



TOWNSEND BOMBING RANGE MODERNIZATION



Project Update — August 2011

PROJECT UPDATE

Removal of Area 2 from Further Study in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

August 2011

This Project Update Notice offers a means to provide easily accessible, wide-spread distribution of new project information. This information augments the regular update of key project public documents that can be found on the TBR EIS website. Please visit the website (www.townsendbombingrangeeis.com) to view these other project documents for an overview and key background information on the project.

BACKGROUND:

On August 6, 2010, the Marine Corps published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study alternatives to modernize Townsend Bombing Range (TBR) to better meet Marine Corps aviation training requirements. Three areas for potential land acquisition were identified for study, creating five potential alternatives for expanding TBR to meet this modernization requirement.

- Areas 1, 2, and 3, as stand-alone options or in combination, produced the five (5) alternatives shown in the table to the right; the EIS is also studying a No Action Alternative.
- The Marine Corps presented the five alternatives during the Scoping Period (Fall 2010) and solicited public comment on the alternatives and issues to be studied in the EIS.
- Potential acquisition in the five alternatives ranged from approximately 12,000 acres to approximately 51,500 acres.
- All alternatives are sized to maintain public safety during military training operations.

Original EIS Alternatives:

Alternative	Acquisition Area	Acreage
1	1	11, 948
2	1 + 3	36,828
3	3	24,880
4	1 + 2	26,700
5	1 + 2 + 3	51,580

UPDATE:

- After further analysis of the original three study areas, the Marine Corps has decided to remove Area 2 from further study in the EIS for the following reasons:
 - Area 2 fails to meet the minimum training requirements¹.
 - Area 2 is frequently flooded by the Altamaha River and inaccessible for range maintenance and clearance.
- The removal of Area 2 eliminates Alternative 4 and Alternative 5 from further study in the EIS.
- The removal of Area 2 from the project study reduces the potential land acquisition by approximately 14,752 acres.

Alternatives Removed from Further Study:

Alternative	Acquisition Areas	Acreage
4	1 + 2	26,700
5	1 + 2 + 3	51,580

¹ Minimum Threshold Training Requirement: (A) Must provide for a minimum of two, 15-degree cones for final attack heading (one tactical), with release of weapons at airspeeds from 360-540 knots and from altitudes up to 24,000 feet. (B) The range must also allow for the delivery of Guided Bomb Units (GBU) 31, 32, and 38; Joint Direct Attack Munitions; and Laser GBU 10, 12, and 16.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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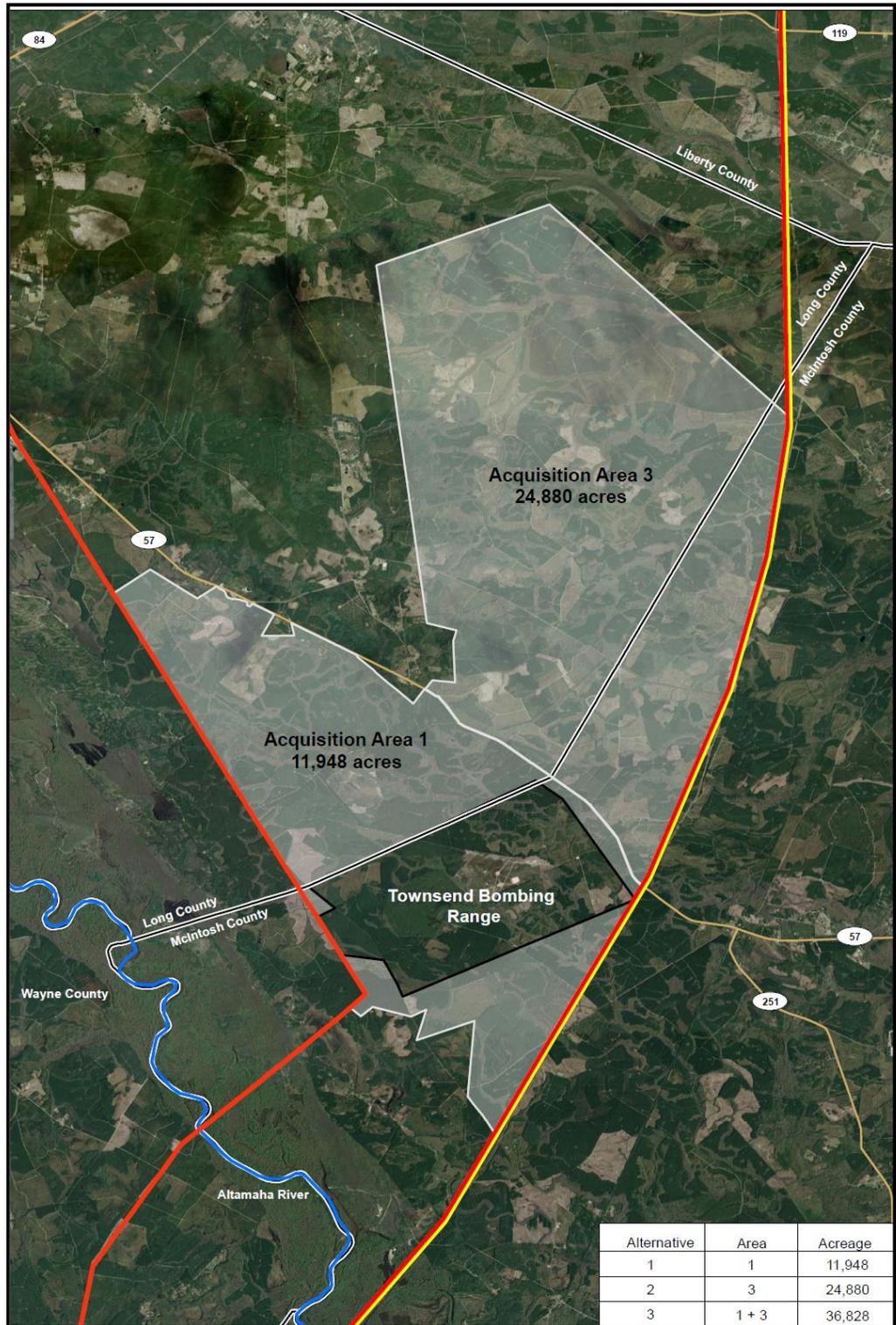
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ALTERNATIVES CARRIED-FORWARD FOR FURTHER STUDY IN THE EIS:

- Area 1 and Area 3, alone and in combination, support three land acquisition alternatives – Alternative 1, Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 – as shown in the graphic on this page.
- These three alternatives, in addition to the No Action Alternative, will be carried-forward for study in the EIS.
- With the decision to remove Area 2, the Marine Corps has reduced the maximum potential for land acquisition from 51,580 acres to 36,828 acres.
- The acreages of potential land acquisition for each alternative range from 11,948 acres to 36,828 acres.
- Issues identified during the public scoping comment period will be further studied in the EIS.
- A Draft EIS will be published in Spring 2012 and the public will have time to review and comment on the Draft.
- A Final EIS will be prepared that addresses public comments and it will be published in Winter 2012.
- A Record of Decision (ROD) on the project will be published by the Department of the Navy Spring 2013.
- If the ROD recommends land acquisition, Congress would have to review and approve funds for the purchase of lands at fair market value.



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