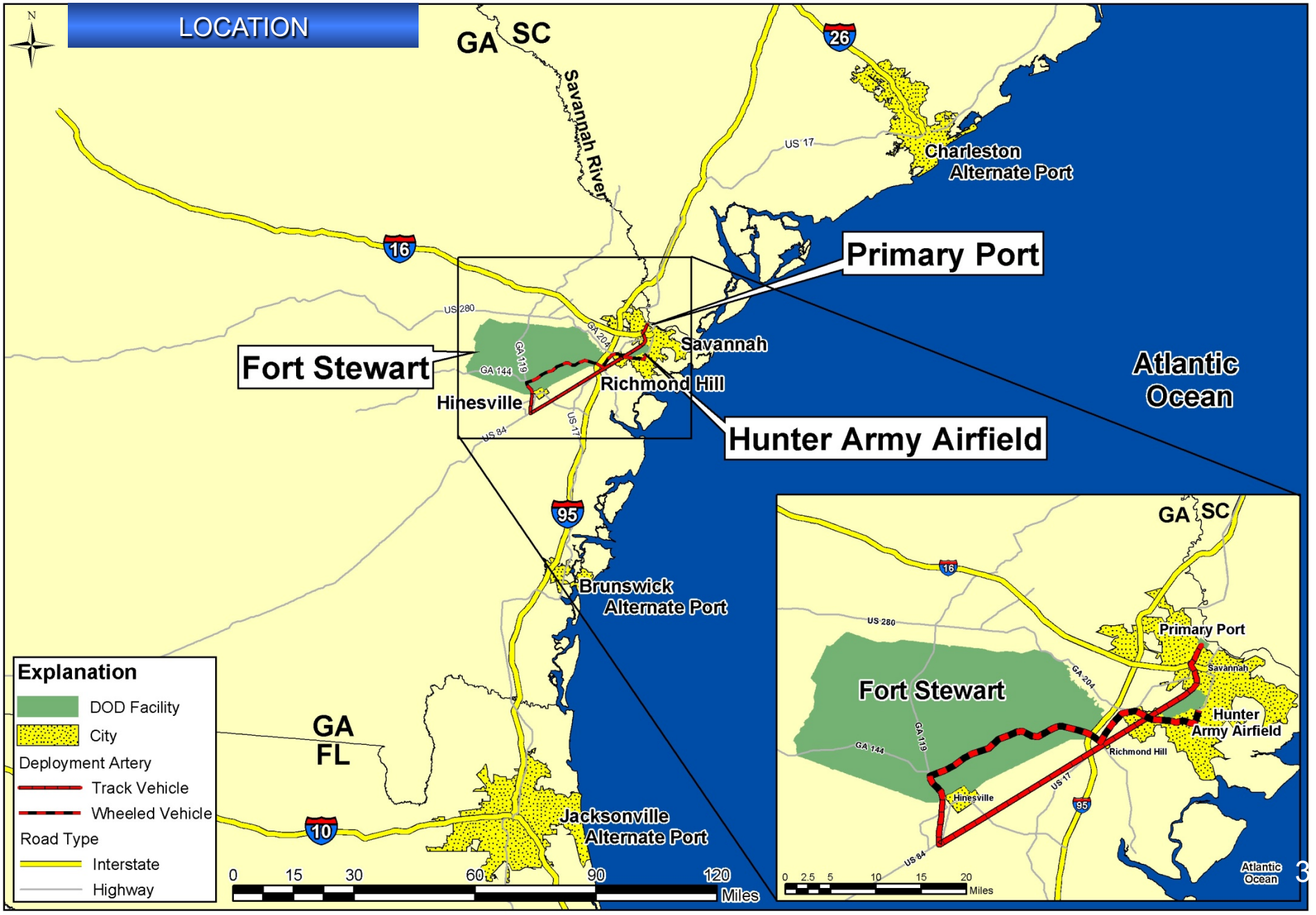
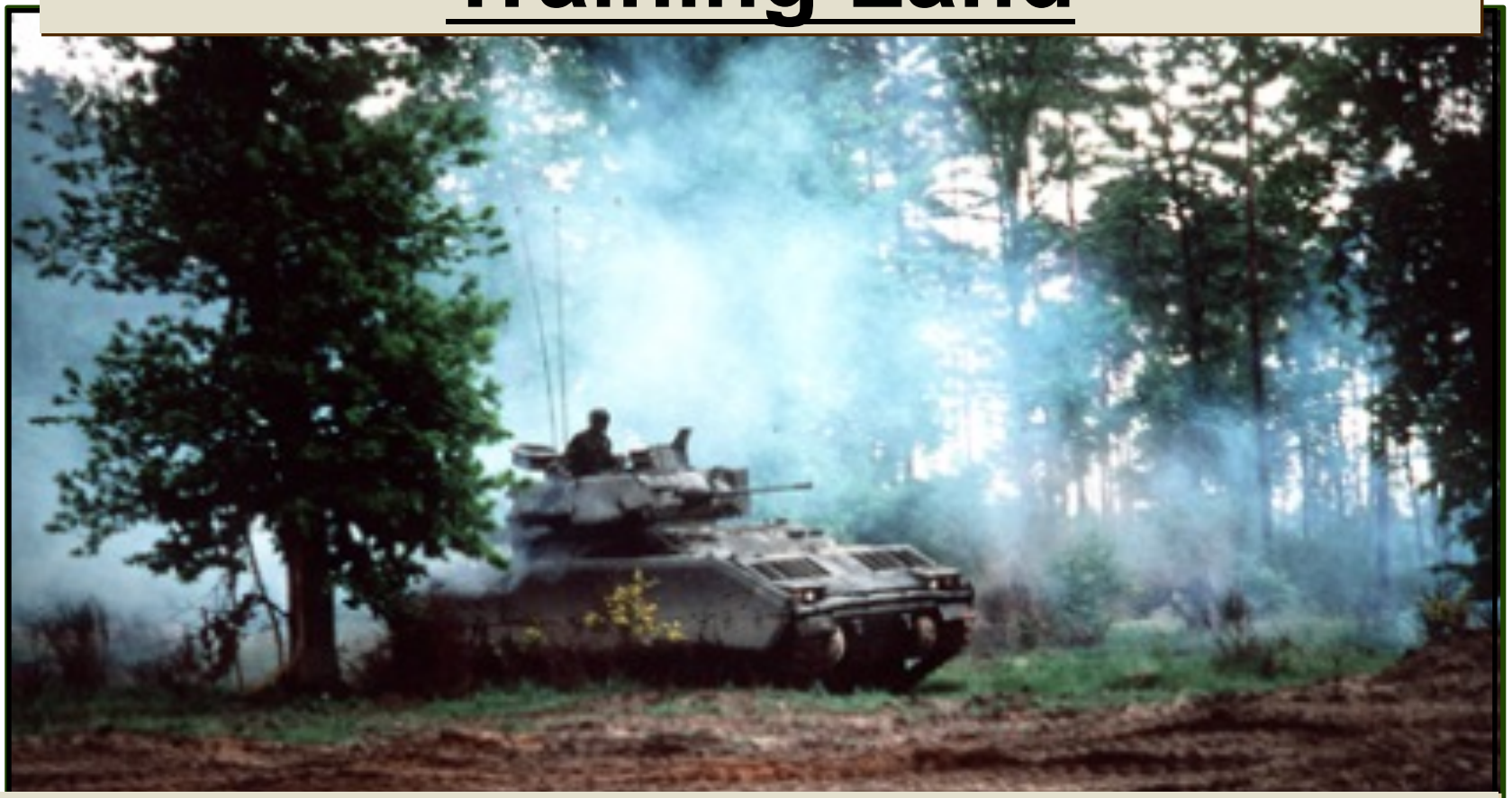
Fort Stewart / Hunter Army Airfield Regional Partnerships:

Cooperative Conservation Programs that Promote Sustainability

Fort Stewart / Hunter Army Airfield - A Strategic National Asset

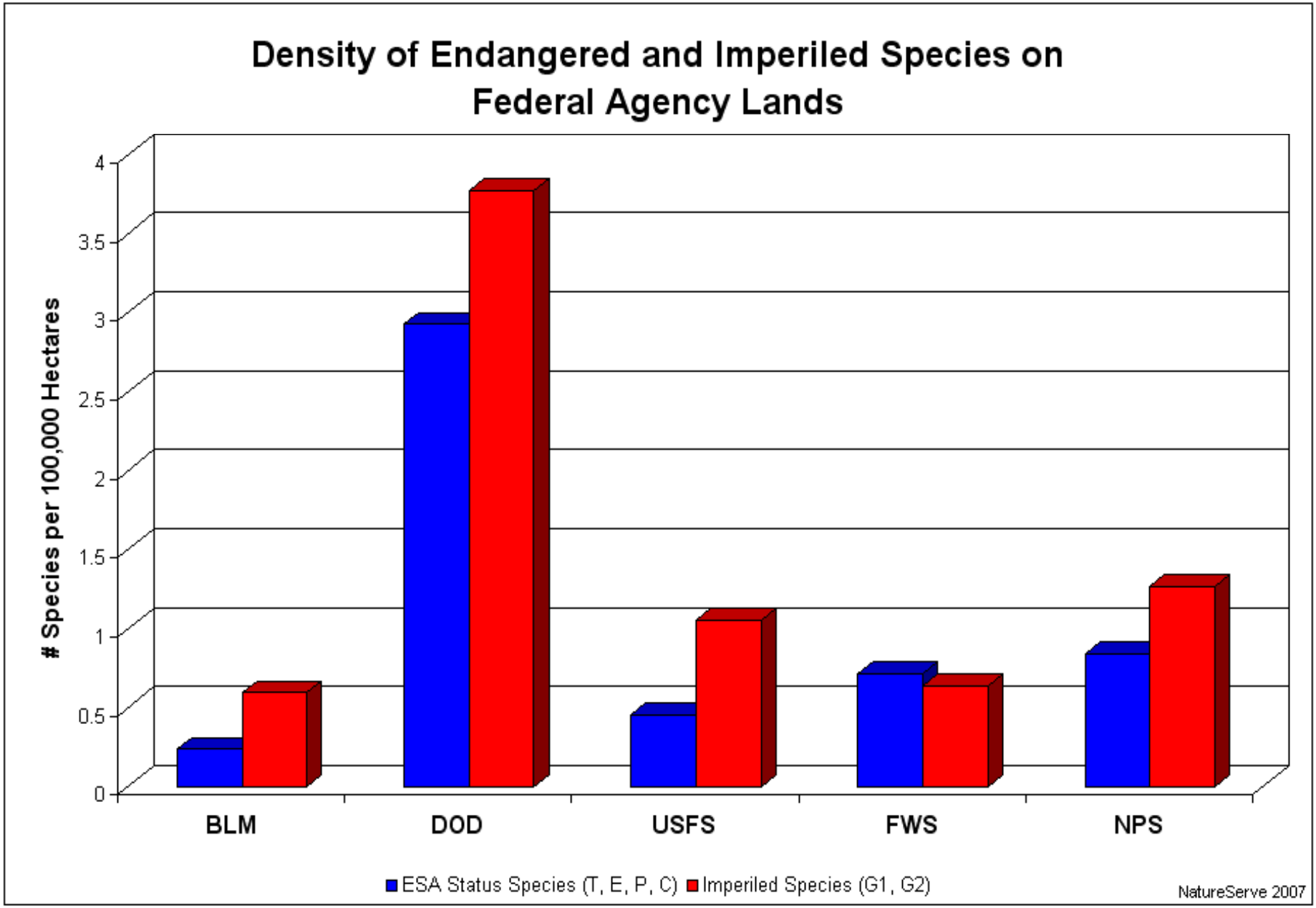


Value of Fort Stewart/HAAF Training Land



Fort Stewart/HAAF's number one mission is to ensure our Soldiers are fully prepared to fight and win the nation's wars. We use our 284,400 acres to support that mission.

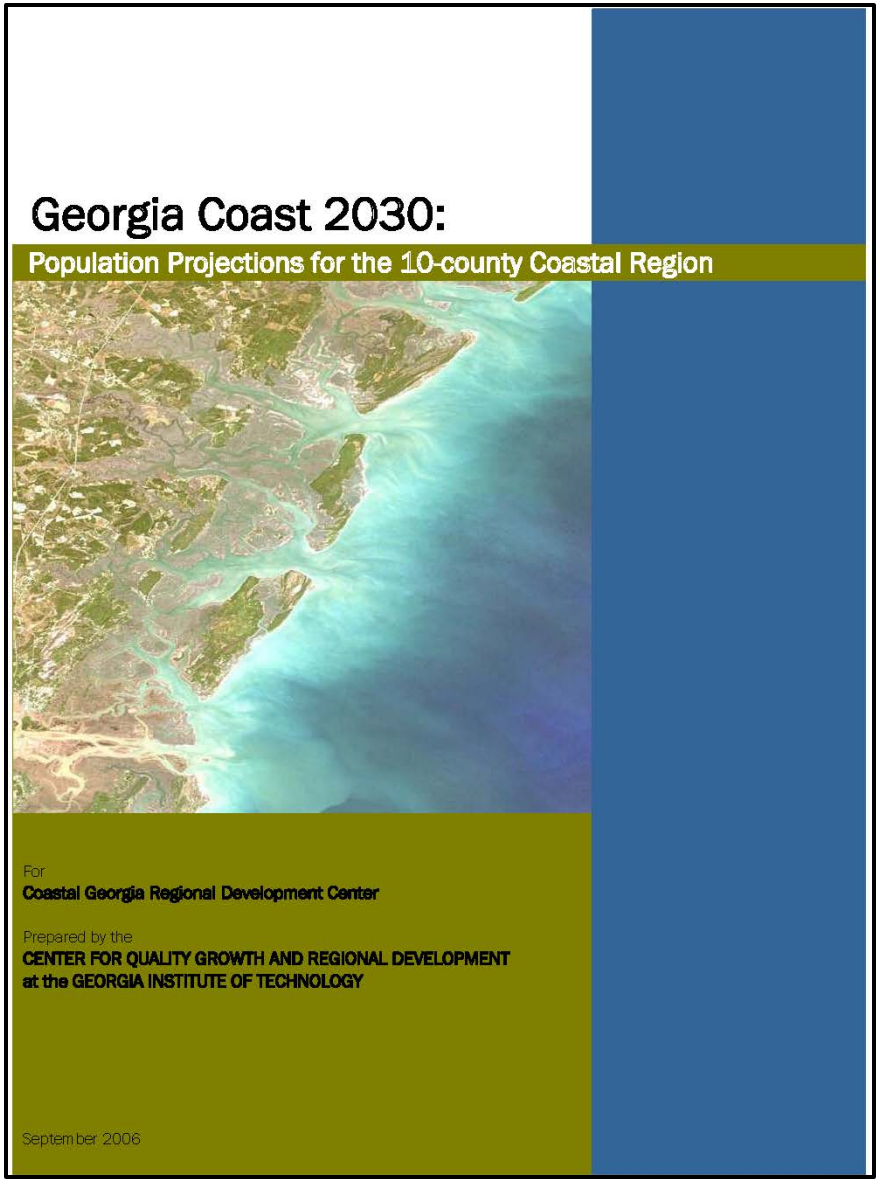
Conservation Value of DOD Lands



U.S. ARMY

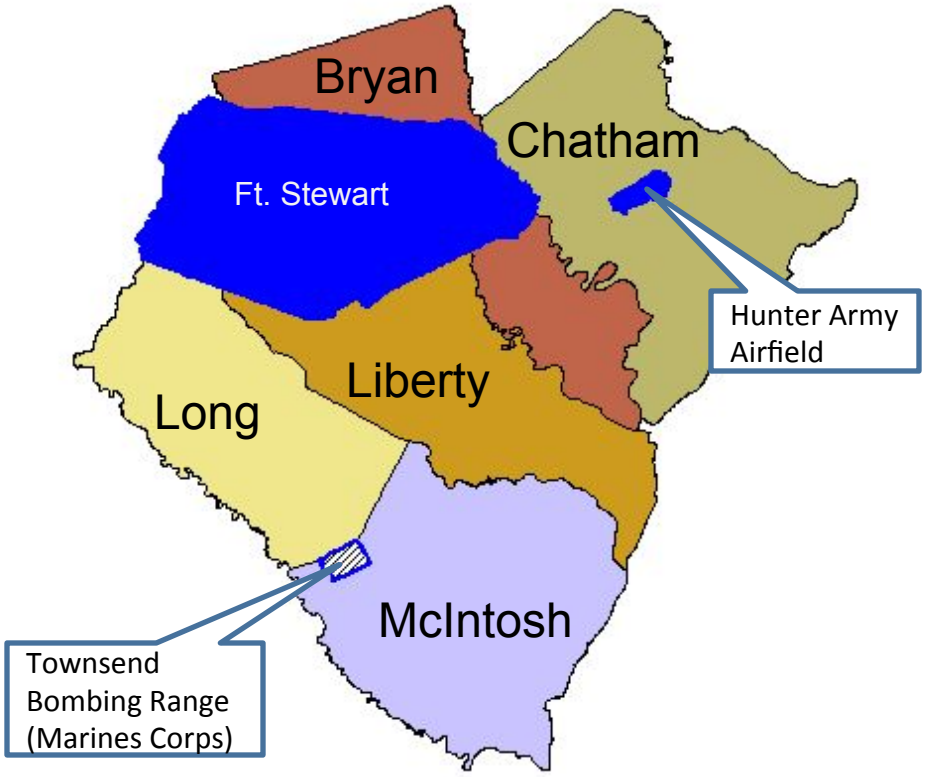
For thousands of years, coastal plain longleaf forests burned every <u>1-3 years as a result of lightning strikes in the spring and summer</u>

Projected Population Growth in Coastal Georgia

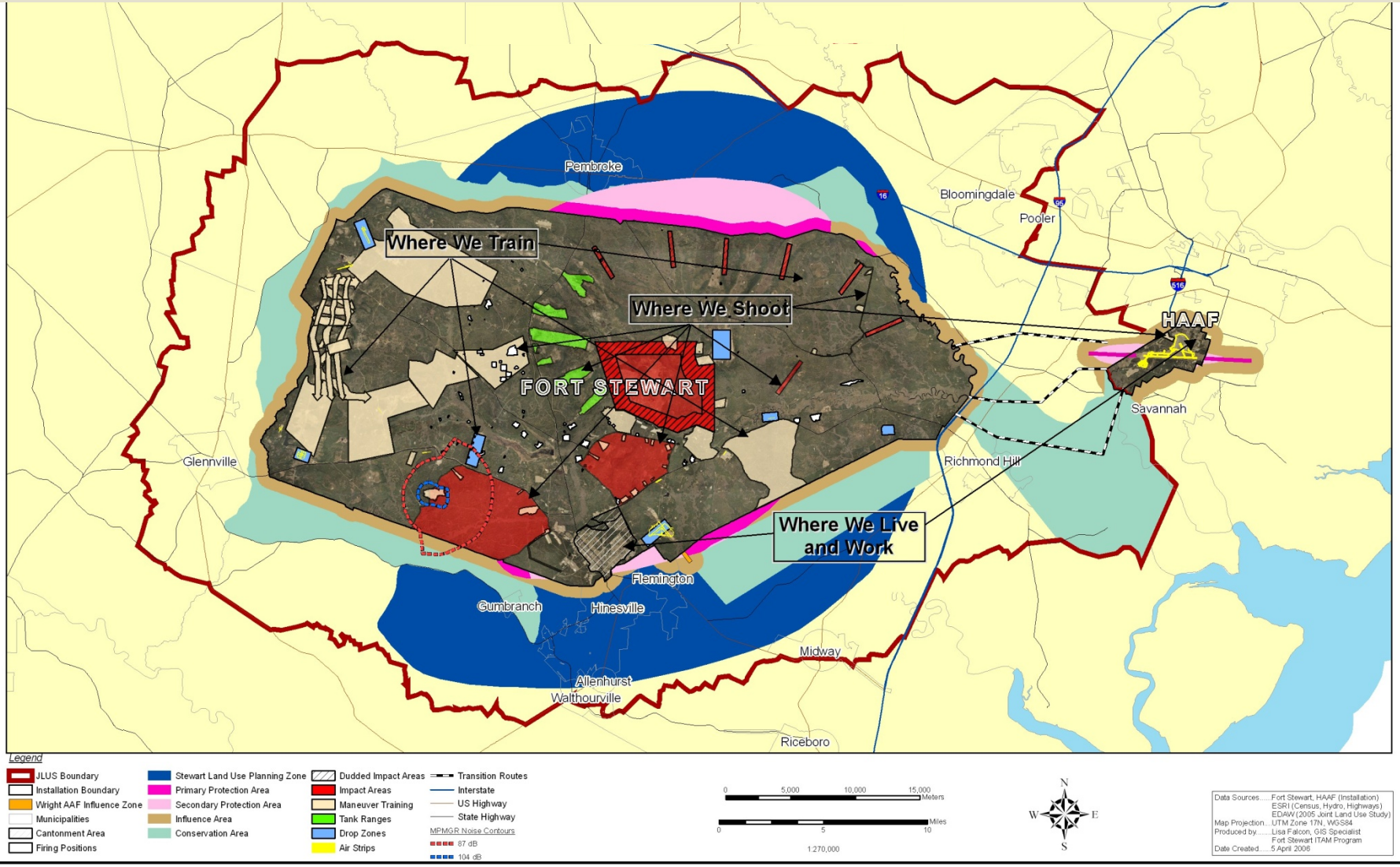


A 2006 GA Tech Study predicted:

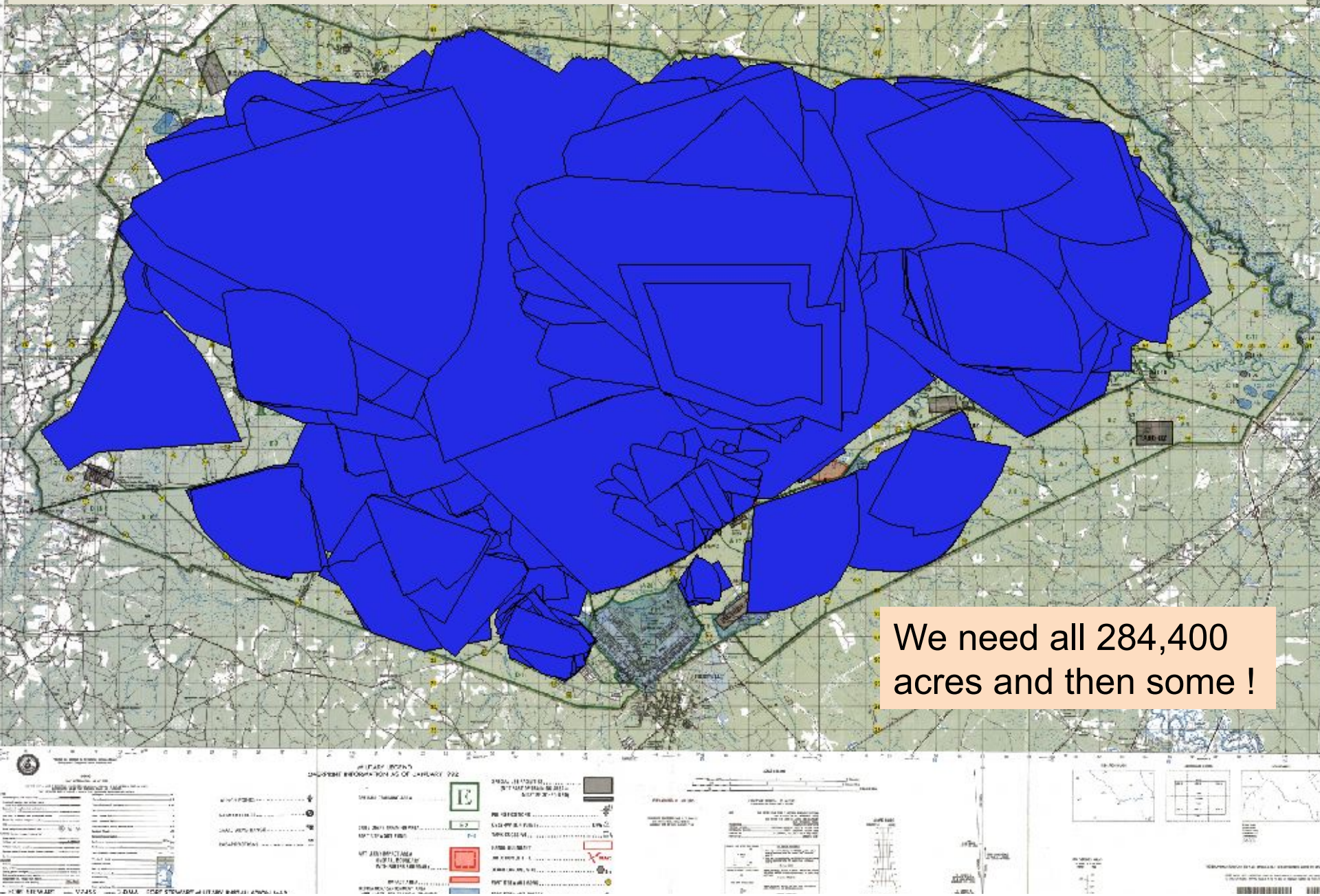
- Population of coastal Georgia overall will increase 51% by 2030
  - Chatham County - 32%
  - Liberty County - 45%
  - McIntosh – 71%
  - Bryan County - 96%
  - Long County -119%



Looking Beyond our Boundaries – Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) and Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Programs

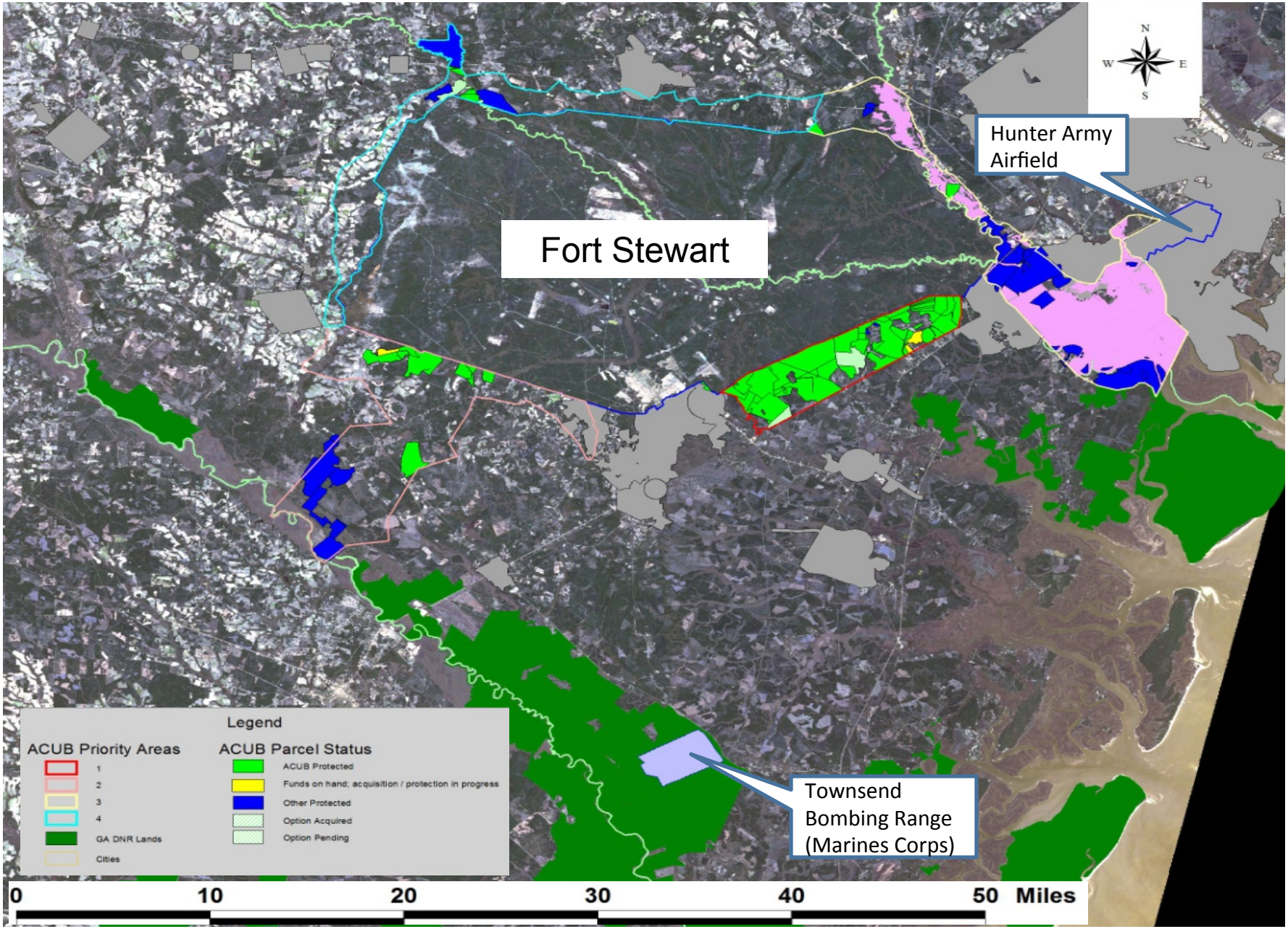


Fort Stewart Live-fire Range Fan Composite – 1941-2011

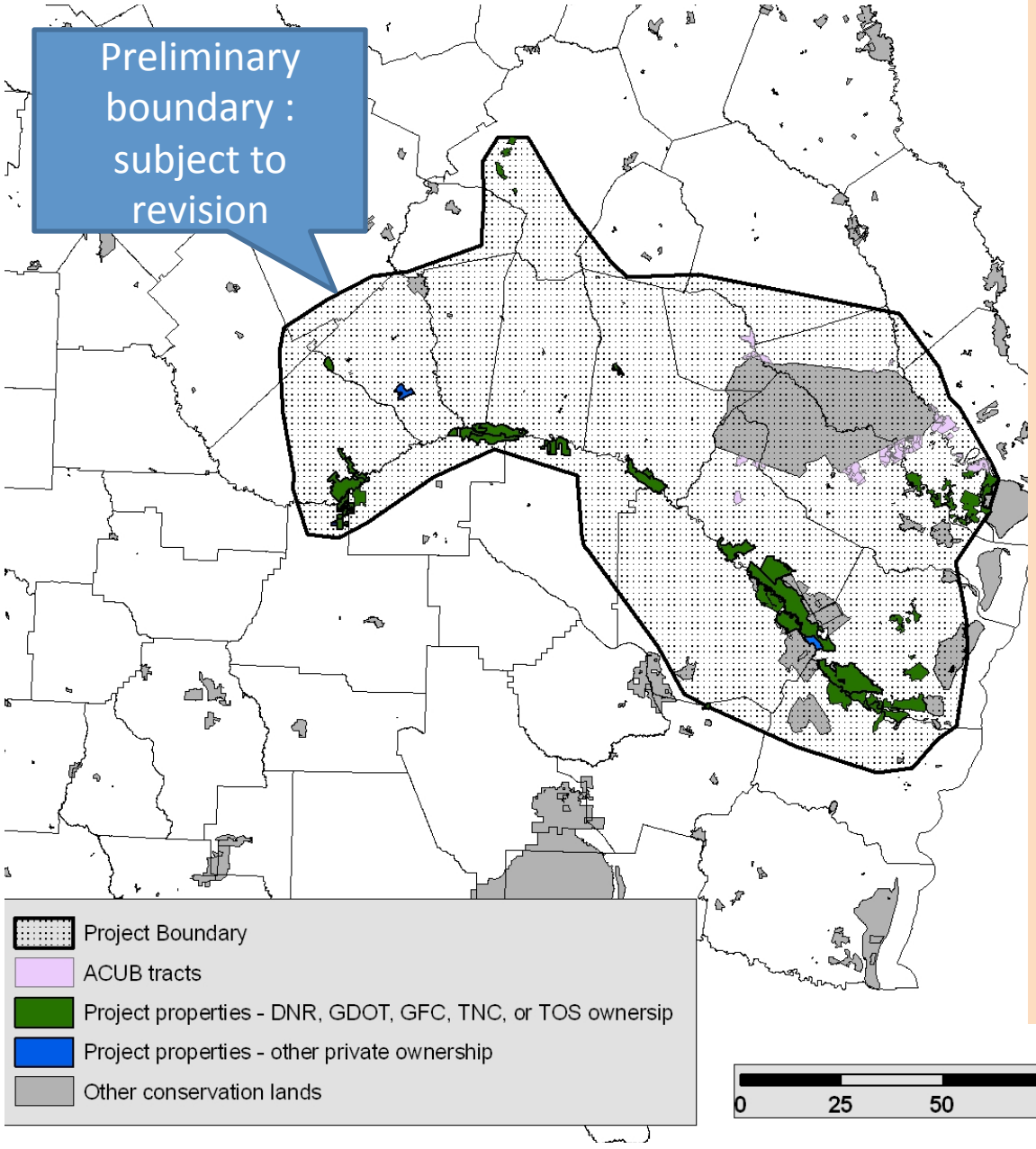


We need all 284,400 acres and then some !

Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) Program



GA DNR / Longleaf Alliance Partnership



- Led by GA DNR Wildlife Resources Div. and The Longleaf Alliance
- Funded by 2 year grant from The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 2012
  - Project expected to extend beyond 2 years
  - Modeled after Gulf Coast partnership initiated in 1996
- Focused on restoration and conservation of longleaf ecosystems in the Altamaha River – Fort Stewart region
  - Prescribed burning
  - Planting longleaf pine
  - Cost-sharing w/landowners

Fort Stewart Chip-n-Haul Program

• Since August 2011, Ft. Stewart has been using residual biomass from logging operations in our Central Energy Plant (CEP) to produce renewable energy. As of 1 July 2013, a total of 26,643 tons have been processed at the CEP.

- ✓ Maximizes Installation's natural resource use.
- ✓ High quality chips = cleaner emissions; less damage to CEP equipment; fewer scrubber problems; cleaner sediment ponds.

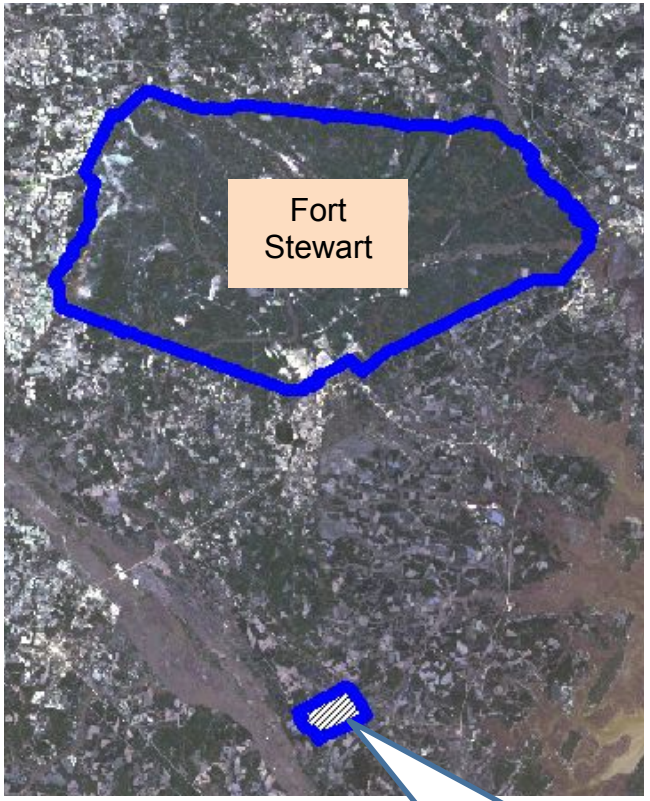
• In June 2013, Ft. Stewart initiated cooperative agreements with a local municipality and private forestland owners near the Installation's boundary to utilize their unwanted biomass. Since 1 July, 357 tons of biomass were procured from these sources.

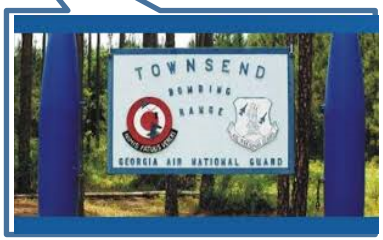
Cooperative Agreement with Marine Corps at Townsend Bombing Range

In 2008, Ft. Stewart entered into a cooperative agreement with the Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, SC to assist Townsend Bombing Range with prescribed burning, firebreak plowing and timber marking activities.

To Date:

- Prescribed burned – 5,745 acres
  - ✓Aerial burned – 1,400 acres
  - ✓Hand burned – 4,345 acres
- Timber marked - 255 acres





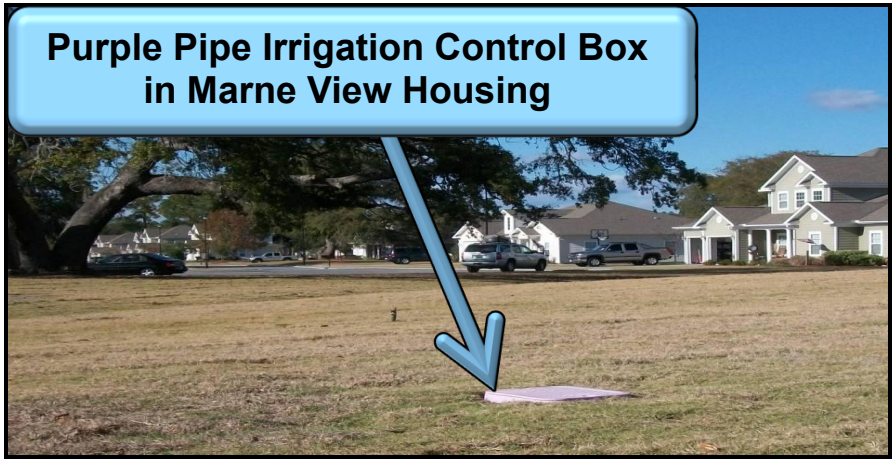
HAAF Harmon Canal Partnership with City of Savannah

- HAAF Harmon Canal Project is a partnership between US Army and City of Savannah.
- Retention and detention ponds located on HAAF provide the City of Savannah with flood reduction and control during heavy rain events.

- Reduces potable water use and impact on the Upper Floridan Aquifer by an estimated 38 million gallons per year or annual average of 104,110 gallons per day.

Fort Stewart Purple Pipe Reuse Water Partnership with City of Hinesville

- Total potable water savings at the CEP Cooling Towers and Wood-fired Boiler Venturi Scrubber is **92.5MG** since 2010.
- Total potable water savings at the Taylor's Creek Golf Course is **95.3MG** since 2010.



2013 Purple Pipe Expansion

Summary

- Population growth in coastal Georgia will create additional demand for potable water, waste water disposal, etc., etc.
- Looking beyond administrative boundaries is essential for a sustainability strategy to succeed
- Joining forces with regional partners enables us to achieve greater economy of scale and leverage resources
- DOD lands have much to offer, but we also have mission priorities other than conservation
- The success of our combined sustainability efforts will provide increased capacity and flexibility for regional growth and prosperity, quality of life for area residents, and Fort Stewart / Hunter Army Airfield's ability to support current and future military missions

QUESTIONS ?