



ARMY COMPATIBLE USE BUFFER PROGRAM

ACUB

FORT STEWART ACUB



The Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program creates land conservation partnerships between the Army and outside organizations to protect land from development that is incompatible with the military mission.

INSTALLATION BACKGROUND

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield are home of the 3rd Infantry Division, and combine to be the Army's premier power projection platform on the Atlantic Coast. The installation covers 280,000 acres in southeast Georgia and is the largest armor training base east of the Mississippi. Hunter Army Airfield houses the Army's longest runway on the east coast (11,375 feet) as well as the Truscott Air Deployment Terminal. Together these assets are capable of deploying units such as the heavy, armored forces of the 3rd Infantry Division or the elite light fighters of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Fort Stewart is located in the heart of the once vast longleaf pine ecosystem. Reported to have once covered 90 million acres, less than 3 million acres of the longleaf forest remain in existence today, and less than 3 percent of this land is considered to be in a relatively natural condition.

Fort Stewart's ecosystem provides habitat crucial to the continued survival of several rare plant and animal species. Further endangerment could increase land use restrictions on Fort Stewart. The population of coastal Georgia is expected to double over the next 25 years, and residential housing growth is a concern to conservation efforts. Implementing an ACUB can protect land from potential development.

OBJECTIVE

The primary objective is to protect all potential and existing habitats that are capable of supporting many rare species known to exist on Fort Stewart including the flatwoods salamander, striped newt, gopher frog, Bachman's Sparrow, Swallow-tailed Kite, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, gopher tortoise, indigo snake, Florida pine snake, purple honeycomb head, and pondspice. Protection of these lands will facilitate the protection of species populations while minimizing

For more information

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potential training restrictions that may otherwise develop. The areas targeted for preservation buffer and protect the installation's airfield(s) and off-post air travel corridors, the Convoy Live Fire Range, aerial gunnery ranges, tank, Bradley, artillery, and small arms ranges, as well as other training and maneuver areas.

LOWER OGEECHEE RIVER CONSERVATION CORRIDOR

The Lower Ogeechee River Conservation Corridor (LORCC) represents an important element of the overall ACUB program at Fort Stewart. The LORCC encompasses 13,500 acres along the Ogeechee River immediately adjacent to the installation. This land provides valuable watershed, riparian buffer, wetlands, forests and farmland of important conservation value to the region, as well as providing high quality wildlife habitat.

Mutual concerns for development sprawl have encouraged Chatham County and The City of Savannah to join forces with Fort Stewart, The Georgia Forestry Commission and private partners for the LORCC Partnership project. This area will provide linkage to other existing protected lands, creating a major corridor of biodiversity and a high potential for nature-based tourism. Hiking trails, canoe and kayak access along the river, and connectivity to the future National East Coast/Coastal Georgia Greenway System and Visitor's Center are planned to be included in the LORCC project, making it among the highlights of the National Trail System. In addition to promoting conservation, the LORCC will also buffer the installation from incompatible uses.

PRIMARY PARTNER: THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

The Trust for Public Land is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since 1972, TPL has worked with willing landowners, community groups, and national, state, and local agencies to complete more than 3,000 land conservation projects in 46 states, protecting more than 2 million acres. For further information on The Trust for Public Land, visit their website: <http://www.tpl.org/>.



For more information on ACUB accomplishments, funding and other stakeholders please view the ACUB website at <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/acub/acub00.html>

