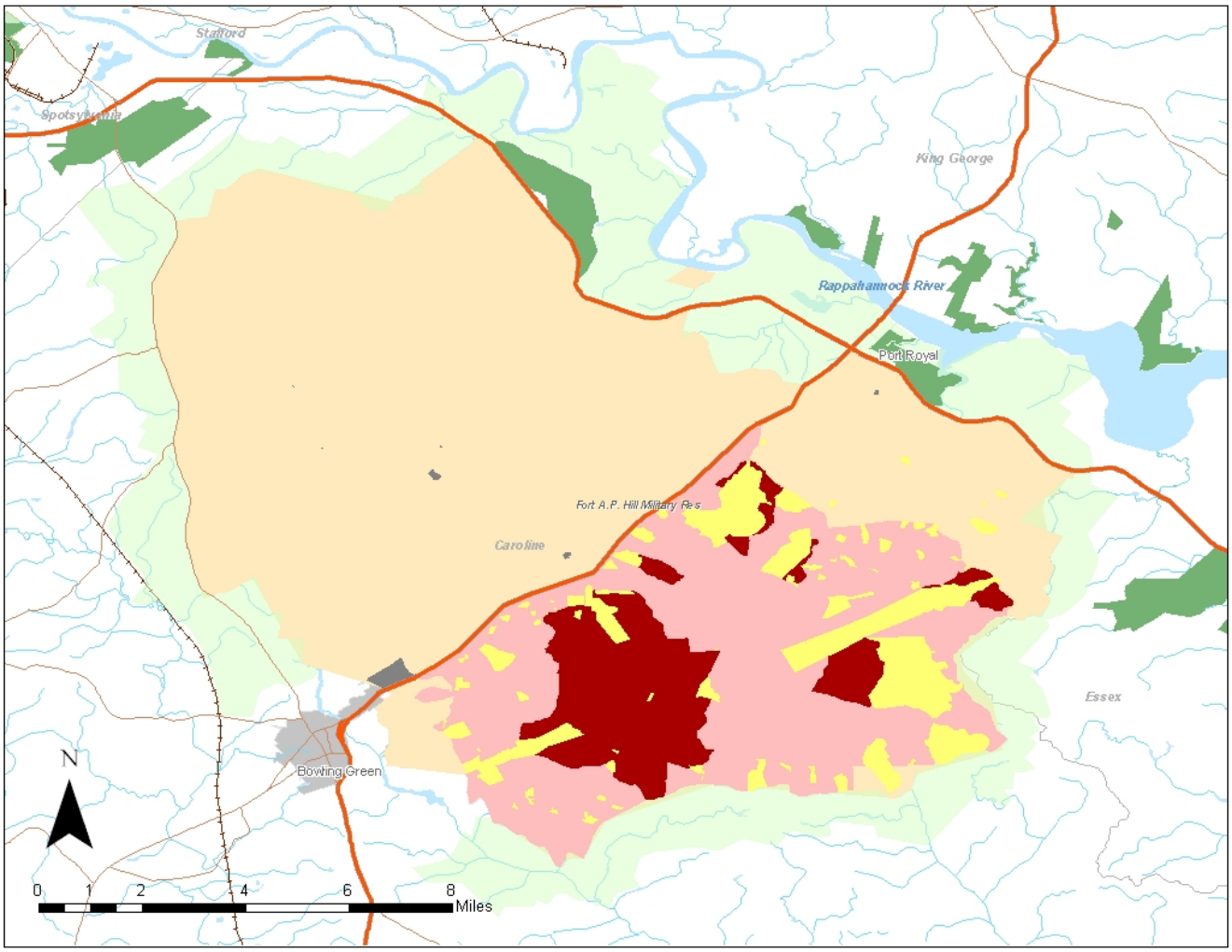
ACUB Proposal Approval Date: May 3, 2004

Funding History:

Fiscal Year	DoD	Partner(s)
FY03	$0.0M	$0.0M
FY04	$0.5M	$35M
FY05	$1.0M	$0.0M
Totals	**$1.5M**	**$35.0M**

Parcel History:

Fiscal Year	Number of Parcels	Acres
FY03	0	0
FY04	2	600
FY05	0	0
In Progress	3	1,855
Totals	**5**	**2,455**



Fort AP Hill ACUB initiative

Virginia

Legend

- Cantonement
- Dudded Impact
- Firing Range
- Non-dudded Impact
- Other Range
- ACUB 2005
- Protected Area
- Other ACUB focus area

Urban Areas (Regional)

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Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia

- Provides a model for working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other partners for the creation and expansion of the National Wildlife Refuge System in a manner that supports the US Army.

- This installation is one of the largest military Installations on the East Coast and is the training center nearest the National Capital Region (NCR). While the restrictions associated with endangered species are, at present, relatively small and manageable within the operational objectives of the installation, additional listings or further declines in the relative viability of listed species brought on by habitat loss fragmentation on lands outside the facility could produce serious internal encroachment issues resulting from application of regulations under the Endangered Species Act and other relevant federal and state laws.

- The partnership goals are to secure the Rappahannock River Riparian Area and secure open space (mostly farmland) in central VA in order to ensure high water quality and protect important habitat for endangered species while allowing public recreation.

- Currently the majority of funding is expected to come from the Office of The Secretary of Defense but as the project gains success the partner contribution is expected to increase especially from The Nature Conservancy, Virginia Outdoors Foundation, Trust for Public Lands, US Fish and Wildlife Service, County, State department of natural resources, and other government and nonprofit organizations.

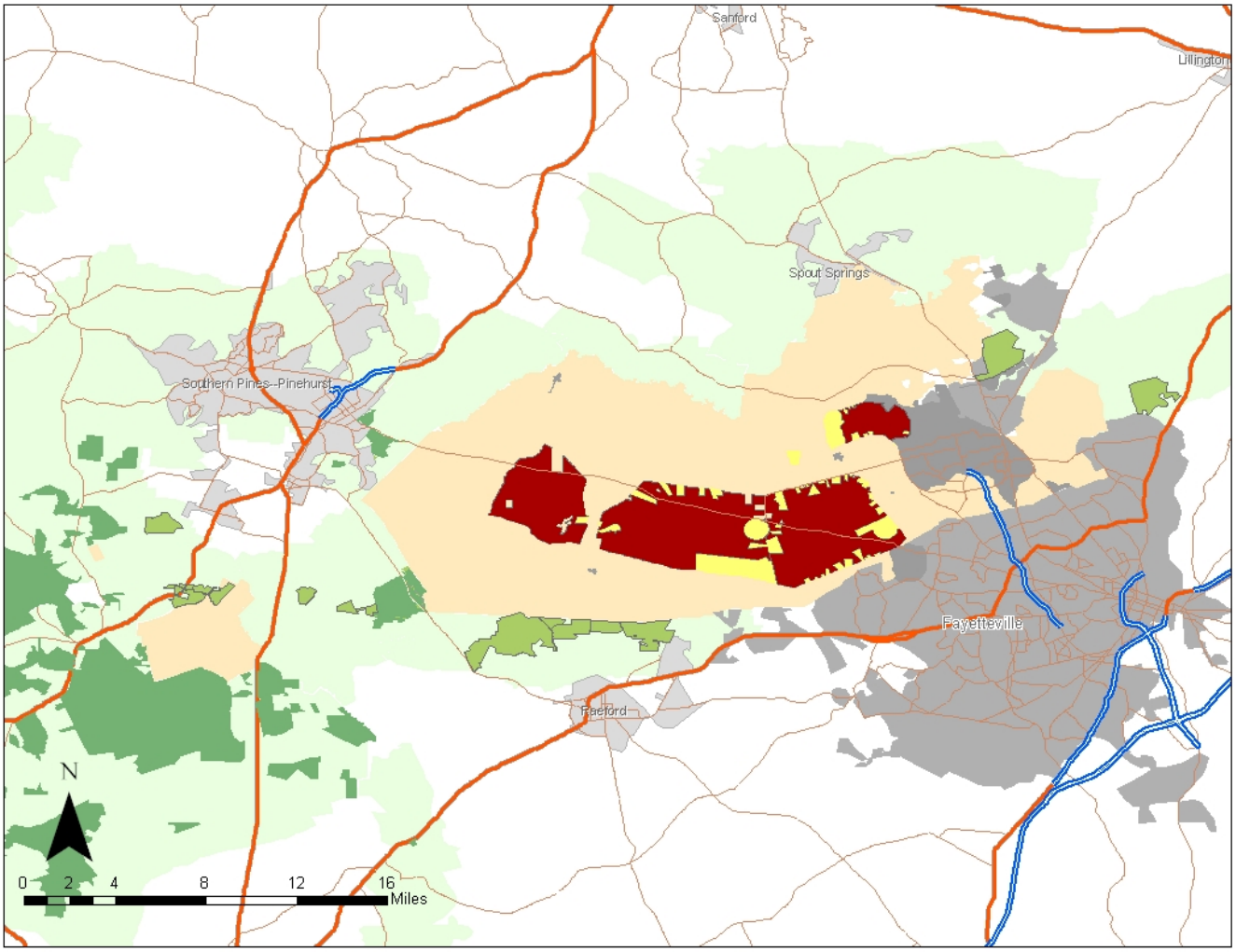
ACUB Approval Date: August 5, 2005

Funding History:

Fiscal Year	DoD	Partner(s)
FY03	$0.0M	$0.0M
FY04	$0.0M	$0.0M
FY05	$0.0M	$0.0M
Totals	**$0.0M**	**$0.0M**

Parcel History:

Fiscal Year	Number of Parcels	Acres
FY03	0	0
FY04	0	0
FY05	0	0
In Progress	2	2,900
Totals	**2**	**2,900**



Fort Bragg ACUB initiative

Legend

- Cantonement
- Dudded Impact
- Firing Range
- Non-dudded Impact
- Other Range
- ACUB 2005
- Protected Area
- Other ACUB focus area

Urban Areas (Regional)

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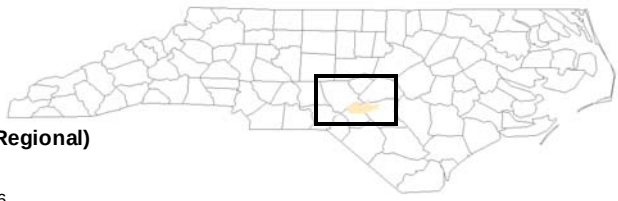
North Carolina



Fort Bragg, North Carolina

- The Private lands Initiative, established to recover the red cockaded woodpecker's habitat and protect the military mission at Fort Bragg, provided the basis for the development of the Army Compatible Use Buffer program, which is now replicated throughout the Army and other military entities.

- Fort Bragg is the Army's premiere power projection platform and is home of the XVIIIth Airborne Corps and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command. It also has the second largest concentration of endangered Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW).

- Part of the "North Carolina Sand Hills Partnership", which exists to protect the distinct Sandhills ecosystem and recover the red-cockaded woodpecker.

- The Army had funded approximately one third of the project with other resources contributed by the State of North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, The Nature Conservancy, Sandhills Ecological Institute, North Carolina Department of Transportation, Sandhills Area Land Trust, US Fish and Wildlife Service and other government and nonprofit organizations.

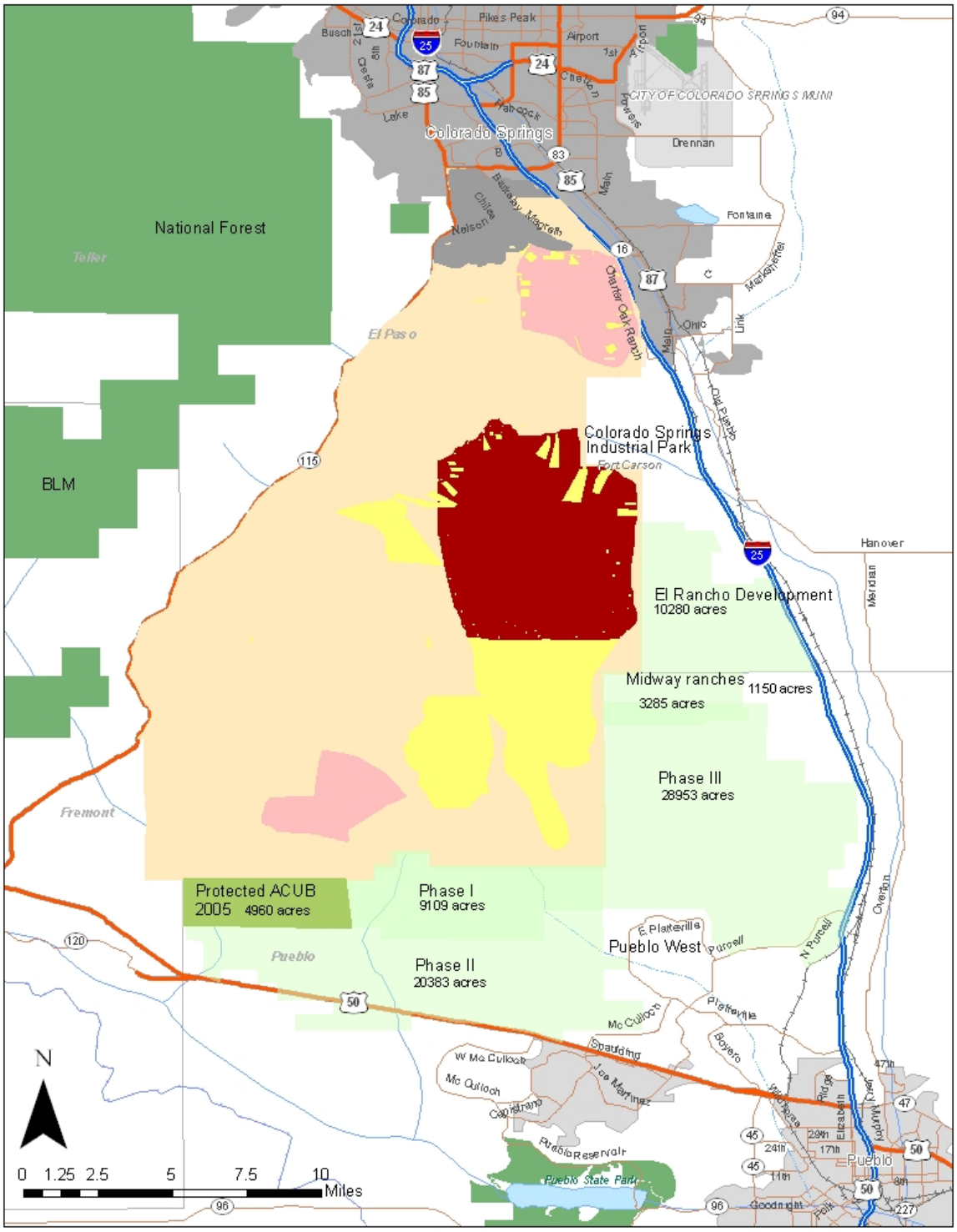
ACUB Approval Date: August 5, 2005 (Prior to legislation it operated as the Private Lands Initiative under the Sikes Act authority)

Funding History:

Fiscal Year	DoD	Partner(s)
FY99	$0.5M	$1.3M
FY00	$0.2M	$1.0M
FY01	$5.1M	$5.6M
FY02	$0.015M	$0.2M
FY03	$0.0M	$3.9M
FY04	$0.0M	$4.1M
FY05	$2.0M	$1.2M
Totals	**$7.8M**	**$17.3M**

Parcel History:

Fiscal Year	Number of Parcels	Acres
FY99	1	549
FY00	2	576
FY02	2	3,641
FY02	1	88
FY03	4	2,122
FY04	3	2,189
FY05	2	628
In Progress	0	0
Totals	**15**	**9,793**



Fort Carson ACUB initiative

Legend

- Cantonement
- Dudded Impact
- Firing Range
- Non-dudded Impact
- Other Range
- ACUB 2005
- Protected Area
- Other ACUB focus area

Urban Areas (Regional)

POP2000

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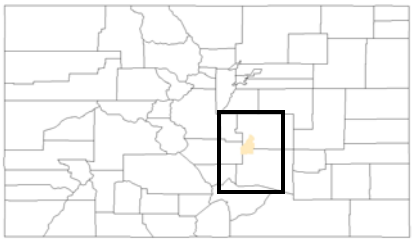
Colorado



Fort Carson, Colorado

- The protection of the southern border of Fort Carson is the result of a relationship between the installation and one private landowner (with control of approximately 60,000 acres of land) that evolved from one of mistrust to cooperation.

- Carson houses the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which is the largest in the entire Army. In addition, the 4th Infantry division, the 43rd Area Support Group, and 10th Special Forces use the installation. It is one of the remaining examples of short grass prairie and its mission is being threatened by development near its firing ranges and impact areas.

- This project conserves the ranching way of life while protecting the diminishing short grass prairie ecosystem and firing ranges on the southern and eastern sides of the installation.

- Primarily the Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense fund the initiative. The Nature Conservancy, Colorado Great Outdoors, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The State Fish and Game, Colorado Department of Transportation and other nonprofit and government organizations provide additional services.

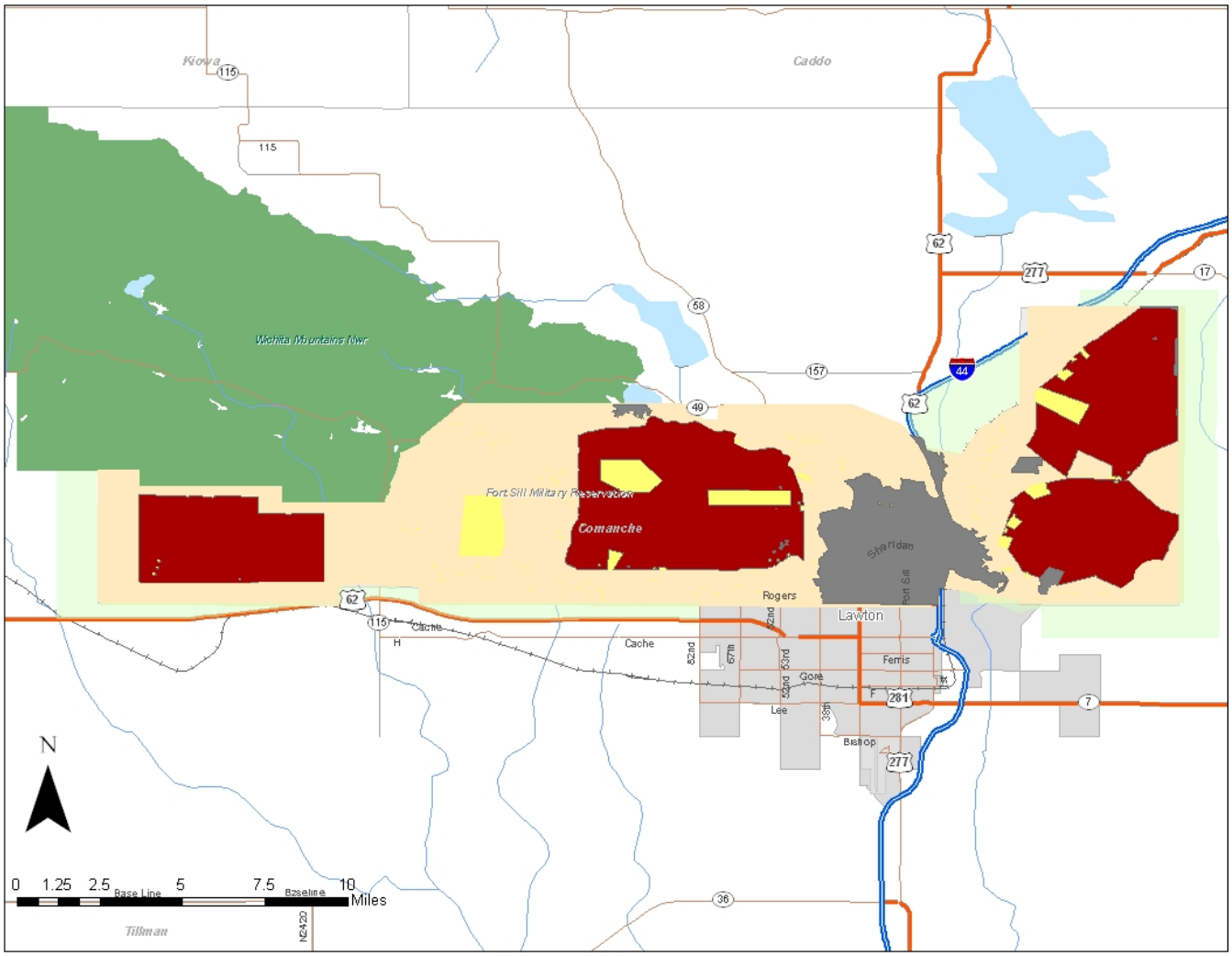
ACUB Approval Date: August 3, 2004

Funding History:

Fiscal Year	DoD	Partner(s)
FY03	$0.18M	$0.5M
FY04	$0.78M	$0.0M
FY05	$8.5M	$0.0M
Totals	**$10.496M**	**$0.5M**

Parcel History:

Fiscal Year	Number of Parcels	Acres
FY03	0	0
FY04	0	0
FY05	1	4,960
In Progress	2	9,100
Totals	**3**	**14,060**



Fort Sill ACUB initiative

Legend

- Cantonement
- Dudded Impact
- Firing Range
- Non-dudded Impact
- Other Range
- ACUB 2005
- Protected Area
- Other ACUB focus area

Urban Areas (Regional)

POP2000

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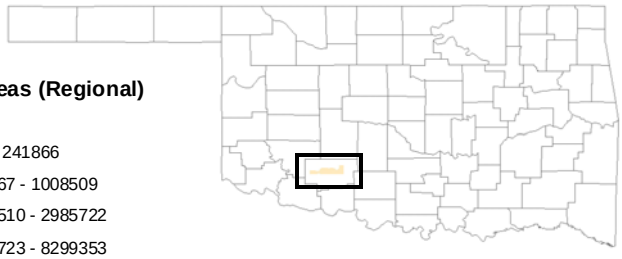
Oklahoma



Fort Sill, Oklahoma

- This will be the first time lands are kept as active farmland in an ACUB without a clear natural resource benefit.

- Home of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School and Field Artillery Training Center, responsible for training artillerymen for both the Army and the Marines. The artillery brigades at Fort Sill compose the firepower of America's largest artillery unit.

- The partnership focuses on protecting the rapidly diminishing way of life of small farmers in the region while protecting important impact areas.

- The military is expected to contribute half of the overall cost of the initiative. Land legacy, US department of agriculture, State, National Park Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farmland Trusts and other government and non-profit organizations will provide the remaining resources.

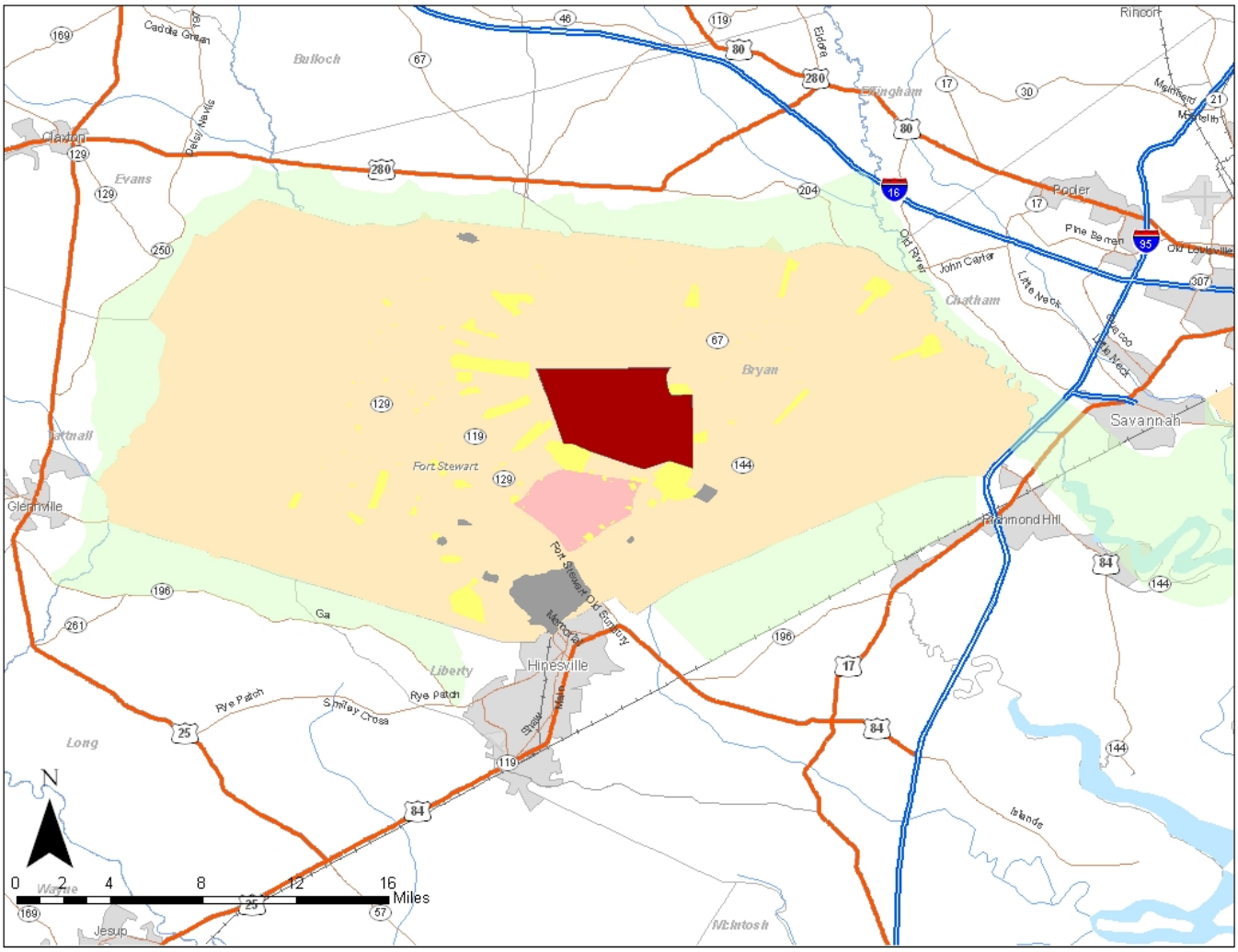
ACUB Approval Date: March 14, 2005

Funding History:

Fiscal Year	DoD	Partner(s)
FY03	$0.0M	$0.0M
FY04	$0.0M	$0.0M
FY05	$0.0M	$1.0M
Totals	**$0.0M**	**$1.0M**

Parcel History:

Fiscal Year	Number of Parcels	Acres
FY03	0	0
FY04	0	0
FY05	2	400
In Progress	2	5,760
Totals	**4**	**6,160**



Fort Stewart ACUB initiative

Legend

- Cantonement
- Dudded Impact
- Firing Range
- Non-dudded Impact
- Other Range
- ACUB 2005
- Protected Area
- Other ACUB focus area

Urban Areas (Regional)

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Georgia

Fort Stewart, GA

- This is the first project that envisions the potential for wetland protection as part of an ACUB initiative.

- Fort Stewart is home to three active duty Heavy Unit of Action Maneuver Brigades, one Heavy Aviation Brigade, one Division Support Brigade and One Division Fires Brigade. Additionally, Fort Stewart supports collective battalion and brigade level training of the 3d Brigade, 3d Infantry Division stationed at Fort Benning, GA and numerous other tenant units. ACUBs will retain the ability of above units to continue training along the perimeter and enable enhanced land management efforts to increase soldier carrying capacity of the existing ranges

- The partnership conserves important habitat for the red-cockaded woodpecker and other endangered species in addition to the protection of wetlands and farming communities.

- It is anticipated that the Army and Office of the Secretary of Defense funding responsibility will be approximately half of the overall cost. The other half will include resources supplied by The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Lands, the State of Georgia, Georgia Land Trust and other nonprofit and government organizations.

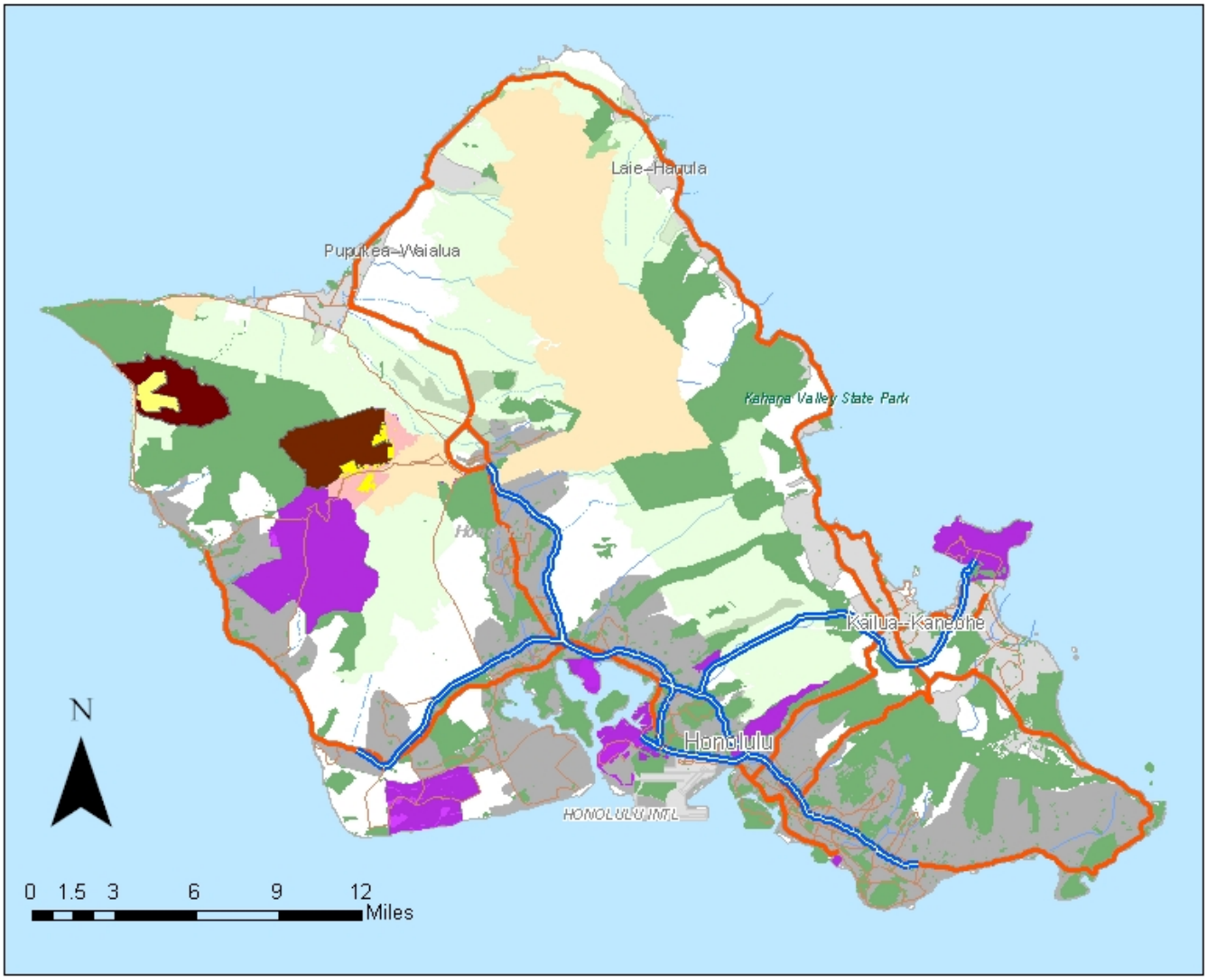
ACUB Approval Date: March 14, 2005

Funding History:

Fiscal Year	DoD	Partner(s)
FY03	$0.0M	$0.0M
FY04	$0.0M	$0.0M
FY05	$3.0M	$0.0M
Totals	**$0.0M**	**$0.0M**

Parcel History:

Fiscal Year	Number of Parcels	Acres
FY03	0	0
FY04	0	0
FY05	0	0
In Progress	5	6,500
Totals	**5**	**6,500**



Hawaii (Oahu) ACUB initiative

Legend

- Cantonement
- Dudded Impact
- Firing Range
- Non-dudded Impact
- Other Range
- ACUB 2005
- Protected Area
- Other ACUB focus area
- Other military

Urban Areas (Regional)

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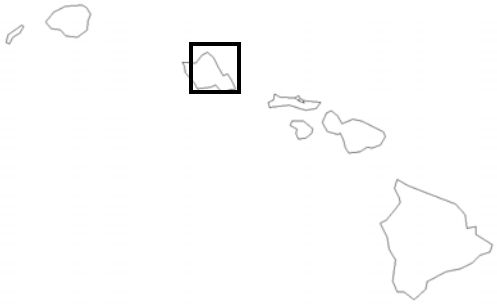
Hawaii



US Army Garrison Hawaii

- This is the first time multiple military services have come together to establish buffers that benefit all branches. This is in addition to extremely diverse and unexpected partners, which include those that have opposed the military in the past.

- US Army Hawaii is an essential power projection platform for the Pacific theater, due to its minimal westerly deployment time. The installations in Hawaii have over 50 different endangered species requiring management off site to meet legal requirements in addition to dealing with the long history of conflict between the community and the military as population levels increase.

- The Oahu Conservation Partnership conserves important habitat for over 40 endangered species, in addition to important cultural areas and those that directly buffer important training.

- The military share of the overall cost is expected to remain at approximately a quarter to a third of the overall cost of the project. The partnership consists of US Army HI Garrison, US Marines HI, US Navy HI, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Community Works, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, State Dept. of Natural Resources, The Trust for Public Lands, Kooalau Watershed Partnership, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Windward Ahuapua'a Alliance, Ducks Unlimited, Conservation Council for Hawaii, City and County of Honolulu and other conservation groups.

ACUB Approval Date: March 14, 2005

Funding History:

Fiscal Year	DoD	Partner(s)
FY03	$0.0M	$0.0M
FY04	$0.0M	$0.0M
FY05	$5.4M	$0.0M
Totals	**$5.4M**	**$9.4M**

Parcel History:

Fiscal Year	Number of Parcels	Acres
FY03	0	0
FY04	0	0
FY05	0	0
In Progress	2	4,100
Totals	**2**	**4,100**