

Florida Strategic Plan for Sustaining Military Readiness through Conservation Partnerships – FACT SHEET



Project Goals

- ✓ Develop strategies to comply with all legal requirements on Air Force installations
- ✓ Prevent and abate encroachment
- ✓ Contribute to conservation outcomes across a landscape bigger than installation boundaries
- ✓ Provide a landscape that supports military training and testing activities

What is the Pilot Project?

In 2015, a pilot project was initiated by the Air Force entitled “The Florida Strategic Plan for Sustaining Military Readiness through Conservation Partnerships.” The vision is to identify a regional natural resources management approach to help minimize encroachment threats to Air Force missions and identify partner-leveraged conservation opportunities throughout the state of Florida.

What will be Included in the Plan?

The Strategic Plan will include a geospatial analysis of the opportunities and constraints to managing natural resources across all Florida Air Force installations. This project will be executed through the existing Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) framework with its partners and similar prioritization efforts, piggy-backing on Critical Lands and Waters Identification Project and Cooperative Conservation Blueprint.

Who is Involved?

The core team developing the product includes Air Force, University of Florida, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, The Nature Conservancy, and National Wildlife Refuge Association. In addition, many other critical partners such as local stakeholders to the bases, landowners, and non-profit conservation groups will be brought into the process.

Which Installations are Included?

This large project will cover land on and surrounding Air Force bases throughout Florida including Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Tyndall AFB, Avon Park Bombing Range, Patrick AFB, MacDill AFB, Homestead Air Reserve Base, and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

How Will the Plan Be Used?

The Strategic Plan will prioritize conservation opportunities that provide Air Force with mission flexibility, buffering to military lands, and mitigation for listed, candidate, proposed and state-listed species. The Plan will showcase potential projects and funding solutions that leverage the resources of all partners.

When will the Strategic Plan be Ready?

Installation visits will begin in May 2015, and this project is expected to be completed by May 2016.

This is the first conservation project of this scope for Air Force and will likely serve as an example nationwide of how proactive conservation hand-in-hand with partners can result in a highly supported effort with potentially more success for everyone involved